

## Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Maurice (Morris) Richards <sup>1</sup> W26383

Sarah Richards f73NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

1/5/10: rev'd 6/17/16

[Methodology: Spelling, punctuation and/or grammar have been corrected in some instances for ease of reading and to facilitate searches of the database. Where the meaning is not compromised by adhering to the spelling, punctuation or grammar, no change has been made. Corrections or additional notes have been inserted within brackets or footnotes. Blanks appearing in the transcripts reflect blanks in the original. A bracketed question mark indicates that the word or words preceding it represent(s) a guess by me. The word 'illegible' or 'indecipherable' appearing in brackets indicates that at the time I made the transcription, I was unable to decipher the word or phrase in question. Only materials pertinent to the military service of the veteran and to contemporary events have been transcribed. Affidavits that provide additional information on these events are included and genealogical information is abstracted, while standard, 'boilerplate' affidavits and attestations related solely to the application, and later nineteenth and twentieth century research requests for information have been omitted. I use speech recognition software to make all my transcriptions. Such software misinterprets my southern accent with unfortunate regularity and my poor proofreading skills fail to catch all misinterpretations. Also, dates or numbers which the software treats as numerals rather than words are not corrected: for example, the software transcribes "the eighth of June one thousand eighty six" as "the 8<sup>th</sup> of June 1786." Please call material errors or omissions to my attention.]

[p 7]

State of North Carolina County of Surry

On this 14th day of August 1832 personally appeared in open Court before the Court of Surry County now sitting Morris Richards a resident of said County & state aged 72 years next June who being first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the act of Congress passed June 7th 1832.

That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers & served as herein after stated. He entered in the early part of the year 1879 [sic, 1779] for the term of nine months under Colonel Archibald Lytle and left the service in the latter part of said year was in the battle at Stono [June 20, 1779]<sup>2</sup> if his recollection is correct as to the name of the battle near Savannah in Georgia when he entered the service he was a resident of Orange County North Carolina he volunteered.

He next volunteered in Orange County North Carolina under Captain Troussel [James Trousdale] & Colonel Archibald Lytle for the term of three months & marched to Charleston was in several skirmishes. This was during the year 1780. During the same year and in the same County of Orange he volunteered for three months under Captain Hodge & Colonel Thomas Taylor marched to South Carolina was engaged frequently during this term against the British & Tories. He has lost his discharge for this term.

He next volunteered in Orange County North Carolina for three months under Captain Guin [Edward Gwinn] & Colonel Thomas Taylor & fought under General Greene [Nathanael Greene] at the battle of Guilford [March 15, 1781].<sup>3</sup>

He afterwards volunteered in Orange aforesaid for 12 months 10 of which he served part of the time under Captain Fenigood [?] & the balance under Captain Mebane [John Mebane]. For the remainder of the time he hired a substitute by the name of Wyatt. He was slightly wounded by a British Dragoon a few months before the battle of Guilford -- four of his discharges he herewith encloses.

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present & declares that his name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any State or (if any) only on that of the agency of the State of North Carolina.  
Sworn to & subscribed the day & year aforesaid.

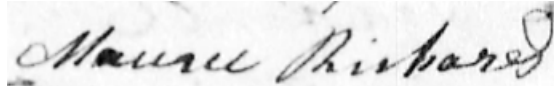
---

<sup>1</sup> BLWt24913-160-55

<sup>2</sup> [http://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution\\_stono\\_ferry.html](http://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_stono_ferry.html)

<sup>3</sup> [http://www.carolana.com/NC/Revolution/revolution\\_battle\\_of\\_guilford\\_courthouse.html](http://www.carolana.com/NC/Revolution/revolution_battle_of_guilford_courthouse.html)

S/ Maurice Richards



S/ John Wright, CC

By F. K. Armstrong, DC

[Jesse Briggs, a clergyman, and Jesse Howard gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[pp 30-32: on February 13, 1833 in Surry County North Carolina Maurice Richards, 72, filed another application under the 1832 act. This application is worded almost word for word as his prior application except that he added the following: "He was born in Amherst County Virginia in 1761. His age is recorded in a Bible which he has at his house in Surry County North Carolina. There is no clergyman living in his neighborhood whose testimony he can procure." This application is supported by a standard affidavit given by H. M. Waugh & Jonathan Whitaker.]

[p 11: on June 20, that 1850 in Surry County North Carolina, Sarah Richards filed for a widows pension under the 1853 I stating that she is the widow of Maurice Richards, a pensioner at the rate of \$80 per annum for his services in the revolution; that he died October 29, 1844; that she married him April 23rd 1834. She signed her application with her mark.]

[p 16: on April 11, 1855 in Stokes County North Carolina Sarah Richards, 59, filed for her bounty land entitlement as the widow of Morris Richards; she states that she married him April 23rd 1834 in Surry County; that they were married by Jonathan Whitaker, JP; that her name prior to her marriage to Maurice Richards was Sarah Dezerns [?];<sup>4</sup> that her husband died at his home in Stokes County owned the 29th of October 1844; and that she remains his widow.]

[p 14: copy of the marriage bond given to Morris Richards and William D. Somers in Surry County North Carolina on April 17, 1834 to secure the marriage of Morris Richards to Sally Degerm [?].]

[p 54: on August 9, 1865 in Knox County Tennessee, Sarah Richards, 70, applied for the reinstatement of her pension benefits as the widow of a revolutionary war veteran.]

[p 73]

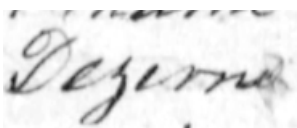
State of North Carolina Office of Secretary of State

I, William Hill, Secretary of State in and for the State of North Carolina, do hereby certify, that it appears from a Book of Settlements of the accounts of the Officers and Soldiers of the Continental line of this State in the revolutionary war that Morris Richards 80 Soldier of said line, was allowed for his services the sum of 40 pounds 10 shillings and 4 pence [sic] by a Board of Commissioners, which sat at Halifax in 1784 & 5.

Given under my hand this 15th day of April 1856.

S/ Wm Hill, Secretary of State

---



[Note: I may have missed them (but I do not think so), but I could not find any of these 4 discharges which the veteran said he forwarded with his application. On 6/17/2016 I found the following 2-page letter from Richards to J. E. Edwards, Commissioner of Pension filed in the file of [Obediah Martin R6976](#) at pp 26-27.

State of North Carolina Surry County: In relation to the application of Winnefred Martin heretofore sent to the War Department:

Be it remembered that on this the 12<sup>th</sup> day of November A.D. 1840 personally appeared before me the undersigned an acting Justice of the Peace in & for the County of Surry aforesaid Morris Richards, who being duly sworn on his oath saith that the four discharges mentioned in the letter of J L Edwards Commissioner of pensions as being required of him are not in his possession – that when he sent on his declaration for his own pension, he conceived he had sent on three of the discharges when he sent on his declaration & has always supposed they must be on file in the Pension Office of the War Department – that if they are not there he knows not where they are – that the 4<sup>th</sup> one is lost – was so lost before he sent on his declaration & he conceives he so mentioned in his declaration – that he does not believe he can give a better detail of his revolutionary services than that given in his declaration aforesaid.

Inscribed & sworn to before me the day & year aforesaid

S/ Jeremiah Marion, JP

S/ Maurice Richards

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Maurice Richards". The signature is written in black ink on a white background. To the right of the signature is a small closing bracket symbol " ]".

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$80 per annum commencing March 4<sup>th</sup>, 1831, for service as a private for 2 years in the North Carolina militia. His widow was pensioned at the rate of \$96 per annum.]