

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements

Pension application of Benjamin Richardson W4061      Mary<sup>1</sup>      fn35NC  
and Elijah Bass [no No. assigned]  
Transcribed by Will Graves      rev'd 1/5/10

[Methodology: Spelling, punctuation and/or grammar have been corrected in some instances for ease of reading and to facilitate searches of the database. Also, the handwriting of the original scribes often lends itself to varying interpretations. Users of this database are urged to view the original and to make their own decision as to how to decipher what the original scribe actually wrote. Blanks appearing in the transcripts reflect blanks in the original. Folks are free to make non-commercial use this transcript in any manner they may see fit, but please extend the courtesy of acknowledging the transcriber—besides, if it turns out the transcript contains mistakes, the resulting embarrassment will fall on the transcriber.]

State of North Carolina, Halifax County

On this 11<sup>th</sup> day of October 1841 personally appeared before me John Alston one of the acting magistrates and a member of the Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions in and for said County (it being a Court of record) Mary Richardson a resident of said County aged ninety years who being first duly sworn according to law, doth on her oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the provisions made by the Act of Congress passed July 4<sup>th</sup> 1836 and the act explanatory of said act passed March 3, 1837 and the act entitled An act granting half pay and Pensions to certain Widows passed July 7<sup>th</sup> 1838.

That she was married to Elijah Bass who was a private in the Army of the Revolutionary War in the North Carolina line that he served as such for the period of two and a half years and Enlisted under Captain Bailey of the tenth Regiment. She further declared that she was married to the said Elijah Bass on the 14<sup>th</sup> day of February 1777. That her husband the aforesaid Elijah Bass died (or was killed) in the aforesaid War at the Battle of Eutaw Springs on the 8<sup>th</sup> day of September 1781. That she was afterward (to wit) on the 14<sup>th</sup> day of February 1783 married to Benjamin Richardson who was a private in the North Carolina Militia in the Revolutionary War who served as such for the period of twelve months under Capts. Joel Wren, John White, Jordan Harris & other officers. That he went out of Halifax & Warren Counties and served as a Militia Soldier in the Year 1781.

She further declares that her said husband Benjamin Richardson died on the 14<sup>th</sup> July 1809. That she was not married to him prior to his leaving the service but the marriage took place previous to the 1<sup>st</sup> day January 1794 viz at the time above stated. She further says on her oath that she has no documentary evidence in support of her claim to a pension.

Sworn to and Subscribed on the day and year above written before.

S/ John Alston J.P.

S/ Mary Richardson, X her mark

State of N. Carolina, Halifax County

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<sup>1</sup> This woman's former husband Elijah Bass, was killed at the battle of Eutaw Springs.

I hereby certify that Mary Richardson who hath this day sworn to and subscribed to the foregoing declaration is unable by reason of bodily infirmity to attend Court to make her said declaration that she is credible person Given under my hand & seal this 11th day October 1841.

S/ John Alston J.P.

I, John King<sup>2</sup> of the County of Franklin, North Carolina do hereby Certify upon Oath that I was well acquainted with Elijah Bass, who was a Soldier of the Revolution, and that the said Bass enlisted for two & half years in the Spring of 1779, at which time, he went into the Army of the Revolution in the North Carolina line. He enlisted under Captain Bailey & Served as a Soldier until the 8<sup>th</sup> day of September 1781 – at which time the said Bass was killed in the Battle at Eutaw Springs.

I further certify that the said Elijah Bass was married to Mary Bass, about two years before the said Bass enlisted as above, and that Mary, his widow, was afterwards (to wit) in the year 1783 married to Benjamin Richardson, who, I have always understood was a Militia Soldier but, I know nothing of his Services – the said Benjamin Richardson & the said Elijah Bass always while they lived with their wife the said Mary lived together as husband & wife, after their marriage to her up to the times of their death[s].

The said Benjamin Richardson died about 30 years ago and Mary his widow is now a widow & has never married since the death of her said husband Benjamin Richardson.

Given under my hand this 13<sup>th</sup> day of December 1841.

S/ John King, X his mark

Witness: S/ J. Williams, JP

State of North Carolina, Franklin County

This day, John King (who is One Hundred & four years old Revolutionary Pensioner) came before me Joseph J. Williams one of the acting Magistrates in & for said County and made oath to the within Certificate & subscribed the same before me.

Given on the my hand & seal this 13<sup>th</sup> day of December A.D. 1841.

S/ J. J. Williams, JP

North Carolina, Warren County

I Certify on oath that I was well acquainted with Elijah Bass & his wife Mary, That they were married before the year 1780 – and that he Elijah Bass was a Soldier of the Revolution in the N. C. line. That I have been credibly informed that he served upwards of two years which I believe but do not know that he did of my own knowledge. But I do know that he served as a Soldier in the Army from the 1<sup>st</sup> day of May 1781 to the 8<sup>th</sup> day of September 1781 at which time the said Bass was killed at the Battle of Eutaw Springs.

I know that the said Bass went off into the Army & remained off about two years, before I joined the Army myself which was on the first day of May 1781. I also Certify that Mary Bass his widow some short time after the war was over, married Benjamin Richardson, and that Richardson, died upwards of 30 years past – and the said Mary has remained a widow ever since. I further Certify that the said Benjamin Richardson, was a

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<sup>2</sup> [John King R5962](#)

soldier in the Militia, for three months, in the Revolution under Captain Joel Wren, commencing in the month of September 1780 & Served out the same.

S/ David King,<sup>3</sup> X his mark

North Carolina Warren County

I Francis Riggan<sup>4</sup> of the County of Warren & State aforesaid, Aged 78 years, do hereby Certified on oath, that I know Benjamin Richardson, who was a Militia soldier in the Revolution in the North Carolina service and that the said Richardson did serve as such for six months to my own Knowledge. He first on the 10<sup>th</sup> day of February 1781 substituted himself to serve three months, in the place of Ebenezer Riggan, and Captain Jordan Harris' Company, & he did serve out the same. Afterwards, to wit, on or about the 10<sup>th</sup> day of August 1781, the said Benjamin Richardson was drafted for three months or more and Captain John White's Company, & Served out the same – making six months service a Militia Soldier, to my own personal Knowledge. But I have every reason to believe that the said Richardson had served three months previous to the 10<sup>th</sup> day of February 1780 1 – but I do not know the fact.

I further Certify that Mary Richardson, is the widow of the Identical Benjamin Richardson above named.

S/ Francis Riggan

[File contains a copy of the marriage bond given by Benjamin Richardson and Phille Patteford to secure the marriage of Richardson to Mary Bass, dated 2/13/ 1783.]

[File also contains a copy of a marriage bond given by Elijah Bass & Richard Scott to secure the marriage of Elijah Bass to Mary Bass. Bond not dated; issued in Bute County, NC]

Halifax County, N. Car

March 12th, 1853

Sir

We the only surviving children and heirs at law of Mary Richardson the deceased, who was formerly the widow of Elijah Bass deceased Soldier of the Revolution, request you to allow W. Thos. Lumpkin of Washington City D.C. the liberty to examine our deceased Mother's declaration and all the testimony on file in your office, relative to her claim for a pension on account of the Revolutionary services of her first husband the aforesaid Elijah Bass, and when the pension certificate is issued for the amount of pension money due us, who are the only surviving children & heirs at Law of the said Mary Richardson deceased. Please deliver it to the said W. Thos. Lumpkin for us.

Very Respectfully

[Hon. James R. Heath  
Commissioner of Pensions],  
Washington City D.C.

S/ Hardy Richardson, X his mark  
S/ Lucy Evans, X her mark  
S/ Absalm Richardson, X his mark  
S/ Jesse Richardson, X his mark

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<sup>3</sup> [David King S46055](#) and [David King W20347](#) same man was given two different file numbers.

<sup>4</sup> [Francis Riggan S9054](#)

State of North Carolina, Halifax County

Came before me James W. Faucett, a Justice of the Peace in and for the County of Halifax aforesaid, Willie Qualls and \_\_\_ [blank in original] resident of the said County of Halifax, who being duly sworn according to law, deposes and says that the were well acquainted with Mary Richardson the wife of Benjamin Richardson deceased, reputed and believed to have been a soldier in the Revolutionary War – that the said Mary Richardson lived and died in the county aforesaid, in the year A.D. 1844 – that the said Mary Richardson left three children who are now living, Jesse Richardson, and Lucy Evans, formerly Lucy Richardson, now residing in the County aforesaid, and Absalom Richardson, a resident of the adjoining County of Warren.

S/ Willie Qualls, X his mark