

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of John Ritchie (Richey) W5707

Jannet

fn71SC

Transcribed by Will Graves

11/28/09

[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 South Carolina in Newberry District: To wit

On this 15th day of November in the year of our Lord 1832 personally appeared in open Court before Richard Gantt Esquire the Judge of the Court of General Sessions and Common Pleas of the said State now sitting John Ritchie a resident of the district of Newberry aforesaid aged about seventy-four, who, being first duly sworn, 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 was born in Ireland in the County of Antrim. He has no record of his age and is an illiterate man. He cannot therefore state precisely what time he was born. But by comparing his age with that of persons to whom he has long known & whose ages are known, and with the dates of remarkable events which he heard of at the time of their occurrence he is induced to believe that he is at the least seventy-four years old as above stated. He came to this country about the commencement of the Revolutionary War, before the war broke out at the South, but he remembers to have heard of the war at the North.

He was living in that part of Ninety Six district now called Laurens district when called into service. He entered the service of the United States under the following named officers, and served as herein after stated. He entered, by volunteering enlistment for the term of 3 years, and Captain Oliver Towles Company which was attached to Colonel Thompson's [sic, William Thomason's] Regiment, which was he understood the Third Regiment of the South Carolina State Troops. Captain Thomson bore the nickname of "Old Danger," and his Regiment he understood was at first of Cavalry and upon that being broke up were dispersed, the Regiment of foot to which the deponent was attached as above stated, was raised in its place. The company rendezvoused at Charleston. After remaining several months in Charleston the Regiment to which this deponent was attached marched to Orangeburg in the same State, at which place they were stationed several months. Lieutenant Colonel Mason was an officer of the Regiment, as were also Captain Felix Warley, Captain Hopkins, Captain Uriah Goodwyn, Captain Ramsey and Captain Caldwell. From Orangeburg, they marched to Savannah in Georgia and after staying there a short time they marched on through the State of Georgia, passed by a place called Midway Meeting House advanced as far as the Ogeechee River. At which place they received word that the British were coming on to attack Savannah, and they thereupon turned back and went to Savannah. They were there when that place was attacked and taken by the British and were engaged in the battle. On that occasion this deponent was taken prisoner by the British. He remembers that at Savannah one John Knap or Napp who was said to be a British deserter acted as adjutant of the Regiment, and that George Reynolds also a British deserter acted as drill officer. From the fall of Savannah until the British finally left that place the deponent remained a

prisoner of war. He was a prisoner at the time the Americans and French attacked that place. When he was first taken a prisoner he was put on board a prison ship where he remained several weeks, and was then upon the application of his friends permitted to return into Savannah where he remained a prisoner on parole, until the British left that place as above stated.

The deponent cannot state the time at which he entered the service, but according to the best of his recollection he had been about 18 months in service when he was taken prisoner. Nor can he state how long he remained a prisoner but he is confident he was a prisoner more than a year. After this deponent was left at liberty by the British at Savannah he returned home, and was furnished by Lieutenant Colonel Mason with a written discharge which has been long since lost or destroyed. Since that time he has lived in the district of Laurens, Abbeville and Newberry in this State and for the last 34 years, he has resided constantly in Newberry.

As evidence of his service he refers to a grant for a tract of land given to him by the State of South Carolina in consideration of his Revolutionary services which is dated the 2nd day of May 1796 and signed by Arnoldus Vanderhorst the then Governor of said State in pursuance of acts of the Legislature of said State one passed the 28th day of March 1778 and the other the 26th day of March 1784.

He refers to Alexander Chambers and William Cannon for his character as a man of veracity and for the general reputation that he was a Soldier of the Revolution, there being no clergyman residing in the neighborhood where he lived.

He has no documentary evidence of his services in his possession other than the grant above mentioned and knows of no person by whom he can prove his revolutionary services.

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to an annuity or pension except the present and declares that his name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any State.

Sworn to and subscribed in open Court.

S/ Y. J. Harrington, Clerk

S/ John Ritchey, X his mark

[Alexander Chambers and William Cannon gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[fn p. 11: on April 23, 1856 in Newberry District South Carolina, Jannet Ritchie, aged ___ years, filed a claim stating she is the widow of John Ritchie; that she married him sometime in the year 1794; that they were married by Squire McIntosh; that her name prior to her marriage was Jannet Beard; that her husband died in the year 1840 in Newberry district South Carolina; and that she is making this application in order to obtain the County land to which he may be entitled.]

[fn p. 22: On February 6, 1856, John the Richey, about 60 years old, filed in Newberry District an affidavit saying he is the son of John and Janet Richey; that he was born April 15 1796 but there is no record of his age; that about the year 1807 he recorded the age of his brother Samuel Richey who was the 7th child of his parents and also the age of Mary Richey who was the 8th child of his parents.]

[fn p. 23: "Samuel Richey was born in The year 1804 June 30th

"Mary Richey was born in the of our Lord 1807 November the 26th"]