

[Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters](#)

Pension Application of Richard Wells W6437

Susanna Wells GA VA

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. Revised 4 Nov 2014.

[Numerous changes in punctuation have been made in an effort to render the following intelligible. In addition, two pages misfiled at the end of the declaration are here transcribed in correct chronological order.]

State of Kentucky }
County of Floyd } SS

On this 20th day of February 1834 personally appeared before the undersigned one of the commonwealths Justice of the peace for county of Floyd now sitting Richard Wells a resident in the county of Floyd and State of Kentucky aged seventy four years 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 and served as herein stated. That he was born in the State of Pennsylvania in the City of Philadelphia on the 11th day of Feby 1760. he removed to Augusta in Georgia with Dr. Wells his uncle who was a Surgeon in the Army and was killed after the Revolution by Gen Abram Jackson in a duel [sic: see endnote]. his first officers were Col Jackson first Col Harris or Harrison. he resided in or at a place called Washington in Ga. he was drafted in a millitia unit under Capt Paine in January 1779 for six months he marched down the Savaner [sic: Savannah] river and passed through Ebenezer [in Effingham County] on that State. he crossed the river then into the South Carolina side and joined Gen Lincolns [Benjamin Lincoln's] army about thirty two miles from Savaner he was here waiting for the millitia. he was marched thence to Augusta the place where he was drafted at and from where started. he was made a non commissioned officer in his Company and orderly Sargent, and had to make out morning reports. perhaps he remained in Agusta two weeks it may be it was not more than ten days. the army threw up a breast work or a kind of Battery for the defence of Agusta and there was a few Kings men in prision at the same time as he recollects—

The tories afs'd. were undergoing a trial for plundering. they had come from South Carolina from the Saludy [sic: Saluda] river. in the spring he was marched down to Charlestown to follow the british army to that Town. in no part of the events of the war escaped his recollection as the time he started down. his idea is that when he got low cotton was generally planted, and some were re-planting, but it is only an impression. he arrived within one days march of the Town when Captain Green Wood [Greenwood?] and Capt Blair were dispatched with their companies to dislodge a party on Edisto river, and several files from other company were placed under their command. he was with them. they arrived at the place, about six hundred yards from the river in the night, and after receiving orders an assault on the house. before the men reached within one hundred yards their sentinel fired and retreated. there was a fence about fifteen yards from the house and the enemy were placed behind that. after a brisk resistance, the tories all fled, and we took some few guns (chiefly rifles and some powder and some saddles &c. Eight of them were taken prisoners. the next morning about 10 Oclock, we commenced a march back to get up with the army. after we got with the army we was in a battle at Stono landing [Battle of Stono Ferry, 20 Jun 1779] this was a hard fought battle but the Americans suffered most and lost between one hundred and two hundred men. out of the company in which he was he reported three among the dead. from this place he was marched down between a little River and the Edisto and there remained until he was discharged in July 1779 for six months.

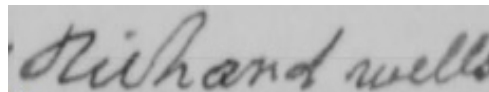
In September 1779 he cannot state the day of the month, he was drafted in the millitia in Agusta in Georgia under Capt. Loury and Col. Harris for three months. it is impossible to say what day it was in the month he started. the object of this call was to take Savaner from the tories and the british who were in the possession of it. [Siege of Savannah, 24 Sep - 19 Oct 1779] he was marched down the river and came

to the army as did all the militia companies both from Georgia and South Carolina near the town, and he had not been down long before the whole army attacked the British in Savannah. and he states that the Americans did not take that place but was defeated. the militia was the cause as it was then said. in this Battle several hundred men got killed, and a Col of the horse a Frenchman or Dutchman was killed whose name he has forgotten [probably a reference to the Polish Brigadier General Count Kazimierz Pulaski, commander of a Legion of Horse and Foot, mortally wounded 9 Oct]. the American forces were at last forced to give way. some of the militia volunteers went home, and the army went over into Carolina. he states that from this place he was sent with his company to the Ogechee [sic: Ogeechee] river in Georgia. The Tories having broke out there again and were doing much mischief. After marching a long distance they arrived at a place where the Tories had been and cut open the featherbeds and killed the hogs and drove off all the cattle and had gone over on the Oconee river [sic: Oconee Creek]. he staid in this neigh Two weeks. as his captain had been directed from this place he marched in a straight way direction to Augusta. when he arrived in Augusta he quartered in the barracks of the said town and staid at said place until his time expired. there was in Confinement a Major a Tory one that had been taken when he was absent from Augusta. he rec'd. his discharge from his Captain for his three months service as a drafted man. At the battle of Savannah he was not under the Command of Col. Harris he was sick and did not act in his regiment. the Col who commanded was an officer from Charlestown whose name he states has escaped his recollection. during the last time of three months he knew of no other circumstances that would be useful in his Claim to state to the war department – There was many regular Officers in the army. Gen Lincoln was Commander in Chief of Militia and all. Gen [William] Moultrie was a regular officer he had no acquaintance with any regular officer, and most of them were French men whose names He could not scarcely repeat much less remember. There was many militia officers to wit Col Lamar Col Harris Col [James] Jackson Capt Buckner Harris Col Clarke [probably Elijah Clarke], Col Geo Walton [George Walton]

in the year of 1780 he moved to Washington County Virginia and there remained. the truth was that the Tories had overrun all the state of Georgia, and he with many more was compelled to fly and leave Georgia or join Lord Cornwallis [sic: Cornwallis]. in May 1780 he entered the service as an Indian Spy for “one year or sooner discharged.” under Col. [Daniel] Smith he thinks commanded the regiment in that quarter of the county. Col. Campbell who lived somewhere on Holston river [sic: William Campbell who lived in Washington County VA on Holston River] was the Col. Commodant Capt. Snoddy [probably Snoddy] and Lieutenant Robinson. he marched to the frontiers forthwith. the country through which he marched was the country now composing Scott, Lee, Russell counties. he spied too over the Cumberland mountain which divides the State of Kentucky from Virginia into Kentucky frequently and followed the Indians down the Kentucky river and on Sandy. Also up these rivers. the Indians had traces from the Ohio and yearly for many years before he served they had came the above ways to the Clinch river. The manner of spieing is about this. the Company of Spies would divide and three and four go together. the whole of Powell's Valley [Powell Valley] and Clinch river settlements were fortified [i.e. all civilians were in forts for protection] this year and some few Indians were killed. this country lies high and for latitude in which it is situated is exceedingly cold. on the spurs of the mountain. during the month of May aft'd. June, July, August September October, November and december he remained on the frontiers. and the winter became so intolerable severe, that the spies were compelled to return to settlements and forts until winter broke. they was near on to Christmas 1780. the spies some went home, and some went to the fort and to Huntersford on the river [Hunter's Ford on Clinch River at present Dungannon]. in March or perhaps Feb'y the spies resumed their duty on the frontier. there he continually spied until his time expired in May 1781. he received his discharge for his one years service, last aforesaid. The circumstances of his services aft'd are detailed. few incidents occur with spies as they are confined to a specific duty, and are from their situation removed from the active scenes of war. during its ravages – entirely confined to the woods – he knows that no continental reg't. officer, or company served with him during the years service. There is therefore no circumstance now in his recollection worthy exhibiting. he did not loose his discharge himself but placed in the hand of a man to procure his pay for him, which he never returned. he

now resides close to the place where his service was rendered, and believes he can be enabled to establish his claim by living witnesses some of which he is informed are now on bounty of Government. from his age and an infirmity that has been upon him for a great many years he has forgotten much. he has not been but a mile or so from home for many years.

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present and declares that his name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any state. Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid.



1 Where, and in what year were you born?

Ans in Pennsylvania, in Philadel. city on the 11 day of February 1760

2 Have you any record of your age, and if so where is it?

Ans I have at home in a Book keep for a family record by me

Where were you living when called into service where have you lived since the revolutionary war and where do you now live –

Answer in Augusta in Georgia since the revolutionary he has lived in Virginia and Kentucky, and he now lives in Floyd County in this State

How were you called into service were you drafted, did you volunteer or were you a substitute and if a substitute for whom

Answer. he was drafted once in Georgia, he in Virginia enlisted as an Indian spy

State the names of some of the Regular officers who were with the troops where you served such

Continental and militia regiments as you can recollect and the general circumstances of your service.

The names of Gen Lincol Major McLung Col. Jackson Col. Harris, Col Clarke were along with army

when he served as to the French he cannot remember their names. Capt Colwell Major John Brown

Lieutenant Marr Col Taylor Capt Jonathan Brady Capt John W. Bright, Col Craig Col. John Wilit[?]

Capt Pitsimons [Fitzsimmons?] Clifton Johnson Ensign Thomas T. Satterwhite Col Wood. Capt Geo

McLeod, Major Irvin Maj'r Irby and many other that he could recollect. he was drafted for three months

in Georgia and he served out his time. he was drafted first for six months and then for the three months

af's'd. he served out his tour. he was in the battle at Stono ferry. he was in the battle of Savaner. he was in

a small engagement on the Edisto river. he was in Gen Lincolns army, and was orderly Sergeant for the

first time he was out. after the Savaner battle he was marched to the Ogechy river in Georgia to put a stop

to the Tories there. the last time he was in the south army during the revolution the battle of Savaner. he

served in Virginia for one year as an Indian spy he spied during 1780 all that summer and some few

Indians were killed. the winter was a bad one, and about Christmas he went home from the frontier to the

rye cove [now in Scott County VA]. he spied on until the Spring of 1781 he continued until his time

expired, and he received his discharge for his one year service in June Robinson was sick and Cowan

was then the lieutenant. and having served out this year service he rec'd a discharge from the same

Did you ever receive a discharge from the service by whom was given and what has become of it

Answer, The first one was given me by Capt Paine, the 2^d by Lorry, and the third by Capt Snody or the

Leftenant Cowan. when he came to Virginia he left his two first discharges with his uncle, the second he

sent by a man to get his pay and it was never returned to him –

State the names of person to whom you are known in your present neighborhood and who can testify as

to your character for veracity and their belief of your services as a soldier of the revolution

Ans. There is Samuel Harmer [possibly Hanna] who is the nearest preacher. the Rev'd. P. [illegible],

Samuel Auxier Daniel Auxier, Jonathan Webb Col Daniel Hager Capt James Hager Vincent Dawson

Griffith Dickerson Col. Nat Auxier Samuel Clark, Esq'r. William G Porter John Porter Sr.

[brother-in-law] John Porter Jr. and Singleton W. Flannery –

State of Kentucky.
County of Floyd Sct.

The deposition of John Porter [John W. Porter W3037] aged seventy five years a resident in Floyd County who states that he he knows of the service of Richard Wells against the indians in the year 1780 & 81 in the state of virginia, that he knows of his serving as an indian spie for a year or about a year. he saw him frequently in the service mustering, also spieing durring the time aforesaid that he was not in the same company that he was, he served also previous to Richard Wells service. That Richard Wells and him lived in the same neighborhood during the Revolutionary war, within one mile, he has known him for fifty three years. that he lived near him durring the whole time, that when he Porter moved to Kentucky many years since that Richard Wells moved after him to the same neighborhood within 150 yards of him, that he has not lived more than two miles apart from him since Richard Wells moved to Kentucky. in relation to his services in Georgia he knows nothing about it from personal knowledge, but heard him (Wells) state them when he came to Va. and allways understood he did from him and other persons That Richard Wells has ever sustained a fair character and was allways regarded a man of truth being a member of the church for many years.

And further he saith not.
[certified "29 of February 1834" (sic)]

John hisXmark Porter

NOTES:

Online sources state that George Wells was appointed Governor of Georgia on 5 Feb 1780 and served until 15 Feb 1780, when he was killed in a duel with Maj. James Jackson.

On 10 July 1843 Susanna Wells, 62 or 63, of Johnson County KY (recently formed from Floyd County), applied for a pension stating that she married Richard Wells in Nov 1793, and he died 28 March 1838. A copy of the marriage record states that Richard Wells married Susanna Hutcherson in Russell County VA on 28 Sep 1797. Moses Wells, son of Richard and Susanna Wells, stated that he would be 40 on 13 April 1844, that he had two brothers and one sister older than him, that he had heard his parents say that they had been married three years before they had a child, and that there were two or three years between the children. Susanna Wells's claim was rejected because of uncertainty that the marriage occurred before 1794, as required by the pension act under which she applied.

On 10 July 1843 Martha Porter stated that she was present at the marriage of Richard and Susanna Porter in the fall of 1793. On 16 Feb 1844 Martha Porter stated that Susanna Wells, her sister, had been married "three years and some months before she had a child and then two years and some months before she had a second child a son which is now living the oldest being dead," and that the son then living was about 45 years old. On the same day John Porter, Jr. made the following statement: "The deposition of John Porter the son of Martha Porter and the cousin of George Wells the son of sussana Wells her oldest son now living that is named in the deposition of his mother Martha Porter he states that from the information of his father John Porter that he the said John Porter Jnr is now forty six years of age the 23 day of december 1843 and he states that his cousin George Wells named in the deposition of his mother and himself as he allways understood is about the same age but a few months differanc in our age as informed by our parents."

On 8 Oct 1849 Moses Wells and William Wells certified that Richard Wells died on 18 March 1838.

On 12 Nov 1849 Susanna Wells successfully applied for a pension under a later act, stating that she was 73 and married Richard Wells on 10 Nov 1794. On 23 Oct 1850 she stated that she was 73, and the marriage occurred in Sep 1797.

On 24 March 1855 before John Wells, a Justice of the Peace, Susanna Wells, 80, applied for an increase in her pension, stating that she married Richard Wells in 1794, and he died 27 March 1838. On 14 Sep 1855 Susannah Wells applied for bounty land, stating that she was 75, and that Richard Wells died on Daniels Creek in what was then Floyd County KY on 17 March 1838.