

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of George Richards S18572

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

State of Virginia }

Lewis County to wit }

Personally appeared before me [Elias Lowther] the Subscriber a Justice of the peace in and for the said county of Lewis on this 23 day of Sept 1833 George Richards a resident of the County of Lewis and State of Virginia aged 7[?] 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 7 1832 That he entered the service of the united states under the following named officers and served as here in stated.

That in the year 1780 on the 2nd day of March in the County of Monongalia and State of Virginia he volunteered for nine months as an indian spy and was placed under the command of Capt Joseph Gregory Ensign John Tommis [John Thomas] other officers names not recollection and was stationed at Powers fort on Simpsons Creek in the County and State aforesaid [on Simpson Creek now in Harrison County WV]. Capt Gregory commanded a company of indian spys and affiant was engaged in spying the County from said fort to the River ohio over that scope of Country which now composes the Countys of ohio wood Tyler Harrison Randolph and Lewis during this tower the indians come in to the country and killed a man by the name of Philip Lavy and stole a horse belonging William Rogers - affiant served out the tower for which he Volunteered during which time he acted as orderly Sargeant to which office he was promoted when he first entered the Service as an indian Spy under this Command of Capt Gregory affiant was discharged some time in the month of december by his said Capt Gregory in the year 1780 having served nine months as an indian Spy as an orderly Sergant again in the year 1781 in march the 8th 1781 in the county of Monongalia and State of Virginia affiant Volunteered and was placed under the command of the same officers as in his first tower to wit Capt Josep Gregory Ensign John Tommis affiant was again promoted to the office of orderly Sargeant and was stationed at Powers fort of Simpsons Creek in the County and State aforesaid and was engaged as aforesaid in Spying and watching the enemy to prevent there committing depredations on the then thin settled country of northwesterning Virginia affiant was engaged in the above named service untill some time in the month of November 1781 at which time affiant was discharged by his said Capt Joseph Gregory having served nine months as an indian Spy during which time affiant acted in the capacity of an order[ly] Sargeant and performed all the dutys belonging to said office again in the year 1783 in the month of April he think the 3rd day he volunteered in the County of monongalia and State of Virginia and was marched from Simpsons Creek to Arnolds fort on the west fork river in the County and State aforesaid affiant was marched under the command of Ensign John Tommis from Simpsons Creek to arnolds and when he arrived there he was plased under the command of Capt William Lowther George Jackson Lieutenant John Tommis Ensign the distance from Simpsons creek to Arnolds affiant thinks is about 18 miles The Country from one fort to another was a wilderness affiant was engaged during this tower of service as in his first and second under the command of Capt Joseph Gregory in Spying the Country from said fort to the river ohio over the same country as mention in his first and second tower under the command of Capt Joseph Gregory during this tower as in affiants first and second he was orderly Sargeant and continued to act and perform all the dutys belonging said office untill some time in the month of November 1782 at which time he affiant was discharged by his said Capt William Lowther having served eight months as an indian Spy in the active capacity of a orderly Sargeant the following are the occurances which took place during affiant several towers of service in his first Vary little took place of which affiant has any distinct recollection - during his 2nd tower under Capt Gregory the indians came into the neighbourhood of Simpsons and killed Capt John Tommis his wife and six of his children and took one prisoner during his third tower the indians come into the neighbourhood of arnolds fort on the west fork river where affiant was stationed and killed Paul and Arnold Richards [see endnote]. to the several interogatories prescribed by the War

department the Justice proseded to propound to which affiant answers as follows to the first he answers and says

1 I was Borne in the County of Rockingham State of Virginia in the year 1759 -

2 I have no record of my age. I have the recollection of my parents who informed me the year I was Borne in

3 When called into service I was living in the County of Monongalia State of Virginia I have never lived out of the State of Virginia since the Revolutionary War I have lived in the County of Harrison and the County of Wood and Lewis County where I now resid in the State of Virginia

4 all my towers of service I Volunteered

5 during my first tower I became acquainted with Capt Booth who commanded a company of indian Spys as I was informed [see endnote] I also became acquainted with Col Benjamin Wilson and Capt [James] Trimble who came from Augusta County My servis being that of an indian Spy and confined to the north western part of Virginia I never had an opportunity of becoming acquainted with any of the Regular officers I was regularly discharged by my [illegible word] Capt under whom I served but they are lost or mislaid.

I have no documentary evidence of my service and know of no one by whome I can prove my service but am known to and acquainted with William L. Mitchell and John Cain [pension application S17873] who can testify to my character my age and to their belief of my having been a soldier of the revolutionary war

I hereby relinquish every claim whatever to a pention or annuity except the present and declares that his name is not on the pention roll of the agency of any State

Sworn to and Subscribed the day and year aforesaid [signed] George Richards

NOTES:

Compare Richards's declaration with that of William Powers S18164.

According to A. S. Withers's *Chronicles of Border Warfare*, 1831, p. 254, Arnold and Paul Richards were killed near Fort Richards in Aug 1781.

The only known Capt. Booth in the area where Richards claimed to have served was James Booth, who had been killed by Indians on 16 June 1778.

Elias Lowther, the Justice of the Peace, certified that Richards "from Boddily infirmity is unable to travel to the Courthouse of the said County of Lewis from which he lives forty miles."

On 28 Oct 1833 R. H. Lowther complained to the Commissioner of Pensions that the pension certificate for George Richards awarded him \$80 per year, which was less than he was entitled to for his service as an Orderly Sergeant. District Attorney Washington G. Singleton identified Robert H. Lowther as one of the "Lewis Speculating Gentry" who filed many fraudulent pension applications and collected most of the money. For details see pension application S6111 of David W. Sleeth. The pensions of Richards and all other pensioners from Lewis and Harrison County were suspended early in 1834 while Singleton investigated them. If Singleton investigated Richards his report on Richards is missing from the file.