

## Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Richard Cavett R1820

fn9NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

11/10/10

[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. I use speech recognition software to make all my transcriptions. Such software misinterprets my southern accent with unfortunate regularity and my poor proofreading fails to catch all misinterpretations. I welcome and encourage folks to call those and any other errors to my attention.]

### Alabama

In the County Court of Madison County held at Huntsville on the 19th day of August 1834 before the Honorable John C Thompson, judge thereof – Richard Cavett, a citizen of said County, resident therein, on this day personally appeared in open Court, and being 70 years of age and first duly sworn according to law, doth on his oath make the following Declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the provisions made by the Act of Congress passed June 7th, 1832.

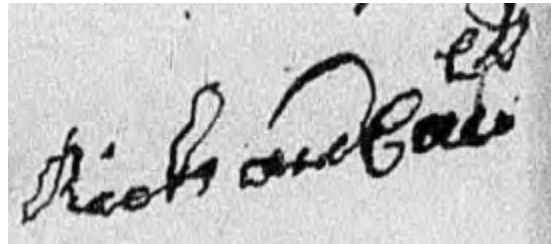
From the uniform traditions of my father's family I was born on the headwaters of James River in what was then probably Bottetourt County [sic, Botetourt County], Virginia in 1765 – There was no record of my age ever made known to me. Presently after my birth I was removed with my father's family into the region then unsettled called Sullivan County comprising probably all of North Carolina between the Allegheny mountains [sic, Appalachian Mountains?] & Mississippi River. Thither my father went as a pioneer. His name was Moses Cavett. He maintained his post in the remote settlement & amidst hostile savages until his death. He was a Captain under Colonel Isaac Shelby & fought under him at Kings Mountain in the fall of 1780. Shortly prior to that battle though then in my 15th year, I was enrolled in my father's company not by a regular draft but from the exigencies of the settlement & carried some clothing to Colonel Shelby's quarters and asked him to prevail on my father to let me go with them against the Tories. He spoke to my father on the subject, but he refused because of the necessity of guarding the settlement from the cruel inroads & butcheries of the hostile Indians. At this juncture the Cherokees, who had arranged themselves on the Tory side under Cameron, occupied the region around Nichejack on the Tennessee River; & those of them, who were influenced by General Martin & the Whig cause occupied the waters of the Holston [River], Little Tennessee & Hiwassee [River]. The Shawnees, then on the north bank of the Ohio, were hostile & made frequent excursions & hunts into the country of Clinch River & that my father's residence, now Sullivan County of Tennessee. Most of the effective men in this quarter at this period were under Colonel Shelby. The young men, capable of wielding the rifle were either in service or left to guard the homes of the settlements. In this last mothers, daughters, sisters were united & it was one of continuous watch & peril. My father was almost constantly on campaign. He had four sons & five daughters. I was the eldest, & in his absence, with the counsel & aid of my mother I commanded the home fortress. I kept my gun in hand, or when I sat down to eat I laid it across

my lap – or when going to bed the door was barricaded & I laid down with my weapon of defense in my arms. The door in the morning was carefully opened after sunrise & a circuit of observation taken around the premises. From the time mentioned until about the close of the revolution my father's company was kept in service, when he was promoted to the rank of Major & succeeded by Captain Benjamin Clark. I was constantly attached to the Company. George Russell, brother of the celebrated William Russell Captain of Spies in the late Creek war, was our Lieutenant & Morgan Murray our Ensign. Until the close of the war I was out on frequent excursions against the hostile Cherokees & Shawnees, but had with them only skirmishes & no battles of consequence. Mostly however when the company went to a great distance as into North Carolina, South Carolina & Georgia I was left to guard the settlement. Thus my service extended beyond the revolution. I was in two battles at Lookout Mountain in which General Martin commanded and in another under General John Sevier on the Hightower River. My whole term of service was at least & certainly two years during the revolution & about 10 years in all. I obtained two discharges, the first from General Joseph Martin & the second from General Sevier, but did not preserve them. There is no one living & known to me by whom I can prove the services. At the close of the Cherokee war by the battle at Nickejack I removed into Roane County Tennessee, where I lived about 16 years. I then moved to Madison County now of Alabama aforesaid where I have ever since lived & still reside. I hereby relinquish every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present, and declare that my name is not on the pension roll of any state or of the United States.

Sworn to & subscribed in open Court

S/ Rich'd B. Purdom, Clk

S/ Richard Cavett

A black and white photograph of a handwritten signature in cursive script. The signature appears to read "Richard Cavett" with a small "Ld" or "Ed" written above the end of the name.

[John Sandridge and David Jacks, a clergyman, Rhoda Horton, Valentine G. Pruitt, John D. Phelan gave the standard supporting affidavit