

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Richard Gordon S3404

f19NC/GA

Transcribed by Will Graves

8/19/08 rev'd 9/14/15

[Methodology: Spelling, punctuation and/or grammar have been corrected in some instances for ease of reading and to facilitate searches of the database. Where the meaning is not compromised by adhering to the spelling, punctuation or grammar, no change has been made. Corrections or additional notes have been inserted within brackets or footnotes. Blanks appearing in the transcripts reflect blanks in the original. A bracketed question mark indicates that the word or words preceding it represent(s) a guess by me. The word 'illegible' or 'indecipherable' appearing in brackets indicates that at the time I made the transcription, I was unable to decipher the word or phrase in question. Only materials pertinent to the military service of the veteran and to contemporary events have been transcribed. Affidavits that provide additional information on these events are included and genealogical information is abstracted, while standard, 'boilerplate' affidavits and attestations related solely to the application, and later nineteenth and twentieth century research requests for information have been omitted. I use speech recognition software to make all my transcriptions. Such software misinterprets my southern accent with unfortunate regularity and my poor proofreading skills fail to catch all misinterpretations. Also, dates or numbers which the software treats as numerals rather than words are not corrected: for example, the software transcribes "the eighth of June one thousand eighty six" as "the 8th of June 1786." Please call material errors or omissions to my attention.]

State of Tennessee, Jackson County: SS

On this 13th day of February 1834 personally appeared before the worshipful Court of Pleas & Quarter Sessions in open court Richard Gordon a resident of Jackson County State of Tennessee aged sixty-eight years in April 1834, who being first duly sworn according to law, doth on his oath make the following declaration, in order to obtain the benefit of the provision made by the act of Congress passed June the 7th 1832. That he entered the Army of the United States as a volunteer and served as herein stated under the following named officers.

That he volunteered in the service of the United States 16 August 1781 in Wilkes County North Carolina in an expedition against the Indians for three months, under Captain John Beverly & Colonel Hearn [Benjamin Herndon] & marched to Pleasant Garden near the head of Kataba [sic Catawba] River where we joined General McDowell's [Charles McDowell's] Army, was principally engaged in the Cherokee Nation what was called the middle settlements, scouring the Country destroying Indian houses, towns, crops &c. There were two companies that were in this expedition making near 400 men but marched from Wilkes Court House to Pleasant Gordon one commanded by Captain Sloan & the other by Captain Beverly the latter which I belonged, at the expiration of two months were discharged by Colonel Hearn & went home as we could without receiving any written discharge, was in actual service as a private soldier on this tour just two months.

So soon as applicant returned home from the above mentioned tour his father moved to Wilkes County in the State of Georgia. On the 1st of May 1782 he again volunteered as a private soldier at Knox Station in said County for forty days under Captain Knox who had a station on his farm, & was chiefly in fact wholly engaged in scouting & ranging the surrounding Country to drive off the Indians. This was a station where the Government allowed Knox a few men as guard against the Indians, when his time was out he was dismissed & went home without receiving any written discharge, served out his forty days which was considered one month & ten days, an Indian expedition.

In August of the same year (to wit) 1782 Applicant went to Franklin County on Tugaloo River, & in September was employed by Major Jesse Walton as a spy applicant understood was authorized to employ such men in service, there built a Fort called Walton's Fort. At this Fort we remained or stationed & sent out by Major Walton home spying expeditions for seven months in every direction through the Country as directed by Major Walton, generally sent out in certain boundaries & performed a tour every week, his tours were always performed with a son of Major Walton who was assigned with applicant & went together throughout; this was against the Creek Indians, was retained longer than seven months, & was held in actual service on this tour nine months – during the whole of the above mentioned service applicant was in actual service of the revolutionary war twelve months & ten days.

After the year 1783 applicant was again in the United States service which he will here set forth for which service he claims & leaves it with the Department to say whether he is entitled to a pension for it – to wit

When he was discharged from his services as a spy under Walton he remained at the station two years or longer, & in December 1785 he enlisted at that place under Captain William Martin for two years who was destined for Bledsoe's Lick in Cumberland now in Sumner County Tennessee, was ordered on by Martin from Walton's Station to the frontiers of Virginia, Powels Valley [sic, Powell's Valley], where he remained until August 1786 when Martin came on, applicant was then married, & substituted a man in his place, in this expedition was in service 11 months making in addition to his previous services one year, eleven months & ten days.

Applicant would further state that from Powell's Valley he moved to what is now Kentucky, & in September 1791 was drafted for three months in Madison County at Milford under Captain William Cavinor & was marched to Cincinnati of Ohio under Colonel Oldham in General St. Clair's Army, then on to the point or battle where St. Clair was defeated in November 1791, his Colonel, Oldham & General Butler were both killed in the battle, applicant belonged to Oldham's Regiment, as we went on to the place of the battle deal a Fort called Fort Jefferson. After we were defeated the soldiers came off pretty much in confusion, applicant with others traveled 29 miles to Fort Jefferson the day of the battle through the snow barefoot having loaned his shoes to his companion & friend William Carlisle to stand guard, applicant was shot through the arm and this battle. When we got to Cincinnati were mustered out of service, got no written discharge except something like a certificate to the paymaster, in this expedition was in service two months & 20 days – his whole service was as follows – the tours previous to 1783 – 12 months & 10 days – on the frontiers of Virginia 11 months, and in St. Clair's expedition two months & 20 days, making in all three years – which is for the department how long he is entitled to a pension – Has no documentary evidence to show his services as a soldier of the revolution nor can he procure any, & no living witness by whom he can prove it – William Carlile can prove his services and St. Clair's Army.

Although applicant does not claim it, he would state that he served a tour in the late Creek war under General Jackson as a volunteer.

Answers to the interrogatories prescribed by the War Department

1st Was born on 17th April 1766 and Henry County Virginia

2nd Have no record of my age, my father had one but cannot tell what became of it.

3rd When first called into service lived in Wilkes County NC – then in Wilkes County Georgia, then in Franklin County Georgia – Then Powell's Valley Virginia – then to Madison County Kentucky, then in the State of Virginia – from there moved to Cumberland County Kentucky – then to Jackson County Tennessee, where I now live & held for the last 23 years.

4th I volunteered as a private in all my service except in Saint Clair's Army, and that expedition was drafted.

5th I knew nothing of the officers of the regular Army, knew Captain Butler, Colonel Butler, General Butler, Major Hamtsamock & General St. Clair & others as stated in the above declaration, the general circumstances as above.

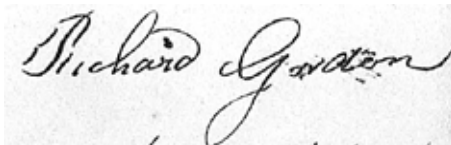
6th I never received a written discharge for any of my service.

7th Am acquainted with many persons in my neighborhood who will give me credit for veracity & their belief of my services as a soldier of the revolution – the Reverend Philip Mulky and Robert Jennings will certify it

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present, & he declares that his name is not on the Pension roll of any agency of any state except the present.

Sworn to & subscribed the day & year aforesaid.

S/ Richard Gordon

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Richard Gordon". The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored background.

S/ William Gailbreath, Clerk

[Philip Mulky, a clergyman, and Robert Jennings gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[p 9, William Carlisle gave an affidavit as to Gordon services under General St. Clair. He signed his affidavit with his mark.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$34.44 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for service for 10 months and 10 days in the North Carolina and Georgia militia.]