

[Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements](#)

Pension application of Richard Briggs W10458      Huldah      fn41SC/Mass.  
Transcribed by Will Graves      1/24/09

[Methodology: Spelling, punctuation and 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.]

Commonwealth of Massachusetts Hampshire County

On this 11th day of September 1832 personally appeared in open Court before the Honorable Samuel Hinckley Judge of Probate for the County Hampshire now sitting, Richard Briggs a resident of Worthington in said County aged 79 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 and served as herein stated.

In the month of October 1778, I sailed in a small privateer from Boston in Massachusetts to cruise off Rhode Island and was captured by the British 74 Gun ship *Culloden* Capt. Belfast and carried in November or December to Milford Haven in England where I remained a prisoner on board till the following Spring when we moved round Portsmouth, where we were placed at Fortum Prison [sic, Forton Prison] where I remained about 7 months. I then made my escape and went to London from which I got a passage to Ostend from which place I went to Paris and got some small relief from Dr. Franklin and proceeded from thence to L'Orient.

At L'Orient in the month of April or May 1780, I engaged as Surgeons first Mate on board the Frigate *South Carolina* belonging to the State of South Carolina, Capt. Joyner under Commodore Gillen [sic, Alexander Gillon] then lying at Amsterdam, and traveled overland to that place and joined the Ship the 28th day of August. We lay in Amsterdam till the Summer of the following year when we proceeded to Corrunna [Corunna] in Spain and from thence to Teneriffe [Tenerife] and from thence homeward bound to Charleston, which finding in the hands of the enemy we stood for Havanna where we spent the winter. In the Spring we joined the expedition from Havanna against New Providence and took it from thence we conveyed some 2 or 3 vessels to Philadelphia where we arrived early in June 1782 where I was discharged after nearly 26 months service.

When I left the Service I had a Certificate of my service which is lost. I have made diligent search for living witnesses of my service but can find none. Nicholas Bartlett of Marblehead was first Lieut. in the ship. Jon<sup>a</sup> Bartlett of Marblehead was Lieut. of Marines, Richard Pierce of Marblehead was Sail Maker (and Joseph Gridley of Boston was Purser and left the Ship at Havanna). They are all dead. If anyone but myself exists I know not where. I am compelled therefore to rely for proof to a copy of a Certificate from the Auditor of the State of South Carolina, and the Certificate of the Comptroller General stating the pavement made to me as one of the Crew of the Frigate *South Carolina* which are forwarded with this declaration.

I was born in Norton in the County of Bristol in Massachusetts in 1753 as I believe -- but no official record of my age. I lived in studied my profession in Braintree at the Commencement of the War, and pursued it in Abington till the year 1807 when I removed to Worthington, where I have lived since.

He hereby relinquishes every claim 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 whatever.

Sworn to and subscribed the day & year aforesaid.

S/ Samuel Hinckley, Judge of Probate

S/ Richard Briggs

[William Ward and William Wilmore gave the standard supporting affidavit for Dr. Richard Briggs.]

[On September 2, 1839, in Bond County, Illinois, Huldah Briggs, 71, filed for a widow's pension stating that she is the widow of Richard Briggs, "Surgeon on board the frigate *South Carolina*;" that her husband was pensioned at the rate of \$40/month; that she married him August 12, 1784; and that he died April 10th or 11th 1835 in Worthington, Hampshire, Mass. She appears to sign her name "Heldah Briggs."]

[fn p. 15, certificate from clerk of Abington County, Plymouth, Mass., that Richard Briggs and Huldah Reed were married there August 12, 1784.]

[fn p. 36]

South Carolina

Pursuant to a Resolve of the Honorable the Senate and House of Representatives of the 17th of March 1783

These are to Certify that this State is indebted to Mr. Richard Briggs late of the Frigate *South Carolina* as Surgeons Make being for Ballance of Wages due him and one year for pay he having been in France with Commodore Gillen [Gillon] and served on Board and Returned in the said Ship the sum of 124 pounds 6 shillings and 8 1/4 Sterling with Interest of 7 percent per annum from the first of April 1781.

Given under my hand at the Auditors Office Charleston this 6th day of October 1784

S/ J. McCall, Audr. Genl.

[fn p. 38: Bond County, Illinois, January 18, 1844, James Bradford, resident of Greenville in said County, is appointed administrator of the estate of Huldah Briggs, who died December 17, 1842; said Bradford being her son in law.]