

## Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Joseph Ridgway R8806

f20VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

6/29/12

[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. 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 fails 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 8<sup>th</sup> of June 1786." Please call errors or omissions to my attention.]

Bedford County State of Virginia: SS

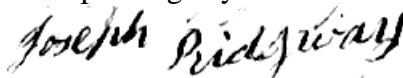
On this 24th day of August in the year 1833 personally appeared before me Matthew Pate a justice of the peace for the County of Bedford in the State of Virginia Joseph Ridgway aged Seventy-three years who being first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the Act of Congress passed June the 7th 1832,

That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated – In the latter part of the winter or early part of the spring the year he does not recollect he entered the service as a militia man from the County of Berkly [Berkeley?] & State of Virginia the month or day he is unable to state. By reason of old age and the consequent loss of memory he is unable to state with accuracy the periods of the war when he entered or when he left the service but is confident he served not less than the periods mentioned below, in the above tour mentioned he went as a militia man under Captain William Lucas & marched from the said County of Berkly to Tigers Vally [Tygart's Valley] – through Hampshire (crossed the River big Capen) & Cross Cap River to Brakes Mill, where he had a small engagement with Claypole & Brake, Commanders of the Tories when several was taken prisoners, & the balance of the Tories was killed & retreated when we took our prisoners to Romney Jail (so called) for trial where he was discharged in this tour he served forty days and not less than forty days; he thinks \_\_ Morgan was Lieutenant & James Glenn & of the company to which he belonged & General Morgan & William Darke was his field Officers during this tour he was engaged in no civil employment of any kind whatever; but the whole time was spent in the service of his country & when the period of service expired he was honorably discharged and signed by Colonel Darke.

In a short time after he returned home from this tour he was drafted or called on to go to Alexandria Virginia from Bartlet [sic ?] County, but the date of the month nor year he cannot recollect for the reasons before stated, he marched from said County under the same Officers except General Morgan, who had in this time went to take command in place of General Gates, he marched to Alexandria remained there about twenty days & thence in pursuit of the enemy to Brentstown [?], when he arrived at Brentstown, the enemy had left there and was then discharged having served not less than twenty days & received a discharge for the service from Colonel Darke during this term he was in no civil employment whatever; in a short time after he returned to Berkly County, there was a company of cavalry wanting when he volunteered under Captain \_\_ Armstrong & [name blotted out] Throughmorton Lieutenant (Ensign not recollected) & marched from ~~Bartlet~~ Berkly County to the South to meet Colonel Washington's broken Couré [sic, Corps?] he crossed James River at Stoeballs ferry thence to Roanoke & cross a few miles,

when he was ordered to turn his course & then marched to the town of York, where he was stationed he cannot state positively the length or period of this tour, he served though seven months & he thinks longer, in actual service in the surrounding Country and keeping an eye on the movements of the enemy he received a discharge in writing for this service he does not remember by whom it was signed whether Colonel Washington or some other Person; For the greater certainty he served in this engagement not less than seven months, & in that time was engaged in no civil employment, the whole of his services will amount to not less than nine months for which he asked a pension, in this last tour he acted as Company Sargeant upwards of six months, as the Sargeant (Moses Telly) got hurt & died immediately when he was elected by his Company & acted as such six months & not less than six months, his discharges was left at his father's in Berkly County where they are now he can't tell as his father has been dead near thirty years & his papers he don't know who got them, as he lived at a considerable distance, but is confident that he received a written discharge for the above services, he will state here in his narrative that he was discharged in his last tour but a very short time before the surrender of Cornwallis [October 19, 1781]. He was born in the County of Prince George or Charles near Bladensburg & State of Maryland on the 22nd May [illegible] resided a few years & moved to Berkly County Virginia, he resided at the time he entered the service in Berkly County & state aforesaid, after the war moved to Bedford County Virginia, lived there three years & then removed to the County of Berkly resided there about 2 years – then removed to Bedford County Virginia and where he now lives & where he has resided many years – he has no record with him of his age though he has seen it at his father's & is confident that he is not mistaken as to the date, He has no documentary evidence to establish his services nor knows of no person now living that can testify to his services or by whom he can prove any part of them, He is unable also to procure the testimony of a clergyman as to his belief in his revolutionary services or the general reputation in the neighborhood; because there is no clergyman residing immediately in his vicinity & the fact of his having moved to the County of Bedford since the war where he was then a stranger renders it still more difficult to procure such a Certificate from that particular class of individuals. I am known to James Sinor, Richard Bandy, Isaac James, George West, Jonathan John, William Feather and many others who can testify to my character for veracity and the general belief in the neighborhood of my services as a soldier of the Revolution. 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.

S/ Joseph Ridgway



[Richard Bandy, Jonathan James & George West gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

He the said Applicant makes the following answers to the several Interrogatories prescribed by the war Department

To the 1st Question

He answers in the State of Maryland & 1760

2nd question

He answers; as set forth in the body of the declaration

3rd Question

He answers; as he and 2nd Question

4th Question

He answers as above

5th Question

He answers; that he don't remember of none of Regular Officers & of no others only as stated in his declaration.

6th Question

He answers: he received 3 as stated in his declaration

7th Question

He answers: I am known in my present neighborhood but to James Sinor, Richard Bandy, Isaac James, Matthew Pate, John Feather & others

State of Virginia Bedford County: SS

On this 21st day of August 1834, personally appeared before me Armistead Otey – a Justice of the peace in and for the County and State aforesaid, Joseph Ridgway, of the parish of Russell and County & State aforesaid, who being sworn in due form of law doth on his oath make the following amendment to a declaration made by him on the 24th day of August 1833, in order to obtain the benefit of an act of Congress passed 7th of June 1832 –

In relation to the tour last named in the declaration aforesaid he states that on further reflection, he believes that it was early in the spring of 1781 that he volunteered into the service of the United States in Berkeley County Virginia where he then resided, in a company of Cavalry, which was then raising in the Counties of Berkeley & Frederick Virginia. The reason why he believes it was in 1781 is that he knows it was in the year in which the Siege of York took place which was in 1781 – He is certain in his recollection, that he volunteered for nine months – He volunteered under Captain Armstrong, and Lieutenant Robert Throgmorton – The Company rendezvoused at a little town, called Carrinston, just below Winchester, in Frederick County – and marched from thence through Shenandoah County, crossing the Blue Ridge at Berry's Gap, down to Charlottesville and from thence across James River at Stoball's Ferry into the age of North Carolina, across the Roanoke River a few miles, where he joined a Corps of Cavalry commanded by Colonel William Washington – when the whole returned to Virginia and crossed James River at Carter's Ferry – and marched to Yorktown, leaving Richmond to the right hand – and joined the Army at Yorktown – He was stationed at Yorktown until a short time before the surrender of Cornwallis – for the news of that event, he recollects, reached Berkeley almost as soon as he did – He was discharged a few days before the surrender: but cannot recollect by whom it was signed. He is still under the belief and Curry confident in it – that he was in the service at the least seven months during this tour – He volunteered for nine months – but not being wanted for that period, he was discharged at the end of seven months – A day or 2 before he was discharged General Wayne [Anthony Wayne] stormed some of the enemy's works and opened a way for the Americans to approach nearer the British. After which efforts were made to enlist men from the company to which he belonged, to serve during the war – Some of them did enlist – but he did not –

He will here state some facts which were not in his declaration so explicit as perhaps was necessary – The Quarter Master Sergeant, Moses Telly, shortly after the company left Frederick and before we reached North Carolina got a fall from his horse, and was so much impaired, that he died – he was appointed, to fill the vacancy, and continued to serve in that office to the end of the tour – at least 6 months – From old age and consequent loss of memory he cannot recollect circumstances, dates, names &c distinctly –

He has made his amended declaration before a Justice of the peace because he cannot

without great inconvenience attend the court of his County – He lives about 25 miles from the Courthouse – and from old age & bodily infirmity, he is the greater part of his time unable to ride so far – he does not recollect any regular officers except General Washington, General Wayne & Colonel Washington.

S/ Joseph Ridgway

[f p. 9: Mary Gray executed a power of attorney dated January 6, 1854 and filed in Campbell County Virginia authorizing her attorney to prosecute whatever claim for pension or increase might be due to Joseph Ridgway. She does not state her relationship, if any to the veteran except to say that she is directly interested in the claim.

*Mary Gray* ]