

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of John Ridgeway S21947

f23SC/VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

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[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.]

The State of South Carolina, Laurens District

On this 23rd day of October 1833, personally appeared court before his honor John S. Richardson one of the judges of the Court of Common Pleas in open Court now sitting John Ridgeway a resident of Laurens District in the state of South Carolina aged 73 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 7th, 1832. That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated: viz--That he volunteered in the militia of South Carolina in the Fall of 1777 under Capt. John Rodgers and served a tour of three months during which tour he assisted in building a blockhouse on the Indian line to protect the white citizens of So. Carolina from the Indians. In January 1778 he again volunteered and served a tour of three months under Capt. James Mulwee [James Milwee] in Col. Hayes' [Joseph Hayes'] Regiment¹ of So. Carolina militia. William Mulwee [William Milwee] was his Major during this tour he was stationed at a Block House on the Indian Line. In the fall of 1779 he was drafted for a tour of three months and served under Capt. John Stephens about two months of the time when Stephens was relieved for improper conduct and the company in consequence of the approach of the Tories under Col. Boyd [James Boyd] dispersed. In March 1780, he was drafted for three months under Capt. John Ritcher [John Richey] in the Regiment of So. Ca. militia commanded by Col. Robert McCrary [Robert McCreery]. We were marched to Covert Hill near Augusta Georgia. From that place we started to Charleston and on our way heard of the fall of that place. We were marched across [the] Santee River for safety and came up on the opposite side. We were marched to Granby and there discharged a few days before the expiration of our tour of service. Genl. Williamson [Andrew Williamson] and Genl. Pickens [Andrew Pickens] were our commanders during this expedition. In November 1780, he went under the command of his Father, Capt. John Ridgeway to Georgia and joined Col. Clarke [Elijah Clarke of Georgia]. We were marched to Augusta where we had an engagement with the Tories. We then returned to Col. Clarke's station and from that place this applicant returned to So. Carolina. In December 1780, this applicant volunteered and served a tour of three months under Capt. John Ridgeway & Col. Hayes (afterwards Col. Levi Casey's) Regiment of So. Carolina militia and was in the engagement at Young's in Ninety Six now Laurens District where the Tories were defeated. He was then marched to Grindal Shoals on Pacolet River where he joined Genl. Morgan [Daniel Morgan] and was in the Battle of Cowpens [January 17, 1781].

¹ In 1778, Lt. Col. Joseph Hayes was second in command under Col. James Williams of the Little River Regiment of militia.

From that place he was marched to Cuger's [?] where he was discharged. About the first of March 1781 he entered the service as a substitute in the place of Thomas Ridgeway for a tour of three months in Captain William Jones' company in a Regiment of Virginia militia commanded by Col. Lynch & Lieut. Col. Calloway, this applicant being at that time a refugee from South Carolina to Bedford County, Virginia. We joined the army of the United States under the command of Genl. Greene [Nathanael Greene] at Carter's Ferry on Dan River; from that place we marched to Guilford Court house in N. Carolina and this applicant was in the Battle at that place [March 15, 1781] on which his Captain was killed. He was then placed under the command of Col. Washington [William Washington] as Rifleman in Capt. James Dillard's company and continued with the army until it reached Deep River when he was regularly discharged (his tour having expired, which discharge is lost or mislaid). He then returned to Virginia and was drafted for a tour of three months under Capt. John Nickels in a Virginia Regiment of militia commanded by Col. Nickels and was marched to the siege of York Town, where he joined the American Army under Genl. Washington and remained until the fall of that place [October 19, 1781] when he was discharged before the expiration of his term of service. He served in the whole more than Eighteen months and has no documentary evidence in his possession to testify to his services.

He was born on the 29th day of January 1760 in Buckingham County, Virginia. He has a register of his age now in his possession made by his father.

He removed to what is now called Laurens District in 1775 where he has resided ever since with the exception of the time he was in Virginia as a Refugee.

He has no documentary evidence in his possession to prove his services.

He has no particular recollection of the Regular officers with whom he served except those who are named in the above declaration.

The Rev. Ira Potter and Richard F. Simpson will testify as to my character for veracity and good behavior. Robert Long will testify as to my revolutionary services.

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 the Agency of any State.

Sworn to & Subscribed in open court the day and year aforesaid.

S/ John Ridgeway, J His Mark

[Ira L. Potter, a clergyman, and Richard F. Simpson gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$60 per annum commencing March 4, 1831, for service as a private for 18 months in the South Carolina militia.]