State of South Carolina

To the Honorable the President, and members of the Senate of said State.

The humble petition of Charles Darnell Bradford of Fairfield district and State aforesaid, respectfully Sheweth unto your Honorable body: That your petitioner is a native of Maryland: but has been a resident of South Carolina for nearly fifty-five years: that during the Revolutionary War he served his country faithfully in different capacities as a private soldier in several campaigns – as a quartermaster – and as a deputy quarter master general: That your petitioner suffered many hardships & deprivations during the war, which he is now not able to recount particularly, in proof of his claims on this friendship of that country now enjoying the blessings of Heaven – once the wretched scene of oppression. Your petitioner states with a confident knowledge of the sufferings he underwent, and which he believes will be honorably appreciated by the legislature of his country; that he was made a prisoner by the British forces at General Sumpter’ S [Thomas Sumter’s] defeat at Fishing-Creek [August 18, 1780]2 – was confined a considerable time as such in the common jail at Camden – experienced all the severities of British cruelty – and almost sinking between the solemn fears of leaving a helpless family to the relentless fury of an of an enraged enemy – touched with a degree of despondency for the loss of liberty, which seemed to threaten the American cause, your petitioner was brought to a military trial before a tribunal composed of British officers, & on investigation of the charge of your petitioner’s being devoted to the cause of liberty and Independence, he was condemned to suffer the pains of death. Your petitioner was reprised under the gallows prepared for his execution; where he witnessed the execution of several of his companions in misfortune & arms!! Your petitioner begs leave to state further that by unforeseen occurrences, over which perhaps human prudence could have no control, he is reduced to indigent circumstances – is now Eighty-three years of age; and is compelled to provide for himself and his wife Mary Bradford, who is also aged & infirm and who has lived with him through all his difficulties to their present struggle for the necessities of life.

1 The South Carolina Audited Accounts (AA) are now available online at http://www.archivesindex.sc.gov/. To find the AA for a specific person, click on the Just take me to the search page link, then enter the person’s surname first in the “Full name” box followed by a comma and the person’s Christian name. The “SC” file number shown on this transcript has been assigned by the administrator of this website for indexing purposes only and is not an officially recognized file number.
In confidence therefore of the justice of the preceding statement for the truth of which your petitioner refers to a certificate, signed by his neighbors, who have known him since the Revolution, your petitioner prays that legislature to take the same into consideration. If your Honorable body should conceive that your petitioner & his wife are entitled to be placed on the Pension list; or assisted by the public bounty in such manner as legislative generosity may dictate; and relief is afforded, Your petitioner will be thankful & in your wisdom trust;

November 20th, 1818
Fairfield district
S/ C. D. Bradford

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We the undersigned do hereby Certify that Charles D Bradford has long been a resident of this District; that we were acquainted with him in the time of the Revolution; that he was a firm and active friend to the liberties of his Country; an honest man and useful citizen: And that the facts set forth in his petition are well known to us to be just and true, and recommend him accordingly as a person truly deserving the attention and generosity of the public.

Certified 20th January 1818
S/ Phil. Pearson
S/ William Cato
S/ John Pearson
S/ A. Milling
S/ Jas. Buchanan

A true copy taken from the Certificate filed with CD Bradford Petition presented to the House of Representatives
S/ P. E. Pearson
[Note: This file does not contain the petition submitted to the House of Representatives]

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The Committee to whom was referred the petition of Charles D Bradford Report
That your Committee are of opinion the Petitioner in this case has good and well-founded claims upon the justice and liberality of the Legislature and recommend that the said Charles D Bradford be placed upon the pension list and that he be paid two years in arrears.

[9: receipts for annual payments of $60 made to Charles D. Bradford in 1820 and 1821.]