

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of Samuel Bridgwater R1195

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

State of Virginia, Nelson County to witt

On this 22 day of November 1846, before me Hawes N Coleman a Justice of the peace in and for the County aforesaid, personally appeared Mrs. Hannah Bridgwater, a resident of said County – Aged 79 years, who being first duly sworn according to law, doth on her oath make the following declaration, in order to obtain the benefits of the provision made by the Acts of Congress passed July 7, 1838, March 3rd 1843, and June 17, 1844, granting half pay and pensions to certain widows: that she is the widow of Samuel Bridgwater dec'd. of said County who was a private soldier in the Revolutionary War and served several tours as such in the militia, from the County of Henrico in said state, and also rendered service to the Gov't. as an Express rider – of which she has no knowledge herself, only what she has rec'd from others – nor can she recollect but one of his captains names, which was Sam'l. Price [Samuel Price], and was under the command of Gen'l [Thomas] Nelson. She also heard he[r hus]band say, that Lord Cornwallis Army encamped 3 days [and] nights near his Fathers in Henrico County [probably in June 1781] – marched through his Wheat fields and destroyed a great deal of his wheat that during the year of Cornwallis defeat [19 Oct 1781] her husband was in the service all the Spring, and Summer, and Fall up to the surrender of Cornwallis – besides some other shorter tours, and also the time he road express, to carry despatches. She further declares that she was married to the said Samuel Bridgwater in said [Nelson] County, (then Amherst) by the Rev'd. Parson Irvine of the Presbeterian Church on the 25th day of April 1789: And that her husband, the aforesaid Sam'l. Brigwater died in said County on the 13th day of July 1810. That she was not married to him prior to his leaving the service, but that the marriage took place previous to the 1st day of Jan'y. 1794, as above stated. That her maiden name was Joplin, and that she is still a widow, and that her husband was at the taking of Cornwallis. Hannah herXmark Bridgwater

State of Virginia, Nelson County to witt.

On this 22 day of November 1846, before me Hawes N Coleman a Justice of the peace in and for said County, personally appeared Col. William Joplin, a respectable resident of said County, who being first duly sworn according to law, doth on his oath say – That he is 71 years old and was well acquainted with Samuel Bridgwater dec'd of said County, for a great many years before his death, which was in or about the year 1810 – and that he has frequently heard him tell of his having been in the service in the Revolution war, in the militia from the County of Henrico in said State and that he served several tours in said capacity – and that particularly he was in service most all the Spring, Summer, and Fall of 1781 – and was at the capture of Lord Cornwallis in Oct'r. 1781. That during said Summer he understood him, the said Sam'l. Bridgwater to say, that the British under Cornwallis encamped near his fathers in Henrico at a villige, or place called Westham for 3 days and nights, and that they destroyed his wheat and robbed his house of bed clothing, and wearing apparel, and such other things as they wanted – and that his father Jonathan Bridgwater, and two of his daughters went to Cornwallis to complain of the Conduct of his soldiers, and that he required them to tell the no. of the Reg't that the soldiers belonged to by their buttons; but which they could not do. Said Bridgwater was married to his present widow Hannah Bridgwater in April 1789 – maiden name Joplin – and that her husband Samuel, died as aforesaid in 1810 – and that his widow as above, has remained unmarried ever since his death and is now claiming a pension.

[signed] William Jopling

1849 January 2nd – James Jopling Sen'r Being Duly Sworn Sayeth that in 1789 that he was then liveng at his Fathers and his sister Hannah Wood then a widow and that he saw her married to Samuel Bridgwatter he

cant say the pesise day thoe he thinks that it was in the last of April May or early part of June parson Irvin a presbyteren old minister performed the sevises & [illegible] I went after him & that Hannah Bridgwater & that the girl that my father intended & did give them was a hand put in the Crop [i.e. a slave helping raise a crop] & remaned there under me untill the faul and that Hannah Bridgwatter is the widdow of Samuel Bridgwatter Dec'd. and further this affiant sayeth not.

[signed in Bedford County VA] James Jopling

NOTE:

On 22 Nov 1846 William Bridgwater (pension application S6737), 89, certified that his brother, Samuel, had been "a great deal in the service" and was sent into service when Cornwallis's army camped "at Westham in Henrico county 2 or 3 miles from his father Jonathan Bridgwater's." On 14 Dec 1847 Nathaniel Bridgwater, Sr. of Cooper County MO stated that his brother, Samuel, had served more than six months.

The file includes a copy of a bond signed on 24 Apr 1789 by Samuel Bridgwater, and Josiah Jopling for the marriage of Bridgwater, a bachelor, to Hannah Wood, a widow, both of Amherst County. The file also includes the family record transcribed below.

Samuel Bridgwater was bornd October 29 in the year of Our Lord God 1750

Hannah Bridgwater was bornd October 1st in the year of our Lord God 1767

Sam'l. Bridgwater was marred to his wife Hannah in the year of Our Lord god in April the 25 1789

Negroes Ages

Sary was bornd June 8th 1774

Frank was bornd 18 June 1791

Alexander was bornd 25 Septe'r 1793

Rachel was bornd 26 Sept'r 1795

Aggness was bornd 8 January 1798

James was bornd 1st April 1800

Sam'l was bornd 28 Febury 1802

Nathan was bornd [page damaged] 1807