

## Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Richard Ragan R8557

Cecelia

f57VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

6/1/12

[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.]

State of Virginia Rockingham County: SS

On this 29th day of March 1837 personally appeared before Abraham Smith a Justice of the Peace in and for the County aforesaid, Cecelia Ragan a resident of Harrisonburg in the County of Rockingham and State of Virginia, aged 88 years, who being first duly sworn according to law doth on her oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the provision made by the act of Congress passed July 4th, 1836: That she is the widow of Richard Ragan who was a Captain in the Militia service in the war of the Revolution. She is unable, owing to her very advanced age, and consequent failure of memory to give a very accurate or detailed account of her late husband's services; – At the commencement of the Revolutionary War, her husband resided in the vicinity of Harrisonburg, now in Rockingham County Virginia, then a part of Augusta County; She recollects with tolerable certainty one tour which he served against the Indians as Captain, in the early part of the War and she thinks he was out on that tour from seeding time say until March, but she cannot be positive about the time of the month or the year. She recollects with tolerable certainty another tour afterwards in which he was absent she thinks from May until August; this tour was performed in the lower part of Virginia, against the British Army; but she cannot be positive about the year: She recollects that he was frequently ordered out for short periods, sometimes for twenty days, against the Tories & British. She is not able to speak with any certainty of any particular battles or engagements with the enemy in which he was concerned; but she knows that she has heard him speak of being in some battles. He was drafted in every instance, as well as she can recollect. This affiant has no documentary evidence of her husband's services, that she is aware of his papers of that kind having all been lost or destroyed. As to the date of their marriage she cannot be positive having no family record of it, but she recollects very well that her husband served two or more tours of duty in the Army after their marriage. She also recollects distinctly that they were married before Rockingham County was established, before there was any Court House or Clerk's Office at Harrisonburg, and had to send it to Staunton the County Seat of Augusta County for the marriage license. Her husband the aforesaid Richard Ragan died on the 16th day of May 1827 and she has remained his widow ever since, as will more fully appear by reference to the proofs herewith exhibited. She submits, in addition to the affidavits herewith exhibited, a number of the "Rockingham Weekly Register," a newspaper published in Harrisonburg the place of her late husband's death, dated May 19, 1827, containing an obituary notice,<sup>1</sup> which proves beyond all question the general belief of her husband's revolutionary Services in his neighborhood. This applicant would also refer to the various declarations on file in the pension office made by

---

<sup>1</sup> The obituary notice is not included among the papers in this file.

applicants from this County, as she thinks it highly probable some of them refer to her husband's services, and perhaps served under him. This applicant feels perfectly assured that tour which her husband served against the Indians, and the several tours served against the British Army and Tories, when added together amount to ten months; She thinks it was probably longer, but she is positive it was not less than that period.

In addition to the foregoing tours, he served a 3 months tour at the siege of York.

S/ Cecelia Ragan, X her mark

State of Virginia Rockingham County: Sct.

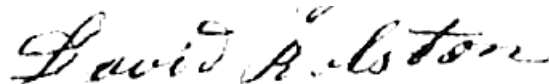
This day George Argubright<sup>2</sup> personally appeared before the subscriber a Justice of the Peace in and for said County, and made oath in due form of law that in the year 1781, he served a tour in the militia of Virginia in the company of Captain Richard Ragan, who resided in the neighborhood of Harrisonburg, Rockingham County Virginia. This affiant was drafted as a militia man and served a tour of three months under said Ragan. They were discharged a short time, only a few days, before the surrender of Cornwallis [October 19, 1781]: He was well acquainted with said Richard Ragan, both before and after the Revolutionary War, and is decidedly of opinion that said Ragan was married at the time of the tour in 1781, herein spoken of, to the woman who is still living, as his widow. He was never married but once & this affiant is positive that he was married before the Campaign in 1781. This affiant came to Rockingham County Virginia then a part of Augusta County when he was about 9 or 10 years of age, and he is now between 78 and 79 years of age, and he became acquainted with said Richard Ragan, very soon after he arrived in this neighborhood, and continued well acquainted with him up to the date of his death; and he is a revolutionary pensioner himself, and to his own services, to obtain a pension which he draws under the law of June 7th, 1832.

S/ George Argubright, X his mark

State of Virginia Rockingham County: SS

This day personally appeared David Rolston<sup>3</sup> aged between 76 & 77, before the subscriber a Justice of the Peace in and for said County and made oath in due form of law that in the year 1781 he served a tour of militia service under Richard Reagan who was the Captain of the Company: The draft was for 3 months, but they served 3 months and 10 or 12 days, and were discharged only one or 2 days or perhaps 3 days before the British Army under Lord Cornwallis publicly marched out & surrendered although he understood the treaty of capitulation was concluded upon before they were discharged. The Regiment to which Captain Reagan's Company was attached was commanded by Colonel Dark.

S/ David Rolston



State of Virginia Rockingham County: SS

This day personally appeared Daniel Ragan aged between 64 and 65 years before the Subscriber a Justice of the Peace in and for said County and made oath in due form of law that he was born in the year 1772, as he has always understood from his parents and believes that he has

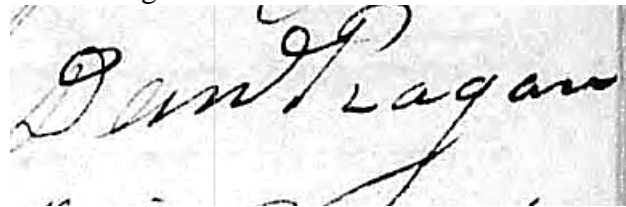
---

<sup>2</sup> [George Argubright W25357](#)

<sup>3</sup> Sic, David Rolstone FPA S7431

a distinct recollection of his father the late Richard Ragan deceased setting out from his residence near Harrisburg Rockingham County Virginia to go on an expedition against the Indians. This affiant supposes he might have been 5 or 6 years old at the time, and it might have been in the year 1777 or 1778. He has a perfect recollection of his younger brother, his mother and himself being left at home together and their suffering a considerable hardships; he recollects well the persons who attended to procuring firewood for their use, viz. 2 of this affiant's uncles. He recollects as well as any occasion of his whole life his father's returned from fighting the Indians as it was expressed by himself and his little brother; and among other little incidents connected with it, one is indelibly impressed upon his memory; his father brought with him to horn-spoons, which he gave to himself and his little brother, at which they were greatly delighted. He also recollects other little incidents, which it would be unnecessary to enumerate. He also recollects his father having been in the service against the Tories and British, but he cannot specify dates & periods with any accuracy.

S/ Dan Ragan



My father the late Benjamin Harrison, deceased, with a Colonel's command, served a militia tour under General Lafayette soon after the invasion of Virginia by Lord Cornwallis: I have often heard him speak of Major Richard Ragan him as being in the service at the same time (and under him) and to bear testimony to his cool and intrepid Courage, which on various occasions was put to the trial during that tour. I have heard the same thing more frequently spoken of by Bethuel Herring deceased, who served as a private in the same tour; himself a man of undoubted intrepidity. I have also heard the same thing frequently mentioned in conversations between my father and different other man, who served under him in the tour above mentioned; and between Major Ragan himself and my father and others: The tour served by my father was under General Lafayette, and before Washington took command of the Army in Virginia. My father was not at the Siege of Yorktown, or surrender of Cornwallis, as I believe Major Ragan was: Among my earliest recollections is that my father was at home when the glorious news of the capture of Lord Cornwallis was announced, and that he hated a large party of his neighbors to celebrate the event by a bonfire, on a very high Hill in the neighborhood, the usual manner in which such things were done in the "olden time."

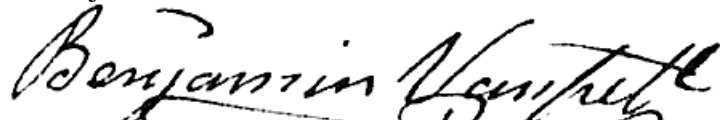
S/ Peachey Harrison

State of Virginia Rockingham County: SS

This day Benjamin Van Pelt personally appeared before the Subscriber a Justice of the Peace in and for said County and made oath that he has often seen among the papers of his father-in-law the late Major Richard Ragan deceased a large number of papers connected with Major Ragan's military services, as an officer in the revolutionary War; such as strength reports, health reports &c of a company. He often looked over them and read them as a matter of curiosity and interest, as relics of the revolution. The number of papers of that kind were very great, so great as to imply a long period of service: but he cannot recollect the dates of any of those papers. As long as Major Ragan lived in his own house, and had property about him, those

papers were kept by him safely; but in the latter period of his life, he was very unfortunate in his pecuniary affairs, and was compelled to live about at different places, and his papers by this means were lost or destroyed or this affiant does not know what became of them. From often hearing Major Ragan speak of his revolutionary services, and relate incidents connected with them and the universal neighborhood reputation and tradition, on the subject, this affiant has not the slightest doubt of his having served ten months, and upwards.

S/ Benjamin Van Pelt

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Benjamin Van Pelt". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the typed name.

[f p. 19: power of attorney dated August 10, 1850 executed in Rockingham County Virginia by Mary Van Pelt, appointing her attorney to pursue her claim against the government for the services of her father Richard Ragan. She signed her power of attorney with her mark.]

[f p. 48]

State of Virginia Rockingham County: SS

Before the subscriber a Justice of the Peace in and for the County aforesaid, personally appeared Joseph Hicks, aged between 55 and 56, and made oath that he is a native of Harrisonburg Rockingham County Virginia where he has resided throughout his whole life, except day period of about seven years from the years 1815 to the year 1822: that he was intimately acquainted with the late Major Richard Reagan deceased from this affiant's earliest recollection up to the time of said Ragan's death; and he has been familiar with the story of said Ragan's military Services in the Revolutionary War ever since he can remember anything: This affiant's father John Hicks was a revolutionary soldier, and this affiant has heard him again and again relate occurrences connected with Major Reagan's Services in the revolutionary War, until they have become so indelibly impressed upon his mind as anything which he did not witness himself. He has a distinct recollection of hearing his father relate an occurrence of the following kind: Several companies of militia were ordered to lie in wait for the enemy, at the side of a road in the night, but from some cause the companies all became alarmed, and deserted, their post or quit their ground, except one company; and the next morning when the Quarter-master was about to issue rations he observed that he wished he knew which company it was that had maintained their ground, as he had but a small quantity of spirits, and if he knew which company it was, they should have it, and Richard Ragan who was then a Captain stepped forward and claimed it for his company, and the spirits were dealt out with the rations to Ragan's Company, in honor of their good conduct: This affiant has a perfect recollection of hearing the foregoing occurrence in substance & others related by his father who was in the service as an orderly sergeant, with the same detachment, although he was not in Captain Ragan's Company: This affiant's father was not at the siege of York-town, and he is rather inclined to the opinion that the Regiment to which he was attached was under the command of the late Colonel Benjamin Harrison, but of this latter fact he is not positive. He is positive that his father was under Colonel Harrison, but whether that officer held the rank of Colonel at that time, he is not certain. This affiant's father always spoke of Captain Ragan as a remarkably cool, brave man.

S/ Joseph Hicks

[Note: f p. 40: By act of Congress passed February 6, 1839, the widow was granted a pension of

\$20 per annum for her husband's service in the revolution. The pages was made payable from March 4th, 1831 and continued for her natural life.]