

[Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters](#)

Pension Application of William Bridgwater S6737

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

State of Virginia and }
County of Nelson } to wit

On this 22nd day of October 1832 personally appeared in open Court before the Court of the County of Nelson, now sitting, William Bridgwater a resident of the County of Nelson and State of Virginia aged seventy five years the 29th day of June last past, 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 as a Militiaman in the County of Henrico and State of Virginia under Captain James Price not long to the best of his recollection after the commencement of the revolution, that they marched to Richmond in the said County and State at which place he served a tour of three months as guard to the Magazien he has no recollection of any other Officers stationed there, after the expiration of the said three months he was discharged and went home. the next time he was drafted was sometime after perhaps a year of this however he is not verry certain, but he recollects the cause, as he was then informed, of the requisition, it was owing to an invasion of Richmond by the enemy commanded by one Lessley [sic: Alexander Leslie] who committed some spoilations of minor importance after which it was said the said enemys troops left Richmond, in consequence of which he the said Bridgwater was marched to an old field in Kingwilliam [sic: King William] county called Kingwilliam old field where he joined some other troops the names of the commanders not recollected. there he stayed a few days when they recrossed Pamunca [sic: Pamunkey] River to Holts forge [in New Kent County] where they joined the troops and stayed for a short time; from thence they marched to old Williamsburg where they were stationed till the expiration of his tour which was three months, when he was discharged and went home; the name of the Captain under which he served this last tour was John Brooks. he cant recollect the names of any other officers. he says he was on one other occasion ordered out as a guard to guard some waggons from Richmond to the barrax [sic: prison barracks] near Charlottesville in Albemarle County Virginia which service he performed under one Charles Price who had the command of the guard which tour was performed in about twenty days, and he was one other time ordered out as a guard to guard some prisoners from Richmond to the Barrax near Stanton [sic: Staunton] in Augusta County Virginia, which service he performed in about twenty five days the next tour he performed was as follows: in the last of June or first of July 178 [last digit missing] in the County of Henrico Virginia a Company was drafted the command of which devolved on Captain John Brooks at which time the said Bridgwater was absent from Henrico, that being his place of residence; upon his arrival home which was a day or two after, found that some of his connexion and many of his acquaintance was gone he followed on a short distance below Richmond where he overtook the Company and offered to volunteer and was received by Captain Brooks as such, from thence they marched several days with other troops down James River to Minses ferry [possibly Mimm's Ferry] where he and a part of the troops crossed James River under the command of Colonel Matthews [probably Sampson Mathews] to the best of his recollection, the ballance keeping on the north side of James River; after crossing he marched down the south side untill they got opposite old James Town and there recrossed to old James Town in french boats; and from thence marched to old Williamsburg, where they were stationed with the main army, where he first saw General Lafayette. other officers that he now recollects to have see there was General Lawsson [sic: Robert Lawson] whose Briggade he was attached to. and General [Edward] Stevens and General Nelson. and there in the main street of Williamsburg it being on Washingtons arrival from the north he saw General Lafayette and General Washington meet, and it was a meeting ever to be remembered by those who witnessed it; this meeting to the best of his

recollection took place on a Wednesday [sic: probably Sat, 15 Sep 1781], after which General Washington stayed in Williamsburg until the evening of the next day, where it was said he went to old James Town, and took water, from thence to the mouth of York River where it was said the French fleet was lying, and on the following Wednesday he returned to Williamsburg and on the Saturday following they received orders to march to York he having meanwhile been detached as a sergeant to General Nelson's Guard; the line of march was taken up for York on Saturday, the French army in front, on Sunday evening [30 Sep] the French took Pigeon Hill. he then being one of General Nelson's Guard, he was not in the fortification but was employed in carrying letters from the General's Marquee [General Nelson's marquee] to others and performed such other duty as required by the General; he says he being stationed at the General's Marquee which was perhaps a quarter of a mile south [sic: about 2 mi SE] of the enemy's breast works at the foot of a small ridge which concealed the enemy's movements from him, and near the top of said ridge a little on the south side was our fortification, in this situation he stayed until the surrender of the enemy [19 Oct] which was about a week after his tour of three months expired; and the reason why he did not leave the army at the expiration of his tour was because he was told by Captain William Carter (who had meanwhile taken the place of Captain John Brooks who from sickness of some other cause had left the army at Williamsburg) that the enemy would be compelled to surrender in a few days, which was the case, he then being bare for cloths and his tour having expired about a week he set out for home leaving the enemy and York in possession of our army. Questions by the Court

1st. Where and in what year were you born.

Answer. I was born as I have been told by my parents in the County of Henrico: and according to my father's record of my age I was born June the 29th 1757

2nd Have you any record of your age. and if so, where is it?

Answer I have one, and it is now in my possession.

3rd Where were you living when called into service; where have you lived since the revolutionary war, and where do you now live?

Answer. When I was called into the service I lived in the County of Henrico State of Virginia and lived there several years after the war. and then with my father moved to that part of old Amherst County Virginia which has since been taken off and is now Nelson County, and I now live in Nelson County.

4th How were you called into service, were you drafted, did you volunteer or was you a substitute, and if a substitute for whom?

Answer I was drafted all but the last tour I served, and then volunteered.

5th State the names of some of the regular Officers who were with the troops where you served, such Continental and militia regiments as you can recollect and the general circumstances of your service?

Answer. I have given the names of all the officers to me recollected, except a French officer which was at the siege of York who was called Count de Ruchamore or Ruchembro [sic: Comte de Rochambeau], and the general circumstances of my service is set forth as fully in the body of my declaration as I could do it without going into small occurrences which would not be worth notice.

6th Did you ever receive a discharge from the service and if so, by whom was it given and what has become of it?

Answer. I never received a written discharge to my recollection, but at the expiration of each tour was told by my officer that I was at liberty to go home.

7th State the names of persons to whom you are known in your present neighbourhood who can testify as to your character for veracity and their belief of your service as a soldier of the revolution. (The Court will please enquire if Wm. M. Woods & Alex'r Roberts and any other of my neighbours to say whether I am a man of veracity; and their belief of my services as a

soldier of the revolution. The Court will also please enquire of Wm. M. Woods & Alexander Roberts who can testify, whether or not from their acquaintance with me they believe me to be as old as I represent and that I am reputed and believed in my neighbourhood to have been a revolutionary soldier and whether or not they concur in that opinion.

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever 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 or Territory. Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid.

William Bridgwater.

Personally appeared before me the undersigned a justice of the peace for the County of Nelson in the State of Virginia William Bridgwater who being duly sworn deposeth and sayeth that by reason of old age and the consequent loss of recollection he cannot state with precision the periods of the war when each of his tours of service was performed but to the best of his recollection his first tour was shortly after the commencement of the war he thinks in the year 1776 his second a year after that he thinks and those tours which he served one to guard some waggons and the other some prisoners was performed in the interval between the last named tour and the year of 1781 and the length of his tours was not less than the periods stated below the first three months the second three months third twenty days fourth twenty five days and fifth three months and that he was sergeant not less than one months of his last tour and for his services he claims a pension Given under my hand and seal this 18th day of June 1833

NOTE: Nathaniel Bridgwater stated that William Bridgwater, his older brother, was absent from home during the war. For additional details about the family of William Bridgwater, see the pension application of the widow of his brother, Samuel Bridgwater (R1195).