

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of Ludwell Lee: S8829

f44VA

transcribed by Robin Marshall

supplemented in italics by Will Graves

9/19/13

[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.]

Loudoun County, State of Virginia

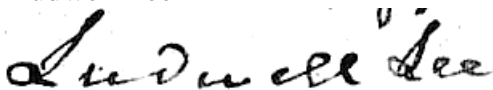
On this 14th day of January in the year of our Lord, one thousand eight hundred & thirty three, personally appeared in open court, before the court of Loudoun County aforesaid now sitting Ludwell Lee a resident of sd county & state, aged seventy two years & three months, who being first duly sworn according 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 as a private in an independent Volunteer corps of horse, under the command of Col. John Francis Mercer in the Spring of the year one thousand seven hundred & eighty one & remained in the service until the last of November of the year. That he was then a resident of the county of Westmoreland in the state of Virginia. That he soon joined with his corps, the army of Gen. Lafayette, then commanding the army of the United States in Virginia in opposition to Lord Cornwallis the British commander. That he marched with the army during Cornwallis's retreat thru Virginia & was at the battle of Green Spring [July 6, 1781] near Jamestown on the James River; that shortly after that event he was taken into the family of Gen. Lafayette as a Volunteer aid & served in that capacity until after the siege of Yorktown, when he had the pleasure of seeing the british march out of the Town as prisoners of war. All these facts he can establish by the certificate of Gen. Lafayette, with whom he had the honor to serve.

He hereby relinquishes every claim to a pension or annuity except the present, & declares that his name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any state.

Sworn to & subscribed the day & year aforesaid.

/s/ Ludwell Lee



[William Ellzey and R. H. Henderson gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[p 38: Letter from the veteran addressed to Lewis Cass Secretary of War]

Leesburg [Virginia] 14th of January 1833

Sir,

In consequence of the advice of some of my friends, I do myself the honor of enclosing to you a certificate made before the County Court of Loudoun County of which I am an inhabitant; the object of which is to procure for me, a pension under the Act of Congress passed the 7th of June 1832. With this, I have also the certificate¹ of Gen'l Lafayette, in whose family I was for some time. My friend Col. Jones, will show you it. In my youth, I gave my services with pleasure to my Country, because her Liberty & Independence were objects dear to my heart, & now in old age, I feel myself obliged with thankfulness to receive from her, that remuneration which her generosity confers for its relief & comfort.

You will confer a great favor towards me, if you will be so good as to state the proper Officer; through Col. Jones; your opinion of what I should be entitled to, that he may receive it for me.

*I have the honor to be Sir, with greatest respect, your very obedient Servant
S/ Ludwell Lee*

[p 21: Letter from J L Edwards, Commissioner of Pensions to Major Hook]
War Department Pension Office March 1, 1833

Dear Sir

Here with returned is the letter of Ludwell Lee Esquire, I regret very much that the Act of Congress does not allow him any more for his Service. We are obliged to be governed by the law in his and all other cases.

His pension is given him for six months Service. That part of the time which he served as a volunteer in the Cavalry is computed at the rate of \$4.08 per month for each months Service, and the period for which he served as a volunteer aide-de-camp is computed at the rate of \$13.33 1/3 per month.

*Very respectfully
Your Obedient Servant
S/ J L Edwards*

[p 32]

Leesburg [Virginia] 9 April 1833

Sir,

My friend Major Hook has been so kind as to send me your Letter to him on the subject of the amount of the Pension claimed by me under the Act of June 7th 1832.

Believe me Sir, that I should be the last to wish a deviation from the requisitions of the Law, on my account; nor would I have again troubled you, who I know to be so busily engaged in this arduous business of Your Country, had not your Letter to Major Hook shown that the Pension sent me, did not amount to as much as your Letter states me to be entitled to. The differences between \$48 & \$52 [sic, \$72] according to the calculation of your Letter, but I hope you will excuse me, for offering to you my construction of the Law, & stating not only my own, but the opinion of the best Lawyers I have consulted upon the subject.

¹ I did not see in this file a copy of the certificate given by Lafayette

By the Act of 1828, those who served during the Revolutionary war, & who were entitled to half pay under a Resolve of the old Congress, or given a Pension for their lives at full pay, providing that none shall receive a higher pay than that of a Captain. The Act of 1832 was intended to extend this bounty to such officers, Soldiers, volunteers &c who may have served in all two years & not less than six months, placing the first upon the footing of those who served during the War, & certainly the same condition that none should receive more than the pay of a Captain & that those who served for six months, should receive in proportion to that time. According to this then, Served, it appears I should receive as aid of General Lafayette for three months, 1/8 of a Captain's pay, & the same that is 1/8 of the pay of a Dragoon for the same space of time. These two sums will amount to \$72.

Did my one not require it, I would never have made the application, & I am sure Sir, from every information I have had of the disinterested virtue that governs your decisions, I shall have justice done me, & in that I shall acquiesce. I served my Country when young, out of affection to the cause she was engaged in with.¹ [without?] remuneration or the expectation of it. If she chooses to bestow her favors to me and old age, I shall thankfully receive them. With great respect I am Sir, your &c.

S/ Ludwell Lee

[Veteran was initially pensioned at the rate of \$48 per annum, increased to \$72.50 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831 for 6 months service as a private and aide de camp to General Lafayette.]

[Note: This file contains several handwritten letters signed by the veteran regarding various aspects of his claim but primarily focusing on the fact that he wished to receive some credit for his service as aide-de-camp to General Lafayette. I have chosen not to transcribe all of these letters but they would clearly be of interest to anyone interested in this veteran and his services.]