

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of John Mills (alias John Ripley) S9024

f20SC

Transcribed by Will Graves

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[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.]

State of Ohio, Athens County

On this 2nd day of April 1834, personally appeared in open court before the Judges of the Court of Common Pleas of said County now sitting John Mills, alias John Ripley, of Trimble Township in said County of Athens and State of Ohio aged 72 years, 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 under the following named officers and served as herein stated.—

1 & 2. That he was born in Prince Edward County in Virginia in the year 1762 as he was told by his mother but he has no written record of his age, though he believes his age was recorded in his step father's bible—

3. That when he was about 7 years of age his step father whose name was John Ripley & by whose name he was called in his younger days, removed into South Carolina within about 25 miles of 96 in Ninety Six District where he was residing at the time of his entering the service and where he continued to reside until 6 or 7 years after the close of the War, when he removed into Tennessee; thence into North Carolina; thence into Western Virginia and thence into Ohio where he now resides & has resided about 9 years.;

4 & 5. When about 14 years of age, in the spring of the year 1776, he cannot recollect the precise month or day of the month; he entered as a substitute for one Thomas Gill, in a company of militia commanded by Capt. John Rogers, and marched with said company against the Cherokee Indians¹ and was a short time stationed at a Fort called Seneca commanded by Major Richard Tutt; that serving in said company about, and he verily believes, not less than 2 months and undergoing many hardships in encountering the Tories and Indians, he was honorably discharged & returned home.

That about 18 months or two years after, it being as he well remembers early in the Spring he entered as a substitute for a tour of six months for one Wm Hall [William Hall] in a company of militia commanded by Capt. Wm Arthur [William Arthur] under Col. James Williams & Maj. __ Taylor [Samuel Taylor] marched to the Savannah River opposite Augusta in Georgia where the troops lay some time watching the movements of the British, who had overrun the greater part of Georgia; that on information being received that the British had crossed the river and were marching towards Charleston was supposed with the intention of

¹ http://www.carolana.com/NC/Revolution/revolution_cherokee_expedition_1776.html

making an attack, the company to which he belonged with others commenced a pursuit in the rear of the British; that they were much retarded by the trees which the enemy fill in the road for that purpose; that before they came up with them so as to have any serious engagements, the British crossed over Briar Creek [Briar Creek, March 3, 1779] and soon after commenced an attack by sea & land upon Charleston, where he believes Genl. Lincoln [Benjamin Lincoln] then commanded; that he also remembers a General Williamson [Andrew Williamson] who commanded the troop with which he then was; that at Bacon's Bridge, he was in a detachment which had a skirmish with the British in which a number of men were killed on both sides, but the British being superior held their ground; that the troop lay at Stono about 2 months & til some time in May or June; that in July he was in a severe action at Stono [sic Stono Ferry, June 20, 1779] where a great number were killed; that at the expiration of his time he was honorably discharged and returned home having served out a tour of 6 months.

That after the taking of Charleston by the British [Charleston South Carolina fell to the British on May 12, 1780] he joined a company of Rangers as a volunteer commanded by Capt. William Harris (under Col. Hays [sic, Joseph Hayes] who was shortly after killed² by the Tories) and was out he cannot say precisely how long, but as he verily believes, no less than 6 months mostly employed against the Tories, Indians & British that the disturbed state of the Country was such that it was considered more safe and desirable to be with the troops under arms than at home; that for such reasons he shortly after enlisted for during the war in a company raised by Capt. Jacob Barnet [Jacob Barnett] under Col. Wade Hampton being promised 10 guineas bounty & 10 dollars per month wages only two guineas of which he ever received except in continental money of no value; that he enlisted as aforesaid a short time before the battle of Eutaw Springs [September 8, 1781] but was not present in that battle nor in any other of any importance during the remainder of his time of service, at the expiration of which at the end of the war he was honorably discharged; that if his name should appear on the Rolls its would be as John Ripley by which name he was then always called; that a cousin of his named John Mills was also in the service at same time; that the name of his 1st lieutenant under Capt. Barnet was Humphrey Barnet [Humphrey Barnett], brother of the Captain, the next in command was a man by the name of Smith, that he is an illiterate man & his memory is much impaired through age and infirmity, but that he recollects many circumstances concerning the times of his own service, but which would be tedious to relate.

6. That he received honorable discharges from the officers under whom he served but took no particular care of them & he knows not what has become of them.

That he served in all not less but considerably more than two years and for such service asks a pension.

7. That he knows no person now living by whom he could make positive proof of his services; that there is no clergyman in his neighborhood, or in the county of his particular acquaintance; that Jeremiah Cass, Esqr. and many others in his neighborhood can testify as to his character for veracity and his reputation as a soldier of the Revolution.

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.

Sworn to & Subscribed the day & year aforesaid.

S/ John Mills, X his mark

S/ Henry Bartlett, Clerk

² Joseph Hayes was killed in the engagement at Hayes Station which is believed to have occurred sometime in November 1781.

[Jeremiah Cass & John McCartney gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

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State of Ohio at since County:

Personally appeared before me the undersigned, a Justice of the Peace in and for the County aforesaid John Mills, alias Ripley, who being duly sworn deposes and says that by reason of old age and consequent loss of memory, as well as by reason of his want of education, he cannot swear positively as to the precise length of his service, but according to the best of his recollection & knowledge, he served in the year 1776, as a substitute for one Thomas Gill in an expedition against the Cherokee Indians a tour of not less than 2 months, being, at that period of the war as he well recollects, and not far from the time at which Charleston was attacked by General Clinton and defended by General Lee [Charles Lee], & the British were defeated at Sullivan's Island [Fort Moultrie, June 28, 1776], he also served as substitute for one William Hall a tour of not less than 6 months, in a company of militia commanded by Captain William Arthur Colonel James Williams' Regiment under the command of General Williamson and Lincoln, at that period of the war in which General Lincoln commanded the southern Army, being as he verily believes from the commencement of spring till the end of August in the year 1779, he also served as a mounted Ranger (finding his own horse) in a company raised and commanded by Captain William Harris under Colonel Hayes & other officers, not less but he believes considerably more than 6 months, during the period of the war almost immediately ensuing the fall of Charleston under General Lincoln in the Spring of 1780 having been under arms most of this time from the early part of Summer in that year till sometime in the spring of the ensuing year 1781 and having been engaged during this time in several severe skirmishes with the Tories mostly in Ninety Six District, he also served a term of not less than 12 months but he believes something more as a private in a company raised and commanded by Captain Jacob Barnet under Colonel Wade Hampton of South Carolina and as he verily believes, he served in all not less than 32 months in manner as stated in his former declaration. He recollects particularly being in an engagement at Musgroves Mills [August 19, 1780] on the Enoree while serving under Captain Harris [William Harris] in which engagement he recollects a British soldier by the name of Mitchell was taken prisoner most of the enemy being Tories. He also recollects an engagement with the Tories on the Saluda River between the residence of Captain Harris in Ninety Six district and the residence of General Pickens, to which place his company was proceeding for the purpose of obtaining a supply of ammunition and he recollects that after the fall of Charleston he with others fled to the residence of an uncle in North Carolina, that while there he volunteered in the company of a Captain Collins [John Collins] whose residence was on Tyger River, for the purpose of returning into South Carolina and was in an engagement under said Collins at a place called Bush River Old Stores from which place they pursued the party of the enemy opposed to them 16 miles to Colonel Williams' old place on Little River. He does not know whether Colonel Hampton commanded Continental troops or not -- he only recollects he was promised a bounty of 10 guineas & \$10 per month when he enlisted under him in Captain Barnet's company and further the deponent says not.

Sworn & subscribed before me this 24th day of June 1834
S/ A. G. Brown, JP

S/ John Mills, X his mark

State of Ohio Hocking County

Before me Isaac White a Justice of the Peace in and for the County aforesaid personally came Mary Graden of said County who being duly sworn according to law deposes and says that she formerly lived in South Carolina where she knew John Mills then called John Ripley who now resides in Athens County of Ohio -- that near the close of the Revolutionary war she was knowing to the said John Mills alias Ripley enlisting under a Captain Barnett at Ninety Six District in said South Carolina and saw said Mills go with said Captain Barnett -- that afterwards Captain Barnett returned to the neighborhood to enlist more soldiers and she remembers his saying to Mr. Mills' friends that he was at headquarters and was well and she remembers going with Mr. Mills' mother to see Mills and did see him with his officers and other soldiers.

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 12th day of August 1834 and I hereby certify that the said Mary Graden is a person of credit

S/ Isaac White, JP

S/ Mary Mills, X her mark [sic]

[p 17: letter in the file contains a statement that Mary Graden's maiden name was Mary Bradley]

[p 13: deposition given by Reverend Robert G. Wilson, DD, president of Ohio University and formerly a resident of Abbeville district in South Carolina. Reverend Wilson says that he has conversed with the applicant and based on that conversation is convinced that he actually served as he states.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$88.33 per annum commencing March 4, 1831, for service as a private in the South Carolina militia.]