

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

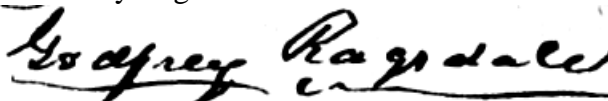
Pension application of Godfrey Ragsdale W2966 Elizabeth f84VA
Transcribed by Will Graves 6/2/12

[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 8th of June 1786." Please call errors or omissions to my attention.]

[f p. 61]

For the purpose of obtaining the benefit of an act for the relief of certain surviving officers and soldiers of the revolutionary Army, approved on the 15th day of May 1828 I Godfrey Ragsdale of Shelbyville in the County of Shelby in the State of Kentucky do hereby declare that I enlisted in the Continental line of the Army of the revolution for and during the war and continued in its service until its termination at which period I was a quartermaster sergeant in Major John Nelson's Corps of horse of the Virginia line and I also declare that I did not receive a certificate for the reward of \$80 to which I was entitled under a resolve of Congress passed the 15th of May 1828. And I further declare that I was not, on the 15th day of March 1828 on the Pension List of the United States.

Witness my hand this 19th day of September 1828
S/ Godfrey Ragsdale



[f p. 68]

Shelbyville Kentucky December 24 [1828]

[To] The Honorable Richard Rush, Secretary of the Treasury Department Washington City
Rec'd 3 Jan'y 1829

Shelbyville Kentucky December 23rd 1828

Dear Sir

I received your Letter dated 20th Ultimo for which I beg you to accept my grateful acknowledgment for the interest manifested towards me. I now send you enclosed the substance of an affidavit of Reuben Humphreys duly authenticated which is the only chance I now have of substantiating my claims on Government for my revolutionary services. Unfortunately for me General Harrison is not in the United States, as I would wish no better testimony than his to establish the fact of my being a Continental soldier as stated in the enclosed affidavit. I will now explain the situation in which I embarked in the cause of my Country for the truth of which I can at this time only appeal to that God before whom I must very shortly appear. When the 1st Virginia Regiment of cavalry was raised, I with three other Students belonging to the College of William & Mary were permitted to join it as Cadets, provided we would furnish our own Horses, accoutrements & clothing with the expectation of being promoted whenever a vacancy occurred, in this situation I served about two years, when I received intelligence from my Father in Virginia that the British fleet and army had effectually [indecipherable word--

quino] him and he could no longer support me, in my present state; I then applied to Colonel Bland (who always acted the part of a Father towards me) for leave to return home, he very friendly persuaded [me] to remain some time longer and he thought in a short time, there would be a chance for my promotion, I accordingly [indecipherable word] –

consulted] and in about two months afterwards I received the appointment of Lieutenant & Quarter Master, in which capacity I acted for about two years, and settled my accounts with Robert Morris Esquire of Philadelphia, who was then Quarter Master General of all the Continental Troops; this is the service Humphreys alludes to in his Affidavit. When Lafayette was about to be sent to Richmond with a command of Troops I joined him as a volunteer and continued with him until his arrival in Virginia, when I entered with Major John Nelson as stated in my former declaration; I found the place of my nativity in possession of the British Army and I disregarded every other consideration but the service of my Country; in this last situation I made the application for my Pension, not knowing at that time what had become of Humphreys affidavit herewith sent this Sir is a plain narrative of facts, and I have no doubt you will give it the necessary attention; if I now fail I shall for ever give up the pursuit, and consoled myself with reflecting that the object for which I set out has been accomplished, and hope my evening sun will set under the horizon of pure republicanism, which has been constant theme, yet I detest it when placed as a tool of mischief in the hands of a military Chieftain. Once more I've beg you to accept my unfeigned thanks for the settlements of justice expressed in your letter to me. I have the honor to be, Dear Sir,

Your most obedient, humble

Servant

S/Godfrey Ragsdale

P. S. Reuben Humphreys died about 3 years ago, a magistrate in Henry County, the Honorable Joseph [indecipherable name] can tell what weight ought to be given to his testimony, and I flatter myself my unfortunate persecuted Countrymen the Honorable Henry Clay will give a favorable account of my veracity.

G. R.

State of Kentucky Shelby County: SS

On this 20 day of August 1832 personally appeared before the County Court of said County Godfrey Ragsdale a resident & Citizen of said County who being duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following statement or declaration in order to obtain the benefits of the Provisions of the Act of Congress of the 7th of June 1832 providing for the relief of certain surviving officers and soldiers of the Army of the Revolution, saith that he is now upwards of 70 years of age, that in the month of September 1776 he as a lad entered as a Cadet in Captain Theodoric Bland's Troop of Cavalry leaving his studies in the Coledge [College] of Wm and Mary [William and Mary] & was furnished solely at the expense of his father. That he served in said troop in that capacity for about two years when Captain Bland had [indecipherable word or words]¹ to a Lt. Colonelcy and Richard Call the Cornet to a Captain when he deponent became a Lieutenant and upon the death of Quarter Master Robert Irwin of Colonel Bland's said Regiment he deponent was appointed Quarter master of said Regiment that he served as Quarter master aforesaid until the Marquis Lafayette was ordered to Virginia to repel the invasion of

¹ *by will*

Lord Cornwallis when anxious to return home he resigned and settled up his [one or more indecipherable words]² business with Robert Morris of the City of Philadelphia and returned with the Marquis into Virginia. That on his arrival his father a man of wealth had been reduced to poverty by the depredations of the British and deponent wholly out of employ, he entered in Captain Edmund Read's [?] Company or Troop of cavalry of Major Nelson's [perhaps Major John Nelson's] Corps & was appointed Qu Ma [quartermaster?] Sergeant afterwards Sergeant Major and upon the death of Lieutenant Spencer who was killed in a skirmish at bottoms bridge he was appointed Lieutenant, that he served in that capacity until after the surrender of Lord Cornwallis in October 1781 that the troops again [indecipherable word]³ to the North and beyond the State he resigned or left the said Nelson's troop and entered immediately as a midshipman in November 1781 on board the sloop of war *Liberty* commanded by Commodore James Barron⁴ but in which he was seldom in person in active command the command of said sloop being generally confided to James Banks or his son James Barron. That he served in that capacity until the month of November 1783 when he was regularly discharged at Norfolk.

That he hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension from any service except the present from and after the date of March 1834 that his name is not on the Revolutionary pension list of the State or any State. Sworn and subscribed in open court the day and year 1st stated.

S/ Godfrey Ragsdale



[George Miller and Jacob Ballue [?] gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[f p. 34]

² *Lieutenant*

³ *moving*

⁴ Ken Kellow has the following information regarding this officer:

BARRON, JAMES

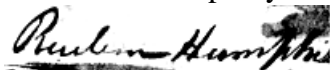
VA Commodore, Virginia Navy

James Barron was born in 1740, [NOAR, 16] in Elizabeth City County, Virginia. He served in the transatlantic merchant service before the war, sailing the ship *Elizabeth* from Virginia to London and back. [NDAR, I, 1387-1394] He was commissioned as a Captain of Virginia Militia [NOAR, 17] and, according to his son, entered Virginia naval service on 25 December 1775. [Stewart, 146] On 4 March 1776 he was serving aboard the Virginia Navy [Sloop] *Liberty*. Together with Captain Richard Barron of the Virginia Navy [Sloop] *Patriot* he recaptured the British Transport Ship *Oxford*. On 11 September 1776 he and Richard Barron were ordered to protect transport vessels taking troops down Chesapeake Bay to the Virginia Capes. [NOAR, 17] Barron later served as Commodore of the Virginia Navy, commissioned July 1780, [Stewart, 146] to 7 April 1783. He died on 14 May 1787, still acting as Commodore. [Stewart, 146]

<http://www.awiatsea.com/Officers/Officers%20B.html>

I Reuben Humphreys⁵ of the County of Henry and State of Kentucky do hereby certify that Godfrey Ragsdale of the County of Jefferson & State aforesaid was enlisted for during the American Revolution in the 1st Troop of Cavalry commanded by Captain Edmund Reid belonging to Major John Nelson's Corps from the State of Virginia. He served with me in the said Corps for at least two years. Soon after his enlistment (the date of which I do not perfectly remember) he was promoted to be Quartermaster sergeant, and afterwards to the best of my knowledge, he served as Lieutenant and Quarter-Master to the said Corps. I at that time belonged to the 2nd Troop of said Corps, which Troop was commanded by Captain William Armistead. After the capture of Cornwallis the said Ragsdale with others of the Regiment were legally authorized to enter on board an American armed Vessel and I believe was a midshipman from whence I have always understood he was honorably discharged after peace was concluded. Given under my hand this 17th day of September 1818.

S/ Reuben Humphreys



[f p. 41: A letter dated April 10, 1833 from Godfrey Ragsdale to the Commissioner of Pensions indicating that he would except a pension as a sergeant of cavalry in the Virginia state line with the expectation of further proof to have his pension increased. The letter was sent from Tompsonville Shelby County Kentucky.]

[f p. 11: On the May 23, 1839 in Trimble County Kentucky, Elizabeth Ragsdale, 68 and upwards, made application for a widow's pension under the 1838 act stating that her maiden name was Elizabeth Mitchell; that she married Godfrey Ragsdale January 13, 1789 in Fayette County Kentucky at the house of Lewis Craig who was a preacher and who performed the service; that her husband was a revolutionary war veteran and pensioned as a quartermaster at the rate of \$12.50 per month; that her husband died in Shelby County Kentucky February 16, 1835; that the clerk's office in Fayette County Kentucky was destroyed by fire a number of years ago and she presumes that the public record of her marriage was then destroyed; that she has an original family record which she encloses; that said record is in the handwriting of her husband Godfrey Ragsdale. She signed her application with her mark.]

[f p. 13: family record:

Godfrey Ragsdale born Jany 17th 1764

Elizabeth Mitchell born March 14, 1771

Married Jany the 13th, 1789

William Moore Ragsdale born September 30th, 1789

Daniel Ragsdale December 2nd, 1790 died December 3rd 1790

Daniel Ragsdale born December 27th 1791

Robert M. Ragsdale Jany 10, 1794

Fred. G. Ragsdale – August 7th, 1795

Geo. Ragsdale September 20th, 1797

Tucker Ragsdale May 15, 1799

Benjamin Ragsdale August 23rd, 1801

John Ragsdale May 22, 1803

Godfrey Ragsdale October 5th 1805

⁵ FPA W3557

Maron [could be Marow] born June 1791
Jesse born March 1794
Mary Bryan Ragsdale born June 29th, 1811]

[f p. 14: On May 23, 1839 in Trumbull County Kentucky, Andrew Mitchell, upwards of 56 years of age, gave testimony that he is the brother of Elizabeth Ragsdale an applicant for a pension as the widow of Godfrey Ragsdale.

Andrew Mitchell]

[f p. 20: On May 2, 1855 in Oldham County Kentucky, the widow, 86, filed for her bounty land entitlement as the widow of Godfrey Ragsdale.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$180 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for service as a Sergeant of cavalry for 2 years in the Virginia Continental line. His widow was pensioned in a like amount.]