

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

Pension application of Joseph Ratchford W3866

Hannah Ratchford f66SC

Transcribed by Will Graves

11/21/09: rev'd 2/13/20

[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 'indcipherable' 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 8<sup>th</sup> of June 1786." Please call material errors or omissions to my attention.]

[Note: Immediately prior to his death on September 17, 1832, Robert Ratchford must have been trying to gather proof of his service in order to apply for a pension under the Act of Congress of June 7<sup>th</sup>, 1832. The documents appearing on pp 41, 42 and 44 are dated in September 1832]

[p 44]

Yorkville September 19<sup>th</sup>, 1832

Dear Brother

Enclosed you will receive the Certificates you write me for some time past; Mr. James Wallace I called on he is old & says he cannot recollect anything of your being in the Service as Lieutenant says he knew the boys was in the Service but Cannot name one from another; I have nothing particular to write you we are all well; & finely [sic] hopes these few lines will find you in as good health as I would wish you to be; there is a great revival here Religion appears to be taking deep root in a great many of neighbors. Crops in this part of the Country is very Light on account of the dry Summer. I expect nevertheless to make a plenty of Corn & will have none to buy.

I am Dear Brother

Yours with all humility

& Respect

S/ Geo. Ratchford [George Ratchford]



[p 41]

The State of South Carolina York District } Personally appeared James Martin<sup>1</sup> before me and made oath that he was a soldier of the revolutionary war that he knows that Joseph Ratchford served in the Militia of South Carolina in the revolutionary war at different times at least for six months how much longer this deponent knows not that he was generally considered a good Whig, this deponent believes he served in a militia Regiment commanded by Colonel Neel and after the death of Colonel Neel<sup>2</sup> under the command of Colonel William Bratton both of whom in service were generally under the command of General Thomas Sumter and part of the time in a militia company commanded by this deponent in 1780 but cannot swear what actions he [was] in but believes he was in several.

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<sup>1</sup> [James Martin S9391](#)

<sup>2</sup> Colonel Andrew Neel was killed on August 3, 1780 at the battle of Rocky Creek; Colonel Thomas Neel was killed June 20, 1779 at the battle of Stono Ferry.

Sworn to before me this 17th of September 1832  
S/ J. M. Ross, QU

S/ James Martin, M his mark

[p 42]

South Carolina York District: Personally appeared William Carson<sup>3</sup> before me and made oath that he was a soldier of the revolutionary war that Joseph Ratchford served as a militia soldier of the South Carolina and was in the battle of Kings Mountain and was and always has been reputed to have been a good Whig soldier.

Sworn to before made this 19th of September 1832

S/ J. M. Ross, QU

S/ William Carson, X his mark

[p 8]

State of Georgia Jackson County } SS

On this Second day of July 1844 -- personally appeared before me Middleton Witt a Justice of the Inferior Court for said County Hannah Ratchford a resident of Jackson County Georgia aged seventy-eight years who being first duly sworn according to law doth on her oath make the following statement in order to obtain the benefit of the provision made by the 2nd section of the act of Congress passed the 4th of July 1836 and the 1st section of the act of Congress passed 7<sup>th</sup> day of July 1838 and also the act of Congress passed 3<sup>rd</sup> day of March 1843 granting pensions to certain widows &c. That she is the widow of Joseph Ratchford who to the best of her knowledge and belief was in the service of the United States, against Great Britain, in time of the Revolution, for a period or periods of time, together with at least three years. That some time within the three years he held a commission as Lieutenant and served as such six months -- that she now distinctly recollects, to have seen what he said was his commission soon after her marriage, & to have heard him say it was a lieutenant's commission by virtue of which he had commanded for a time not less than six months but from her imperfect recollection as to names she cannot say in what company unless it was in Captain John Henderson's. That he resided in York district South Carolina and entered the service in a Militia Company (drafted) but by whom Commanded she cannot recollect and served a six months tour before the fall of Charleston [Charleston South Carolina fell to the British on May 12, 1780], after which she thinks he entered the service again in May or June 1780 in Cavalry Company under Captain Bratton<sup>4</sup> and continued in the service until the close of the war -- that he was at various places and under different commands, in the Regiment of Colonel Neal [sic, probably either Andrew Neel or Thomas Neel], and under the other Colonels whose names she does not recollect, that much of his service was in General Sumter's [Thomas Sumter's] Army -- he was at the Battle of Hanging rock [August 6, 1780], at the battle of King's Mountain [October 7, 1780], and at Guilford [March 15, 1781] besides other skirmishes & Battles of which she has heard him speak but which she cannot recollect -- his service was all rendered in the South and North Carolina.

She further declares that she was married to the said Joseph Ratchford on the 9th day of October 1792. That her husband the said Joseph Ratchford died on the 17th day of September 1832. That she was not married to him prior to his leaving the service, but that the marriage took place previous to the first day of January 1794 viz. -- at the time stated -- Sworn to and subscribed on the day & year above written before me.

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<sup>3</sup> [William Carson S9305](#)

<sup>4</sup> She could be making a reference to Captain Hugh Bratton who served under Colonel William Bratton in the New Acquisition District Regiment of South Carolina militia. More likely she is referring to his service under Colonel William Bratton.

S/ Middleton Witt, JIC

S/ Hannah Ratchford, X her mark

[p 4]

State of South Carolina York District} Be it known that on the 31<sup>st</sup> day of October 1844 before Joshua J Evans One of the Judges in the State of South Carolina personally appeared George Ratchford who being duly sworn saith that he was the brother of & was personally acquainted with Joseph Ratchford who formerly resided in York District South Carolina – he further states that the said Joseph Ratchford sometime in the year 1792 married Hannah Henderson of Pendleton District South Carolina and shortly after said marriage removed to Spartanburg District South Carolina – about the year 1800 the said Joseph Ratchford removed to Jackson County Georgia and died in said County in the fall of 1832, deponent further states that he kept up a regular correspondence with the said Joseph Ratchford from the time of his removal to Georgia until his death which took place at the time above stated.

Sworn to & subscribed

In Open Court

Before me

S/ Joshua J Evans, PJ

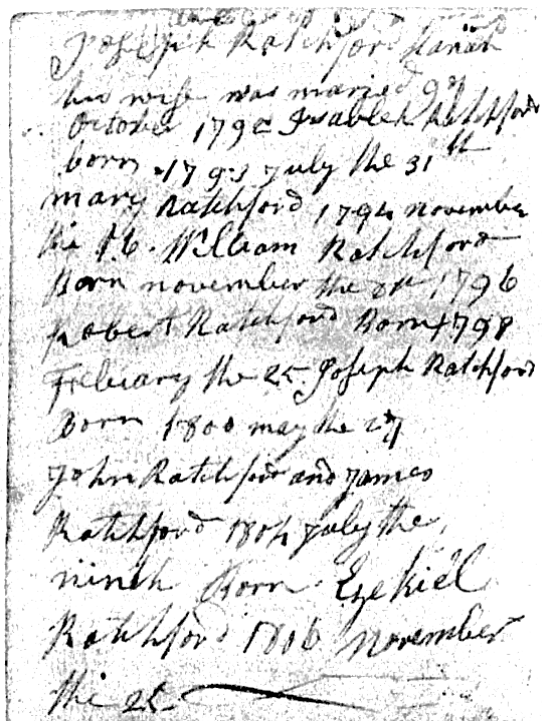
S/ George Ratchford



[p 11 family record]

"Joseph Ratchford Hanah his wife was married on October 1792 [last digit unclear] Irstableh Ratchford born 1793 July the 31<sup>st</sup>

Mary Ratchford 1794 November the 16. William Ratchford Born november the [illegible] 1796 Robert Ratchford Born 1798 February the 25 Joseph Ratchford Bprn 1800 may the 24 John Ratchford and James Ratchford 1804 July the ninth Born Ezekiel Ratchford 1806 november the 25<sup>th</sup>"



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Mary Ratchford 1794 november  
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Ratchford 1806 november  
the 25

[p 40]

South Carolina York District} Personally came Samuel M.C.Elhany [Samuel McElhany]<sup>5</sup> , before me the Subscribing Magistrate who being duly sworn saith that that he knew Joseph Ratchford that he was a soldier of the American Revolution, that he Ratchford and deponent were in the battles of Rocky Mount [July 30, 1780] under General Sumpter [Thomas Sumter] and King's Mountain under the command of Colonels Shelby [Isaac Shelby], Cleveland [Benjamin Cleveland] and Williams [James Williams] says that Ratchford was to the best of his Knowledge in Colonel Bratton's Regiment does not know what Captain he was under. Sworn to and subscribed this 26 of July 1844 before me

S/ A. S. Wallace, Magt.

S/ Samuel M.C. Elhany, X his mark

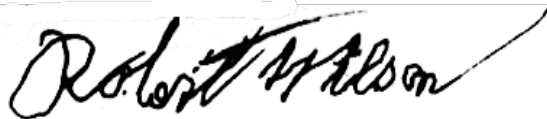
[p 5]

South Carolina York District} Be it known that on the 5th of November 1844 before A S Wallace a Magistrate in & for the District aforesaid personally appeared Robert Wilson<sup>6</sup> a Revolutionary Pensioner of the United States who being duly sworn saith that he was personally acquainted with Joseph Ratchford who formerly resided in York District South Carolina and who removed from this State to Jackson County Georgia some time about the year 1800 -- he further states that the said Joseph Ratchford was engaged in the American Service during the Revolutionary War -- the first time deponent saw Ratchford in Service was in the Stono Campaign in 1778 or 1779 [Stono Ferry, June 20, 1779] thinks he was in Captain John Henry's Company under command of General Lincoln [Benjamin Lincoln] -- Ratchford was mounted as the Infantry were generally -- saw Ratchford again at the Battle of the Hanging Rock [August 6, 1780] and says that Ratchford at that time was an officer -- does not recollect what grade -- Joseph Ratchford was with other officers in a council of war on the evening previous to the Battle of the Hanging Rock -- was again with Ratchford (he thinks in 1780 or 1781) in pursuit of one Captain Julian a Tory Captain and that Ratchford at that time (he thinks) was an officer. -- He further states that he believes the said Joseph Ratchford was constantly engaged in the service of his country from the time entering said service until the close of the war and that he is the identical person named in the declaration of George Ratchford before Josiah J. Evans on the 31st of October last.

Sworn & subscribed Before me

S/ A S Wallace, Magistrate

S/ Robert Wilson

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Robert Wilson". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the typed name "S/ Robert Wilson".

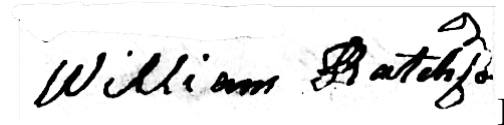
[p 29: William Ratchford (relationship as any to the veteran unknown) gave testimony on June 7th, 1844 in Talbot County Georgia that he was born in York district South Carolina but for the last 40 years has been a resident of Georgia and for the last 14 years a citizen of Talbot County; he testifies that he knew Joseph Ratchford in York district South Carolina and that he "the said Joseph Ratchford was drafted in the year 1779 to serve a 6 months tour as a private in the Revolution and in May 1780 about the last of May which said that Ratchford entered the Service again and served again until the close of the war in a cavalry company of Captain Bratton and belonging to General Sumter's Army...." William Ratchford testifies that he was about 16 years

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<sup>5</sup> [Samuel McElhany W12455](#)

<sup>6</sup> [Robert Wilson W2302](#)

of age at the close of the revolution.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "William Ratchford". The signature is written in a cursive style and is enclosed in a rectangular box with a small bracket at the bottom right corner.

[p 63]

State of South Carolina Union District

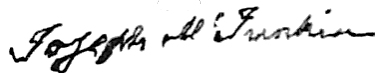
Personally came before me B. J. Gregory -- a Magistrate in & for the said District Major Joseph McJunkin & who on being duly sworn on the holy Evangelist of Almighty God, deposes & says, that he is now about ninety years of age. That he is one of the surviving soldiers of the Revolutionary War, having served first as a soldier & before the close of the war, he held the Rank of Major. That in the year 1776 he became acquainted with Joseph Ratchford of York District in the said State, & that this deponent & the said Joseph Ratchford served together as soldiers in a campaign against the Cherokee Indians, under the Command of Colonel Neel. That this Tour of duty began in May 1776 & they returned home again the following November. This deponent further states that the said Joseph Ratchford was in the Army under the command of General Lincoln at the Battle of Stono & that they served together also in what was called the Snow Campaign -- in this last named Campaign, they were engaged from early in October until the following December. This deponent further states that he was with the said Joseph Ratchford in the following Battles to wit, the Battles of Rocky Mount, Hanging Rock, Blackstocks [June 20, 1780], Battle at of the Cowpens, and Battle of Ramsour's Mills [June 20, 1780]. That at the Battle of Hanging Rock, John Ratchford, a Brother of the said Joseph Bush shot through the chest, but survived the wound. Deponent knows that Joseph Ratchford was in the Army engaged in actual service, from the fall of Charleston until the close of the war. That the said Joseph Ratchford was in the service under the command of General Lincoln, General Sumter & General Morgan, and he was this deponent confidently believes engaged in the service during the war, but he does not recollect the names of any of the captains under which the said Joseph Ratchford served. Deponent served in the Army with the said Joseph Ratchford in almost every year from the year 1776 as before stated to the close of the war. The said Joseph Ratchford was a mounted militia man, as almost all the Militia was in them days, until they got to a Battleground when they dismounted & fought on foot. The said Ratchford was raised in York District near Yorkville in the said State, & that he never knew any other family of the same name.

This deponent further states that in the times referenced to there was no home, no safety for a Whig, but in the Camp. That Joseph Ratchford was one of those unyielding spirits that thought nothing was done, while any thing remained to do, and seemed to live only to combat the foes of his Country. This deponent further states, that more than ordinary intimacy existed between himself & the said Joseph Ratchford. That both himself & Ratchford were named Joseph which they used to remark when together, that deponent & the said Joseph Ratchford were bound together by all the ties of common danger, torts & objects, & that they fought hand to hand & shoulder to shoulder together through the war, & that although this deponent was now and then separated for a season from his friend & companion in arms, yet he knows him to have been actively engaged almost the whole war from 1776, until peace was made.

Sworn to & subscribed before me the 13th March 1845

S/ B. J. Gregory, Magistrate

S/ Joseph McJunkin

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joseph McJunkin". The signature is written in a cursive style and is located below the printed name.

[p 15]

State of Georgia Jackson County} SS

On this Sixth Day of October 1845, in open Court, personally appeared Robert Ratchford who being first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the provision made by the Act of Congress passed 7<sup>th</sup> June 1832. That he is a son and heir at law of Joseph Ratchford who, to the best of his knowledge, belief and information was a soldier in the American Army during the War of the Revolution, that he served at different times as a private soldier, in all as much as three years, that in addition to this he was for a time Lieutenant, and that his recollection of his father's savings as well as those of Robert Henderson<sup>7</sup> late of Hall County deceased, (who was a revolutionary pensioner) is that his father served three months as Lieutenant, That his father resided in York District South Carolina when he entered the service, and served several tours as a private near the beginning of the War in South Carolina – further as a Drafted soldier or volunteer he does not know, nor does he know under what officers he served at that time, but at a later period of the war his father became Lieutenant and served under General Sumpter [sic], and General Morgan [Daniel Morgan] was at the battle of Hanging Rock, King's Mountain & he thinks at the Cowpens [January 17, 1781], That he has no documentary or record evidence of his father service, nor does he know of any he can obtain, except the record of a short Tour of service in 1781, shown by the Comptroller's Office at Columbia South Carolina; He further declares that Joseph Ratchford, his father, died on the 17<sup>th</sup> day of September 1832, leaving Hannah Ratchford his widow, who has since died on the 8<sup>th</sup> day of October 1744, and five Surviving Children, to wit – Mary Harkins, Robert, Joseph, James & Ezekiel Ratchford of which only Joseph Junior, Robert and Mary Harkins now survive.

S/ R Ratchford



[p 60]

State of South Carolina Union District

Personally came before me Robert G. Otts one of the Magistrates assigned to keep the peace in & for the said District, Major Joseph McJunkin,<sup>8</sup> who on being duly sworn on the holy Evangelist of Almighty God deposes & says that he was well acquainted with Joseph Ratchford a soldier of the Revolution. That the said Joseph Ratchford did serve in the Army of the Revolution, as this deponent knows from his own knowledge for three whole years after the fall of Charleston in the following manner, the said Joseph Ratchford was with me in the Army under the command of General Thomas Sumter in the year 1780 at the Battle of the Hanging Rock and continued in the service until the close of the war, but I cannot remember the name of the Colonel who commanded the Regiment to which said Ratchford belonged. It was, however, the Colonel who succeeded Colonel Neale [sic, Andrew Neel] who was killed on the 6th day of August 1780 [sic, Col. Andrew Neel was killed August 3, 1780 at the engagement at Rocky Creek.

Sworn and subscribed this February 14th 1846 before me

S/ Joseph McJunkin

[Veteran was granted posthumously a pension at the rate of \$49.66 per annum commencing

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<sup>7</sup> [S31738 Robert Henderson](#)

<sup>8</sup> [Joseph McJunkin S18118](#)



20 days at 45/[45 Shillings per day]

£139.10

45

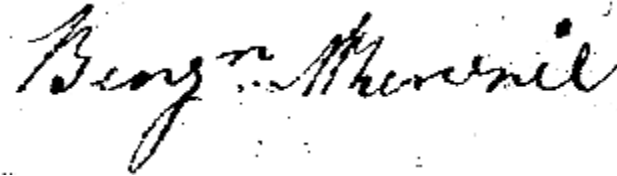
£184.10

Stg.

£26.7.1 ½

Received 25<sup>th</sup> October 1785 full satisfaction for the above in an Indent No. 373 Book L (by  
Virtue of an Order) for Joseph Rachford [sic]

S/ Benjn Mc[undeciphered surname]

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Benjn Mc[undeciphered surname]". The signature is written in dark ink on a light background.