

## Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Bounty Land Warrant information relating to Ridgnel Higden [Higdon] VAS1514 [vsl 16](#)

John Higden [Higdon]

Richard Higden [Higdon]

Transcribed by Will Graves

3/26/14

[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.]

[From [bounty land records in the Library of Virginia](#)]

State line Army register

John Higden, Sailor, drew his pay himself on the 6<sup>th</sup> of May 1783 amounting to £64.2.8

State line Army register

Richard Higden (Private) Artillery his pay amounting to £78.6.9 was drawn by William Reynolds 14<sup>th</sup> December 1786.

Ridgely Higden not found. Prof. [proof?] He entered service 15 June and died for February 78

It will be seen from the books of the ship *Dragon*<sup>1</sup> now in the possession of Mr. Henderson [David Henderson] of Fredericksburg that he entered the service in 1777 and died in 1778 on board of said Ship.

Henderson had the books of the *Dragon*

Ridgemall Higdon enlisted for three years on board the *Dragon*, the 15 June 1777 – and died in the service 4<sup>th</sup> of February '78 – I made an extract from Mr. Henderson's book which showed the time he enlisted & time of death.

S/ A. M. Green

Received 31 October 1839

The heirs of Ridgnel Higden are allowed bounty land for the service of said Higden three years as a Seaman in the State Navy

S/ D. Campbell

The claims of John & Richard Higden are rejected the evidence being unsatisfactory

S/ D. C.

To Governor of Virginia

Your petitioner in behalf of the heirs of John Higdon deceased Respectfully states

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.awiatsea.com/sn/VA/Dragon%20Virginia%20Navy%20Ship-Galley%20%5bCallender%20Markham%20Singleton%20Travis%20Chandler%20Joel%5d.html>

That it will appear from the affidavit & testimony in this case that John Higdon entered the Naval service under Captain Saunders [probably William Saunders, possibly Celery Saunders] & served long enough to entitle him to the Bounty Land of Gunners Mate; –

Richard Higdon another brother of said John enlisted in the land service and died a prisoner at Bermuda.

By reference to the Commissioner Smith's report the name of Richard Higdon is found to have been enrolled

Ridgemel Higdon enlisted into the State Navy and died in the service as will appear by reference to an old book of accounts kept by Mr. David Henderson who was clerk and midshipman on board the Ship *Dragon* under Captain Callender [Eleazer Callender]–

The Bounty Land for these three Claimants are respectfully asked for and your petitioners beg leave to ask that they may have granted to them Bounty Land that may be due.

And feel in duty Bound ever to pray.

S/ A. M. Green, Attorney  
for the heirs of John Higdon

To the Governor of Virginia

Your Petitioners the children and grandchildren of the late John Higdon and heirs at law of their uncles – Ridgely Higdon and Richard Higdon deceased of the Army & Navy of the Revolution Respectfully sheweth

That John Higdon who was their father enlisted into the State Navy of Virginia as a Seaman and after serving some time is appointed a Gunner's Mate – it would appear and your petitioners have every reason to believe that their ancestor was at least three years in service, though they are too young to have any personal knowledge of the fact – and speak therefore upon the information derived from their relations and persons in whom they can place implicit confidence. The testimony accompanying the petition is hoped to be deemed sufficient. – And that the proportion of land usually allowed a Gunner's Mate be allowed to them.

Ridgnel Higden was a Seaman in the Virginia State Navy on board the *Dragon* Galley under the command of Captain E. Callender. The proof of service is shown by a Certificate which cannot be doubted that he enlisted into the Navy on the 15<sup>th</sup> June 1777 – and died in February in 1778 whilst in service.

Your petitioners respectfully asked that the proportion of Bounty land usually afforded to the legal representatives of Seaman during in the service, be allowed them on account of the military services of the said Ridgnel Higdon and Richard Higdon was a soldier in the Land service; was captured, and died a prisoner in the West Indies. – Your petitioners have no personal knowledge of their uncles dying in the service; but will observe that it has been a matter of tradition in the family – handed down to them by their father the late John Higdon who was the brother of the said Richard Higdon deceased

Your Petitioners pray that the evidence filed in this case may be deemed amply sufficient and that the proportion of Bounty Land usually allowed a private in the Army did during in the service be granted to them – and in duty bound ever will pray

S/ John Higdon  
S/ Maria [indecipherable]  
S/ Mary Ann Satterwhite  
S/ Jeremiah Satterwhite  
S/ John Thomas Drowns

S/ Richard Drowns

John Higdon  
- Maria S. Kachel  
Mary Ann Sathwhite  
Nevemiah Sathwhite  
John Thomas Drowns  
Richard Drowns

State of Virginia Westmoreland County to wit

This day Charles Higdon<sup>2</sup> personally appeared before me the subscriber a Justice of the peace for the County aforesaid and made oath that John Higdon was born in Westmoreland County near Mattox [?]<sup>3</sup> bridge, about the year 1758 and that he enlisted under Captain William Saunders on board of the Ship *Manley*<sup>4</sup> Galley and after serving some time on board of the said vessel was transferred to the brig *Jefferson*,<sup>5</sup> under the same Captain Saunders, and from thence to the ship *Tartar*<sup>6</sup>, and was discharged by the said Captain Saunders at the Hampton Roads in the year 1780; and that Richard Higdon the brother of John Higdon and Rugdy Higdon another brother of the said John Higdon were also in the service of the Virginia Navy. The former after having been captured by the British, died in Bermuda, and the latter died on board the ship *Dragon*, commanded by Captain Callender, and that John Higdon the present applicant is the oldest heir of the said John, Richard and Rugdy Higdon, and that the said John Higdon was Gunner's mate on board the ship *Tartar* – that the younger John Higdon was born in Westmoreland County near Leeds Town about the year 1793, and now resides in the District of Columbia in the Town of Alexandria.

Given under my hand this 15 day of January 1833

S/ H. Hangerford

The deposition of Charles Higdon of the County of King George State of Virginia taken

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<sup>2</sup> [Charles Higdon S5538](#)

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<sup>4</sup> Coggins:102, VANavy:158, C72, 302, 314, ND4:428, ND5:1207, ND6:1282, ND7:671, 850, ND8:916, ND9:757, ND10:13n, ND11:143, 1167, galley in VA Navy, 1776-79, Capts Robert Cook in 1776, Edward Travis in June 1776, James Cocke, Joel Sturdivant (died Apr 1777), and William Saunders in Apr 1777, dismantled and sold, 1779. Silverstone:20. <http://www.awiatsea.com/Other/Hough%20List%20M.html>

<sup>5</sup> *Jefferson*. Coggins:102, Paullin:407, 411, Dandridge:186, brig in VA Navy, 14 guns, Capt Richard Barron, 1779, sent to Chesapeake Bay, May 1780. VANavy:154, 174, Davies XX:143, Capt Willis Wilson? sank it near Jamestown in Jan 1781. GMB:35, mentioned as repairable in May 1781 for defense of Hampton, VA. Silverstone:20, VA brig. <http://www.awiatsea.com/Other/Hough%20List%20J-K.html>

<sup>6</sup> *Tartar*. Coggins:102, VANavy:162, Dandridge:186, ND9:266, 728, ND10:268, ND11:1155, 1166, ship in VA Navy, 1776-80, Capts Richard Taylor, John Lurty, and William Saunders, sold after Aug 1780. Eller:202 shows it destroyed in 1781. Silverstone:20. Paullin:406, added to Navy in 1777. <http://www.awiatsea.com/Other/Hough%20List%20T.html>

before me a justice of the peace for said County this 15<sup>th</sup> day of February 1837

This deponent after being first duly sworn saith that he is a revolutionary Soldier aged 71 years and 11 months old: that he is in the receipt of a pension from Government – That he was in the Virginia State Navy in the revolutionary War on board the Ship Tartar under the command of Captain Saunders –

And this deponent further saith that Ridgnel Higdon a Seaman on board the *Dragon*, commanded by Captain Callender enlisted in the naval service for a term of three years, in or about the spring of the year 1777 and died whilst in the said Service –

This deponent further saith that John Higdon who was in the service as a gunner was the said Ridgenel Higdon's younger Brother, the said John Higdon died in this deponent's neighborhood about the year 1816 and he was at least three years in actual Service two years as Gunner's Mate and one year as powder Monkey –

This deponent further saith that Richard Higdon enlisted in the Virginia State line under Captain John Mazard [perhaps John Mazarett] for three years, serve said time faithfully, then reenlisted under Major Matthews for the War – this deponent further saith that he died as a prisoner in Bermuda.

This deponent further states that the heirs of the said John Higdon now reside in the City of Alexandria District of Columbia.

Given under my hand this 15<sup>th</sup> of February 1837

S/ Geo. T. Riding, JP

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[From [bounty land records in the Library of Virginia](#)—1-page file indexed under "John Higdon"]

June 2, 1783

This is to certify that John Higdon served as a Sailor under me three years –

S/ William Sanders, Captain

A Copy

J Shackelford C. B. A.