

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters

Virginia documents pertaining to Hugh Stephenson VAS4479  
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris.

[From [bounty-land records in the Library of Virginia](#) in two files.]

Recd of Thomas Meriwether a Certificate for the land Warrant of the representative of Colo Hugh Stephenson

Apl 21 1784. Abraham Shepherd [W19343]  
Capt 7<sup>th</sup> Virga Reg't



Supreme Court of the United States

Hugh Stephenson devisees } On appeal from the Circuit Court of the United States for the  
v } District of Ohio  
Lucas Sullivant }

Extract from the record

The following are the [undeciphered] on this cause towit

In obedience to a commission [undeciphered] from the seventh Circuit Court of the United States for the District of Ohio bearing date upon the thirteenth day of Sept'r in the year one thousand eight hundred and nine & of our Independence the thirty fourth authorising & commanding us diligently Abraham Shepherd, James Glen, Daniel Collett, Moses McCarmick & Mary Tate & Oliver McCarmick witnesses in behalf of Lucas Sullivant in a suit now depending & undetermined in the Seventh Circuit Court of the United States for the District of Ohio, wherein John Stephenson, Hugh Stephenson, Marcus Stephenson, Anne Massie by her husband John Massie, and Betsey Massie by her husband William Massie are plaintiffs and the said Lucas Sullivant is defen't. We have convened at the courthouse of the County of Jefferson in the state of Virginia [now West Virginia] on Friday the first day of Dec'r Eighteen hundred and nine, between the hours of nine O'clock in the morning and nine O'clock in the evening of the same day.

Moses McCarmack a witness on behalf of the said Lucas of lawful age being first sworn upon the holy Evangelists of Almighty God deposeth and saith that he hath lived in the neighborhood of Bullskin in the now county of Jefferson & State of Virginia for fifty one years and in the neighborhood of the Stephenson family that Col Hugh Stephenson had four Brothers towit John, Rich'd James and Marcus that John Stephenson was the eldest brother to the said Hugh, That sometime previous to August 1776 the said Hugh Stephenson had lived with a certain Anne Whaley by whom he had several children whose names this deponent at this time does not recollect, that sometime in the month of August or Sept 1776 the said Hugh intermarried with the said Anne Whaley as this deponent then understood & hath ever since understood & this Dep[onen]t hath heard Magnus Tate Sen'r dec'd late of this county frequently say that he was at marriage of the said Hugh Stephenson with the said Anne Whaley that in a very short time after said marriage the said Hugh Stephenson died, that this Dep't understood that the said Anne at the time of the death of the said Hugh was in a state of pregnancy & was delivered of a son who was called Richard & further this deponent saith not.

Moses McCarmick

Daniel Collett another witness on the part of the said Lucas Sullivant who being also duly sworn being fifty five years of age deposeth & saith that he hath since the month of Dec'r 1775 lived in the neighborhood in which Col Hugh Stephenson dec'd lived & died & that he was acquainted with the family of the Stephensons & that the common report was that John Stephenson was the eldest Brother of the said Hugh & this deponent further states that he was personally acquainted with the said Hugh Stephenson & hath been at his house & that he had several children by a certain Anne Whaley & that the common report was that he was not then married to the said Anne Whaley and that in the year 1775 the said Hugh raised a company of soldiers for one year & took said Company to the northward, that about the expiration of said

term the said Hugh returned to this neighborhood with the title of Col & raised a Regiment that the common report was that upon his said return he the said Hugh intermarried with the said Anne Whaley; that shortly after said intermarriage the said Hugh was taken sick and died & that the common report was that the widow was left in a state of pregnancy & that in about the usual time the said widow was delivered of a male child who was called Rich'd. That it was the common report of the neighborhood that the said Rich'd was the only legitimate child of the said Hugh Stephenson & his proper heir at law & that this dep't never heard the circumstance or opinion contradicted in the neighborhood & further this dep't saith not.

Daniel Collett

The deposition of Abraham Shepherd, who being duly sworn, deposeth and saith, that he is about 56 years of age, and has been acquainted with the family of Stephensons from his infancy. In July 1775, he marched under Capt Hugh Stephenson as one of his Lieutenants in rifle company to Boston, on the 17<sup>th</sup> day of March this deponent with Capt Hugh Stephenson and the company left Roxbury Camp, and returned homewards as far as New York, the company continued there until the first of July 1776 when their time expired. The Hugh Stephenson received a Colo Commission to raise a Regiment of riflemen, that this deponent received a commission as Capt in s'd Regiment. the said Hugh Stephenson and this deponent left the neighborhood of New York, about the 3<sup>d</sup> day of July 1776 and returned home to the State of Virginia to raise his Regiment, said Colo Hugh Stephenson being on the strictest habits of intimacy with this deponent, mentioned to him his intention of marrying Anne Whaley, by whom he had several children, shortly after his return, this deponent was informed by Daniel Sturges parson of the Parish, that he had married his Colonel. This deponent further states that having business frequently at the house of Col Hugh Stephenson, discovered from Mrs Stephenson and others of the family, that they were much pleased that the marriage had taken place, and that the marriage must have taken place about the middle of July 1776, and in about one month after said marriage said Col Hugh Stephenson died. About eight months after the death of Col Hugh Stephenson to the best of this deponents recollection and from the information of Col Hugh Stephenson's widow, the s'd widow had a son called Richard. John Stephenson being the eldest Brother and Executor of his Brother Hugh Stephenson's estates made application to this deponent some time after the death of Col Hugh Stephenson, to go forward to Richmond, to obtain the warrants due to the estate of Col Hugh Stephenson, which this deponent, after repeated application, consented to, for and in consideration of which, the said John Stephenson bound himself to secure to this deponent, on thousand acres of land, that on the return of this deponent from Richmond, he delivered the warrants to the widow of the said Hugh Stephenson at her own house, and then informed her that the Governor and council, would not issue the warrants except in the name of Richard heir at law of Col Hugh Stephenson dec'd informing this deponent at the same time that the children prior to the marriage, being illegitimate, had no right to the warrants, or lands located by the same.

This deponent further states, that when he informed the widow of those circumstances the complainants and children prior to the marriage were present. This deponent further states, that in January 1797 he called on John Stephenson in Harrison County Kentucky to comply with his contract with this deponent, being informed that Richard the only legitimate child and heir at law to Col Hugh Stephenson, had died before he came of age. John Stephenson without hesitation assigned to this deponent a platt & certificate for a 1,000 acres of land as well by virtue of the contract, as Executor & heir at law to Col Hugh Stephenson dec'd observing at the same time that he had had to pay three hundred and odd pounds for the estate of Valentine Crawford and Col Hugh Stephenson, and that if the illegitimate children of his brother Col Hugh Stephenson, towit, the present complainants would repay him the money that he had been compelled to pay for said Hugh Stephenson, that he would give them up the balance of the military land, but if they refused to do so he would retain it for his own use. And further this deponent saith not.

Abraham Shepherd

The deposition of Capt James Glenn, who being first duly sworn, deposeth and saith, that he was at the house of Col John Stephenson in company with Capt Abraham Shepherd in Harrison County Kentucky, when Col John Stephenson executed to Capt Abraham Shepherd an assignment on a platt and certificate

for 1,000 acres of land, entered in the name of Richard Stephenson heir, in the Virginia military tract, north west of Ohio River, as Executor of the last will and testament of his brother Col Hugh Stephenson, and as heir at law, Richard the legitimate heir having died before he arrived at the age of 21 years, which s'd assignment was executed [undeciphered] in conformity with a contract entered into between him as Executor of the Estate of brother Hugh Stephenson, and the s'd Abraham Shepherd, in consideration of the s'd Abraham Shepherds undertaking the trouble and expense of procuring the necessary evidence to obtain the warrants, and which the s'd Abraham Shepherd complied with and procured, to which said assignment this deponent was a witness. This deponent further states that immediately after col John Stephenson made the assignment aforesaid, he said that he had had to pay a considerable sum of money for the estates of Valentine Crawford & Col Hugh Stephenson, and altho he was legally entitled to the land, yet if he was indemnified he did not wish to hold the land, otherwise he would hold it. and further saith not.

James Glenn

The deposition of Mary Tate, widow of Magnus Tate dec'd late of Jefferson county aged upwards of seventy three who being duly sworn deposeth and saith that she was raised in the neighborhood of the Stephenson family on Bullskin, and that she went to the same school with John, Hugh, James, Richard & Mark that John was said to be, & this dep't always believed was the eldest of the brothers. That Hugh Stephenson came to the house of this Dep't perhaps about the year 1776 & that the said Hugh and this Dep'ts husband made off together and that some short time after her said husband informed her that he and the said Hugh had called upon Parson Sturges to perform the rights of marriage between the said Hugh and a certain Anne Whaley, and that no persons were present at the ceremony except this dep'ts husband and the said Parson Sturges. That this dep't always understood that the said Hugh Stephenson had several children by the said Anne Whaley before their intermarriage, and but one child after, whose name this Dep't always understood was Rich'd & further this Dep't saith not. Mary Tate

The deposition of Oliver McCarmick upwards of sixty seven years of age, who being duly sworn, deposeth and saith, that he was well acquainted with the family of the Stephensons from the year 1761, who resided in the now county of Jefferson on Bullskin during the residence of the family in said county which was for a number of years that John Stephenson was always reputed to be and this Dep't believes he was the eldest of the brothers, Hugh the second, Rich'd 3<sup>d</sup> James the 4<sup>th</sup> and Marcus the 5<sup>th</sup>. That this deponent hath always understood and believes that all the children of the said Hugh Stephenson by Anne Whaley were born out of wedlock except the youngest whose name was Richard, that the intermarriage of the said Hugh to the said Anne Whaley was sometime in the year 1776 after he had returned from the army, & that this dep't hath heard Magnus Tate dec'd late of this county frequently say that no persons were present at the marriage of the said Hugh to the said Anne except the parties, the said Magnus and Parson Sturges, and that the said Hugh Stephenson died about the last of August 1776. This dep't further states that Magnus Tate Sen'r, Benj'n Berlen Sr & Alex'r Burnett late of said county of Jefferson whose depositions this dep't hath understood have been taken by one of the parties in this suit & offered in evidence in a suit formerly depending between the same parties with respect to the same property involved in the suit now depending are since dead & further saith not. Oliver McCarmick

To the Governor & Council of Virginia

Your Petitioners – John Stephenson Hugh Stephenson Marcus Stephenson Ann Massie Betsey Massie Devises of Col Hugh Stevenson [sic] dec'd would by their atto in fact State that they are informed & believe that Col Hugh Stevenson entered the Sevice of the Rev in July 1775 as a capt and marched his Co to the north and in July 1776 he was duly Commissioned a col all of which will appear by the oath of Abraham Shepherd & others embodied in the within record from the Supreme Court That he died in August 1776 while in full commission as a col having previously made his last will & testament willing & devising his estate to the aforesaid persons. And that a warrant for a col's bounty for 3 years issued to his heir on the 21<sup>st</sup> Apl 1784.

The devisees aforesaid claim additional bounty now due, to sustain which & their identity they refer to the record or affidavits in the same and also the documents of the Executive department on which

the original warrant was allowed of 1784. The deposition of Abraham Shepherd on 5<sup>th</sup> page shews July 1775 the time when Col Hugh Stephenson entered the services as capt and also on 4<sup>th</sup> page that of Daniel Collett. This same Shephird was a capt & has been paid as such in Land and other bounties from Va. the atto in this case has not filed a petition because the record shews enough of Identity to dispense with or fill the requisitions of the rule requiring one to be made & sworn to your Petitions therefore most respectfully ask an allowance be made to them adequate to their just dues & rights under the facts as proven and the law applied to the same and they will ever pray. Wm H Todd for Devises

Petition of the Heirs of Colonel Hugh Stephenson To his Excellency the Governor of the state of Virginia Your petitioners Edward Stephenson Jas F Stephenson Eliza T Stephenson Elizabeth Moore Mary Calvert Julia A Calvert, John P Stephenson Richard S Stephenson Sarah L Cox Elizabeth Stump Rebecca Massey John S Massey William Massey Lucretia Finley would respectfully represent unto his Excellency the Governor of the State of Virginia that they are the Heirs of John Stephenson and Nancy Massey two of the children of Hugh Stephenson who your petitioners are informed and believe was a Col in the army of the revolution in the Virginia continental line, and your petitioners are informed that the s'd Hugh Stephenson entered the service in July 1775 and that he died in the service in 1776 and that by his will he left the following Children as his devisees. Hugh Stephenson John Stephenson Marcus Stephenson Nancy Stephenson who intermarried with John Massey Ann Stephenson who intermarried with William Massey, and [part missing at bottom of page] for 6666 $\frac{2}{3}$  acres was issued: your petitioners would state that all of the children and devisees of the said Hugh Stephenson are dead. that the said Richard died without wife or children. that the following persons his Brothers and Sisters have all died leaving children. that John Stephenson died leaving Edward Stephenson Jas F Stephenson Eliza T Stephenson who intermarried with a Sam'l Stevenson Elizabeth Moore who intermarried with Tavner Moore of Lewis County Kentucky Mary Stephenson who intermarried with Clifton Calvert. Julia A Stephenson who intermarried with Thos Calvert of Mason Co Ky. John P Stephenson Richard S Stephenson Sarah L Cox who intermarried with Asher Cox of the state of Indiana and that Nancy Massey died leaving as her heirs John I Massey of Lewis County Kentucky William Massey of Nicholas County Ky Elizabeth Massey and Elizabeth Stump who intermarried with George Stump of Harrison county Ky Lucretia Massey who intermarried with Elijah Finley who live some where in Indiana as [part missing at bottom of page] Massey all moved to the state of Missouri that they are all dead and that Hugh Marcus and Ann the other three children of Hugh Stephenson all have left children in the state of Missouri your pitioners of Kentucky cannot call the names of the children and heirs which the s'd Hugh Marcus and Ann Massey have left in the state of Missouri Your petitioners would respectfully ask your excellency to grant unto them an additional quantity of bounty land in virtue of the services of the said Hugh Stephenson formerly a Colonel in the army of the revolution in the Virginia line on continental establishment and our petitioners would ever pray the same to be allowed to them [signed] John S Masey  
[certified 16 September 1837]