

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

Pension Application of Stephen Ashby BLWt2420-300

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

Richmond, May 15th 1847

Wm Gordon Esq:

D Sir: I forward herewith sundry papers to J. L. Edwards Esq. [Commissioner of Pensions], with a request that he will hand the same over to you, for the purpose of investigation and to issue scup[?] to me as the Atty for the heirs, or to issue it in such form as you may deem proper.

I will be under obligations to you if you will inform me in a very short time, whether the said papers have been re'd. I understand that such claims will be barred on & after 27 July next. Be pleased to answer this as soon as possible.

I apply on behalf of the heirs of Capt Stephen Ashby for 300 acres of Bounty land from the U. States, for services as a Supernumerary Captain of the Virginia Cont[inental] Line. The grounds of this application are the following: On or about the 14th Sept. 1778 a Consolidation of the Va Continental line took place at White Plains, in the State of New York; when the fifteen Regiments of the Va. Continental Line were consolidated into Eleven Regiments, and some fifty or sixty officers retired as Supernumeraries. In all such consolidations, the Junior Officers, as a matter of course have to retire unless by consent arrangements can be made – to wit: There are often worthy and promising Junior officers who wish to remain in service, and on the contrary there may be some aged and infirm officers who prefer retiring, but have the legal right to remain in service. Thus, under this consolidation of the 14 Sep'r. 1778 was Capt. George Rice of Gen'l. [Charles] Scott's Brigade and Capt. Stephen Ashby of [William] Woodford's Brigade, who aged and infirm elected to retire. For evidence of this See "The Washington Papers on file in the State Department, to wit, Vol. No. 7 and again No. 102 where this part will be fully shewn, reference to which is hereby requested as part of this Statement.

All supernumeraries were ever and at all time entitled to Bounty land from the U. States and Va the same as though they served to the end of the war, and with very few exceptions have long since received the same.

The heirs of Capt. Stephen Ashby now apply to the U. States for the Bounty land due their ancestor. Perhaps some objection may be raised, because it is stated that Capt. Stephen Ashby retired by consent, and not by compulsion. In answer to this objection, I beg leave to observe that Capt. George Rice also retired at the same time by consent, and that shortly after the adoption of the Constitution in 1787 Gen'l. [Henry] Knox, one of the men of the revolution, became Secretary of War, and he, fresh from the war, and well acquainted with the rights of the officers, did issue a Warrant No. 1786 for 300 acres of land to the said Capt. Geo. Rice, who did retire by request or permission. Therefore the same rule should apply in the case of Capt. S. Ashby. Perhaps another objection may be raised, to wit; that in the section of Bounty lands, there is a list of those reported as entitled to Bounty lands, by this same Secretary of War, and on which the name of Stephen Ashby does not appear, and hence an inference may be drawn that he is not entitled. I remark that the Muster Rolls, returns of the Army &c up to the 1st Jany 1779 were in the possession of General Washington, and have lately been purchased by the U. S. and placed in the State Department. They show, that on 24 Nov. 1778 Congress resolved on giving one year's pay to the Supernumeraries (all and every supernumerary officer or Officers falling in battle who also became entitled to land, who by themselves, or their Exec[utors] or Admin[istrators] have drawn the one years pay – their names will be found in the section of Bounty lands as entitled, whereas no one Supernumerary, or falling in Battle who have not received the one year's pay, will be found in the Section of Bounty land , a proof conclusive that the Secretary of war, in making out a list of those entitled, prepared it from the minutes or records to be found in the Treasury Department, therefore leaving many entitled to be shown

from the Official Rolls and Documents of the Army which were then in the possession of Gen'l Washington, and which have since been purchased by Congress, and to which I take the liberty to call y'r attention. The claim is as just as that of Capt. Geo. Rice and others and I hope that upon mature deliberation you will agree to issue the scup[?], and thereby oblige.

Yours most respectfully, S. H. Parker

Wm. Gordon Esq of The Bounty Office

NB. The Papers showing the names of the heirs &c. are forwarded this day to J. S. Edwards Esq'r. which you will examine &c.

Kentucky } Ss.
Hopkins County }

Be it remembered that heretofore, (to wit) at the Court held for the County aforesaid on the 11th day of January 1847, The following entry (amongst others) was made at the minutes of said Court, viz.

"It was this day proven to the satisfaction of the Court by the oaths of William P. Hannton and Thomas W. Campbell, that John Threlkill, Huldah Ashby, Rice Ashby, Hester Ashby, Martha C. Threlkill, Presley Ashby and Daniel S. Ashby, were the only children and heirs of Enos Ashby, deceased.

And that E. Robertson, Matilda Robertson, William J. Ashby, Enos G. Ashby, John Crabtree, Lucinds Crabtree, Enos J. Ashby, Vincent Howell, Nancy Howell, Emily Ashby, Stephen J. Ashby, Daniel S. Ashby, Sarah Ashby, John Stodghill and Elizabeth Stodghill, were the only children and heirs of John Ashby, deceased.

And that John Ashby, Stephen Ashby, Cindrella Ashby, Rebecca Ashby, Ann Ashby, Sarah Turly, Daniel Turly, Nancy Ashby, James P. Ashby, Mary Ashby, Sarah Ashby, William C. Coffman, Sarah Ashby, Jr., Daniel Ashby Sen'r. Martha E. Coffman, and Absalom S. Ashby, were the only children and Heirs of Daniel Ashby, deceased,

And that Lewis Fugate, Nancy Fugate, Lewis Ashby, Rosy Ashby, William J. Ashby, Mary C. Ashby, Austin Smith, Catherine Smith, Elizabeth Ashby, Widow, Enos G. Ashby, Prather Ashby, Enos J. Ashby, Tabitha Ashby, Stephen D. Ashby, Vincent Ashby, Thomas Prather and Pricilla Prather were the only children and Heirs of Stephen Ashby, deceased,

And that Charles Murphey, Leliticia Murphey, Rebecca Ashby, Joseph Crabtree, Elenor Crabtree, James Prather, William Crabtree, Rosey Crabtree, Philip Prather, Washington Prather and Stephen Prather, were the only children and heirs of Thomas and Ann Prather, deceased,

And that Liner Branson, Sarah Branson, Mason Timmons, Hannah Timmons, A. B. Pedcock, Martha Pedcock, James A. Timmons, James Prather, Margaret Timmons, Bayless Branson, Richard Timmons, Stephen Sisk, and Elizabeth Sisk, were the only children and heirs of George and Rosey Timmons, deceased,

And that James Ashby, Alfred W. Barr, Ann Barr, Lewis Ashby, Wilson W. Ashby, Robert Pritchett, Jemima Pritchett, Philip Prather and Sally Prather, were the only children and Heirs of Absalom Ashby, deceased,

And further that the foregoing several Decedents were the children and Heirs at law of Stephen Ashby, deceased, who was a Captain in the War of the Revolution. All of which is ordered to be certified accordingly:

NOTE: Stephen Asby was commissioned on 9 Sep 1776 as Captain of a company raised in Hampshire County VA and attached to the 12th Virginia Regiment of Foot. (Sanchez-Saavedra, E. M. *A Guide to Virginia Military Organizations in the American Revolution, 1774-1787*. Westminster MD: Heritage Books, 2007.)