

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Mashock [Meshach] Stephens R10114 Milly f38VA
Transcribed by Will Graves 4/21/12

[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.]

State of Tennessee Marion County: SS

On this 12th day of October 1832 personally appeared in open Court before the Honorable Charles F Keith, Esquire one of the Judges of the Circuit Courts of law and equity in and for said State, at a court holden for said County at the Courthouse in the town of Jasper, Meshach Stephens, a resident citizen in said County and State aged about seventy-six years: who being first duly sworn according to law, doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the act of Congress passed June 7th 1832. That he entered the service of the United States and served as herein stated; first that he volunteered to serve a three months tour under Captain Samuel Tarrance, in the County of Pittsylvania in the State of Virginia, in the month of November 1778, that he was marched with the company under said Captain (the names of the other company officers he cannot recollect) took place near Salem in the State of North Carolina, that they were not attached to any Regiment, nor were they in any engagement, but returned home in about three weeks, where they remained a few days and was again marched to Rutherford County in the State of North Carolina and from there were marched in different directions in quest of the Tories for about five weeks where declarant remained about five weeks and went again as a volunteer under Lieutenant Briscoe to suppress an invasion at old Halifax Town, Virginia, where they remained a few days without having any engagement, and returned home; that declarant remained at home a short time and resumed his service under Captain Tarrance and was marched with the company to the Hollows on the Yadkin [River] in the State of North Carolina, when they were stationed about two weeks, where they received news of the Battle at Kings Mountain [October 7, 1780], to which place they had started, during which time they had not been attached to any Regiment, that on his return home he was discharged by Captain Tarrance in Wilkes County North Carolina having served the term for which he volunteered – That in the month of February (as well as he can recollect) in the year 1781 declarant was drafted in the County of Pittsylvania, Virginia, to serve as a private for three months tour under Captain Lemuel Smith, Lieutenant Briscoe and Ensign Musgrove in the Regiment commanded by Colonel Peter Perkins, that he was marched under said officers to Guilford C. H. in the State of North Carolina when they joined the main Army commanded (as well as he recollects) by Generals Greene [Nathanael Greene], Wayne [presumably a reference to General Anthony Wayne, but he was not at the battle of Guilford Courthouse], Stephens [Edward Stevens] and Lawson [Robert Lawson], that they arrived there shortly after the Battle [March 15, 1781] had been fought and marched with the main Army in pursuit of the enemy as far as Haw River, where he with the rest of Captain Smith's Company were furloughed to return home, where they stayed a short time and were again called out and marched to Dickson's Ferry on Dan River where they were stationed under the command of Colonel Perkins about 6 weeks where

Captain Smith's Company were discharged and returned home. – That in the month of September 1781 this declarant was again drafted to serve a 3 months tour under Captain Charles Williams (the names of the other company officers he has forgotten) in the Regiment commanded by Colonel Holcombe, that he was marched in said company to Halifax County, Virginia, where they joined the Regiment and from there marched through Petersburg, Williamsburg and to York, where he fought in the siege which terminated in the surrender of Lord Cornwallis [October 19, 1781]; that in the month of November 1781 he was there discharged by Captain Williams to joined the State troops of Virginia, having served about two months; that immediately he was discharged he enlisted in said State troops during the War, under a Captain whose name he has forgotten and with whom he never became acquainted as he was immediately furloughed to return home and staid till he should be called into service, that he was never again called into service under said Enlistment, but was at all times ready to perform it, nor was he ever discharged. That in the year 1784 declarant removed from Pittsylvania County, Virginia, to Burke County North Carolina, from there to South Carolina and from there to Hawkins County, Tennessee, where in the month of February 1794 he again volunteered to serve three months as an Indian spy under Captain John Mansfee and Lieutenant Blair, the only officers he recollects, nor was the attached to any Regiment as declarant knows of. That they marched from Hawkins County to Beaver Creek in Knox County, Tennessee where they were stationed at Robinson's Fort from which place they ranged through the frontier until their term had expired, that they were then discharged by Captain Mansfee about the 1st of June 1794. That in the month of February 1795 he was drafted as a private in Knox County Tennessee (to which place he had removed) to serve a three months tour under Captain Mansfee and Lieutenant Blair, that he was marched under said officers to Frost's Blockhouse on Clinch River that they were stationed during the whole term of service, and was there discharged by Captain Mansfee in the month of June 1795. –

This declarant states that he was born in Caswell County North Carolina in the year 1756, but in what month he has forgotten, that he had a record of his age but it has long since been lost or destroyed. That he was living in the County of Pittsylvania Virginia when called into service under every engagement except the last two, and the first of which he was living in Hawkins and the last in Knox County, Tennessee – that since the Revolutionary War he has removed from Pittsylvania County Virginia to Burke County North Carolina where he lived about 18 months; from there he removed to Pendleton District South Carolina where he lived about 8 years, from there to Hawkins County Tennessee where he lived one-year, from there to Knox County Tennessee where he lived about 3 years, from there to Warren County Kentucky, where he lived about 2 years, from there to Knox County Tennessee where he lived 3 years, from there to Anderson County Tennessee, where he lived 5 years, from there to Overton County Tennessee, where he lived 3 years, from there back to Anderson County Tennessee where he lived 2 years, from there to Roane County Tennessee where he lived 5 years, and then to Marion County Tennessee where he now lives – That he 1st volunteered for a 3 month tour, was next drafted for 2 tours of 3 months each, then enlisted in the State troops of Virginia during the war, then volunteered as an Indian spy for a 3 month tour and was then drafted to serve 3 months. – That he never served as a substitute. – That he cannot recollect the names of any of the regular officers with whom he served, only those he has herein named, having been but a short period with the Regular troops at any one time. – That he can recite no particular circumstances other than is herein set forth. – That he was Regularly discharge from each tour of service by the respective captains he served except his enlistment in the state troops of Virginia from which he

never received a discharge. – That he knows of no person in this Country by whom he can prove any of his services, except the proof herewith sent: – This declarant states that he is acquainted with and refers to the following gentlemen of said County, some of whom can testify as to his character for veracity, that is to say, John Bennett, Esquire, Samuel H Gott, Esquire, Reverend David Nelms, William Kelly, Richard W Stone, Isaac Hicks and Ephraim Thurman. – That he hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present, and declares that his name is not on the pension Roll of the agency of any State.

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid

S/ Wm Standefer, Clerk

S/ Mashack Stevens, X his mark

[David Nelms, a clergyman, John Bennett and Samuel H Gott gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

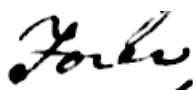
[f p. 7: On April 1, 1839 in Morgan County Tennessee, the court entered of finding that nearly Stephens, widow of Meshach Stephens, a revolutionary war pensioner, died leaving no will or testament and that the following children survived her: Henry W Stephens, Nancy Farmer, Betsy Pearson, Meshach Stephens, Louisa Sammons and Shadrach Stephens: that the widows maiden name was Forer [? Fores]¹; that she and her husband married sometime in the year 1780 the precise time not recollected and that they lived together as husband and wife until the death of the veteran; that the widow died in Morgan County Tennessee October 9, 1837.]

[f p. 9: On February 23, 1839 in Fentress County Tennessee Sally Stephens, 82 on the 12th of March last past, the widow of Thomas Stephens deceased made oath that she was living in the same neighborhood with her brother-in-law Meshach Stephens and his wife Milley at the time they were married in Virginia; she positively states that they were married sometime before the last period of his service at the Siege of York; she cannot state how long he served; that Meshach Stephens served in overseeing business for Lemuel Smith in the spring preceding the surrender of Lord Cornwallis; that the maiden name of Milley was Milly Farrer [?]². She signed her affidavit with her mark.]

[f p. 26: In April 1839, in Morgan County Tennessee, Major Shadrack Stephens made affidavit that he always understood his parents were married in Virginia and that in the spring of 1781 they were living together as man and wife; that his father made a crop with a certain Lemuel Smith; that due to having to serve in the United States military, his father was quote "defeated" in making a crop in the season of the surrender of Lord Cornwallis; that his mother's maiden name was Milly Forer; that his mother lived with him in Morgan County Tennessee after the death of her husband and until her death on the 9th of October 1837; that his mother died leaving the following named children: Henry W Stephens, Nancy Farmer, Betsy Pearson, Meshach Stephens, Louisa Sammons and Shadrack Stephens.

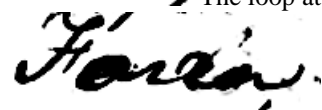
S/ Shadrach Stephens

1



The loop at the top of the "e" is from the word in the line above.

2



*Shedrick Stephens*³

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$36.33 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for service as a private for 10 months in the Virginia militia. His widow's application for a pension was rejected.]

³ In another affidavit in this file (p. 37) his signature appears as follows:

Shedrick Stephens