

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of William Denny R13730 Mary Denny VA
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris.

Montgomery County Illinois Sct

I, Mary Denny of said County aged from my best information 87 years make this following statement Viz

“I am widow of William Denny deceased who in his lifetime was engaged in the Militia Service of the United States in the Revolutionary War. Viz He belonged to and served in the Virginia Militia or State Troops Militia is the more probable

My said husband served at Winchester Virginia in guarding some British Prisoners and my best impression is that he was an officer in that duty and that he was in the rank of Lieutenant; he was also on duty at or near Pittsburg in the year 1777. also under Capt. Job Hale from Kentucky in 1790 or 1791 against the Indians in the South West, now Indiana

I have no papers in any way relating to this service nor do I know of any witnesses alive any where by whom I can prove the facts of his said services.

Samuel Denny [pension application S32212] was a brother of my said husband and they were at least for a portion of the time in the service together; Said Samuel Denny was a resident of Putnam County Indiana and was a pensioner of the United States under Act June 7th 1832, and it may be that he in his application made some allusion to the services of my said husband.

The said Samuel is the only one that I ever knew that was reported to have served with my said husband Nor do I now remember ever hearing of the names of any men who served with my said husband, except Captain Job Hale as aforesaid. He is long since dead I suppose.

The above named places are the only ones that I now remember ever hearing that he was at in time of said service

I was married to said William Denny in Nelson County Kentucky on the 27th day of December 1792 (seventeen hundred and ninety two) by Dr. James Chambers and my name before I was so married was Mary Shields – I have family record of our said marriage

My said husband died in Putnam County Indiana on the 5th day of April 1832 (Eighteen hundred and thirty two) leaving me his widow and since then I have never married again but remain his widow.

The above named was the only military service ever performed by my said husband so far as I now remember ever hearing of, and it may be that a portion of his service was in the State Troops Refer to Records and known facts as to character of troops at places above named

I make this declaration for the purpose of applying for the benefit of any Pension Law that may apply to the facts of my case and I hereby, with full power of substitution appoint C. H. Barkley of Louisville Kentucky my agent in this behalf

I have never heretofore applied for the benefit of any pension Law of Congress and neither did my said husband, so far as I now remember ever hearing of

As to whether I ever knew of or saw any papers relating to any of his services I will say Viz That I never saw any to the best of my knowledge

As to whether my said husband was ever a witness for any Soldier in an application for pension I will say, Viz Not that I know of

This 4th day of June 1861

Mary herXmark Denny

NOTES:

The file contains a copy of the record of the marriage of William Denny and Mary Shields on 27 Dec 1792 by James Chambers in Nelson County KY.

The file contains an extensive correspondence, some of which is abstracted as follows.

Mary Denny stated that she had lived in Putnam County until the fall of 1859 and had resided in

Montgomery County since November 1859. She stated that she had no property of any kind.

On 20 June 1861 James Denny, 63, of Putnam County IN stated that “the family tradition is that my said uncles Samuel & William served together in the Revalutiony war of the United States, my impression is that he held some office in the army while garding prisoners which was taken by General Morgan in the State of Virginia.” He also stated that Samuel Denny died without any heirs except the children of his brothers and sister, including himself. At the same time and place Joseph Denny, 72, stated that he was also a nephew of Samuel Denny.

On 30 Sep 1861 Henry H. Gaither and Eliza Gaither stated that William Denny died on 5 April 1832, which they remembered because their oldest daughter was born on 7 January 1831, and that “William Denny was taken down bedfast in a few months after the birth of said oldest daughter... [and] he was thus bedfast for thirteen months last before he died.”

On 7 Sep 1861 Mary Denny’s attorney, C. H. Barkley, made a lengthy response to the Commissioner of Pensions, whom he quoted as follows: “Though the State of Kentucky has not gone out of the Union, yet as the disunion sentiment prevails quite extensively there it is deemed as more than just that an assurance of your loyalty should be given by a reference to some one known to the office.”

On 28 May 1863 Barkley wrote that “it would not surprise me at any time to hear of [Mary Denny’s] death.”

Mary Denny’s claim was rejected, the reasons cited being the delay in her applying and inadequacy of proof that William Denny served the required six months.