

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of John Ashley (Ashly) R281

Eleanor Ashley

f44SC

Transcribed by Will Graves

5/7/10

[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 'indecipherable' 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 8th of June 1786." Please call material errors or omissions to my attention.]

State of North Carolina Buncombe County: SS

On this 7th day of October 1845 personally appeared before me Jonathan Merrell one of the Judges of the Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions in and for the County of Buncombe, Eleanor Ashley, a resident of said County aged seventy-two years, and after being duly sworn according to law doth on her oath make the following Declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the Provisions made by the Act of Congress passed July 7th 1838 entitled an act granting half pay and pensions to certain Widows.

That she is the widow of John Ashley, who was a Private Soldier in the Army of the Revolution that she has often heard her husband the aforesaid John Ashley speak of his services as a soldier in the Army of the Revolution But from old age and Infirm and he bodily affliction and the consequent loss of memory, she cannot particularize his services. She knows he entered the service in ^{Lancaster} Curshaw [sic, Kershaw] District South Carolina, whether he was drafted or volunteered she does not Recollect to have heard him say. She recollects to have heard him speak of Captains John Stewart & William Nettles also of General Sumpter [sic, Thomas Sumter] Beauford, Gates & Green, a Part of home was his commander's whether he was commanded by all of them she cannot state. She further declares that her husband the aforesaid John Ashley in his lifetime often spoke of his right to a pension, and tried to get some one to prosecute his claim for them, but was told he could not obtain a pension unless he could prove his services by living Witnesses, which he said he could do if he knew where to find a man by the name of Heirs who served with him a part of the time he also said that Robert Ashley his Brother could prove part of his services as he also served with him a part of the time.

She further Declares that she was married to the said John Ashley in Curshaw [sic, Kershaw] district South Carolina on the 23rd day of September 1790. And that her husband the aforesaid John Ashley died in Buncombe County North Carolina on the 2nd day of May 1844. That she was not married to him prior to his leaving the service but the marriage took place previous to the first day of January 1794. That he is at the time above stated, that she is now a Widow and has not married since the death of her said husband but still remains the widow of the said John Ashley -- She further states that there is no marriage by law recorded in the State of South Carolina and she knows of nor does she believe that there is any Record of her marriage except the one which she has herself and which is herewith sent together with a record of her said husbands age, and the ages of her Children all of which is in the hand writing of her said husband. The eracements [sic] and in assertions made in the 2 lines included in the Chatchet [sic ?] as on this page made before signed.

Sworn to and subscribed the 6th day of October 1845
Attest: S/ J. Merrell, JP

S/ Eleanor Ashley, X her mark

[p 7-9 family record, pages out of order]

SusaAnner Ashley was born the 11 day of September in the yer of our lord 1796

Nelley Ashley was born the 8 day of August in the yer of our lord 1799

diliah Ashley was Born the 2 day of March in the yer of our lord 1802

September the 23d in the yer 1790 John Ashley and Alley duren was Mared

harretter Ashley was born 21 day of August at night in the yer of our lord 1791

Tobey¹ [?] Ashley was born the fust day of feberey in the morning in the yer of our lord 1794

John Ashley was born Juley the [illegible] in the yer of our lord and in the yer 1765²
his birth day

rebaker Ashley was born Jun 6th and in the yer of our lord 1806

July 6 1828 tabithe gurdin was born in the year our lord

State of North Carolina Henderson County: October 24th 1845 --

This day personally appeared before me James Hamlen [sic] an acting magistrate in and for said County Robert Ashley³ & after being duly sworn according to law upon his oath saith That he was well acquainted with John Ashley a soldier of the Revolution. I was well acquainted with him before the war. He entered the service as volunteer in the year 1779 in the month of January under Captain Nettles from Lancaster District South Carolina we both entered the service together and served out that Tour and he then volunteered or enlisted again and continued in the service until sometime in 1781 after the surrender of Corn wallace [sic, Cornwallis] why I know it) I saw him several times in the time of the Service) I saw him at the surrender of Charleston, at Gates defeat at the Battle near Camden, from what I know of my own knowledge and from his own history and from his discharges that I saw of his I am bound to believe that he served over two years in the Army on the side of liberty.

He further swears that he has been well acquainted with said John Ashley ever since the war and it up to his death which was in May 1844 and that he saw the said John Ashley and his wife Eleanor married and pronounced man & wife in Carshaw district South Carolina in September 1790 and that he has knew them both ever since. That they all move from South Carolina to Buncombe North Carolina together or near the same time and have lived in or near the same neighborhood ever since. And that the said Eleanor Ashley is still living and yet remains the widow of the said John Ashley Deceased) and as he is informed and applicant for a pension. Sworn to and subscribed before me day and date above Ritton [written].

Test:

S/ Jas. Hamblen, JP

S/ Robert Ashley

¹ The War Department read this name as "Saley or Seky"

² The War Department read his birthdate as July 1, 1765

³ [Robert Ashley R282](#)