

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Stephen Shipman R9513 Deborah f49VA
Transcribed by Will Graves 2/11/12

[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.]

[f p. 17: the following document has been very heavily edited: the spelling, grammar and punctuation of the original is quite imaginative. I will freely admit that a great deal of what follows is what I THINK I see—use with extreme care.]

State of Virginia County of Loudoun: SS On this 12th day of June 1854 personally appeared before the open Corte [court] in the County of Loudoun the Identical Surviving Eiar [heir] of Stephen Shipman who being 1st duly sworn according to law doth on her oath make the following decration [declaration] in order to obtain the benefits of the provision made by the act of Congress passed July 7th 1832 Entitled an act granting half pay and pensions to certain widows: that she is the Identical daughter of Stephen Shipman who Served in the Revolutionary war as follows viz.: That he Substituted for one William Russell and marched from Hillsboro Loudoun County Virginia under Captain James McIlhayney [James McIlhaney] and commanded by Colonel humphry [Humphrey] in the year 17_ and the said Shipman substituted for 18 months and was taken prisoner by the indens [Indians] ner [near] the Red Stone [Redstone] fourt [fort] in the State of Pennsylvania and kept Six mounts [months] – he and another by the name of McIlhaney and was in a battle at the Red stone Fort and was wounded in several palaces [places] and [indecipherable word] in the [several indecipherable words] another part and had many shots in his legs and in [indecipherable word] another [indecipherable word] not [indecipherable word] about much and after their escapement [escape] from the Enemy they reached the Fort again and was shot at by the Enemy and served out the full time of service and was honorably discharged and the said Stephen Shipman was marred [married] to his wife in the year 17_ and her said name before marriage was debraugh Coplin and the said Stephen Shipman dide [died] in the year __ and the said Deborah Shipman died in the year September 28 1846 that the said Deborah Coplin was married before the year 1794 as the within [indecipherable word] will appear by the witness herewith attached.

S/ Ethelus Russell, X her mark

[f p. 8]

This is to certify, that it appears from a list in this office of such Officers and Soldiers of the Virginia Continental Line as settled their accounts and received certificates for the balance of their full pay, according to an act of assembly, passed the November session 1781, directing the Auditors of Public Accounts to settle and adjust the pay and accounts of said Officers and Soldiers from the first January 1777 to 31st December 1781, (see Hening's Statutes at Large, vol. 10, p. 462,) that a settlement was made on the 18th day of April 1783 in the name of Stephen Shipman as Sol. Inf. [Soldier Infantry] and evidence of the indebtedness of the State to him was £35.19.4, delivered to Colonel Powell but as the original settlements or copies thereof or not to be

found in this office, the term of service embraced therein cannot be stated.

Given under my hand at the First Auditor's Office, Richmond, this
13th day of November 1854.

S/ G. W. Chilton

Aud. Pub. Accts.

[No Seal of Office]

[f p. 10]

State of Virginia County of Loudoun to wit

This is to certify that I Samuel Pursel of the County of Loudoun and State of Virginia certify that I personally knew Stephen Shipman and Deborah his wife and the said Shipman married Deborah Pursel who was born and raised in this neighborhood and I certify that I was born in the year 1782 in the month of March 23, according to the Record of my Father's family Bible, and I knew Stephen Shipman when I was eight years old and the said Deborah Shipman lived in my Father's house when I was a small boy, and the said Stephen Shipman and Deborah his wife was married when I was about ten years old for they lived in this neighborhood until his death and I was personally acquainted with all of his children, for the said Deborah was and aunt of mine being my father's sister, the above is to my memory and recollection.

I hereunto set my hand this 7th day of November A.D. 1854

S/ Samuel Pursel



[f p. 13: Susan A. Brooks gave testimony on May 21, 1855 in Loudoun County Virginia that she was present in the house when Deborah Shipman died September 28, 1846 in her 85th year in Jefferson County Virginia; and she also authenticated the family record of B. C. Russell and his wife Ethelus Russell.]

[f pp 20-21: Because so much of the documentation in this file is extremely challenging to decipher, I thought it might be helpful to quote the body of the Dept. of the Interior's letter dated May 8, 1935 responding to a request for information from the file relating to this veteran. That letter reads in relevant part as follows:

Reference is made to your letter in which you request the Revolutionary War record of Stephen shipman of Virginia.

The record of Stephen Shipman is given herein as found in the papers on file in pension claim, R. 9513, based upon his service in that war.

Stephen Shipman lived in the neighborhood of Leesburg, Loudoun County, Virginia, during the Revolutionary War; the date and place of his birth and names of his parents on not shown.

He married in 1786, 1787, or prior to 1792, (exact date not given) in Loudoun County, Virginia, Deborah Pursel,¹ at the home of her brother; she was born and reared in Loudoun County, Virginia. The date of her birth, names of her parents, and named of the brother at whose house she was married are not shown.

¹ See, however, the above affidavit given by Ethelus Russell in which she says her mother's name was Deborah Coplin.

Stephen Shipman died near Leesburg, Virginia, about the year 1804, exact date not shown. Deborah Shipman, his widow, died September 28, 1846 in Jefferson County, Virginia, then in her 85th year.

The names of the children of Stephen Shipman and his wife, Deborah, are shown in 1854 as follows: Ethelus Russel, or Russell, born January 15, 1795, the widow of Benjamin Russel or Russell, living in Leesburg; Delila Trussell, widow of Moses Trussell, living in Jefferson County Virginia; Elizabeth Noland, wife of Charles Noland, also of Jefferson County: Lidia Bar, living in Fauquier County, Virginia; Mary Drill, wife of Henry Drill, living in Bath County, Virginia; Samuel Shipman, living in Waterford, Loudoun County, Virginia; Craven Shipman, who died in 1815 on his return from New Orleans from the War of 1812; Mason Shipman who died in 1840 in Loudoun County, Virginia; John Shipman who died in 1838 in Baltimore, Maryland.

On June 13, 1854, Ethelus (variously spelled) Russell, the above noted border, applied for a pension which might have been due on account of the service of her father in the Revolutionary War. She applied in behalf of her brothers and sisters who were living at that time.

In the application papers, it appears that Stephen Shipman enlisted in 1776 or 1778, in Hillsboro, Loudoun County, Virginia, served as a private in Captain James McIlhaney's company, Colonel Humphrey's Virginia Regiment, that he was in the battle of Red Stone Fort in Pennsylvania, was taken prisoner, held six months, made his escape and was wounded in his leg, and that this service was for 18 months and was rendered as substitute for William Russell of Loudoun County, Virginia it was shown also that one Stephen Shipman, a private of infantry in the Virginia Continental line received pay on April 18, 1783, no length of service of that Stephen Shipman stated.

The claim for pension was not allowed as the identity of Stephen Shipman who rendered service in the Virginia Continental line with the Stephen shipman who married Deborah Pursel was not established, nor were truth of alleged service, date of his death and date of their marriage furnished in accordance with the requirements of the pension laws.

In 1854, Samuel Pursel of Leesburg, Virginia, born March 23, 1782, stated that his father was the brother of Deborah, the widow, one Samuel Pursel, Junior, was a Justice of the Peace for Loudoun County, Virginia in 1854. 1 Susan A Brooks, a resident of Leesburg, stated that she was present at the death of Deborah Shipman and had been acquainted with the family since her youth. On the same page showing the birth of Ethelus Russel, there was shown, also B. C. Russel, born March 18, 1795; it was not stated, however, that this B. C. Russel was the deceased husband, Benjamin. In 1855, George W Noland was a resident of Leesburg, Virginia, no relationship to the family shown.