

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of William Samways W21802 Elizabeth Mitchell¹ fn13SC

Transcribed by Will Graves

1/29/11

[Methodology: Spelling, punctuation and/or grammar have been corrected in some instances for ease of reading and to facilitate searches of the database. Also, the handwriting of the original scribes often lends itself to varying interpretations. Users of this database are urged to view the original and to make their own decision as to how to decipher what the original scribe actually wrote. Blanks appearing in the transcripts reflect blanks in the original. Folks are free to make non-commercial use this transcript in any manner they may see fit, but please extend the courtesy of acknowledging the transcriber—besides, if it turns out the transcript contains mistakes, the resulting embarrassment will fall on the transcriber. 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. I welcome and encourage folks to call those and any other errors to my attention.]

State of South Carolina District of Charleston: On this 16th day of July 1838 personally appeared before the undersigned Mrs. Elizabeth Mitchell widow aged 86 years and a resident of the City of Charleston who being duly sworn according to law, doth, on her oath make the following declaration in order to be entitled to the benefit of the 3rd Section of the act of Congress of the 4th of July 1836 and the act explanatory of said act passed 3rd March 1837. That she was married to William Samways deceased formerly a Charleston bricklayer, who was a private volunteer soldier during the War of the Revolution in a Corps as she believes called the Artillery of Charleston, and commanded by Captain ___ Rutledge and served in same two years, as follows, to wit. He the said William Samways was a member of said company in the year 1776, and served in same to the surrender of Charleston in May 1780, Deponent, saith, said William was absent from the City on duty as a member of said Corps under arms several times, and at several places during this period, the names nor the particulars of which she cannot now call to her recollection, but believes he was at the battle of Stono in June 1779, Deponent saith, he served in the Fort Dorrill [sic, Fort Darrell²] in Charleston during the Siege of said City in 1780. Deponent saith, that, at the fall of Charleston, said William Samways was taken a prisoner while under arms, and was kept as such on parole for twelve months. Deponent saith William Samways came to his death in the following manner. He went to Folly Island Charleston Harbor, where he had some property, on his arrival there, he found a number of armed Negroes, waiting to embark with the English troops, who were then about evacuating Charleston, said Negroes,

¹ Former widow

² The forerunner of today's High Battery [in Charleston, South Carolina] was built in 1755. It was an earthwork extending from Granville Bastion to Broughton's Battery on the site of present-day White Point Garden (left rear of photo). It was built mainly of mud and sand held together by fascine (long bundles of sticks), and planted with grass. It had wooden platforms on top from which guns were fired. The earthwork was augmented by the Middle Bastion, built just south of present-day Atlantic Street. In 1757, the Middle Bastion was renamed for Gov. William Lyttelton. The military engineer in charge of the fortification line was William Gerard de Brahm, who previously had served as a military engineer for Charles VI, Holy Roman Emperor. He came to America in 1751 and was employed for several years in building fortifications in the southern colonies, and in mapping the Atlantic coastline. The fortifications were completed in 10 months, with the labor of 300 men, including Acadian exiles, German immigrants and blacks. In 1767 it was reported that the wall was broken down in parts by the sea. Bermuda stone was purchased to repair the breeches but the Assembly had to pass a law the next year to keep the owners of schooners from stealing the stones for ballast. The fortifications were upgraded again during the Revolution when Lyttelton's Bastion became **Fort Darrell**. After 1757 there appears to have been an easy passage along the fortifications, but the street which became known as East Battery was completed. In 1787, the General Assembly passed an act for "making and completing East Bay continued." The act authorized the continuation of East Bay as a 30 foot wide thoroughfare from Granville's Bastion to the Ashley River. It made possible the filling up of Vanderhorst Creek (now Water Street) and of low spots along the water front.

<http://www.ccp1.org/content.asp?action=detail&catID=6025&id=15628&parentID=5747>

attacked, overpowered and murdered her husband the said William Samways. Some days after the departure of the enemy, a number of Americans from James Island, gathered the mutilated remains, and had them buried, said Americans found one of the murderers on the island & in the cloths of the said William Samways and said Negro was executed, – Deponent further declares that, she was married to the said William Samways deceased on the 20th of March 1771 as appears from the extract (hereto annexed) from the registry of St. Michael's Church in the handwriting of Bishop Dehon deceased, and that, her husband, the aforesaid William Samways died on the 7th of December 1782 in the manner aforesaid. Deponent saith, she was afterwards married to William Mitchell housecall under, in the year 1786, who died in the year 1805. Deponent saith, that, in the great fire on the 27th of April 1838 in Charleston, she suffered deeply – and health – in memory and in property – almost all she owned was destroyed; her Bible was consumed in which was the family registry: Deponent saith she has been ever since confined to her bed; and is too feeble to appear in Court, & hopes the Honorable the Secretary of War, and the Commissioner of Pensions will do you her afflicted situation with kindness; and consider how difficult it is at this distant day to collect the particulars of the services of her husband the said William Samways who was always true to the Republic; she further declares she was a widow on the 4th of July 1836, and that, she has not since intermarried, all of which will more fully appear by reference to the proof hereto annexed.

Sworn to and subscribed for me the day and year above written and I also certify the credibility of the affiant.

S/ P. Cantwell, N.P.

S/ Elizabeth Mitchell, X her Mark

Witnessed also by her daughter

S/ Sarah Russ

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sarah Russ". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the printed name "S/ Sarah Russ".

[fn p. 7: on July 16, 1838, in Charleston South Carolina, Mrs. Massey Graves, widow aged 82, gave testimony in support of the application of Elizabeth Mitchell stating that she, Mrs. Graves is the sister of Elizabeth Mitchell; that she was present at the marriage of her sister she believes in the year 1771; that William Samways was killed by a party of Negroes attached to the British troops and that one of the Negroes was afterwards hanged for the murder.]

[fn p. 8]

State of South Carolina District of Charleston: On this 15th day of July 1838 personally appeared before the undersigned Mr. Joseph Righton³ aged 76 years, a Revolutionary Pensioner and a resident of Charleston, who being duly sworn Deposeeth. That, he was well acquainted with William Samways formerly of Charleston Bricklayer; That, he believes he was a member of the same Corps with Deponent, called the Artillery of Charleston, and that, he served in same as a private during the war of the Revolution for two years. That, he believes said Samways served at the siege of Charleston and at other places, and that, at the surrender of the City to the British in May 1780, he was while under arms made a prisoner of war, and retained as such on parole for twelve months, that, he believes that, going to Folly Island, before the British evacuated the city in December 1782, He was killed by a party of Negroes, attached to the British and that, said

³ [Joseph Righton W22074](#)

Samways's remains were afterwards gathered and interred; Deponent further saith, that he believes said William Samways was married to Elizabeth Samways alias Mitchell in the year 1771. The widow who now applies for a pension, and that, in some time after the death of said William Samways murder, she married one Mitchell, whose name she now bears, who is also dated. Deponent saith she was a widow on the 4th of July 1836, and that he heard & believes she suffered exceedingly in her health on the night of the Refire in Charleston 27th of April 1838, which has since confined her to bed, and that she is now a widow.

S/ P. Cantwell, N. P.

S/ Jos. Righton

To all whom it concerns this may certify that there is a regular entry in the book of records of St. Michaels Church of which the following is a copy

"1771 William Samways & Elizabeth Phillips married 28th March."

S/ Theodore Dehon, Rector of
St. Michaels Church

Charleston 23rd January 1816

[Veteran's former widow was pensioned at the rate of \$100 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for the 2 years service of her husband as a private in the South Carolina artillery.]