

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Robert Ashley ¹ W4874 Sarah Ashley f46NC
Transcribed by Will Graves 7/31/14

[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 'indcipherable' 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.]

[p 6]

State of North Carolina Granville County

On this the 7th day of November 1851 personally appeared before the Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions for the County of Granville and State of North Carolina Sarah Ashley a resident of Granville County aged 77 years who 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 29, 1848. That she is the widow of Robert Ashley who was a private soldier in the militia in the Revolutionary war. She further declares that she will is informed and believes that he served some considerable time in the year 1780 and 1781 in the revolutionary war unto [sic] Great Britain – that he was in the ~~Battle of Lindleys Mills~~² in Orange County North Carolina. She firmly declares that she was married to the said Robert Ashley in the month of March A.D. 1798 – that her husband the said Robert Ashley died on the 27th day of September A.D. 1829 – that she was not married to him prior to his leaving the service, but the marriage took place previous to the 2nd day of January 1800 viz. at the time above stated – She further swears that she is now a widow and that she has never before made any application for a pension.

S/ Sarah Ashley, X her Mark

State of North Carolina Orange County

I James Walker of the State of North Carolina and County of Orange do hereby certify and make oath that I was well acquainted with Robert Ashley and his wife the applicant for a pension of the County of Orange & State aforesaid and that I was acquainted with the said Robert Ashley some time previous to the Revolutionary War and afterward to his death That he served in the war I have no doubt for I have often heard him say so and also heard others who served with him say the same and that he was taken prisoner at Lindley's Mill and I think that he must of been in the service for some 2 or 3 years or more I think more I furthermore certify that I have been acquainted with the widow of the said Robert Ashley from the time of his death up to the present date and that she now resides ¹ near my house. I furthermore state that she has raised a large family of Children by her husband and is an old and in very poor circumstances I will state that I am between 88 and 89 years old.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my seal this 14th of

¹ BLWt13016-160-55

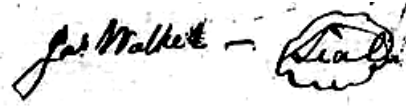
² Possibly an attempt to identify the battle at Lindley's Mill, September of 13, 1781

November 1854

Test

S/ S. D. Umsted, JP

S/ Jas. Walker



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State of North Carolina Comptroller's Office April 25th 1851

I William J Clarke Comptroller of Public Accounts in and for the State aforesaid do hereby certify that it appears of record in and the record of payments made to sundry persons for military service in the Revolutionary War as follows to wit:

Book No. 4, page 28 "Certificate No. 2720 Robert Ashley 10th June 1783 £40S16" specie.

I furthermore certify that I have not been able to discover any other payments made to the said Robert Ashley.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto subscribed my name and affixed my seal of office the day and year above written.

S/ Wm J Clarke, Comptroller

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State of North Carolina Orange County

I Tyree Duke of the County of Orange and State of North Carolina do hereby certify & make oath that I was well acquainted with Robert Ashley late of the County of Orange & State aforesaid from the American revolutionary War until the date of his death on the 27th day of September A.D. 1829. That he served in Captain McFarland's Company in the year 1780 and 1781 as near as I can recollect: and was in the battle of Fyndley's Mills [sic] where he was taken prisoner & taken to Charleston and confined on board the prison ships, where he remained some time until he made his Escape. I believe from the Commencement of his services until he reached home was a period of near two years. That he was generally known and revered as a Soldier and Patriot of the Revolutionary War.

I further Certify that I am acquainted with Sarah Ashley who is the Applicant for a pension. That she is the widow of the said Robert Ashley who served in the Revolutionary war as aforesaid. I further certify that my own age is now about 78 years.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my seal this 26th day of August 1852.

S/ Tyra Duke, X his mark

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State of North Carolina Orange County

I Willie P Mangum³ of the County & State aforesaid have been requested to state what I

³ MANGUM, Willie Person, a Representative and a Senator from North Carolina; born in Orange (now Durham) County, N.C., May 10, 1792; attended academies at Hillsboro, Fayetteville, and Raleigh; graduated from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 1815; studied law; admitted to the bar in 1817 and commenced practice in Red Mountain, N.C.; member, State house of representatives 1818-1819; twice elected a superior court judge; elected to the Eighteenth and Nineteenth Congresses and served from March 4, 1823, until March 18, 1826, when he resigned; elected as a Jacksonian (later Anti-Jacksonian) to the United States Senate in 1830 and served from March 4, 1831, until his resignation on November 26, 1836; chairman, Committee on Naval Affairs (Twenty-

know of the late Robert Ashley of the same County & State & all the information I am possessed of, in respect to his services in the Revolutionary War, whose widow Sarah Ashley is an applicant for the grant of a Pension for & on account of those services of her late husband.

I first knew said Robert Ashley as near as I can recollect about fifty years ago. He was brought up & perhaps born in the immediate neighborhood where I was & where I now live. Said Ashley resided many years (he being in reduced circumstances) upon a part of my land, had rather a numerous family of children by the marriage with applicant Sarah Ashley. He died about the years 1829 or 1830.

That he performed services in the Revolutionary War there is no doubt as I believe in this community neighborhood. My Father who lived in the same neighborhood, is younger than said Ashley, and a good deal remarkable for the strings & accuracy of his memory, was cognizant of that service of which I have heard in my youth him & many others very often speak as to the events of the Revolution were of deep interest & tradition treasured up & handed down the [word written over and illegible] minute events & occurrences. I have no distinct recollection of any statement of the length of his service. But that he was at the Battle of Lindley's Mill between the Whigs & Tories. I have often heard & don't doubt a battle so severely & obstinately contested, that more men fell in proportion to the number engaged then perhaps in any action in the Southern department of the United States. Said Robert Ashley was taken prisoner & long detained in a prison ship on the coast of South Carolina. I have often heard & believe I have heard some amusing anecdotes connected with that imprisonment, while he was in possession of the British. –

Without any distinct recollection of statement on the subject, the effect of the whole made & makes the impression upon my mind that said Ashley must have been in the service including the term of his imprisonment several years, two or three.

That the applicant is the widow of said Ashley deceased is of my personal knowledge & has continued his widow since his death to the present. She is in low & poor circumstances & needs assistance which she ought to have had long since & would have had but for the want of proper intelligence & the fact of the unpopularity of the Pension System generally in the Southern States, which restrains in many instances, it is believed, the proffer of voluntary aid to those whose situation & want of intelligence renders such assistance necessary to success. I must remark as exceptional, those more heart less than Harpies who make it a business for half & in some instances more, even to the whole is pocketed by them, less but a fraction –

Sworn to and subscribed in my presence in Orange aforesaid this 9th November A.D.

1854

S/ S. D. Umsted, JP

S/ Willie P. Mangum

seventh Congress), Committee on Printing (Twenty-seventh Congress); received the eleven electoral votes of South Carolina for President of the United States in 1837; again elected, as a Whig, to the United States Senate to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of Bedford Brown; reelected in 1841 and in 1847, and served from November 25, 1840, to March 3, 1853; served as President pro tempore of the Senate during the Twenty-seventh and Twenty-eighth Congresses; unsuccessful candidate for reelection in 1853; continued the practice of law until his death in Red Mountain, N.C., September 7, 1861; interment in the family burial ground at his home, 'Walnut Hall,' near Red Mountain, N.C.

Bibliography

American National Biography; Dictionary of American Biography; Hoffmann, William S. "Willie P. Mangum and the Whig Revival of the Doctrine of Instructions." *Journal of Southern History* 22 (August 1956): 338-54; Mangum, Willie. *Willie Mangum Papers*. Edited by Henry Shanks. 5 vols. Raleigh: North Carolina Department of Archives and History, 1950-1956. <http://bioguide.congress.gov/scripts/biodisplay.pl?index=M000096>



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State of North Carolina Comptroller's Department

I C. H. Brogden, Comptroller of Public Accounts in and for the State aforesaid, do hereby Certify that it appears of record in my office among the payments made by said State to sundry persons for Militia service in the Revolutionary War, as follows:

Robert Ashley

Indent No. 2720 £40.16—specie
Hillsborough District, June 10th, 1783
Book C, No. 3084 £40.16 – specie
Indent No. 2487 £8 –
Hillsboro District, June 10th, 1783
Indent No. 373 £12/10-- specie
Hillsboro District, June 10th, 1783

In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my seal of office in the City of Raleigh this 18th day of January A.D. 1858

S/ C. H. Brogden, Comptroller

[p 4: copy of a marriage bond dated November 5, 1797 issued in Orange County North Carolina to Robert Ashley and Thomas Fitch conditioned upon the marriage of Robert Ashley and Sarah Rue.]