

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of James Stephenson (Stevenson)W596 Rosanna Stephenson f54SC
Transcribed by Will Graves 8/11/08; rev'd 8/22/17

[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.]

[p 3]

[The following documents is very heavily modified to correct spelling]

State of Tennessee, McNairy County

Personally appeared before me W. T. Anderson an acting Justice of the peace for said County Mary Lee & made oath to the following facts that is to say that she was a sister to James Stephenson & that he was a soldier in the old Revolutionary War & served as a Sergeant under the following officers during the war with Bratton [William Bratton] & Lacey [Edward Lacey] & others the names not recollected the said James Stephenson resided in the State of North Carolina & then removed shortly after the war to Pendleton County South Carolina & from thence to Tennessee where he resided until his death I have often heard him talking about being in the battles of the Cowpens [January 17, 1781] & Eutaw Springs [September 8, 1781], 96 [presumably the Siege of Ninety Six, May 21-June 19, 1781 & the Battle of hanging rock [August 6, 1780] he then enlisted during the war & served until the close of the war it was said that my brother was a good soldier as was in the war my Father William Stephenson was also in the war & was taken prisoner by the British at the battle I don't so well recollect but I think at Brandywine [September 11, 1777] & remained a prisoner for six months my brother James Stephenson was at home one time while my father was in prison I have often heard brother James say that he had a full discharge & I think that I have saw it I understood that he [sic, it?] got destroyed moving to Tennessee, she further states that her brother[s] James & David was in the war from the beginning to the close Brother James Stephenson & his wife Rosana Stephenson was married in the year 1783[last digit uncertain] or so understood that Rosanna Stephenson now resides in Maury County Tennessee brother James Stephenson [indecipherable word] She is a lady of good moral character & her statements entitle her to full credit on her oath.

Sworn to before me & subscribed this 7 June 1839.

S/ Mary Lee, X her mark

S/ W. T. Anderson

[p 5]

State of Tennessee, Maury County

In order to obtain the benefit of the act of Congress for the benefit of widows of deceased Soldiers of the War of the revolution

On this 26th day of August in the year 1839, personally Appeared in open Court Rosanna Stephenson, a citizen of Maury County Tennessee aged about Seventy-four years being first duly sworn according to law, doth on her oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefits of the Acts of Congress of the United States passed for the benefit of the widows &

relics of deceased Soldiers of the Army of the United States during the War of the Revolution. --

That James Stephenson, her husband, enlisted in the Army of the United States as a Sergeant in the Company commanded by Captain Lacy, in the year and month not recollected, in York County ~~North~~ Carolina and served under the following named officers General Sumpter [sic, Thomas Sumter], General Washington, Colonel Bratton & Lacy [sic, Lacey], said James Stephenson was in the battles at Brandywine, Cowpens, Eutaw Springs, Hanging Rock & perhaps others, said James Stephenson never drew a pension, that said James Stephenson was in the Army a Sergeant at the close of the War and rendered many meritorious services during the War he always talked he was the man who killed a celebrated Tory by the name of Hook [sic, Christian Huck], [Battle of Williamson's Plantation, July 12, 1780] the number of the regiments & the line affiant cannot now recollect, that he was more than two years as a Continental soldier, where he enlisted for & during the war, besides was a considerable time with the volunteers & militia of South Carolina before he enlisted a Continental soldier. That affiant and the said James Stephenson were married in the County of York in the State of ~~North~~ South Carolina shortly after the close of the war, she states as well as he can now recollect they were married in the month of June 1784, She has no record evidence of their marriage the old family record & many other papers being lost & destroyed She has after seen the discharge of her husband after the close of the War. After their marriage they moved to the Saluda River, and the settlers were particular & required of her husband to show his discharge, and to satisfy the public or settlers that he was & had been a Whig of 1776, but she is certain that he had an honorable discharge for the services he rendered & from the Continental service and as well as she can recollect and the discharge was signed by General Sumter. They afterwards moved to Pendleton County South Carolina & from there to Tennessee where they resided until the death of said James Stephenson, that said James Stephenson died in Maury County Tennessee on the ___th [date obliterated by an ink blot]¹ February 1817, that Affiant Rosanna Stephenson is the widow & relic of said James Stephenson deceased and she now resides in said County of Maury.

She hereby relinquishes every claim or claims for a pension or annuity except the present & the clearance and her name is not on any pension Roll of the United States or any agency of the US.

Sworn to & subscribed in Open Court this 26th day of August 1839.

S/ P. Nelson, Clerk

S/ Rosanah Stephenson, X her mark

[p 6: William A. Stephenson, 43, son of James and Rosanna gave a supporting affidavit.



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[p 8, endorsing affidavit given by James K. Polk, late representative in Congress, Sept. 4, 1839, in which he verified the reputation and legitimacy of the clerk and judge. He does not mention having known the widow or the veteran]

[p 18 supporting affidavit of William Hope² of Shelby County, Tenn. in which he states he did not serve with the veteran but knows of his reputation as a true Whig and soldier during the revolution. Hope also gives testimony verifying the marriage of the veteran to the applicant sometime in the year 1783 or 1784.

¹ Other documents in the file give the veteran's date of death as February 17, 1817.

² [William Hope S1956](#)

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Wm. Hoper". The signature is written in dark ink on a light background. The first part of the signature is somewhat stylized, with a large 'W' and 'm'.

[pp 31-32: Copies of vouchers issued by the South Carolina Comptroller General evidencing payments made to James Stevenson [sic] for 45 days militia duty in 1780 & 1781 and for 380 days military duty in 1780 and 1781.]

[Veteran's widow was pensioned at the rate of \$46.66 per annum commencing March 4, 1836, for her husband service as a Sergeant in the North Carolina & South Carolina militia.]