

world, and further that he was of weak judgment, and having been informed that an individual holding land could not draw a pension, and as he, as will be seen by his schedule below, was a holder of a tract of Land, although inconsiderable in point of value, thought it useless to exhibit a schedule or apply for a pension. And in pursuit of the Act of the first of May 1820, I do solemnly swear that I was a resident Citizen of the United States on the 18th day of March 1818 and that I have not since that time by gift sale or in any manner disposed of my property or any part thereof with intent thereby so to diminish it as to bring myself within the provisions of an act of Congress entitled “an act to provide for certain persons engaged in the land and naval service of the United States in the Revolutionary War” passed on the 18th day of March 1818 and that I have not nor has any person in trust for me any property or securities contracts or debts due to me nor have I any income other than what is contained in the Schedule hereto annexed and by me subscribed. viz.

Two hundred and twenty nine acres of poor land worth.	\$100.00
Three head of horses (one mare and two colts) worth.	60.00
Five head of sheep worth.	5.00
Nine head of hogs worth.	14.00
Seven head of cattle including 2 cows & calves 3 yearlings worth. . .	25.00
One negro man 42 years of age worth.	<u>250.00</u>
	\$454.00
And at the same time I justly owe the following}	\$421.86
debt and interests thereon for 3 years & eleven months } Int	<u>111.54</u>
by note, which note was given for the price of the } Int	\$533.40
aforsaid negro man, to Charles Starke [Charles Stark] }	
Which leaves your petitioner in debt.	\$79.40

He further swears that he is by occupation a farmer and has been ever since he left the army, that his family consists of three persons viz himself, his wife Ann and an old negro man, that he himself is now seventy three years of age, and is badly crippled in his right arm and leg so as to be utterly unable to maintain himself that his wife is sixty nine years of age, and is badly afflicted with the asthmatic affection, and has been so for about seven years and is entirely unable to maintain herself and is an expense and great trouble; the negro man is forty two years of age and as stout as men usually are at his age, though somewhat on the decline. That since the eighteenth day of March 1818 the following changes have been made in my property, at that time I was possessed of a tract of land of seventy one and one fourth acres two head of horses, four head of cattle and nine head of hogs; that land was sold by me to Martin Fralix in 1820 for the sum of three hundred and eighty dollars in money, (but good and sufficient titles were not made until the twenty second day of September in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and twenty eight, as will be seen by reference to the authenticated copy of the Deed of Conveyance of the said land herewith exhibited, and a mare rated at eighty dollars, and after paying the debts that I then owed, which was about sixty dollars, the balance was applied to the purchase of the tract of land that I now live on: I have had five head of horses to die since that time and four head of cattle, as to other small changes that have taken place I cannot precisely recollect, however they have been of a trivial nature and to a very small amount.

William hisAmark Ashley

NOTES:

A payroll dated 19 March 1779 at York PA states that the pay of a Corporal William Ashley in the company of Capt. Frederick Paschke in Pulaski’s Legion commenced on 11 May 1778, and that Ashley had deserted. A muster roll dated 30 Nov 1779 at Sheldon SC states that a Corporal William Ashley in the company of Capt. O’Neill in Pulaski’s Legion had enlisted on 20 March 1778 and deserted on 28 Sep 1779. Desertion would have disqualified William Ashley from a pension.

Although Pulaski recruited heavily in Maryland, his Legion was authorized directly by Congress and was not part of the Maryland Line.

A letter by James A. Black to the Secretary of War dated 20 May 1826 inquires whether William

Ashley's property would prevent his pension being resumed after it (and all others) were suspended by the act of 1820. Black stated that Ashley was crippled by a white swelling in his hip and that "it is well known that he was a galant soldier in the revolution, has been a civil honest industrious citizen ever since and is now poor and needy."

Another document by Black reads as follows:

State of South Carolina }
Abbeville District }

I James A. Black being duly sworn say: That I have been well acquainted with a negro man named Jacob, for many years; That the said Jacob formerly was the property of Charles Starke but now is the property of William Ashley; that I am now well acquainted with the said negro & that I know that the said William Ashley; that I am now well acquainted with the said negro & that I know that the said William Ashley gave to the said Charles Starke more for the said negro than he was worth at the time that Ashley bought him; that since 1826 the time of the purchase by the said William Ashley the price & value of negroes has much fallen & depreciated, so that at this time I do not believe that the said negro would command in our market more than two hundred & fifty Dollars the price at which he is put down in the Schedule of the said William Ashley

sworn to this day of June 1831 before Moses Taggart J.P. [signed] James A. Black

On 4 Sep 1845 Agness Ashley, 83, applied for a pension, stating that she married William Ashley in January 1781, and he died on 3 March 1839. Judge David Lesly swore that Agness Ashley was too infirm to appear in court, "altho she can spin cotton upon a little wheel at home," and that "when I called for a Bible to swear the old lady, she acknowledged there was not one in the house, and I had to obtain a Bible from one of her neighbors." On 28 Dec 1845 Agness Ashley explained that her husband and neighbors often called her "Ann" for short. On the same day Sophiah Smith stated that she was the third child of William and Agness Ashley, and that her husband, Daniel Smith, wrote the following entries in her Bible but could not swear to it because he had not been home for three years:

Daniel Smith was born July 2^d 1789 & married to Sophiah Ashley in 1808

Sophiah Ashley was born in the year of our Lord 1785 March 3 day

The file contains a copy of the family record on Pension Office stationery, said to have been copied from the Bible of Sophiah Smith, and transcribed below. A letter dated 2 Oct 1877 indicates that the Pension Office sent the Bible to Mrs. Sarah Ashley, Autreville P.O. in Abbeville County.

On 15 June 1852 Sophia Smith assigned power of attorney to obtain an increase in pension due to her deceased parents, William and Anny Ashley.

Dan'l Smith was born July 2^d 1789 and married to Sophiah Ashley in 1808

Sophiah Ashley was born in the year of our Lord 1785

Elizabeth Smith was born Nov 4th 1805

Dan'l Smith " " July 2nd 1789 and married in the year 1808.

Agnes Smith was born Jan'y 30 1809

Richd " " " aug 17 1810

Joshua " " " Jan 7 1812

Maryan " " " Nov 13 1813 died July 1816

Sharlotte " " " Feb 22 1816

Rebecca " " " Aug 17 1810

John " " " Jan 7 1812

Dan'l " " " Jan 6 1824