

William Ashley – Revolutionary War Pension Application

State of South Carolina

By the Honorable Waddy Thompson Esq. _____ of the _____ of the
Court of Equity for the State aforesaid

Before me personally appeared William Ashley who being duly sworn, declares under oath, that he is a citizen of the United States, resident in the District of Abbeville and State aforesaid. That he served sixteen months or thereabouts as a corporal upon the Continental establishment during the war of the revolution. That he enlisted in the state of Maryland about the middle of May in the year 1778 in Captain Leagougs Comp in the Squadron of Cavalry commanded by Col. Bowatch attached to the body of troops commonly known by the name of Pulaski's Corps. That he served in the said company afterwards commanded by Capt. Brown and Squadron until about the middle of September 1779 when he was honorably discharged at Beaufort in the state of So. Carolina. That his discharge has been accidentally lost so that from his reduced circumstances he needs this assistance of his country for support.

his
William X Ashley
Mark

In testimony that the above mentioned William Ashley has sworn to and subscribed the above affidavit before me this 11th day of August in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and eighteen and in the Forty Third year of the sovereignty and independence of the United States of America & have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the said Court of Equity to be affixed the day and year above mentioned.

W. Thompson

Deposition of Joshua Ashley in support of his brother's pension application.

State of South Carolina
Abbeville District

By Joseph Black Esquire one of the justices of the Quorum for the District and State aforesaid personally appeared Joshua Ashley who being duly sworn deposed that he is a brother of the within mentioned William Ashley. That he resided in Maryland with

his brother at the time of his said brother's enlistment and was perfectly acquainted with that fact. That his brother was then absent for several years and as he understood & verily believes served about sixteen months in the war of the revolution and was honorably discharged at Beaufort So.Ca and that several soldiers who was enlisted in the same corps with his brother and on their return to the state of Maryland informed this deponent that they had left his brother yet in the service of the United States - - Sworn to & subscribed Sixth day of August 1818

Before me

Jos Black JD

Joshua Ashley

Transcribed by: Dennis Smith
hdennismith@earthlink.net

An approximate depiction of a slip in William Ashley's file.

South Carolina	2932
<p style="text-align: center;">William Ashley</p> <p>Of Abbeville in the state of So Carolina Who was a Corporal in the Company commanded by Captain Ligon of the regiment commanded by Pulaski in the Maryland line for the term of sixteen months from the year 1778 to the year 1779.</p>	
Inscribed on the Roll of South Carolina at the rate of eight Dollars per month to commence on the 11 day of Augt 1818	
Certificate of Pension issued the 24 of Sept 1818 and sent to W. Thompson, Abbeville So. Carolina	
Continued on the rolls on 27 day of December 1831 and notification sent to Thomas George McDuffey at H. Reps Pension commencing on the 27 of December 1831	
Amount due on 4 th of March 1839	\$18.32 Revolutionary Claim Acts March 18, 1818, & May 1, 1820.

Ashley, William – Application for reinstatement of Revolutionary War Pension - 1830

State of South Carolina }
 Abbeville District }

In the Court of Common Pleas

To wit On the twenty Seventh day of October one thousand eight hundred and thirty, personally appeared in open court, being a court of record for the District aforesaid, in the said State and which Court proceeded according to the course of the Common Law with a jurisdiction unlimited in point of amount. Keeping a record of its proceedings. William Ashley, a resident of the said District, aged seventy three years, who being first duly sworn according to law, doth on his oath make the following declaration, in order to obtain the provision made by the Act of Congress of the eighteenth of March eighteen hundred and eighteen, and the first of May eighteen hundred and twenty. That he the said William Ashley entered as a Corporal for the term of sixteen months on the fourteenth day of May in the year 1778 in the State of Maryland in the company commanded by Captain Legon, in the Regiment commanded by Colonel Baron Bowe, which Regiment was under the command of General Count Polaski in the line of the State Of Maryland on the Continental establishment. That he continued to serve in the said corps until September 1779 when he was discharged from service in the State aforesaid, that he hereby relinquished every claim whatever to a pension except the present. That his name has been placed on the Pension List, that the number of his pension certificate is 2932 and that he never before exhibited a schedule of his property because your petitioner was old and infirm and thought before he could be reinstated on the pension list he would be removed by providence from this world, (^ written above at this point: 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 useless to exhibit a schedule or apply for a pension. And in pursuance 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 eighteenth 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 Act to Provide for certain persons engaged in the land and naval service of the United States in the Revolutionary War. Passed on the eighteenth 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 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	250.00

454.00

And at the same time I justly owe the following debt and interest thereon for 3 years & eleven months by note which note was given for the price of the aforesaid negro man to Charles Starke	
	421.86
	Int. 111.54
	\$533.40

Which leaves your petitioner in debt	\$ 79.40
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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 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 title 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.

Sworn to and declared on the twenty
seventh day of October 1830 in open court

his
William A Ashley
mark

Jas Wardlaw
Ck

End

South Carolina }
Abbeville District }

I Josiah Evans one of the Circuit Judges of the said State presiding at Abbeville, October Term 1830 do hereby certify that I am satisfied with the correctness of the valuation of his property as set forth in the within declaration & that it is subject to the debts therein specified.

27 Oct 1830

Josiah J. Evans

State of South Carolina }
Abbeville District }

I James Wardlaw Clerk of the Court of Common Pleas for said District do hereby certify that it appears to the satisfaction of the Court that the said William Ashley did serve in the Revolutionary War as stated in the preceding declaration against the common enemy for the term of nine months or more under one engagement on the continental establishment. I also certify that the foregoing oath and the schedule thereunto annexed are truly copied from the record of the said Court and I do further certify that it is the opinion of the Court that the total amount in value of the property exhibited in the aforesaid schedule is four hundred and fifty four Dollars, subject to the debt and interest due to Charles Starke as aforesaid to the amount of five hundred and thirty three dollars forty cents.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the seal of the said Court at Abbeville Court House this twenty seventh day of October in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and thirty and in the fifty sixth year of the Independence of the United States of America.

Jas Wardlaw
Ck

transcribed by:
Dennis Smith
hdennissmith@earthlink.net

Agness Ashley – Application for Revolutionary War Widow’s benefits

Declaration

In order to obtain the benefits of the Act of Congress of the 7th July 1838 entitled “An Act granting half pay and pensions to certain Widows”

State of South Carolina }
Abbeville District }

On this fourth day of September one thousand eight hundred and forty five personally appeared before me David Lesly Judge of the Court of Ordinary for the District and State aforesaid Agness Ashley a resident of the District and State aforesaid aged eighty three years who being first 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 7, 1838 entitled “An Act granting half pay and pensions to Certain Widows.” That she is the widow of William Ashley whose services in the Revolutionary War are on file as she believes in the Pension Office of the United States as he was a pensioner of the United States and that all the papers relative to the said pension are lost to which documentary proof she refers for the services of her deceased husband. She further declares that she was married to the said William Ashley in the month of January in the year seventeen hundred and eighty one that her husband , the aforesaid William Ashley, died on the third day of March one thousand eight hundred and thirty nine, that she was not (the preceding “not” was crossed out. See correction below) married to her said husband, William Ashley, prior to his leaving the service and that her marriage took place previous to the first of January seventeen hundred and ninety four viz at the time above stated, and that she has remained a widow since the death of her husband William Ashley aforesaid, that her third child, now living is sixty years of age , that she is poor and in destitute circumstances , and earns her support by her daily labor , that she desires to be admitted to the benefit of all arrears of pension due to her deceased husband as well as to the benefit of this and other subsequent Acts of Congress for the relief of the Widows of Revolutionary Soldiers.

The word “not” erased before signing } Agness (X her mark) Ashley
Sworn to and subscribed, on the day }
And year above written. }
Before David Lesly }
Judge of the Court of }
Ordinary for Abbeville District }

South Carolina }
Abbeville District } Personally appeared before me, William Wire and James Wire who made oath that they have been acquainted with William Ashley the dec’d pensioner and his wife Agness Ashley the applicant since the year seventeen hundred and ninety two, that the deponants were near neighbors of the said William Ashley and Agness Ashley his wife, and that during this long period of time, they the said William Ashley and Agness Ashley lived together as husband and wife and were so reputed and acknowledged by the entire neighborhood. That they the said William Ashley and Agness Ashley his wife had two or three children when deponants first became acquainted with them and these deponants further saith that the said William Ashley and Agness Ashley his wife were properly and legally married and that the said William Ashley was always regarded as a worthy soldier of the Revolutionary War and that the present application of his widow Agness Ashley is just and meritorious.

Sworn before me } Wm Wire
4 September 1845 }

David Lesly }
Judge of Ordinary }
Abb. Dist. }

James Wire

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Transcribed by: Dennis Smith
hdennismith@earthlink.net

The following documents are related to a discrepancy between the names Agness in Mrs. William Ashley's application for a Revolutionary War Widows Pension and Ann in William Ashley's Pension Application.

The State of South Carolina }
Abbeville District }

Agness Ashley in explanation of the objection raised in her application for a pension under the act 7 July 1838 says that she was christened by the name of Agness, and that her husband always called her Ann for shortness, that she is known and has always been called by her neighbors as Ann, that some of her relatives named their children Ann, thru friendly regard to the applicant, that whenever her husband William Ashley sold land, she always signed her Christian name Agness to her relinquishment of dower, and that explains the reason why she signed her proper Christian name to her application for a pension, to all the foregoing explanation in reference to her name, the said Agness Ashley hath solemnly sworn to be just & true on the Holy Evangelist of Almighty God and to which she has subscribed her name by affixing her mark.

Sworn to before me this 28th }
Dec. 1845) Agness (X her mark) Ashley
Geo B Clinkscales }
Magistrate

Abbeville District – I Sophiah Smith do solemnly swear that I am the daughter of the above named Agness Ashley and her third child that according to the Register of my birth and marriage in my family Bible I was born on the third day of March one thousand and seven hundred & eighty five, and that I was married in the year Eighteen hundred and eight to Daniel Smith that the register of her Birth and Marriage are in the handwriting of her husband, who is absent, and who has not been at home for three years, and his affidavit cannot be had, that my mother is generally called Ann but her real name or Christian name is Agness.

Sworn to 28th Dec. 1845 }
Before) Sophia (X her mark) Smith
Geo B Clinkscales }
Magistrate

Abbeville District - I Thos. P. Spierin do hereby certify that the following are truly copied from the family Bible of Ms. Sophia Smith viz. "Daniel Smith was born July 2d 1789 & married to Sopiah Ashley in 1808" ___ Sophiah Ashley was born in the year of our Lord 1785 March 3 day" ____.
26th Dec. 1845 _____ Thos. P. Spierin

South Carolina }
Abbeville District }

I James W. Black do certify that I have bin acquainted with the within named Agness Ashley and that I always herde her called Ann and nows that she gows by the name of ann in the neighbourhood in general this the 1st Day of January 1846

Jas. W. Black

Abbeville District } I John Cunningham do certify that I have bin acquainted with the within named Agness Ashley for the last fifty years and that I allways hered her called Ann and that She went by the name of Ann thru out the neighbourhood in general this the 1st Day of January 1846

John Cunningham

Abbeville District – I Geo B. Clinkscales do hereby certify that I have bin acquainted with the within named Agness Ashley and I always herde her called Ann and I have frequently herde her husband William Ashley call her name Ann and her name is ginerly none in the neighbourhood as ole anny ashley this the 1st Day of January 1846 Geo B. Clinkscales

Transcribed by: Dennis Smith
hdennismith@earthlink.net

B.L.D.

Department of the Interior
Pension Office

Washington, D.C. Aug 14, 1877

Dear Sir

Please furnish this office with the names
and present P.O. address of some of the descendants of
Agnes Ashley Wid of William Ashley a Corpl in Rev War.

The Wid made application for pension in 1844
and a Bible was sent to this Office to be filed in evidence.
It is now desired to return this Bible to the family.
who formerly resided at or near your town.

Please return this letter with your reply
in the enclosed envelope.

Post Master }
At Abbeville C.H. }
Abbeville Co. }
 S. C. }

Very Respectfully
(I can't read sig)*

Acting Commissioner

*Notes: This letter is handwritten on Department of the Interior letterhead
paper.

Sophia (Ashley) Smith (wife of Daniel Smith) signed her name with an "X".
In a sworn statement dated 28 Dec 1845 she states that: ". . . the Register of
her Births and Marriages are in the handwriting of her husband who is
absent, and who has not been at home for three years and his affidavit cannot
be had."

Transcribed by: Dennis Smith
hdennismith@earthlink.net

Bounty Land Div }
Evans }

Department of the Interior
Pension Office

Washington, D.C. Oct 2d, 1877

Dear Madam

Herewith transmitted to your
Address the Bible which was sent to this
Office by Mrs. Agnes Ashley Widow of
William Ashley to be filed in evidence
in her case when she made application
for pension.

Please acknowledge the receipt of the
Book on the back of this letter and return
it (the letter) to this office in the en-
closed envelope.

Mrs. Sarah Ashley }
Antreville P.O. }
Abbeville Co }
S.C. }

Very Respectfully

J. A. Bentley
Commissioner

*Notes: This letter is handwritten on Department of the Interior
letterhead paper.

A Sarah A. Ashley appears on the 1880 census of Abbeville Co.,
SC, Diamond Hill Township (the area of Antreville)

Dwelling # 338 Family # 346. She, aged 60 and widowed, and her daughter Rebecca Ashley, aged 35 and single, are living in the household of Levi Gilmore aged 30. Gilmore has a wife and 5 children. Sarah's relationship to William Ashley is unknown to me at this time.

A pension abstract states that Mrs. Ashley noted on the back of the commissioner's letter that she received the Bible "all right".

Transcribed by: Dennis Smith
hdennismith@earthlink.net

August 1, 1939

Mrs. R. L. Dobyms
Route 2, Box 154
Clarksdale, Mississippi.

BA-J/ILL
William Ashley
W. 9708

Dear Madam:

The data which follow were obtained from the papers on File in pension claim, W. 9708, based upon service of William Ashley in the Revolutionary War.

William Ashley, while a resident of Maryland, enlisted May 14, 1778, served as corporal in Captains Legon's and Brown's companies, under Colonels Kowats and Baron DeBose in Count Pulaski's corps and was discharged sometime in September in Beaufort, South Carolina.

He was allowed pension on his application executed August 11, 1818, at which time he resided in Abbeville District, South Carolina. He was living there in 1790. In 1830, the soldier gave his age as seventy-three years, but did not state the date or place of his birth, nor the names of his parents.

William Ashley died March 3, 1839.

The soldier married in January 1781, Agness, usually called Ann; her maiden name and the date and place of her birth were not given.

Agness Ashley, the soldier's widow, was allowed pension on her application executed September 4, 1845, She was then a resident of Abbeville District, South Carolina, aged eighty-three years.

The soldier and his wife, Agness, had children: the only name stated was that of Sophia, their third child, who was born March 3, 1785. In 1845, said Sophia resided in Abbeville District, South Carolina, at which time she was the wife of Daniel Smith, to whom she was married in 1808.

In 1818, Joshua Ashley, William Ashley's brother, stated in Abbeville District, South Carolina, that he lived in Maryland at the time William served in the Revolutionary War.

The following family data are shown:

"Daniel Smith was born July 2, 1789 and married Sophia Ashley in 1808. Sophia Ashley was born in the year of our Lord 1785. Elizabeth Smith was born November 4, 1805. Daniel Smith was born July 2, 1789 and married in the year 1808". The children of Daniel Smith and his wife, Sophia, are shown as follow:

Agnes	Smith	born	January	30, 1809
Richard	"	"	August	17, 1810
Rebecca	"	"	August	17, 1810
Joshua	"	"	January	7, 1812
John	"	"	January	7, 1812
Maryan	"	"	November	13, 1813, died July 1816.
Sharlotte	"	"	February	22, 1816
Daniel	"	"	January	6, 1824

In 1877, one Mrs. Sarah Ashley resided in Abbeville District, South Carolina, her Post Office, Antreville: her relationship to the family was not stated.

In order to obtain the date of last payment of pension, name and address of person paid and, possibly, the date of death of Agness Ashley, the pensioner, you should apply to The Comptroller General, General Accounting Office, this city, and furnish the following data:

Agness Ashley, widow of William Ashley
Certificate # 7842
Issued July 10, 1846
Rate \$72 per annum
Commenced March 4, 1843
Act of March 3, 1843
South Carolina Agency.

Very truly yours,

G. H. SWEET,
Acting Executive Assistant
To the Administrator.

Transcribed by: Dennis Smith
hdennismith@earthlink.net