

[Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters](#)

Pension Application of Abel Blankenship R931

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

State of Kentucky } Sct

Russell County }

On this the 25th day of March 1839 Personally appeared before me John Vaughan a Justice of the peace for the County of Russell and State aforesaid Fanny Blankenship a resident of Russell County and State of Kentucky aged Seventy nine 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 provision made by the act of Congress passed July 7th 1838 entitled An act granting half pay and pensions to certain widows. That she is the widow of Abell Blankenship who was a soldier and served in the revolutionary under Colonel George Rogers Clark under an enlistment for two years which term of service he fully performed. She further declares She was married to the said Abell Blankenship in the fall of the year of Seventeen hundred and Eighty two (1782) That her husband the aforesaid Abell Blankenship died in the month of June Eighteen hundred and Twenty. That she was not married to him prior to his leaving the service but her marriage took place previous to the first of January seventeen hundred and ninty four Viz at the time above stated. She knows of no record of her marriage nor of the age of her Children

Fanny herXmark Blankenship

The deposition of Jesse Blankenship of Russell County Ky taken at the residence of Nancy Pierce before me John Vaughan a Justice of the peace for the County of Russell and State of Kentucky to be used as evidence in favour of the application of Mrs Fanny Blankenship for a pension under the act of Congress passed July 7th 1838

Deponent being Seventy four years old Depoeth and Saeth that he is the Cousin of Abell Blankenship deceased. That he was well acquainted with the said Abell Blankenship and well recollects being at a Muster in the County of Campbell [formed from Bedford County in 1782] in the State of Virginia in the fall of the year of Seventeen hundred and Eighty Eight (1788) or Seventeen hundred and Eighty nine [sic: see endnote] and there at said Muster saw the said Abell Blankenship enlist as a Soldier for the term of two years to serve in the regiment of Colonel George Rogers Clark [promoted to General in Jan 1780]. But what Captain the said Abell enlisted and marched under the deponent cannot now recollect. But the deponent well recollects seeing the said Abell Blankenship start with the company that he enlisted in and in something more than two years thereafter the deponent saw the said Abell return from the army back to Campbell County Va. and related to the deponent the services which he had performed stating that he was stationed a part of his time at the falls of Ohio now Louisville Ky and during his whole service which was his full two years he served he was attached and belong to Col G. R Clarkes regiment. And deponent further saith a short time after the said Abell returned from the army he the said Abell got married to a Miss Fanny Washam in the County of Halifax in the State of Virginia this marriage must have taken place in the year of Seventeen hundred and Eighty one or Seventeen hundred and Eighty two Deponent further saith that the aforesaid Abell Blankenship died in the month of June in the year of Eighteen hundred and Twenty And that the aforesaid Fanny Blankenship has remain a widow ever since that period

Jesse hisXmark Blankenship

[On 10 Jan 1853 Nancy Pierce of Jamestown in Russell County assigned power of attorney to obtain any pension or increase in pension due to Abel Blankenship, stating that she was the child and "legal heir of the identical man who was a Soldier in the war of the Revolution, and who has heretofore made application for the benefit of the Pension Act of [blank]."]

State of Kentucky }
Russell County } Sct

On this 2^d day of July AD 1853 personally appeared before me the undersigned a Justice of the Peace within and for the County of Russell and State aforesaid Jesse Blankinship a resident of Russell County and State aforesaid aged 86 years and 6 months who being duly sworn according to law makes the following declaration to wit he was acquainted with Abell Blankinship now deceased from their youth say from small boys up to his death first in Chesterfield County afterwards in Bedford County Virginia where he entered in the United States Service as a Soldier in the Army of the United States for the term of two years about the year as well as I can recollect in the fall of the year 1782 in Company with my brother Daniel Blankinship [Daniel Blankinship, pension application S10390] he does not recollect the Captain name that Commanded the Company which he started in, he was present when they started they lived within $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile of each other my brother and myself then living at our father's Hudson Blankinship the said Abell's father was by the name of Noel Blankinship a brother of my father; they the said Abell and my brother Daniel was gone about two years and six months. I was still living with my father when they returned home again, and had when they returned their discharges for their terms of enlistment and my best impression is that they served under Col or General Clark. I saw their discharges frequently my brother sold his to Col Henderson of Bedford County Virginia, Abell did not sell his that I have any knowledge of; after his return in the year 1786 he married to Fanny Washham[?] a daughter of Drury Washham who lived about 15 miles from my father's, I was not present at the marriage he stayed all night with me at my father's the night before his marriage and the night after his marriage, and he settled in the neighborhood of my father's in the same County of Bedford Virginia, and lived there for about twenty years when he the said Abell & myself moved out to Kentucky and settled in Cumberland County on Cumberland river where I now live and since has been stricken off in to Russell County where he the said Abell lived until his death which took place in the year 1830 he was killed by the fall of a tree, before which time he had made application for a pension but after his death there was no further attention paid to it, I together with Noel Blankinship took out letters of administration on his estate which was very small, his wife Fanny Blankinship lived a Widow near by me[?] until her death which was in the summer of 1844; they the said Abell and Fanny Blankinship did live together as man and wife and had a large family from the time of their marriage as above stated until said Abell's death and was so reputed and recognized by the community at large and the laws of the Country; they had eight children all of whom are dead except two Nancy Pierce and Fanny Blankinship he states that the reason of his recalling the facts above stated so particular are the following first I married the sister of Fanny, Abell's wife about two years after him, and we lived near neighbors up to Abell's death and Fanny's death from boys as above stated secondly we considered ourselves Brothers in law and felt ourselves as such, and was certain we was notwithstanding I was not present at the marriage of Abell, but the circumstances justified no other conclusion and never heard any thing to the contrary, there never was any family record of their marriage, Thirdly the circumstance of my marriage the date of which is a date I never have forgotten, and the circumstance of my brother Daniel going out with him in the war enlisting at the same time and having seen their discharges frequently, What became of Abell's discharge I do not know it was not among his papers when he died, at least it could not be found, whether it was filed with his declaration for a pension I do not know

Jesse hisXmark Blankinship

NOTES:

Abel Blankinship could not have enlisted in the Revolutionary War in 1788 or 1789, because the war ended in 1783. From the pension application of Daniel Blankinship (S10390) it appears that Abel Blankinship enlisted in May 1781.

A letter dated 1 Jan 1840 from the Clerk of Halifax County VA stated that no record could be found of the marriage of Abel Blankinship and Fanny Worsham.