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 ninety 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 Deposeth 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 Clarke's 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 2d 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 Jessee Blankinship a resident of Russell County
and State as’d aged 86 years and 6 months who being duly sworn according to law makes the following
declaration towit  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 Sevice 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 Blankenship, 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
¾ of a mile of each other  my brother and myself then living at our father’s Hudson Blankenship  the said
Abels 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 discharged 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 fathers 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 untill 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[,] untill 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 untill said Abells 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, Abells
wife about two years after him, and we lived near neighbors up to Abells 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 Abill, 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 Abells 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 Blankenship

NOTES:

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