

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters

Pension Application of William Groves W9461 Mary Groves MD
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. Revised 14 Aug 2015.

State of Maryland Allegany County to wit

On this fifteenth day of October in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and eighteen, before me the subscriber one of the associate Judges of the fifth Judicial district of Maryland which district is composed of the Counties of Allegany Washington and Frederick – Personally appeared William Groves, aged Sixty three years, resident in Allegany County aforesaid, who being by me duly Sworn according to Law doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the provision made by the late act of Congress entitled and act to provide for certain persons engaged in the land and naval service of the United Sates in the revolutionary war. that he is the same William Groves who enlisted under Capt'n. Lane of a regiment raised by the state of Maryland in the year 1780, Commanded by Colo. Alex'r. Lawson Smith [Alexander Lawson Smith, pension application W4247], that he marched with the army from the rendevous in Montgomery County to Philadelphia and from thence to South Carolina and joined the Army Commanded by Gen'l Green [sic: Nathanael Greene] near the Cheraw hills, when all the soldiers of said Reg't was divided among the officers of the Maryland line and the new officers were all sent home, and he was attached to Capt McPhersons [Mark McPherson W2155] Company of the Second Maryland Reg't in the service of the United States and that he was in the Battles of Cambden [sic: Battle of Hobkirk Hill near Camden SC, 25 Apr 1781], Eutaw [Eutaw Springs SC, 8 Sep 1781], and Gilford [sic: Guilford Courthouse NC, 15 Mar 1781] and continued in the army untill the end of the war, against the common enemy and that he is in reduced circumstances and stands in need of the assistance of his country for support and that he has no other evidence now in his power of his said services.

STATE OF MARYLAND, Allegany County SS.

On this tenth day of October 1820, personally appeared in open court, being a court of record for the said county, William Groves aged Sixty five years, resident in said county, who being duly sworn, according to law, doth on his oath, declare that he served in the Revolutionary War as follows: That he enlisted under Captain Lane, and marched to the northward and then to the Southward and then to the Northward and joined Captain McPhersons Company at the Cheraw Hills in Carolina and then joined the second Maryland Regiment, that he was in the Battle of Gilford and continued and continued in the army untill the end of the war, that he made a decleration on oath originally on the fifteenth day of October 1818 and procured a Pention Certificate number Eight thousand eight hundred

SCHEDULE OF PROPERTY, &c.

1 old Spay Horse 1 Cow 1 Colt 2 Potts William hisXmark Groves

And the said William Groves further declares that he is by occupation a Farmer that he is verry infirm and unable to do more than half work, that he has a wife fifty years of age verry infirm one son aged fourteen years and one other son aged five years.

State of Maryland Allegany County to Wit

On this Twenty fifths day of May in the year of our Lord eighteen Hundred and Fifty Three personally appeared before the subscriber a Judge of Allegany County Orphans Court, a Court of Record, Mary Groves a resident of Westernport District in the County of Allegany State of Maryland Aged Seventy Seven years, who being 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 the 29th eighteen Hundred and Forty eight, who was the wife of William Groves, who was a private Soldier of the Maryland line in the Army of the Revolution, he enlisted in the Army the year, she cannot say, and entered in the Service at the City of Annapolis Anne Arundel County State of Maryland, at which place he resided at the time he entered in the Service of the United States, from thence he marched to South

Carolina, was in three or four engagements, and was wounded at the Battle of Guilford by a cutlass in the head, and was also wounded at the Battle of Eutaw in the left leg by a Ball, and was also at the Cow Pens [see endnote], he served more than Three years, did not leave the service of the United States till after close of the war of the Revolution, at which time he was honourably Discharged from the Service of the United States, he drew a pension from the United States up to his Death, after which time his pension Certificate was sent to the Agent for paying pensions in the City of Baltimore State of Maryland.

She further declares that she was married to the said William Groves on the twentieth day of November Seventeen hundred and ninety six [see endnote], by the Reverend Mr. Mayers in Prince William County in the State of Virginia, that John Huff, Enoch Huff, Hannah Huff, & Rebecca McCune was present at said marriage, but that owing to the great lapse of time and the absence of this deponent for so long a time from the said place of Marriage, she does not know of any person now living who can testify to said marriage, as this deponent has resided with her Husband in Allegany County Maryland Continually ever since the year eighteen Hundred and Twelve (1812), and that she had four Children, Viz, John Groves Born in December Seventeen hundred and ninety seven, and Died in September Eighteen hundred and fifteen (1815), Rebecca Groves Born in July eighteen hundred and Departed this life in June eighteen hundred and eight (1808), Jesse Groves Born June 17th eighteen hundred & Three (1803) and is yet Living, Dennis Groves Born December the 14th eighteen hundred and five (1805) and is also yet Living, and that her Husband the aforesaid William Groves Died on the the fourth day of January eighteen hundred and Forty nine (1849). That she was not married to him prior to his leaving the service, but the marriage took place previous to the Second of January eighteen hundred, Viz at the time above stated.

She Further swears that she is now a Widow and that she has never before made application for a pension
Mary herXmark Groves

NOTES:

Part of Greene's army was in winter quarters near Cheraw Hills SC from 26 Dec 1780 till 28 Jan 1781. If Groves was there as stated, it is unlikely that he was at the Battle of Cowpens SC on 17 Jan 1781.

A certificate from the Auditor's Office of Maryland states that Groves served until 15 Nov 1783, when the Continental Army was dissolved by proclamation.

The file includes a copy of a bond signed on 4 Feb 1792 by William Groves and John Huff for the marriage of Groves to Mary Spencer. On 27 Nov 1854 Mary Groves stated the following: "That in her application for a Pension as filed in the Pension office some time in the year 1853 she their stated that she was married to William Groves, her Husband in November 1796. She says that her recollection on that was some what on unsurtainty then, oweing to the Great laps of time, she at that time thought, and so was impressed on her mind that the men, or soldiors, as was known by, and so Call'd. by the name of the 'Whiskey Boys' [called out to put down the Whiskey Rebellion] was marched out in the year of 1797 or 1798, and Recollecting well as she says she does, that they was married about two years or their about, before they the 'Whiskey Boys' marched, from that belief she stated her marriadge to have been in 1796, but finding out since filing the application that they the 'Whiskey Boys' marched some time the year 1794 as she is informed, & in as much as that was about the time they did march, she now says that she was mistaken about the time of her marriadge oweing to that miss apprehention, she now further states and that of her own knowledge that she was married to im the said William Groves now 'Dec'd' some time before hey the said 'Whiskey Boys' marched. One strong Coincidence, she says makes her recollect now so well is that her Brother Moses Spencer was call'd out to, & did march then, and at the time they was abough to start, he my Brother did not Like to start or go, and he my Husband William Groves wanted to go, in his place or rather for him, but she I would not consent for him to go, and he desisted from it and did not go, and further she now states that they was to have been married some months before they was, after the Bond & order was filed & Licens to marry, but was prevented by some preventing surcumstance one of a Death or two of our friends in the familey, and further, that she had no child or

children until about four or five years after they were married.”

On 30 Aug 1854 Kelita Potter stated that she knew William and Mary Groves “since they came to Allegany County, Md, which was some time in the year 1812, to the best of his recollection, they the said William Groves & Mary Groves his wife brought with them Elizabeth Spencer the mother of Mary Groves, who lived with them for some time and then she left and moved to some part of Western Virginia.”

On 24 Dec 1853 Moses Spencer, 75, of Tyler County VA (now WV) stated that William and Mary Groves were married by Rev. W. Mayers, a Baptist preacher, after which the wedding party returned to his mother’s “and took Dinner as Customary at that time.”

On Mary Groves’s pension certificate is the note that she died 5 Sep 1856.