

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of James Graves W21232

Massey Graves

f11SC

Transcribed by Will Graves

8/19/07 rev'd 9/26/15

[Methodology: Spelling, punctuation and/or grammar have been corrected in some instances for ease of reading and to facilitate searches of the database. Where the meaning is not compromised by adhering to the spelling, punctuation or grammar, no change has been made. Corrections or additional notes have been inserted within brackets or footnotes. Blanks appearing in the transcripts reflect blanks in the original. A bracketed question mark indicates that the word or words preceding it represent(s) a guess by me. The word 'illegible' or 'indecipherable' appearing in brackets indicates that at the time I made the transcription, I was unable to decipher the word or phrase in question. Only materials pertinent to the military service of the veteran and to contemporary events have been transcribed. Affidavits that provide additional information on these events are included and genealogical information is abstracted, while standard, 'boilerplate' affidavits and attestations related solely to the application, and later nineteenth and twentieth century research requests for information have been omitted. I use speech recognition software to make all my transcriptions. Such software misinterprets my southern accent with unfortunate regularity and my poor proofreading skills fail to catch all misinterpretations. Also, dates or numbers which the software treats as numerals rather than words are not corrected: for example, the software transcribes "the eighth of June one thousand eighty six" as "the 8th of June 1786." Please call material errors or omissions to my attention.]

State of South Carolina, District of Charleston

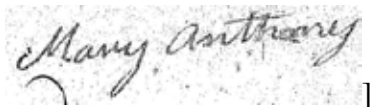
On this 6th day of July 1838 personally appeared before the undersigned, Mrs. Massey Graves, a resident of the City of Charleston aged Eighty two years, who being duly Sworn according to Law Depose to the following declaration on Oath, in order to be entitled to the benefit of 3rd Section of the act of Congress of the 4th of July 1836, that she was married to James Graves, who was a volunteer private Soldier during the War of the Revolution, and Served as such under arms for two years and more in the South Carolina Militia in the following manner, to wit, In the year 1776 he was a member of a Corps called the Artillery of Charleston, for some time Commanded by Captain Edward Rutledge, and Continued to Serve in Same aforesaid year of 1776 to the fall of Charleston in May 1780 [May 12, 1780] during this period he went on an expedition with said Corps to Orangeburg, and to other places which deponent Cannot now call to mind, but was absent from her six months at one time. He Served in the Siege of Charleston against the enemy, and, at the Surrender of same, was while under arms, made a prisoner, and Continued so a prisoner on parole up to the period of the evacuation of said City by the British; upon the departure of whom the "Artillery" was again reorganized, and Said James rejoined it, and Continued a member of same to the time of his death. She further declares that she was married to the said James Graves in the year 1775 by Dr. Cooper of the Episcopal church, but that, she has no documentary evidence of same, or of his Services: she lost almost all of her property in the great fire of Charleston on the 27th of April last including three Bibles in one of which was the family register of her marriage, and those of the family, and that, her husband the aforesaid James Graves died in the year 1795, and that, she was a widow on the 4th of July 1836, and still remains a widow, as will more fully appear by reference to the proof hereto annexed.

Sworn to and Subscribed on the day and year above written before me, and I also certify the credibility of the affiant to the best of my Knowledge.

S/ Massey Graves, X her mark

S/ Thos. Lee, D. Judge of the State

[p 9: On July 16, 1838 in Charleston District South Carolina, Mary Anthony,¹ the widow of a revolutionary war pensioner, aged 76 gave testimony that she was well acquainted with the late James Graves of Charleston, a brick layer and his widow Mrs. Massey Graves; that they were married in 1775.

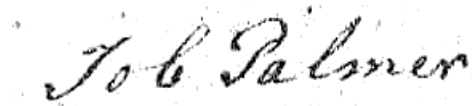
A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mary Anthony". The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored, slightly textured paper. The name is written in a fluid, connected style typical of the late 18th or early 19th century.

¹ [John Anthony W21614](#)

State of South Carolina, District of Charleston

I hereby certify that James Graves was interred in the Congregational burial ground in the City of Charleston on the 2nd July 1795, being then aged 42 years. I further Certify that, I am now in my 91st year, and a Revolutionary pensioner, and that, I knew the said James Graves from his youth, and when he was an apprentice to the Bricklayers trade, which was previous to the commencement of the American Revolution, that, said James Graves Joined the American side against the British, that, he was a member of the Artillery Company during the period and up to the Surrender of Charleston to the British, and that, as a matter of Course he became a prisoner of the enemy like all others who were taken bearing arms against them. I was myself a member of said Artillery, but my memory does not now enable me to state how long he Served previous to said Surrender, but I, always regarded him as being firm on the American side, I also state to the best of my recollection and belief he was a married man during the Revolution, and to Massey Graves widow now an applicant for a pension, I knew her & her family previous to and during the Revolution. She was a Miss Massey Phillips. I further Certify they were worshipers in said Church as above, and that, they were regarded as moral and worthy Persons, from under my hand at Charleston South Carolina this 5th day of July 1838.

S/ Job Palmer²



Clerk and Sexton of said Church in the year 1795

Though I do not give the above under Oath, having a conscientious objection to taking an Oath, I notwithstanding give the above as being the truth, to the best of my recollection & belief.

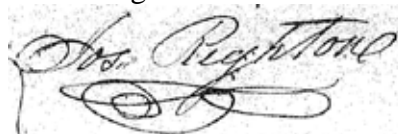
S/ Job Palmer

[p 11]

The State of South Carolina, District of Charleston

On this 9th day of July 1838, Personally appeared before the undersigned, Mr. Joseph Righton,³ a revolutionary pensioner aged 76 years & a resident of the City of Charleston, who being duly sworn according to Law, Deposeth that he was well acquainted with the late James Graves of the City of Charleston bricklayer, That, he knew him during the War of the Revolution, to have been a private soldier in the Artillery Company of Charleston of which Deponent was Sergeant, That, he served in same against the enemy and at the Siege of Charleston, That, he has every reason to believe, he served in said War under arms against the enemy for two years, as set forth in the affidavit of his widow Massey Graves on the 6th Inst. Before the Honorable Thomas Lee, District Judge of the United States, That, at the surrender of said City being taken prisoner while under arms, he was held as such for 12 months, That, he has every reason to believe he was married to said widow Massey Graves, then a Miss Phillips in the year 1775, That, he was acquainted with them, and though in poor circumstances, they retained always, a respectable character, That, he has every reason to believe said James Graves died in the year 1795, as stated by Mr. Job Palmer, then Sexton of the Circular Church, and that, his widow the present claim for a pension Mrs. Massey Graves, has remained unmarried ever since, and is now in low circumstances.

S/ Jos. Righton



² [Job Palmer S21917](#)

³ [Joseph Righton W22074](#)

Sworn to and subscribed before me the day and year above written and I also Certified the Credibility of the affiant.

S/ P. Cantrell

Not. Public & QM for Charleston District South Carolina

[p 10]

State of South Carolina District of Charleston

On this 16th day of July 1838 personally appeared before the undersigned Mr. John Cart,⁴ a revolutionary Soldier aged Seventy Seven years, and a resident of Charleston who being duly sworn according to law Depoeth, that, he knew the late James Graves of the City of Charleston, bricklayer deceased, during the War of the Revolution to have served as a private soldier against the British, That, he believes the Core in which he served was the Artillery of Charleston, that, he believes he served under arms in said war two years, That, he believes upon the fall of the City of Charleston, he was made a prisoner of War as being taken under arms, and remained so a prisoner on parole twelve months, He further declares he believes, he was a married man during the War of the Revolution, and has reason to believe he was married to Mrs. Massey Graves widow, the present applicant for a pension, and in the year 1775 as stated in her affidavit. He Deponent further Saith, he believes said Massey Graves to be his widow, now, and that, she was a widow on the 6th July 1836 – and that her character is good and her statement entitled to credit.

S/ John Cart

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "John Cart", with a decorative flourish underneath.

[Veteran's widow was pensioned at the rate of \$100 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for her husband service as a private in the State Artillery of South Carolina.]

⁴ [John Cart S8139](#)