

## Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of George Walls (Wales)<sup>1</sup> R18785

fn193VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

7/31/11

[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. 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 fails 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 8<sup>th</sup> of June 1786." Please call errors or omissions to my attention.]

[Note: This file contains a large number of legal documents, powers of attorney, affidavits, etc. apparently evidencing conflicts between competing claims to the estate of Major George Walls of the Virginia Continental Line as well as to legal questions concerning whether or not the services rendered by the veteran entitled him to benefits under the federal laws. As the primary focus of this database is to provide information regarding the military services of the veterans of the Revolution, I have elected not to transcribe most of those documents nor have I undertaken to untangle the competing claims. There is very little evidence in the file dealing with the military service of this veteran. Therefore I have elected to quote the typed summary sent by the Department of the Interior to an inquiry regarding this veteran and a selection of other documents in this voluminous file. The letter from the Department of the Interior is dated October 31, 1834 and reads as follows:

Reference is made to your letter in which you request information in regard to Major George Walls, of the Revolutionary War.

The data which are given herein are found in the papers on file in pension claim, R. 18785, based upon the service of George Walls (the name appears also as Wales), in that war.

George Walls (Wales) served as Major and Quarter master General of Colonel Crockett's "Illinois" Regiment, Virginia State troops, during 1781, 1782 and 1783, was a resident of Berkeley County, Virginia, and died in 1786.

His wife was Mary, maiden name not stated: his children were Jacob, George, Samuel, Anna Duree, Mary Miller, Elizabeth Patton and Thomas.

The claim for his commutation of pay, under the act of July 5, 1832, was allowed his administrator, Charles J. F. Faulkner.

fn p. 139: Brief of the evidence in the case: [I've indicated in red bracketed inserts where the evidence cited can be found in the file]

Claim of Major George Walls's Administrator for Commutation, for services as Quarter Master General

It is claimed in this case that Major George Walls was Quarter Master General of the

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<sup>1</sup> VA half pay

"Western Expedition" during the war of the Revolution – that he served as such until after the close of the war – his pay as Quarter Master General in addition to his pay as Major, being £22.10 per month and that he is entitled to commutation of five years full pay at said rate of \$22.10 per month with interest thereon to the present time.

The evidence in support of the claim is as follows:

1<sup>st</sup> Copy of an Account book of Forage etc. received and issued by Major George Walls, "Quarter Master General W<sup>n</sup> Exp<sup>n</sup>" containing entries from July 1781 to May 1784 (marked A) [fn p. 172, et. seq.]

2nd – Copy from the Journal of the Illinois Commissioners in Session on the 24th of March 1783, showing that Major Walls presented his accounts to said Board, for services as Quarter Master General, up to 24th of March 1783 (B) [fn p. 50]

3rd. An account rendered by Major Walls for services as Quarter Master General from the first January 1782 to 25th of March 1783 at £22.10 per month – being, as is supposed, the same amount referred to in the foregoing paper – (marked C) [fn p. 133]

4th Receipt of Wm Cheney Captain & P. M. to Major Walls Q. M. G. for 58 pairs of shoes for use of Crockett's Regiment, dated October 27th 1781 (marked D) [fn p. 43]

5th Receipt of John Kenney, for linen etc. dated October 11th 1781 (marked E) [fn p. 48]

6[th] Copy of Major Walls' account for services from 25th March to the 30th of September 1783, at £22.10 per month as "Quarter Master General and purchasing Commissary"

Also, a like account, for services from the first of October 1783, to 15th February 1784, as "Quarter Master General, purchasing and issuing Commissary, and Conductor of Military Stores" at £22.10 per month (marked F) [fn p. 130]

[indecipherable squiggle] On the back of this paper is an extract from the proceedings of the Council, of July 15th, 1784, from which it will be seen that the Executive refused to allow these last mentioned accounts, for the reason that "in the opinion of the Executive a Quarter Master General was unnecessary at the Falls of the Ohio, from the 25th of March 1783 – the number of men being too small to authorize either the appointment or the keeping up such an office." They however allowed him £50 as a full compensation for his Extra trouble in purchasing provisions etc. from the 25th of March 1781, to the end of his service in the summer of 1784.

I am unable to find any act of the General Assembly of Virginia creating the Office of Quarter Master General of the Western Expedition, or authorizing the appointment of such an officer, or fixing the rate of his pay. Nor does there appear to be any evidence that the Executive under any of the Extensive powers conferred upon him by the Legislature, ever appointed such an officer or fixed the rate of his pay.

Yet the evidence in the case shows that Major Walls did actually perform certain duties incident to such an office, styling himself, and being styled by others, "Quarter Master General." And it is shown (by implication at least) by the proceedings in the Council above referred to, that the Executive did recognize Major Walls as holding the office of Quarter Master General, prior to 25th March 1783 – And it is to be presumed (although there is no positive evidence of that fact) that his accounts for his services as such, at £22.10 per month, prior to that date, were allowed and paid.

The facts in the case present this question: There being no evidence to show when, or how, or by what authority Major Walls was ever appointed Quarter Master General, and no evidence that he ever held such an office, with the pay of £22.10 per month, except the fact that he rendered accounts as such, which were recognized and allowed by the executive – can this

evidence showed that he legally held said office, for any longer time than his accounts as such were recognized and allowed by the executive? The same paper which proves (by implication) that Major Walls was paid at the rate of £22.10 per month up to the 25th of March 1783, shows also, that the Executive refused to allow his accounts for his services in that capacity, subsequent to that time. It will be seen by the proceedings of the Council above referred to, that the Executive were of opinion that after the 25th of March 1783 the number of men at the falls of Ohio was too small to justify the appointment or keeping up of a Quarter Master General after that time. This would seem to imply, that after the said 25th of March 1783, some appointment was necessary to invest Major Walls with the office of Quarter Master General, which appointment had never been made. If Major Walls was, after the said 25th of March 1783 legally invested with the office of Quarter Master General and as such entitled to pay at the rate aforesaid I think it very clear, that no subsequent refusal of the Executive to recognize the necessity of the Office, or to allow his accounts, would affect his right to commutation, provided he continued so invested with the Office to the close of the war.

The whole difficulty in the case grows out of the total want of evidence to show by what authority and in what manner, he was appointed to said office. If he was invested with said office by any special appointment from the Executive, (under the very extensive powers conferred upon him by the Legislature) and which appointment terminated on the 25th of March 1783 – and if he continued to perform the duties of that office without a further appointment, after that time – the refusal of the Executive to recognize him, and allow his accounts, subsequent to that date, would seem to present the case in a different aspect.

The evidence shows that Major Walls was Quarter Master General *de facto* at least, and that he was recognized as such, by the Executive up to the 25th of March 1783 – but no longer. It is true the Executive allows him the sum of £50 for his trouble in purchasing provisions in taking care of stores, after the 25th March 1783 – but does not, according to my understanding, recognize him as holding the office of Quarter Master General after that date.

Respectfully submitted

S/ J. J. Coombs

[fn p. 8: copy of the last will and testament of George Walls of Berkeley County Virginia in which he names his wife Mary; sons, Thomas, Jacob, Samuel and George; and daughters Anne, Mary, Elizabeth Patton. Console dated October 25, 1785 in which the veteran states that his son Thomas Walls has been killed by the Indians. The will was probated in Berkeley County Virginia April 19, 1786.]

[fn p. 23]

State of Kentucky Hardin County Sct.

Be it remembered that heretofore to wit At a County Court begun and held in Hardin County at the Courthouse in Elizabeth Town on Monday the 7th day of December 1829.

Present. Denton Geoghegan, Allen Singleton, William Tarpley, Arthur Park, Abraham Miller, and John Seward, S. Gentlemen, Justices of the peace

It was this day satisfactorily proven in court by the oath of Samuel Linder, that Jacob Walls, John Walls, Samuel Walls, Anna Duree, Mary Miller, Elizabeth Patton & Thomas Walls were the only children of George Walls deceased who was an officer in the Revolutionary Army. That the said Elizabeth Patton died since her father leaving Thomas Patton as her only heir, and that the said Thomas Walls died before his father without leaving issue.

The said Linder depose that in his testimony taken in this Court on the 11th day of August 1828, he fell to name the said Elizabeth Patton, through misstate and now desires the corrections made.

In Testimony that the foregoing is truly copied from the Record of said Court now filed in said office. I Samuel Haycraft Clerk of said County Court have hereunto set my hand and affixed the seal of said Court at the Clerk's office of said County at Elizabeth Town this 28th day of June 1838.  
S/ Samuel Haycraft, Clerk

[fn p. 15]

State of Illinois Tazewell County Sct.: Before me, a Justice of the peace in and for said County and State personally appeared Samuel Bryant Walls of Rowan County, in the State of North Carolina, who, being of lawful age, and first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath declare that he is the son of the late Major George Walls of the Continental line of Virginia, a Captain and after the year 1779 a Major in the State line of said Virginia, and in the "Illinois Brigade" – fought under General George Rogers Clark and Colonel Joseph Crockett until the close of the War of the Revolution; that his said father George Walls in or about the first January 1786 intermarried with his mother Jane Bryant in the County of Baltimore and State of Maryland; that neither this Deponent, nor any, the most antique of the connections, have, to his knowledge, or belief, any documentary Evidence arising from family Bible or any other record of the consummation of said marriage; that the legal issue of that marriage were 1<sup>st</sup> deponent – alive with heirs – 2nd Henry Walls near Vandalia, Fayette County Illinois alive with heirs – 3rd – George Carter Walls near Prairie Duthien [?], Wisconsin Territory alive with heirs – 4th John Walls of Washington County Kentucky alive with heirs – 5th Thomas Walls of State of Mississippi alive, and in single life, 5thly Elizabeth Clark, alias Walls dead leaving heirs – 7th Nancy Hardin, alias Walls, of Washington County Kentucky, alive with heirs, 8th – Mary Anne Walls of said Washington County Kentucky alive and a single woman – that these 8 are the sole, and alone heirs of said George Walls him having never married a 2nd time – He further states that his late father George Walls departed this life in Baltimore County in the State of Maryland, in the month of June Anno Domini 1822; and that his wife Jane Walls, alias Bryant died in Washington County State of Kentucky in the month of June A.D. 1844; That neither the said Officer – George Walls, or his wife, Jane Walls – while alive, nor any of the heirs since their deaths, did ever, to his knowledge and belief received any pension due to him, or any pension due to their late mother, Jane Walls, alias Bryant – by the act of the 7th of July 1838 and further deponent saith [not]

Signed S. Bryant Walls

The above declaration on oath of Samuel Bryant Walls of Rowan County North Carolina was made before me on this the 30th day of October 1840 [could be 1846<sup>2</sup>]  
S/ Neill Johnson, JP

[fn p. 129]

Pension Office October 10, 1849

In the Court of Appeals held at Richmond Virginia November 1830, the administrator of George Walls, deceased, who was a Major in Crockett's Virginia State Regiment obtained a judgment

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<sup>2</sup> 1840

against that Commonwealth for five years full pay amounting to \$3000 and legal interest thereon from the 22nd of April 1783 until paid. The money was paid on the 12th of March 1836, but the interest was calculated up to the first of January 1833, whereas it should have been calculated up to the time when the payment was satisfied. The deficiency is now claimed and is payable to Felix Richards, attorney of Charles J Faulkner, Administrator of George Walls, deceased, under the acts of July 5, 1832 and March 3, 1835; the last of which acts authorizes the Department of War to the pay commuted.

S/ Commissioner of Pensions

[fn p. 168: Forage Account from Aug. 5, 1782 to Jan 15, 1783]

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Addendum to George Walls (Wales) R18785

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. 28 Dec 2022.

[From [bounty-land records in the Library of Virginia.](#)]

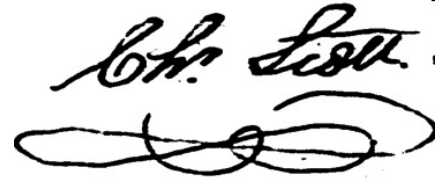
July 23<sup>d</sup> 1779

I Certify that George Walls [illegible] appointed a Maj'r for one of the Western Battalions and Thos.  
Walls [Thomas Walls R18784] [illegible] [illegible signature of Archibald Blair C C]

I do Certify that Capt. Geo. Walls was appointed an officer in the Virg'a. Continental Line the 3<sup>d</sup> of Feb'y.  
1776 and Continued in Service untill the 7<sup>th</sup> of Sept. 1779

Given under my hand this 15<sup>th</sup> of June 1784

Ch's. Scott M. G. [Charles Scott BLWt2055-850]

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ch. Scott", with a large, decorative flourish underneath.