

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Petition of Mary Brown on behalf of her husband, Archibald Brown SC784

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Transcribed by Will Graves

11/13/18

[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.]

To the Honorable John Lloyd Esquire and the other Members of the Honorable Senate of the State of South Carolina

The Petition of Mary Brown in behalf of her Husband Archibald Brown

Humbly Sheweth

That your Petitioner out of the Duty and Regard she owes to a tender and Affectionate Husband whose Estate is confiscated and his Person banished by the late Act of the Legislature at Jacksonburgh thinks it incumbent on her to State his Case to your Honorable House.

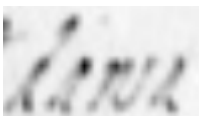
That the said Archibald Brown was born and bred up in this State and from the earliest [indecipherable word]¹ of those unhappy Disputes proved himself a zealous and active Friend of the Cause of his Country.

That at the time of every Invasion he was amongst the foremost at the Post of Danger.

That after the unfortunate Fall of Charles Town [Charleston South Carolina fell to the British on May 12, 1780] when it was generally believed that the Country was irrevocably lost, he amongst a Multitude of other Inhabitants became a British Subject.

That he accepted of the command of the Goose Creek Company of Militia from its appearing to him to be the Wish of the Parish in general, and of the Privates in that Company in particular, but chiefly to prevent it being taken by one Blackman a Cattle-driver in Wassamsaw [sic, Wassamassaw], an obscure Man and of very illiberal Principles, who was absolutely named as unfit to take the Command of that Company; That during his holding that Commission he received Instructions, similar to those sent to the other Captains of the Militia, ordering him to send down to the Sea Islands, as Prisoners of War, all the former Members of Assembly, Commissioned Officers, Magistrates, and active Persons in the said District (which had he put in force would have nearly included every Gentleman in the Parish) but your Petitioner appeals to those Gentlemen, whether he did or did not send down any, in fact he sent none, but threw up his Commission rather than hurt his own feelings or those of his Fellow Parishioners.

That the taking the Command of one of the Militia Companies in Charles Town he considered as his Duty, to keep the Peace of the Town as he had formerly done under the American Government.



That as to the Address to Sir Henry Clinton which he unfortunately signed and which has given so much Offense, Your Petitioner can only urge in excuse for her Husband, on that occasion, that he was led away by that kind of Contagion which spreads on such occasions, from the force of Example set before him, by those further advanced in Life, and of more knowledge of the World; and from its being held out to him as the early Terms on which he could expect to remain in this his Native Country, where it is well known he has many near Connections who have much dependence on him, and whom he could not think of leaving in the unsettled State of Affairs at that time.

Your Petitioner, though loath to bear testimony of her Husband's Services to this State, yet humbly hopes that regard will be had to his former conduct as an officer in the Militia, and as one of the State Agents sent to France, as also his firm and intrepid Behavior in the Field, at Port Royal² and Savannah,³ and the Blood he there spelt in the Cause of his Country which he never could have deserted, had he not considered the State as conquered, and therefore your Petitioner humbly hopes that her Husband will be judged by his Country on the general Lear [?] of his Conduct since the first beginning of those Troubles, and not by selecting particular Periods, when the general Distress rendered it difficult for Men of more Experience and of riper Judgment to conduct themselves with propriety.

Your Petitioner, having with the most utmost Horror heard that it was alleged before the late Honorable house of Representatives, that her Husband was present at the burning of Houses at Winyan, but begs leave to assure your Honorable House that said Report is not true, which he can prove by the Testimony of several of the Goose Creek Company who were with him in George Town, at the time those Houses were burnt by Major Wemyss [James Wemyss] at Black-Mingo or that neighborhood.

Your Petitioner further begs leave to assure your Honorable House, that if her Husband is restored to his Country and Friends, she knows his grateful Temper so well, that she is confident he will be happy in rendering his best Services in future, had has only further to offer that he has several worthy Connections, besides your Petitioner and an innocent Babe depending on him, to whom his return will be of the utmost consequence.

May it therefore please your Honorable House to take this Candid State of Facts into your consideration, and to restore your Petitioner's said Husband to his disconsolate Family and Friends, and your Petitioner as in Duty bound will ever pray.

S/ Mary Brown

² http://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_port_royal_island_2.html

³ Siege of Savannah September 16-October 9, 1779 <http://www.myrevolutionarywar.com/battles/790916-savannah/>