

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of Thomas Groves W4211

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

Thomas Groves of the County of Fauquier made Oath in open Court of said County that in the fall of 1779 or eighty he does not precisely remember which, he enlisted as a private in the Continental army of the United States for three years that as such he first marched to Richmond then to the County of Chesterfield where he remained about six months under Col Davis [sic: William Davies], from thence to Cumberland Courthouse in said State of Virginia where he remained some two or three months from thence he was marched to York Town in Va. at which place he acted as a Solder during the Seige [28 Sep - 19 Oct 1781] – that he was during the s'd. Seige attached to a Body of Troops called Poseys Detachment [Col. Thomas Posey's Virginia Battalion] after which he was marched as a Soldier thro' the Carolinas into Georgia – that he remained in the South as a Soldier about two years that he was finally discharged in Richmond Va. in the year 1783 That at the period of his discharge & for some time previous he belonged to a company commanded by Capt. Alexander Parker of Westmoreland. He the said Thomas Groves further stated upon Oath that he is upwards of fifty years of Age has a wife & Children, that he is in verry reduced circumstances and needs the assistance of his Country

Thomas Groves

Capt. Daniel Marr of the County of Fauquier made Oath in open Court that in the year 1779 or 1780 he belonged to a Class of Malitia of the said County in the State of Virginia which class was required to furnish one man as a Soldier for the Continental army [see endnote] – and that the said Class did furnish the aforenaimed Thos. Groves whom he always understood & believes was received as the said Class was discharged upon their furnishing the said Thomas Groves, that he always understood and believes that the said Thomas Groves continued as a Soldier until about the end of the War. He farther states that the s'd. Thomas Groves is in indifferent circumstances & has a wife & children and needs the aid of his Country

Daniel Marr

District of Virginia Ss

On this 17 day of April 1818 before me the subscriber sole judge of the superior court of Law of Fauquier county in the said District of Virginia personally appears Thos. Groves aged fifty three years resident in the county of Fauq'r. in the s'd. District who being by me first 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 "an act to provide for certain persons engaged in the land and naval service of the united states in the revolutionary war" That he the said Tho's. Groves enlisted in the county of Fauquier in the state of Virginia in a company commanded by a capt. whose name he does not now recollect belonging to a detachment call'd Posey's detachment, that he continued to serve in the said detachment in the service of the united states untill June 1783, when he was discharg'd from service (being at that time a soldier in a company commanded by Capt. Alex'r. Parker) in Richmond in the said state. Having at the last mentioned time completed a service as a soldier of the united states of between three and four years – That he served as a soldier of the united states at the seige of York, and that he was in a battle at Gibbon's lane near Savannah in the state of Georgia [probably skirmish at Ebenezer GA on 23 June 1782 against Chief Emistisiguo during the siege of Savannah] That he was at Charleston in S. Carolina at the evacuation thereof by the enemy [14 Dec 1782], 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 Except the deposition of D'l. Marr hereto annexed

[signed] Thomas Groves

District of Virginia Sct.

On this 17th day of April 1818 before me sole judge of the superior court of Law for the county of

Fauquier in the s'd. District personally appeared Daniel Marr and made oath that Thos. Groves mention'd in the foregoing declaration enlisted in the regular service of the united states as a soldier in the year 1779 or 1780, by which enlistment he the said Thos. Groves clear'd a class of Virginia Militia to which class this affiant belong'd – the said Groves then continued absent from the county of Fauq'r. for three years, and this affiant has understood and believes in the military service of the united states –

Fauquier County State and District of Virginia

On this 30th August 1820 Thomas Groves personally appeared in open Court being a Court of Record made so by the Act of Assembly invested with Common Law and Chancery Jurisdiction unlimited in amount and possessed of the power of fine and imprisonment who being first duly sworn according to Law doth on his oath declare that he served in the Revolutionary War as follows. That he enlisted for the term of three years at the Court House of the County aforesaid as a soldier in the musketry. that the first Capt under whom he served was Captain Cliff Chilton [sic: Clough Shelton] of the 11th Virginia Regiment commanded by Col Davis that he was in a month transferred to a detachment commanded by Major Posey that at the end of the three years he enlisted again during the war under Capt Alexander Parker of Virginia in South Carolina also under the command of Major Posey that he served untill the end of the war and was discharged at Richmond Virginia by Gen'l. [Benjamin] Lincoln that he was at the seige of York and a skirmish at Petersburg Va. and the defeat of the Indians near Savannah that his original declaration was made before the Honb'le. Robert White one of the Judges of Virginia that the annexed is his certificate of pension numbered 520 that he has received his pension up to the 4th March 1818

And I Thomas Groves do solemnly swear that I was a resident Citizen of the United States on the 18th day of March 1818 and that I have not since that time by gift sale or in any manner disposed of my property or any part thereof with intent thereby so to diminish it as to bring myself within the provisions of an act of Congress entitled "an act to provide for certain person engaged in the land and naval service of the United States in the Revolutionary War" passed on the 18th day of March 1818 and that I have not nor has any person in trust for me any property or securities contracts or debts due to me nor have I any income other than what is contained in the Schedule hereto annexed and by me subscribed. 1 Iron Pot 1 Dutch Oven six knives and forks 1 Chest 1 Pine table two axes 2 Hoes 3 Augurs 3 Chizels 1 shoe hammer 1 pair of pincers 5 or 6 awls 6 plates 1 small Dish 1 Coffee pot 2 small Ten Bucketts.

I live upon a small piece of rented Land consisting of a Garden with a House for which I pay a rent of forty dollars in makeing and mending Plow Stocks makeing and mending shoes and doing repairs to the House of my Landlord my family consists of a wife named Milly aged about seventy years and one Child named Lucy aged sixteen years residing with me my wife is infirm. she occasionally spins washes and cooks and works in the Garden my daughter is very sickly and ever since her childhood been under a Doctor that since may last I have had a disease supposed to be a white swelling which obliges me to walk upon a Crutch that I am unable to support myself and family without the assistance of my country

Thomas Groves

NOTES:

Under Virginia law each county militia was divided into classes of 15 men each, from which one man was to be drawn for 18-months service in the Continental army. The classes were supposed to include only men over the age of 18, but the age given in Groves's second declaration made in 1818 indicates that he would have been only about 15 years old in 1780. A size roll compiled at Chesterfield Courthouse after 1 Sep 1780 includes the following: Tho's. Groves/ age 13/ height 4' 11"/ farmer/ born and residing in Fauquier County/ dark-brown hair/ black eyes/ swarthy complexion/ enlisted 20 Sep 1780 for 18 months.

On 12 Nov 1838 Mildred Groves, about 80, of Preble County OH, applied for a pension stating

that as Mildred Williams she was married to Thomas Groves by Rev. James Craig in Fauquier County in late 1780 or early 1781, and her husband died "on the Saturday next before Easter Sunday in the year 1822" (on 6 Apr 1822). The application was certified by James Arasmith, 38, who stated that he was born and raised in Fauquier County. A document dated 20 Oct 1846 lists the children of Thomas and Mildred Groves as follows: Sarah Arasmith, wife of Charles Arasmith; Lucinda Arasmith, wife of James Arasmith; and Thomas Groves, who had not been heard from for more than 10 years and was presumed dead. That document gave the date of death of Thomas Groves the pensioner as 27 Mar 1819. On 12 Jan 1847 James Arasmith applied for bounty land as an heir of Thomas Groves, stating that Groves enlisted about 1776 and served as a musician.