

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of William Knowles W4257

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

State of Virginia

Augusta County to wit:

On this 5th day of September 1839 personally appeared before the undersigned, a Justice of the peace for the County aforesaid, Mary Knowles, a resident of the Town of Staunton, in the County and State aforesaid, aged Eighty four years, who, being first duly sworn according to law, doth, on her oath, make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the provision made by the act of Congress passed July 4th, 1836: That she is the widow of William Knowles, who was a private in the Virginia Line on Continental establishment, in the war of the Revolution. That she believes her husband, the aforesaid Wiliam Knowles, enlisted in the year 1776, and that he was in the service till near the close of the war. That she does not recollect the names of the officers, nor does she recollect the Regiment to which her husband belonged.

She further declares that she was married to the aforesaid William Knowles in the year seventeen hundred and seventy eight, and whilst the said William Knowles was in service, and that he, William Knowles, died in the month of September, Eighteen hundred and Eleven, and that she has remained a widow ever since that period, as will more fully appear by a reference to the proof hereto annexed. And she further declares that she has no documentary or record evidence of her marriage.

Mary herXmark Knowles

State of Virginia

Augusta County to Wit:

This day personally appeared before me a Justice of the peace for the County aforesaid, Smith Thompson [pension application S38438], a Revolutionary soldier, and a very aged man, who made oath that he was intimately acquainted with William Knowles, who was a private in the War of the Revolution, and who belonged to the Virginia Line on Continental establishment, and that he had been in habit of intimacy with him during the War and after its close.

That he cannot say how long William Knowles was in service before the year seventeen hundred and seventy seven, but that he (Thompson) saw Knowles in service in the year seventeen hundred and seventy seven, and that Knowles continued in service for more than two years, to his personal knowledge, from the time he first saw him in service. That he always understood Knowles had been in some battles before he saw him in camp, and that he had been wounded in the arm, and that it was the general belief that he was wounded, as he had marks about him, evidently from wounds received in battle. That he does not now recollect the officers or Regiment to which Knowles belonged. that he is well acquainted with Mary Knowles, widow of the aforesaid William Knowles; that she was married to William Knowles in the year seventeen hundred and seventy eight, in the State of Maryland, but does not at this time recollect the name of the County in which the marriage took place, that it was not far from the Potomac River, and that he thinks it was not far from Martinsburg, in Virginia, and that the ceremony was performed by a Magistrate. That he recollects distinctly of seeing Mary Knowles in Camp after her marriage to William Knowles, and that she was treated by the officers and men as a married woman. That he saw them afterwards in Augusta County, Virginia, where they removed after the war, and that they lived together as man and wife to the day of Knowles death, which occurred in September, Eighteen hundred and Eleven. And that Mary Knowles, who now resides in Staunton, Virginia, is the identical person and widow of the aforesaid William Knowles, and is at this time a widow, and has remained a widow ever since the death of her husband, William Knowles. given under my hand, the 4th day of September, Eighteen hundred and thirty nine. [John Moore, 84, deposed similarly.]

State of Virginia

Augusta County to wit:

On this 25th day of November 1839, personally appeared before me, a Justice of the peace for the County aforesaid, Mary Knowles, widow of William Knowles, who, being first duly sworn according to law, doth, on her oath, make the further declaration: That she was married as she stated before, to William Knowles, in the year 1778, whilst the said Knowles was in the service. That Captain Robert Stevens, who was the magistrate that married her, gave her a certificate of marriage which she preserved till the year 1791, at which time it was destroyed by fire: The house in which she then lived having been partially burnt. That she lived at the time of the fire on a plantation belonging to Judge Archibald Stuart, situate on the South River, in Augusta County. That she has, as she stated in her declaration of the 5th September last, no record or documentary evidence of her marriage. That the only paper she had to show the date of her marriage, was the certificate of marriage from the magistrate, which certificate was destroyed, as already stated. That her family record does not contain her marriage. That only the births of her children were registered with the exception of her three first children; The two first were twins, born, as near as she can recollect, in 1780. One was dead born; the other survived but a short time. The third child was an untimely birth, born in 1782. These three children's births were never registered. That the first child registered was Jane Knowles, who was born 2nd of May, 1783, and is her fourth child; and is now living. That she knows of no other evidence in existence to prove the date of her marriage, but the evidence hereto annexed.

Mary herXmark Knowles

[In a supporting deposition, Smith Thompson stated that he witnessed the marriage of William Knowles to Mary Donaho.]

This is to Certify, That it appears from a List in this Office of such Officers and Soldiers of the Virginia Continental Line, during the Revolutionary War, as settled their Accounts, and received Certificates for the balance of their Full Pay, according to an Act of Assembly, passed the November Session, 1781, that a Certificate issued on the 1st day of September 1786, in the name of William Knowles as a Soldier for £60.5.10, which Certificate appears to have been delivered to Dan'l W[illia]mson and was given for services prior to the 1st January, 1782.

Given under my hand at the Auditor's Office, Richmond, this 3rd day of September 1889.
Jas E Heath, AUDITOR.

NOTE: The family register is transcribed as follows:

BIRTHS

Jain Knowles the Daughter of Wm & Mary Knowles was Baren the 2th Day of May 1783
Elender Knowles the Daughter of Wm & Mary Knowles was Baren the 17th Day of October 1784
Salley Knowles the Daughter of Wm & Mary Knowles was Baren the 2th of August 1786
Robert Knowles the Son of Wm & Mary Knowles was Baren the 16th Day of September 1788
William Knowles the Son of Wm & Mary Knowles was Baren the 11th of January 1789
Daniel Knowles the Son of Wm and Mary Knowles was Baren the 11th of January 1791
Archibald Knowles the Son of Wm & Mary Knowles was Baren the 17th[?] of August 1793
Cathran & Mary Knowles the Daughters of Wm & Mary Knowles was Baren 17th of Oct 1795
John Knowles the Son of Wm & Mary Knowles was Baren the 8th of March 1799
Susan Knowles the Daughter of Wm & Mary Knowles was Baren the 3^d Day of May 1800
William Sumerfield Matheny Sone of James & Cathrane Matheny was Borne 23^d of June 1827

MARRIAGES

robert Knowles was Married to sussannagh Brooks on the 13 of febry in the year of our Lord 1811
James matheny was mared to Catharine Knowles the 6th day of April in the yeare of our Lord 1820