

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements

Pension application of William Cavender (Cavinder) W6903
Transcribed by Will Graves

Margaret fn90NC
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[Methodology: Spelling, punctuation and/or grammar have been corrected in some instances for ease of reading and to facilitate searches of the database. Also, the handwriting of the original scribes often lends itself to varying interpretations. Users of this database are urged to view the original and to make their own decision as to how to decipher what the original scribe actually wrote. Blanks appearing in the transcripts reflect blanks in the original. Folks are free to make non-commercial use this transcript in any manner they may see fit, but please extend the courtesy of acknowledging the transcriber—besides, if it turns out the transcript contains mistakes, the resulting embarrassment will fall on the transcriber. 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. I welcome and encourage folks to call those and any other errors to my attention.]

State of Georgia, Lumpkin County

Personally appeared before me William Martin one of the judges of the inferior court of Lumpkin County, Georgia, Margaret Cavinder, who being first duly Sworn according to Law, doth on her oath make the following Declaration in order to obtain the benefit of all Laws of the United States, now in existence or which may hereafter be enacted in favor of the widows of the Soldiers of the Revolutionary War.

My maiden name was Margaret Cox. To the best of my knowledge and belief, I was born on the 12th day of May in the year 1750 and am now consequently a little over 100 years of age, I was born in the State of Virginia near James River, I do not recollect the name of the County; when I was yet a child my father, whose name was George Cox, removed with his family, to the upper part of North Carolina I do not recollect the name of the County. I there became acquainted with William Cavinder, several years before, the commencement of the Revolutionary War; a Short time before the breaking out of hostilities, we became engaged to be married. The war caused a postponement of the marriage, my father and the said William Cavinder, we joined the North Carolina Militia, and repaired to the Standard of Gen. Gates [Horatio Gates], After that general's defeat at Camden my father and said Cavinder returned home, where they remained some time I do not recollect precisely how long they then joined a Col Cleaveland [sic, Benjamin Cleveland] and were at the battle of King's Mountain; I have frequently heard said Cavinder relate the incidents of that battle, but by reason of extreme old age and consequent failure of memory, most of them have escaped my recollections; In speaking of said battle, he invariably mentioned the names of the American Officers, among whom the name of Campbell is familiar to me, he also spoke of the Tories and Tory officers, he particularly mentioned a British Officer by the name of Ferguson whom he said was killed; Said Cavinder was with the troops who marched with Gen Morgan [Daniel Morgan] into South Carolina and was in the Battle of the Cowpens where he was wounded three times one Bayonet wound, in the thigh, one bayonet wound in the leg just above the ankle, and a shot wound in the calf of the leg; I heard said Cavidner frequently speak of Col Washington [William Washington] of the Light horse, I do not know for certain, that Cavinder served in the Light horse, but do know, from the following circumstances related to her by Cavinder, that he was in possession of a horse immediately after the battle of the Cowpens; Which circumstances is as follows: That after said battle, the Americans were pursued by a superior force of British and Tories under the British General Cornwallis, the Americans proceeded by forced marches to the Catawba River; That said Cavinder being on horseback, and observing a friend of his on foot, bare footed his feet, torn sore and bleeding, was feeling a temporary relief from the wounds in his leg, he felt a desire to permit his friend to ride, consequently dismounting, he assisted his friend on the horse;

After proceeding two or three hundred yards, his wounds became so painful, he could go no farther on foot and was reluctantly compelled to resume his horse; I have frequently heard Cavinder mention this circumstance, and relate the particulars of the retreat of the American Army; it's hardships, fatigue and want of provisions; and that on the evening the Americans crossed the Catawba, the British Army arrived on the opposite bank of the river Where they encamped for the night; on the next morning the River had risen so high that the British could not cross. The Americans pushed for the Yadkin River; Whilst crossing when the British came in sight, they again encamped for the night and on the next morning, the Yadkin, like the Catawba, was so high that the British could not cross; the Americans pursued their route to Dan river. They were joined by Genl Greene but when or where I do not know, and whilst under his command, according to Cavinder's Statement, the Americans crossed Dan river, where they remained sometime; The frequency, with which Cavinder would talk of the retreat, has impressed many of the incidents firmly on my mind, many of the officers names, on both sides, were always mentioned by Cavinder in relating the circumstances, but have escaped my memory and a large majority of these incidents mentioned by Cavinder, are either entirely forgotten or only indistinctly remembered. In consequence of hard marching, exposure, and unavoidable neglect, Cavinder's wounds became so much inflamed that he was left on the other side of Dan river when the Americans regrouped. I have heard him allude to the Battle of Guilford Old Court House, and express his regret that he was not in it for the reason above Stated. The facts above stated are distinctly remembered tho not the dates, but from the frequent allusions made by Cavinder to the cold weather, ice, snow, and frozen ground, I take it for granted that the circumstances herein before related must have occurred in the winter time. Cavinders wounds having partially healed, he rejoined Genl Green's Army at the Ramsay's Mills, and was in a battle near Camden, where the Americans were defeated. Cavinder remained with Green's Army and was at the siege of Ninety Six was also in the battle of Eutaw Springs.

I shall now State that my Father, who was with the Army, and being sick, sent for his family who joined him in Edgefield District, South Carolina and having sufficiently recovered my father rejoined the Army in time to be at the battle of Eutaw Springs where he was killed; Cavinder was a witness to his death; My Mother, so soon as she learned my father's death, removed with her family to Wilkes County State of Georgia. Sometime in the early part of the Spring of Seventeen hundred and eighty three (1783) William Cavinder herein before so often mentioned, arrived at my mother's house in Wilkes County, Georgia, his wounds heretofore described, except the gunshot wound, were open running sores, the gunshot wound had healed up, with the lead still in it, apparent to the touch, supposed to have been a Buck shot. The Banns of Marriage having been previously published according to Law, I was married by Henry Ware Esqr a justice of the peace for the county and state last above mentioned, to the said William Cavinder on the 12th day of May, Seventeen hundred and eighty three (1783) at my mother's house in Wilkes County, Georgia; The month and date thereof is so particularly remembered because it was my birth day; the year in consequence of being the same in which peace was proclaimed; I was not married to said Cavinder previous to the expiration of his last term of service, but was married to him previous to the year Seventeen hundred and ninety (1790) That is to say on the 12th day of May 1783, herein before more specifically written. I know of no record evidence of my marriage as aforesaid; My Brother James Cox, who now resides in Forsythe County, Georgia, then a boy about ten (10) or eleven years of age, was present and witnessed the ceremony, and is the only living witness I have any knowledge of. Sometime in the Spring of the year seventeen hundred and ninety one (1791) my husband, the said Cavinder, heard of the death of his parents, in North Carolina, he immediately left home in Wilkes County Georgia where we have resided ever since our marriage, in order to proceed to North Carolina to receive his portion of his parents property; The wounds above described had continued open and running sores, until within a few weeks of his departure, by the application of some medicine, they had been suddenly closed up, and apparently healing in a short time after his departure I received a letter from my husband's Sister, who resided in South Carolina (I do not recollect the name of the District) stating that my husband the said Cavinder

had died at her house, it appeared from the letter which I saw and heard read, I can neither read nor write myself, that my husband was taken sick on the road, but succeeded in reaching his sister's house, where he died, the Doctor who attended him attributed his death to the sudden stoppage of his wounds; I do not know the precise date of my husband's death, but do know that it took place sometime in the year, the spring part thereof, of seventeen hundred and ninety one (1791) The letter above alluded to my husband's discharge and other important papers which would have corroborated this Declaration, were burnt up with my house, about four (4) years after my husband's death. I remained in Wilkes County Georgia, until the year Seventeen hundred and ninety nine (1799) when I removed to Franklin County, Georgia where I remained until the year eighteen hundred and four (1804) when I removed to that part of Georgia, now Hall County, then called the four mile purchase, where I remained about eight (8) years, when I removed to Roane County Tennessee, remained about four (4) weeks, and returned to Georgia the Cherokee Nation, that portion now known as Lumpkin County, where I remained twenty one (21) years. Then removed to Cass County Georgia where I remained six (6) years, the[n] removed to Murray County, Georgia, where I remained three (3) years, when I returned to Lumpkin County Georgia, where I have lived ever since and where I now live. I have never intermarried since the death of my husband the said William Cavinder, but have remained and still remain a widow. I know of no record evidence of my husband's Revolutionary Services, that I have been informed that the Archives of North Carolina might possibly furnish such, nor do I know of any living witnesses. The words "of North Carolina" on the eighth page, on the 13th line from top, and are aligned previous to Signing the foregoing Declaration.

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 9th day of August 1850.

S/ Margaret Cavinder, X her mark

S/ Wm Martin, J. I. C.

[James Cox, Margaret Cox Cavinder's brother gives affidavits in support of her claim.]

[fn p. 14: James Cox, a resident of Forsyth County Georgia, gave testimony that he was born in 1772 and is currently 78 years of age, and the brother of Margaret Cavinder; that he was present at their marriage; that he was 11 years old at the time; that the marriage took place at his mother's house in Wilkes County Georgia and was performed by the Reverend Henry Ware; that his father, George Cox, joined the Army together with William Cavinder at the commencement of hostilities in North Carolina; he believes his father George Cox was killed at the battle of Eutaw Springs; that his brother-in-law, William Cavinder, often spoke of the battles and campaigns in which he participated but affiant does not recall any specifics other than quote he would be justified in stating that the battle of Kings Mountain was one, in which, he heard Cavinder say he participated"; That Cavinder was wounded in the leg during one of the battles but he does not recall which battle; that he believes his sister is 100 years old; that his parents had five other children older than himself and younger than his said sister Margaret.]

[fn p. 33: James Cox gave further testimony in Hall County Georgia that his sister and William Cavinder were married May 12, 1783; that he remembers the date because it was his sisters 33rd birthday; that his sister and William Cavinder lived together as man and wife until 1791 when William Cavinder went to South Carolina to get a legacy and died during that trip.]

[fn p. 53]

State of Georgia Hall County: On this the 15th day of September A.D. 1852 Personally appeared before me a Justice of the Inferior Court within and for the County and State aforesaid Mrs. Margaret Cavinder aged 102 or 103 years resident of Lumpkin County in the State aforesaid, who being duly sworn according to law saith on oath that she is the identical Margaret Cavinder who filed a declaration

for a Pension for the revolutionary services of her deceased husband William Cavinder with the government of the United States dated on or about the 17th day of August 1850. That her father's name was George Cox. That she told J L Watson you drafted her declaration that his name was George Cox, and understood him to so read it but that she is somewhat thick of hearing and might not have understood him correct. That she told the said J L Watson that her father George Cox served in the Revolutionary War as well as her husband William Cavinder but did not tell him that he served the same length of time, that her husband William Cavinder served nor did she understand him so to have read it.

S/ Margaret Cavinder, X her mark

[fn p. 80: on February 27, 1850, and Forsyth County Georgia, Robert Breshere, 72, testified that he was born in 1776 and it is a nephew of William Cavinder; that he has seen the wound on his leg that he received in the revolutionary war.]

[the file contains 90 pages—family members should consult it. Among the contents is an affidavit of Brig. Genl. Ira R. Foster supporting the character of James Cox, who fought in the Seminole War in 1837 and 1838 [see fn p. 84].]

[Veteran's widow was pensioned at the rate of \$54.54 per annum commencing March 4th, 1848, for the service of her husband as a private in the North Carolina militia during the revolution.]