Petition from Ann Glover concerning public assistance
Glover, Ann
January 1780
Volume 15, Pages 187-188

State of North Carolina.
To the Honorable the General Assembly of the said State now sitting,

The Humble Memorial of Ann Glover, widow of Samuel Glover, late a soldier in this State, who enlisted himself some time in the year 1775, in the Continental Service in the Second Regiment raised here,

Humbly Sheweth,

That your Petitioner's late Husband well and faithfully discharged his Duty as a Soldier and Friend to the Cause of American freedom and Independence, & marched to the Northward under the Command of Col. Robert Howe, who, if he was here, would bear honest and honorable Testimony that your Memorialist's deceased Husband was deemed by him and every other officer in that Battalion a good soldier, and never was accused of being intentionally Guilty of a breach of the Laws, Martial or Civil. Your Petitioner begs leave to inform your Honors that her late husband continued in the service of the United States of America upwards of three years, and then returned, by orders of his Commanding officers, to the Southward, at which time he had above twelve months' pay due for his services as a soldier, and which he ought to have received, and would have applied for the sole support of himself, his wife, your Petitioner, and two helpless orphan Children. That many of the poor soldiers then on their March under Command of Gen. Hogun [James Hogun], possessed of the same attachment & affection to their Families as those in Command, but willing to endure all the dangers and Hardships of war, began their March for the Defence of the State of South Carolina, could they have obtained their promised but small allowance dearly earned for the support of their distressed families in their absence; but as they were sure of suffering for want of that subsistance which at that time & unjustly was cruelly withheld from them, a General Clamor arose among the common soldiery, and they called for their stipend allowed by Congress, but it was not given
them, altho' their just due. Give your poor Petitioner leave to apologize for her unhappy Husband's conduct, & in behalf of her helpless self, as well as in Favour of his poor Children on this occasion, and ask you what must the Feeling of the Man be who fought at Brandywine [September 11, 1777], at Germantown [October 4, 1777], & at Stony Point [July 16, 1779] & did his duty, and when on another March in defence of his Country, with Poverty staring him full in the face, he was denied his Pay? His Brother soldiers, incensed by the same Injuries and had gone through the same services, & would have again bled with him for his Country whenever called forth in the service, looked up to him as an older Soldier, who then was a Sergeant, raised by his merit from the common rank, and stood forth in his own and their behalf, & unhappily for him demanded their pay, and refused to obey the Command of his superior Officer, and would not march till they had justice done them. The honest Labourer is worthy of his hire. Allegiance to our Country and obedience to those in authority, but the spirit of a man will shrink from his Duty when his Services are not paid and Injustice oppresses him and his Family. For this he fell an unhappy victim to the hard but perhaps necessary Law of his Country. The Letter penned by himself the day before he was shot doth not breathe forth a word of complaint against his cruel Sentence, Altho' he had not received any pay for upwards of fifteen months.¹ He writes to your Humble Petitioner with the spirit of a Christian.² This Letter is the last adieu he bid to his now suffering widow, & she wishes it may be read in public Assembly, and then returned her by some of the Members, who will take it with them when they return to Newbern [New Bern], and leave it in the care of Major Pasteur. Your humble Petitioner, distressed with the recollection of the fatal catastrophe, will not trouble your Honours any longer upon the subject, but humbly request that you will extend your usual Benevolence & Charity to her & her two children, and make her some yearly allowance for their support.

I am, &c.,

ANN GLOVER.

New Bern, 10th Jan. 1780.

We the subscribers recommend the above mentioned Petitioner to the Honorable the General Assembly as an object of Charity.

JNO. COOKE,

IS. GUION,

R. COGDELL,

CHRIST NEALE.

¹ See Barnabus Sullivan (Sturdivant) W20077 & John Ross R9023 1/2
² The letter referred to by the widow is not among the papers in this collection