

## **Mary Broun's petition to the South Carolina General Assembly on behalf of her husband, Archibald, 1783**

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

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

Humbly showeth

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

That the said Archibald Broun was born and bred up in this State and from the earliest laws of these unhappy Disputes proved himself a zealous and active Friend in 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, when it was generally believed that the Country was irrecoverably 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 its being given to one Blackman a Cattle-drive in Wissemsee, 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, all 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 of those of his Fellow Parishioners.

That the taking the Command of one of the Militia Companys in Charles Town he considered as his Duty, to keep the Pease 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 offence, your Petitioner can only urge in excuse for her Husband, in 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 them further advanced in Life, and of more knowledge of the World; and from its being held out to him as the only Terms on which her could expect to remain in this his Native Country, where it is well known he had many near Connexions 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, tho' 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 Behaviour in the Field, at Port Royal and Savannah, and the Blood he there spilt in the Cause of his Country, which he never would 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 Line of his Conduct since the first beginning of these Services, 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.

That Your Petitioner, having with the utmost Horror heard that it was alledged before the late Honourable House of Representatives, that her Husband was present at the burning of Houses at Winyaw, begs leave to assure your Honourable House that said Report is not true, which she can prove by the Testimony of several of the Goose Creek Company who were with him in Georgetown at the time those Houses were burnt by Major Wimys at Black Mingo or that Neighbourhood.

Your Petitioner begs leave to assure your Honourable 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, And has only further to offer that he has several worthy Connexions, 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 Honourable 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,

Mary Broun