

MICHAEL GLAVES/GLEAVES

Ca 1754-1811

Soldier of the American Revolution
By Virginia W. Melton

Michael Glaves was born to Mathew and Esther Glaves ca 1754.¹ Family lore gives his birth place as Wales, but this has not yet been verified.² His first known location in this country was in Augusta County, Virginia, when his older brother, William, was named as his guardian in 1772. Mathew Glaves, their father, died about 1760. Their mother, Esther, had married Thomas Raferty. The court case was brought against them to make Thomas Raferty make a settlement in regard to Mathew Glaves' estate.

No judgment in the case was found, but from those papers we have a list of the children of Mathew and Esther. If they were listed in the litigation in the order of their birth then Mary Glaves, who married James Turk, is the eldest; followed by William Glaves, Elizabeth Glaves, Michael Glaves, Esther Glaves, and Matthew Glaves.³

In the book, *The Descendants of Matthew Gleaves, the Glaves/Gleaves Family in America*, compiled and written by Dennis Glaves, 2005, Michael Glaves was one of the individuals who took the Oath of Allegiance to the Commonwealth of Virginia. "Michael Glaves" appears on the list compiled by John Montgomery from the several militia companies in Montgomery County, Virginia for the date of September 23, 1777.⁴

Michael Gleaves is listed in Captain James Newell's Company of Militia April 5, 1781 as is his brother, William Gleaves.⁵

The Montgomery County, Virginia Militia was involved in the Battle of Shallow Ford near the waters of the Yadkin River in North Carolina under the command of Major Joseph Cloyd with Captain Isaac Campbell, Captain Henry

¹ (*Augusta County, Virginia, Court Record, Turk vs Rafity, 22 May 1771*)

² Interview with Roberta Eunice (Wilhoite) Williams by Virginia Ann (Williams) Melton, 1990)

³ (*Augusta County, Virginia, Court Record, Turk vs Rafity, 22 May 1771*)

⁴ Dennis Glaves, compiler, *The Descendants of Matthew Gleaves, the Glaves/Gleaves Family in America* (The Gleaves Family Association, 2005), 72.

⁵ John H. Gwathmey, *Historical Register of Virginians in the Revolution, Soldiers, Sailors, Marines 1775-1783*: (The Dietz Press, Richmond, Virginia, 1938), 226.

Francis, Captain George Pearis/Parris, and Captain Abraham Trigg. In Captain Isaac Campbell's command Lieutenant Michael Gleaves is listed.⁶

August 8, 1784, the State of North Carolina issued Warrant No. 563/ 297 of 640 acres of land to "*Michael Gleaves*".⁷

Family stories tell that Michael Gleaves/Gleaves first came into the area of what would become Davidson County, Tennessee while it was known as Indian Lands and still under the jurisdiction of North Carolina. He probably arrived at Mansker's Fort sometime in the 1780's.

It is said that he and his family stayed at Mansker's Fort at night. During the day they crossed the Cumberland River to his land to build his home. His home was called *Breezewood*.⁸ At the time the area was called Jones Bend. Later it became Hadley's Bend and then Old Hickory in honor of President Andrew Jackson whose home was just a few acres away from those of Michael Gleaves/Gleaves.

Michael Gleaves/Gleaves and his wife, Rachel, reared the following eight children: Mary Dorcas Gleaves, Elizabeth Gleaves, William Gleaves, Thomas Albert Gleaves, John Gleaves, Michael Gleaves, Jr., Matthew Gleaves, and Isabella Gleaves⁹ in Jones Bend.

At his death in 1811, the home went to his widow, Rachel.¹⁰ At her death it went to their eldest son, William Gleaves. Mary "Polly" (Wilson) Gleaves (William Gleaves second wife) was the next person to obtain its possession. At her death, the home place went to her stepdaughter, Martha Ann Gleaves Drake Turner, wife of Richard Ambrose Turner.¹¹

The Michael Gleaves Family Cemetery is located on the original Land Warrant. The following page is a list of the known persons buried there.

⁶Soldiers at the Battle of Shallow Ford, Montgomery County, Virginia, North Carolina Militia, Tories, Other Patriots Associated with the Battle, < <http://www.Cbinternet.com/shallowford/battle.htm>>, downloaded 27 Mar 2004.

⁷ Land Warrant No. 567 issued to Michael Gleaves by State of North Carolina, entry dated 03 August 1784, recorded as No. 297, Davidson County, Tennessee Deed Book C, page 70, 17 November 1790, Metropolitan Nashville Archives.

⁸ Kenneth Calvin Thomson, Jr., from interviews with various older members of the Gleaves family, and papers in his possession, P.O. Box 27, Cross Plains, Tennessee, 37049.

⁹ Michael Gleaves will (1811), Davidson County Will Book 4: 185, Metropolitan Nashville Davidson County Archives, 3801 Green Hills Village Dr., Nashville, Tennessee.

¹⁰ Davidson County Will Book 4: 185.

¹¹ Kenneth C. Thomson, Jr.

MICHAEL GLEAVES CEMETERY

OLD HICKORY, TENNESSEE

The MICHAEL GLEAVES CEMETERY is located on the land that was awarded to Michael Glaves (His son, William, began spelling the surname as GLEAVES) by the State of North Carolina for services during the American Revolution.

The listing below was provided by Kenneth C. Thomson, Jr. of Cross Plains, Tennessee. He is a fourth-great grandson of Michael and Rachel GLEAVES. There were other graves, but these are the known ones. There are slaves buried here, too.

1. MICHAEL GLEAVES- b. ca 1754 d. 1811
2. RACHEL—wife of Michael—b. ca 1770 d. 17 Sep 1825
3. WILLIAM GLEAVES-son of Michael & Rachel- b. 1789 d. 13 Apr 1840
4. ANNE WILSON GLEAVES-1st wife of William- b. before 1800 d. ca June 1813
5. MARY “Polly” ANN WILSON GLEAVES-2ND wife of William-b.19 June 1794 d. 11 Feb 1877
6. MARTHA ANN GLEAVES DRAKE TURNER-daughter of William and Anne Wilson GLEAVES
b. 05 June 1813 d. 31 March 1885
7. ELI DRAKE d. c. 1832-1st husband of Martha Ann GLEAVES
8. RICHARD AMBROSE TURNER-2ND of Martha Ann—b 25 June 1810 d 02 July 1850
9. IRVING KELLEY TURNER s/o Richard & Ann- b 16 Jan 1850 d 31 Aug 1852
10. GEORGE W. GLEAVES-no dates-1st husband of Mary Ann Turner & son-in-law of Richard Ambrose Turner and Martha Ann GLEAVES Turner
11. JENNIE MAY ABSTON—daughter of Henry Lee Abston and Martha “Mattie” Missouri Turner-b ca 1868

Kenneth Thomson reports, “This farm was called “Breezewood” and after the death of Mrs. William Gleaves (Mary “Polly” Ann Wilson) it became the property of her step-daughter Mrs. Richard Ambrose Turner (Martha Ann Gleaves). At her death in 1885, it passed to her son Junius Gleaves Turner, 1839-1914, and was sold by his widow, Mrs. Clementia (Hadley) Turner & her children to the U. S. government for the powder plant during World War I.”

Compiled by Kenneth Calvin Thomson, Jr., 4th great grandson of Michael and Rachel Glaves/Gleaves.
Typed by Virginia W. Melton, 4th great granddaughter of Michael and Rachel Glaves/Gleaves