

Benjamin Graves' Statement

Statement Accompanying Powder Bag and Puff

Transcript:

This bag was used for carrying the powder and the puff was used by me in dressing the head of Gen^l George Washington, from time to time, for the space of three and a half years or thereabouts; during which time I was attached to his family in the capacity of body servant to Co^l Humphrey aid to the General; I have been detached from the second Connecticut Regiment for that purpose

At the close of the Revolutionary war I removed to the County of Clinton in the State of New York (of which county I was Sheriff for many years) and brought this bag and Puff with me & some years after gave it to my Brother in law Major George Marsh, and now finding in the possession of S^t John B. L. Skinner, I hail it as an old acquaintance and cheerfully give this certificate of its character, identity and services—I am now in the seventy fifth year of my age— Plattsburgh September 3 1835.

[signed] Benj^m Graves

[The handwriting of the statement and of the signature are not the same]

Benjamin Graves was born in Salisbury, Connecticut in November 1760¹. He was the body servant to George Washington's aid-de-camp Colonel David Humphreys during the Revolutionary war. At the time, Graves was 19 to 23 years-old. He later went on to be Sheriff of Clinton in New York for three terms in 1801-3, 1810-11 and 1812-14². He also got married to Rebeckah Marsh and they had four children. He later died at the age of 83 in March 1843.

¹ "Benjamin Graves." *FamilyCentral*, Family History Services, www.familycentral.net/index/family.cfm?ref1=22:471&ref2=22:525.

² Hurd, D. Hamilton. *History of Clinton and Franklin Counties New York. With Illustrations and Biographical Sketches of its Prominent Men and Pioneers*. Philadelphia: J. W. Lewis & Co. 1880, p. 286.