

[Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters](#)

Virginia Pension Claim of John Bowles VAS1224
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

[From [Revolutionary pension records in the Library of Virginia.](#)]

York County Court the Fifteenth day of May 1786
Ordered that Clara Bowles and Joseph Bowles be certified to this Excellency the Governor to be Infants orphans of John Bowles a Soldier who died in the continental service and that an allowance be made William Baker for supporting and maintaining the said orphans from March 1778.
Copy R. Waller cyc

I do with the advice of the Council hereby certify, that Joseph Bowles, and Clara Bowles, Orphans of John Bowles deced, who was a private in the Virginia Line and died in the service of the United States, are allowed jointly, the Sum of Six pounds per annum; which allowance is to commence from the first day of January One thousand seven hundred and Eighty Seven.
Given under my hand, as Governor of the Commonwealth of Virginia, at Richmond, this 22^d day of November 1787.
T. Meriwether

Edm. Randolph

Tuesday the 4th of December 1787

Mr. William Watkins reported from the Committee of Claims, that the Committee had, according to order had under their consideration the Petition of William Baker to them referred and had agreed upon a Report and come to a Resolution thereupon which he read in his place and afterwards delivered in at the Clerk's table where the same was again twice read and agreed to by the House as followeth:

It appears to your Committee that during the late War a certain John Bowles enlisted as a Soldier in the Service of his Country and died therein leaving two Children destitute of any support. That the petitioner took the said Children into his family and maintained them from the death of their father which happened in the year 1778 until they were put on the Pension list by the Executive in January last for which the Petitioner has received no compensation, altho' he is in very needy Circumstances.

Resolved that the Petition of the said William Baker praying an allowance from the Public for the support of the said two orphan Children, is reasonable. And for the same that the Petitioner ought to be allowed at the rate of six pounds per annum from the passing of the Act "Concerning Pensions," in the October Session 1785 to the first day of January 1787, to be paid in the same manner as the allowance to pensions are paid.

1787 December 6th

Teste/ John Beckley H.Ds. [House of Delegates]

Agreed to by the Senate

[Part missing from the online image]

Rec'd. of John Bryan D'y. Sheriff of York six pounds in full satisfaction for the within for the support & maintenance of the Orphans
Test/ John Power

William X Baker

York County Court the 15th day of July 1793
Ordered that it be certified to his Excellency the Governor that Joseph Bowles is the son of John Bowles a Soldier who died in the service and that he is in indigent Circumstances unable to support himself by his own Industry, and that it further appears to the court from the testimony of Doct'r. Banand[?] a Practitioner of Physic and of Benjamin Bates a respectable Citizen that the said Orphan is at this time in a very infirm state – has an hectic habit, a tendency to sore Legs an obstinate spleen and the scal'd Head

which last has run for many years and is now become inoctrate.

Copy/ Teste Ro. H. Waller CYC

George Chaplin being of Lawful age and being sworn deposeth and saith that he is a near neighbour to and well acquainted with Clara Bowles Daughter of John Bowles a Soldier who died in the army during the late War, that the said Clara hath always been reputed to be the Daughter of the said John, that she is about twenty years of age, enjoys a bad state of Health and at certain periods much disordered in her Senses, this Deponent also saith that he has very lately visited this unhappy Girl and endeavoured to converse with her on different subjects but finds such Dejection of Spirit and imbecility of body, that in his opinion it is out of her power to gain a support & maintenance by her own Labor

Copy Ro. H. Waller cyc

George Chaplin

Benjamin Bates of the County of York of Lawful Age having affirmed deposeth that he is acquainted with Clara Bowles daughter of John Bowles a Soldier who died in the Army during the late War, that the said Clara Bowles is at this time in indigent Circumstances aged about Twenty years and not of bodily ability to support herself by her own Industry. This Deponent further saith that having lately attended this unhappy Girl discovers that a deep melancholy and dejection has succeeded to the alienation of mind and raving fitts with which she was at first afflicted, and still affords threatenng Symptoms of a Relapse into the aforesaid first deplorable Condition.

Benj Bates

Copy Ro. H. Waller cyc

NOTE: The last authorization for a pension for Clara Bowles was dated 1 Aug 1796, and that for Joseph Bowles was 2 Jan 1797.