

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

Virginia documents pertaining to William Bowe VAS2571  
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris.

[The following are from [rejected claims in the Library of Virginia.](#)]

Hanover County State of Virginia to wit

This day [26 Apr 1834] Came before me Reuben Meredith a justice of the peace for the county aforesaid Major Samuel Winston whose name is hereunto subscribed who being first sworn, says, that about forty years ago he was acquainted with one Wm Bowe of the County of Hanor, whom he has frequently heard say that he the said Bowe served in the Continental [illegible word] during the Revolutionary War and that he suffered greatly with cold & hunger, as did the whole of the soldiers to the north, and I also heard him say that, he was taken prisoner and sent to the Jail in Philadelphia where he remained a considerable length of time and where the prisoners like to have starved to death. He also told me that he got the appointment as company [sic] but to what Ridgment he does not now recollect but he is certain that it was during his service to the north. Mr. Wm Bowe & myself were very intimate for a number of years I frequently Visited his house and can say, that he was strickly honest & upright in all his transactions with man.

[signed] Sam. J. Winston

I hereby Certify that I was intimately acquainted with William Bowe late of the County of Hanover and State of Virginia for many years; he was a man of high respectability, and I understood from him that during the Revolutionary war he was attached to the Army of the North, where he was in several hard fought actions and was at length taken prisoner, and under went many & severe hardships in confinement. I have heard him particularize the actions of Trenton [26 Dec 1776] & Princeton [3 Jan 1777] as some in which he was engaged. These circumstances of his actions and hardships were frequently the topic of conversation between us when which him and are very distinctly impressed on my mind.

[signed] Wm. Trueheart

Hanover County Sc

This day Colo. Wm Trueheart personally appeared before me a justice of the peace in & for the county aforesaid and made oath to the truth of the foregoing affidavit subscribed by him. Given under my hand this 28<sup>th</sup> day of Apl 1834.

Henry Custis

[The statement referred to in the following is mostly illegible.]

Hanover County State of Virginia

Patrick Donnella [probably Patrick Donnally (Donally) R3007] who made the within state subscribed and sworn to before me of the services of Wm. Bow in the army of the revolution is a man of reputable character having known him for many years he is since reputed and believed to have been a soldier of the revolutionary army he is now an old man I suppose above the age of seventy years. given under my his the 30<sup>th</sup> day of April 1834

Hanover County to wit

This day Ansalom Baily [Ansolem Bailey S37702] came before me Benj Wingfield a Justice of the peace for the County aforesaid and made Oath that, in the year 1776 [sic] a little after the Battle of German Town [Germantown, 4 Oct 1777], William Bowe of Hanover dec'd was taken prisoner of war with me, and confined as such in the City of Philadelphia where we remained some where about five months, after which time we made out escapes by pecking[?] through the wall of said Jail, from whence we joined our Army at Vally forge on the Scuykill [sic: Valley Forge near Schuylkill River]

The above was duly qualified to before me this 28<sup>th</sup> of April 1835

[The following two affidavits were certified on 21 June 1836]

The affidavit of Elizabeth Perrin of Lawful age taken before me Hudson M Wingfield a justice of the peace in and for the County of Hanover. This affiant states that she was well acquainted with William Bowe who enlisted in the Continental army both before he enlisted and after his return home from the service that from what she heard she thinks the said Bowe enlisted for three years She believes that he served that length of time She knows that he was absent from the County for several years She farther states that the said Bowe lived in the County of Hanover before he enlisted and that after his return home from the army he continued to live in this County up to the time of his death and that she frequently heard the said Bowe speak of his being taken a prisoner while in the service and of the sufferings of the prisoners.

[signed] Elizabeth Perrin

The affidavit of Henry Perrin taken by me Hudson M Wingfield a justice of the peace for the County of Hanover. This affiant states that he was well acquainted with Wm Bowe late of this County who enlisted in the army as a regular soldier during the revolutionary war and served a tour he thinks of three years the said Bowe lived in this County before the war, and continued after that to live in Hanover up to his death that he has often heard the said William Bowe speak of his campaigns and also of his being taken a prisoner but does not recollect where but thinks that he was engaged mostly to the north

[signed] Henry Perrin

This is to Certify, That it appears from a List in this Office of such Officers and Soldiers of the Virginia Continental Line, during the Revolutionary War, as settled their Accounts, and received Certificates for the balance of their Full Pay, according to an Act of Assembly, passed the November Session, 1781, that a Certificate issued on the 23rd day of June 1783, in the name of William Bowe as a Sergeant of Infantry for £34.8.11, which Certificate appears to have been delivered to himself and was given for services prior to the 1st January, 1782.

Given under my hand at the Auditor's Office, Richmond, this 25th day of March 1840.  
Jas E Heath AUDITOR.

Rejected July 27 1840

To his Excellency the Governor or Chief Magistrate of the Commonwealth of Virginia  
Your Memorialists Frederick Bowe, Albert G Bowe and William Bowe of the County of Hanover beg leave respectfully to represent to your Excellency that their father William Bowe late of said County died some years past intestate survived by your memorialists his only heirs and distributees. That early in the War of the Revolution their said father enlisted as a Soldier of Infantry in the Virginia Continental Line and served for three years of more & received the appointment of Sergeant whilst in such service. At this distant day your memorialists cannot prove under what various officers he served (except under Colo George Matthews [sic: George Mathews VAS520 ] see Smiths Report No 1 page 20) nor can they prove all the battles that he was in or all the service that he performed but they flatter themselves that from the documentary evidence accompanying this Memorial and marked A B C D E and F that it is manifest that said William Bowe enlisted as a soldier of infantry as aforesaid in the War of the Revolution, that he served for at least three years if not longer that he was appointed a Sergeant during such service, that he was in many hard fought battles to the north particularly at Trenton and Princeton, that he was taken prisoner at Red Bank in 1776 [sic: Red Bank NJ, 22 Oct 1777] confined in jail in Philadelphia for many months suffering great hardships and that he made his escape therefrom and returned to the American Army at Valley Forge. Under the foregoing circumstances your Memorialists are advised that said William Bowe their father was at the time of his death entitled by the Laws of the Land to Military Land Bounty for his services as a Sergeant of Infantry in the Virginia Continental Line in the War of the Revolution for at least three years and to which your memorialists as his only heirs and distributees are now entitled by Law They therefore respectfully pray that your Excellency will allow them so much Land

as they are entitled to under the foregoing circumstances and will direct the Register of the Land Office of Virginia to issue a Warrant or Warrants for the same and as in duty bound they will ever pray &c

Fred. Bowe/ Albert & Wm Bowe by their Counsel

[Certified in Hanover County on 7 April 1848]