

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

Pension Application of William Lowther VAS32

Transcribed and annotated by David Houchin and C. Leon Harris. Revised 4 April 2012.

Publick Claims [Transcribed by DH.]

Major William Lowther appeared in Court and proved to the Satisfaction of the Same that he was in the Volenter Service under the Command of General George Rogers Clark in the year 1781 and Obtained from the General a Majors Comission and acted in that Capacity from 21 Day of June until the Eleventh Day of August Insuing and then Obtained a Discharge, also that he was 7 Days from the date of his Discharge to his Arrivall home and that his Obtaining his Discharge was Ocationed by Sickness, and the Discharge was Lost & Or'd to be Certify'd.

Harrison County Minutes, 1784-1792, p. 52, 20 April 1785

The following is found in the [rejected claims in the Library of Virginia](#) [transcribed by CLH]:

Lewis County to wit

This day Jesse Carpenter [pension application S9309] aged 70 years and Thomas Cottrel [S8242] aged 73 years both at present of Lewis county appeared before me the subscriber a Justice of the peace in and for said county and made oath severally that they and each of them were well acquainted with Col. William Lowther deceased. They know that he went as a Major to Pittsburg in the year 1781 and joined Colonel Joseph Crocketts regiment at Pittsburg and descended the Ohio river under General Clarke. they were well acquainted with him before he started in said expedition – were with him – had previously served under him as a captain The acting as Indian Spies Major Lowther returned from the expedition under General Clarke to the now County of Harrison and then county of Monongalia and continued some time as a Major was then promoted to a Col. and as such continued to command soldiers and issue orders to Indian Spies and subaltern officers down to the end of the Indian hostilities which was about the year 1795. Col. Lowther was a faithful [bottom of page missing from online image]ant officer from the year 1778 or [rest of page missing]

stated and after his return from the command of a Major in Crocketts regiment under General Clarke. He was promoted to a Col. & so continued till the end of the war as well with Great Brittan as with the Indians. I do moreover certify that I have been long acquainted with said Jesse Carpenter and Thomas Cottrel the undersigned affiants and that they are credible men and their statements entitled to full credit.

7th. November 1832.

Jesse hisXmark Carpenter

Thomas hisXmark Cottrell

Subscribed and sworn to before me this day and year above

Abner Abbott JP

Lewis County to wit

I Jacob Bush [W24685] do hereby certify on oath that I was for many years acquainted with Col. William Lowther who resided in a very early day in that part of Virginia which is now Harrison County. I knew him in the year 1779 when he was a Captain. He was then promoted to a Major and in the year 1781 (as well as I now recollect the date) said Major Lowther went a campaign under General Clarke. Major Lowther when he arrived at Pittsburg was attached to a regiment commanded by Colonel Joseph Crockett we descended the ohio river together. Major Lowther performed that campaign as a Major in said Crocketts regiment when he returned he was promoted to a Colonel and so continued to the close of the revolutionary war and beyond it down to the year 1785. said Lowther was a captain in 1779 and commanded at West fort [sic: West Fork River] at Lowthers Fort and often commanded scouting and ranging parties. He was a brave and vigilant officer during the whole of the revolutionary war. He died in the year 1814 in Harrison county at his old residence. He had served first as a captain then as a Major

and lastly as a colonel in which character he acted at the close of the [rest of page missing from online image]

Children Viz. Robert William Elias Thomas and Jesse. Thomas never married and is now dead. I am now [illegible] years of age and have lived where I now do for fifty years in what is now Lewis county.

Jacob his Bmark Bush

Lewis County to wit

Jacob Bush above named this day appeared before me the subscriber a Justice of the peace in and for said county and signed and swore to the foregoing statement. I do also certify that I have known the said Jacob Bush many years and that he supports a good character and that his character entitles him to full credit on oath. and that it is matter of general belief that he was a soldier in the revolutionary war. Given under my hand this [illegible] day of November 1832. Michael Stump[?]

[A note in the file initialed by Gov. John Floyd indicates that the claim by Lowther's heirs was rejected on 31 Dec 1832, probably because Virginia did not grant bounty land for service in the militia. The claim was rejected again on 18 May 1833 after receipt of the following additional evidence.]

At a court held for Lewis County on Tuesday the first day of January 1833 at the Courthouse of said county on motion of the heirs of the late Col. William Lowther. It appearing to the satisfaction of said court by the testimony of divers respectable witness-s That the said Col. William Lowther was an officer (a Major) In the regiment Commanded by Col. Joseph Crockett about the year 1781. That he descended the Ohio river and joined the command of Gen'l. Clarke. That he served his full campaign and was promoted to a Col. came home as such and so continued to the end of the revolutionary war. That he was a brave and patreotic man. That he died in Harrison county of which Lewis then formed a part in the year 1814 intestate leaving the following surviving children his only heirs Viz. Robert – William – Jesse and Elias Lowther. The latter lives in Lewis county and the three first in Harrison county [bottom of page missing from online image] that the same be certified [rest of page missing]

Lewis County Court January Term 1833

On motion of the Heirs of Col. William Lowther who produced a statement in Court coroborated by Testimony – It is ordered that the same be certified to the Register of the land Office of Virginia – A Copy Teste J. Talbott C.L.C.

Mr. Bland informs me that he left the Affidavits of Jacob Bush and others in the [illegible word] depart. This statement which the court of Lewis have ordered to be certified may possibly need[?] the deliberations of the Executive authority. Please to inform me of the decision as early as practicable.

Very respectfully/ Your obt. Ser't./ J. Wamsley [see endnote]

Lewis County to wit

Lewis Bonnett [S5294] aged 71 years and Peter Bonnett [S5293] aged 69 years both personally appeared before the Justices of Lewis County Court at the courthouse now sitting at the February [1833] term thereof and severally declared on oath that they voluntarily entered the service of Virginia on the western waters about the year 1780 to descend the Ohio river to act for an indefinite period against the Indians That they rendavoud on the Westfork of Monongahala river [West Fork River, tributary of the Monongahela River] and descended it with [illegible word] men from what are now Harrison Randolph and Lewis counties That they were under the command of Major William Lowther Captain Jonathan Coburn, Ensign Benjamin Sills they were kept a while at Redstone fort (Brownsville now) Thence to Newells Store (Elizabeth now) and about there and Pittsburg and Matures Island below Pittsburg guarding cows[?] provisions &c to descend the river to join General Clarke, proceeded [illegible word] that this as they now think in the Spring of 1781. Major Lowther was attached to Cornel Crocketts Regement at Pittsburg – then the troops arrived at the Mouth of little Kanhawa [sic: Little Kanawha River

at present Parkersburg WV] Captain Coburn & these affiants and some other soldiers were stationed at Neals Station to act as Indian [spies] and otherwise as circumstances might require to defend the frontier of Virginia here they parted with their Major who proceeded on down the river with Col Crocketts Regiment. they saw no more of their Major till after they returned home which was in the fall of 1782. they are of opinion that Major Lowther returned in 1782. He came back as Col and so continued and conducted or commanded spies – Rangers & Scouts untill the close of Indian hostilities about 1794. They knew Col Lowther untill his death which was about 1814 in Harrison County. These affiants were well acquainted with Jacob Bush a soldier under Captain George Jackson and Maj'r. Lowther he also went on towards Kentucky when they stopped at Neal's Station now Parkersburg. They further certify that Major Lowther was a brave and excellent officer They knew him when he was a Captain – then a Major and lastly a Col. In this last capacity they often after 17[?; bottom of page missing from online image] acted under him as Spies. subscribed [rest of page missing from online image]

Lewis County Court February Term 1833

This day Lewis Bonnett and Peter Bonnett soldiers in the Revolutionary War, personally appeared in open Court and signed and swore to a Joint Declaration of the Revolutionary services of the late Col William Lowther who was a Major in Col Crocketts Regiment, and the Court do certify that it appears to them that the said Lewis Bonnett and Peter Bonnett are respectable men and that their statement is entitled to credit
A Copy Teste J. Talbott C.L.C.

At the request of the heirs of the late Col. W. Lowther I transmit the foregoing statement of two respectable old men men[?] in this county. This is by the heirs offered as additional evidence of the revolutionary services of Col. Lowther – on their application for his Land bounty. please report to me the result of the executive deliberation in this matter as soon a practicable.

Very respectfully/ Your obt Ser't./ J Wamsley

NOTE: Jonathan M. Wamsley was the ringleader in a conspiracy to fraudulently obtain federal pensions, as explained in the appendix to the pension application of David W. Sleeth S6111 (<http://revwarapps.org/s6111.pdf>). Upon investigation the following, who certified Lowther's service above, were judged to have submitted fraudulent claims on their own behalf: Lewis Bonnett, Peter Bonnett, Jesse Carpenter, and Thomas Cotteral. Although their statements about Lowther's service are suspect, there is no doubt that William Lowther was a militia officer and served as he stated in his claim above. A payroll shows him as Captain of a militia company in 1774, and Augusta County authorities recommended him for a captaincy on 17 Sep 1777 (McAllister, J. T. *Virginia Militia in the Revolutionary War*. Westminster MD: Heritage Books, 1989 [1913]).