

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

Rejected State Application of George Owings (Owens) VAS81
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

[From [Revolutionary Rejected Claims in the Library of Virginia](#):]

The COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

To George Owings Esqr Gentleman.

KNOW you, that from the especial Trust and Confidence reposed in your Patriotism, Fidelity, Courage, and good Conduct, your are, by these Presents, constituted and appointed Capt'n[?] of the Militia in the District of Clarkburgh[?] in the County of Illinois

Your are therefore carefully and diligently to discharge all the Duties appertaining to the said Office, and hold the same according to an [act] of General Assembly entitled *An Act for establishing the County of Illinois, and for the more effectual Protection and Defence thereof,*

Witness, John Todd [illegible] Esquire, County Lieutenant of the County of Illinois, the 27th [day] of [illegible] in the fourth year of the Commonwealth, Anno Domini 177[9]

Jno Todd [see endnote]

State of Indiana } Ss [certified 13 Feb 1840]
County of Clark }

David Owings of the State aforesaid being duly sworn makes oath & says, that his first acquaintance with Captain George Owings commenced sometime in April 1782, at which time this affiant in company with his father removed to Louisville in the state of Kentucky. Captain George Owings was at that time in the fort at Louisville, in command of his company. I was informed by Captain George Owings and others of his men that they had been stationed at the Iron banks at fort Jefferson [on Mississippi River about 1 mi below present Wickliffe KY]; they told me that Captain George Owings had shot Colonel [James] Colbert at fort Jefferson while he Colvert was in command of the Indians who were besieging the fort. [See endnote.] This latter statement affiant does not know of his own knowledge, but only from hearsay at the time. This affiant lived in the fort at the falls; from the time of his arrival there in april 1782 till the autumn of (1783) one thousand seven hundred and eighty three, Captain George Owings remained at the fort in command of his company, except at such times as he was absent in pursuit of Indians on the other side of the river. This affiant remembers to have frequently seen Captain George Owings returning with his company from their scouting expeditions bearing with them prisoners & scalps.

Affiant states that in the fall of one thousand seven hundred and eighty three the company under the command of Captain owings was disbanded, and that up to that time Captain owings retained the command of it. After his company was disbanded [bottom of page missing from online image] seen as follows. Captain George Owings in Company with two men one named Jerry Mays, and another John Oliver had started on a hunting expedition, and on their return, they were attacked by a party of Indians who killed Mays the first fire, and captured Capt owings and John Oliver. The indians took Jno Oliver and Captain owings with them to the mouth of Vermillion river in Indiana, where they burned Captain George Owings several days by a slow fire.

These latter facts this affiant learned from [first name illegible] Hart, and William Wells who were prisoners and present at the time of the burning; he has also heard the same statements from John Oliver, above named, and has no doubt of their their truth. This affiant was acquainted with Charity owings the wife of Captain George Owings for several years before the death of Captain owings; she has been dead four or five years. Affiant further states that Captain George Owings had two sons by his wife

Charity, who were named George C. Owings & Thomas Owings, and who are both living at this time in Scott county in this state. These are the only heirs now living of whom this affiant has any knowledge. There was a daughter who is dead. This affiant is a nephew to Captain George Owings. Captain Owings & this affiant's father were half brothers.

This affiant has no interest direct or indirect in the event of the application now making by the heirs of Captain Owings for lands or other claims. Captain Owings had the reputation [rest of the page missing from online image]

Jefferson County } [8 Feb 1840]
State of Kentucky } Ss

Before me Samuel Dickenson a Justice of the Peace in and for said County personally appeared Captain John Donne who being duly sworn deposed and says

That Capt George Owings was at the fort at the Iron Banks with Captain Robert George [several other words illegible] in the year 1779 when [two illegible words] until some time in the year 1781 this affiant being there and then present where we remained for about the term of eighteen months and then returned to [rest of the page illegible]

and burnt him for some days as this affiant was subsequently informed by John Oliver who made his escape from them shortly afterwards. This affiant further states that he was acquainted with William Wells, and is well satisfied in his own mind that Wells was present and with the Indians when Capt Owens was burnt. This affiant further states that Capt George Owens was considered as brave a man and as fine a soldier as ever lived and rendered as much service to his country as an officer of same rank in his day in protecting the women and children on the frontiers of the country

And this affiant states in conclusion that he does [several illegible words] of the name of Captain George Owens up to this day. and although he was but a lad at the time yet the circumstances above stated are as fresh in his memory as though they had happened [four illegible words]
This affiant states that Fort Jefferson was at what is called now the Iron Banks, on the Mississippi River.

State of Missouri } Sct [certified 5 June 1840]

New Madrid County } Jacob Wheat [pension application W6481] was in the regular service of the united states in the year seventeen hundred and seventy nine or eighty as a private in Capt Georges company stationed at Fort Jefferson under the chief command of Genl Geo Rogers Clark entered the service at Louisville Ky remembers distinctly Capt George Owings who was Elected and his company organised by the order of Genl Clark and who went with us with his company and others from Louisville to Fort Jefferson, that his Capt Owings company (together with others) were engaged in two battles with the Indians while at Fort Jefferson in which he (Owings) greatly distinguished himself, and in one of which he shot Calbert with his own hand

In the year seventeen hundred & eighty two I think it was we was all ordered to [one or two words missing from the online image] Owings remained at Fort Nelson [at the Falls of the Ohio River, now Louisville] [part may be missing from the online image]

Some years afterwards I heard that Owings was captured by a party of Indians what became of him I cannot know always understood that Capt Owings belonged to Genl George Rogers Clarks redgment as Clark promised them lands for their services. Owings was a brave man, and his services was not inferiour to any man of my acquaintance, I remember that his wifes name was Charity. She was a large woman and futher saith not

Jacob hisXmark Wheat

NOTES:

As a militia officer Owens was not entitled to bounty land from Virginia.

John Todd was also Civil Commandant of Illinois County VA organized in 1778.

For details on the siege of Fort Jefferson (25 Jul - 12 Sep 1780) during which Col. James Colbert was shot and later died, see [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fort_Jefferson_\(Kentucky\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fort_Jefferson_(Kentucky)).

In a letter dated 19 Dec 1839 the agent who prepared the claim quoted a portion of a statement not found in the file as stating that at Vermillion River the Indians burnt Owings "for seven days, and at his own request a man by the name of William Wells shot him to put him out of his misery."