

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of John Flowers R3619 Sarah Flowers VA  
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. 13 Feb 2014.

State of Tennessee. Hawkins County ss

On this 24<sup>th</sup> day of July 1847 Personally appeared before me John Riggs an acting Justice of the peace in and for the County Aforesaid Sarah Flowers a resident of said County aged 83 years who being first sworn according to law doth make the following declaration In order to obtain her pension under the Acts of Congress of July 7 1838 and 1843 & 1844 That she is the widow of John Flowers who belonged to the Continental line (from the State of Va) That she cannot tell his officers &c or Reg't. but that he served and Received his pay for the same as will more fully appear from the certificates of the Auditor of Virginia [see endnote] She further swears that her husband the aforesaid John Flours was killed on the 14<sup>th</sup> day of April 1816 (in a fray) That she was not married to him previous to his leavig the service but that their marriage took place on the 11<sup>th</sup> day of Dec'r 1783 by licence in Buckingham County Va That said marriage was previous to the first day of January 1794 viz at the time above stated

Sarah herXmark Flowers

State of Tennessee Grainger County

This 21<sup>st</sup> day of October 1847 Personally appeared before me John Harris an acting Justice of the peace in and for the State and County aforesaid Sarah Flowers and made Oath in due form of law that she is the same person who filed a declaration for Pension in July last for the service of her husband John Flowers who was a soldier of the Revolution (Va continental line) She says she cannot Tell what Regiment he belonged to or who his Col. was, she thinks his Capt. name was John Morgan (but is not certain of that) There was a man named Charles Thurman [see endnote] a messmate of her husbands and Thomas [Smith] and Humphry Smith returned home with him (she is not certain whether smiths belonged to his company or not) She further swears she was married to the said John Flowers in Buckingham County Va and if it was written in her declaration Rockingham County it was a mistake in the writer (for she said Buckingham) on the 11<sup>th</sup> day of Dec'r 1783 by licence – by Hawkins Landrum a minister of the Methodist Order She swears her husband was at the serrender of Cornwallis at little York Va [sic: Cornwallis at Yorktown, 19 Oct 1781]

Sarah herXmark Flowers

State of Tennessee Hawkins County SS

Personally appeared before the subscriber a Justice of the Peace in and for the County aforesaid Sarah Flowers Widow of John Flowers and makes the following Supplemental to her declaration heretofore filed for a pension under the Act of Congress passed the 7 July 1838 granting pensions to certain Widows and subsequent laws

Whereas the Commissioner of Pensions required of this affiant that she must give the names of the field and company Officers under whom this affiants husband John Flowers served this affiant declares on oath that she cannot recollect the names of said Officers But she distinctly recollects that her husband the said John Flowers stated when alive that he messed with one Charles Thurman and this affiant further states that Charles Thurman lived in the south part of Tennessee and was an United States pensioner and drew a pension at Knoxville Tennessee and died some time since as she is informed and believes. This affiant supposes that said Charles Thurman When he filed his declaration for a Pension under the act of the 7<sup>th</sup> June 1832 gave the names of his Officers and this affiant feels confident that if the commissioner of Pensions will search said Thurmans declaration and then search his Thurmans Officers rolls he will find that her husband John Flowers served under the same officers and the same Company with the aforesaid Charles Thurman which is the only chance this affiant knows of to Establish the names of her husbands Officers

Sworn to and subscribed the 10<sup>th</sup> day of August 1850

Sarah herXmark Flowers

State of Tennessee }  
County of Hawkins } S.S.

On this the 29<sup>th</sup> day of March A.D. 1852 personally appeared before the subscriber an acting Justice of the peace in and for Hawkins county Tennessee, Mrs Sarah Flowers, and first being duly qualified according to law doth upon her oath make the following declaration  
That she is the widow of John Flowers, who was a private in the war of the American Revolution in the Virginia Continental line. Affiant further declares that her husband entered the service in Virginia in 1777 or 1778 and continued in the service until the surrender of Cornwallis [19 Oct 1781].  
Affiant further declares that she was married in the year 1783 in Buckingham county Virginia. Affiant makes this declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the acts of Congress of June the 7<sup>th</sup> 1839, March 3<sup>rd</sup> 1843, June the 17<sup>th</sup> 1844 and February the 2<sup>nd</sup> 1849. For proof in her case, affiant would refer the department to that which is already upon file and that which accompanies the foregoing declaration  
Sarah herXmark Flowers

State of Tennessee }  
County of McMinn } S.S.

Be it known that, on this, the 2<sup>nd</sup> day of March A.D. 1853, before the subscriber an acting Justice of the Peace, in and for said county personally appeared Mrs. Elizabeth Bradley, aged eighty years past, and made oath in due form of law, that she was well acquainted with John Flowers the identical person who was a Revolutionary soldier and was enlisted in the county of Buckingham in the State of Virginia. That said John Flowers was an enlisted man and served over two years in the war. Affiant knew said John Flowers in the service from the fact that she was raised with him and knew when he entered the service and when he came out of the service; that shortly after he came out of the service he was married to Sarah Conner. Affiant futher declares that she was not only at the performance of the marriage cerimony, but made, or assisted in making, the “weding clothes” of said John Flowers. Affiant futher declares that Sarah Flowers, now residing in the county of Hawkins and State of Tennessee is the widow of said John Flowers. Affiant knows the foregoing facts from her own personal knowledge.  
Elizabeth herXmark Bradley

State of Tennessee }  
County of Hawkins } S.S.

On this the [blank] day of July A.D. 1853, before the subscriber, an acting Justice of the peace in and for said county personally appeared, Richard T Roberson aged 86 years past and made oath in due form of law; that he was well acquainted with John Flowers who was a Sargeant in the Virginia Continental Line in the war of the American Revolution. That to affiants own personal knowledge he entered the service in the county of Buckingham Virginia as a private soldier and was afterwards a seargeant in the Infantry corpse. That he enlisted in 1779 and served until 1781. Affiant remembers distinctly when said John Flowers returned home on a furlough in the year 1780 and John Flowers then told affiant that he had been promoted to the place of a Seargeant, and that he also remembers when he returned from the battle of York Town [siege of Yorktown, 28 Sep - 19 Oct 1781], for that shortly after his return he was married to Sarah Conner, and that he, affiant was living a close neighbour to him at the time said marriage took place. Affiant futher declares that Mrs. Sarah Flowers who is now applying for a pension, is the widow of the identical John Flowers aforesaid. Affiant knows the foregoing affidavit to be true from the fact that he lived a close neighbour to said John Flowers when the circumstances took place in Buckingham Virginia and has known the famely and Sarah Flowers ever since Affiant futher declares that he has no interest in the procurment of the pension of Mrs Sarah Flowers.

[signed] Richard T Robtson[?]

State of Tennessee }  
Hawkins County } S.S.

Be it known, that on this the 6<sup>th</sup> day of July A.D. 1853, before the subscriber, an acting Justice of the Peace, in and for said county, personally appeared Mrs Mary Robertson aged eighty three year past, a resident of the said county, and made oath in due form of law that she was well acquainted with John Flowers who was a soldier in war of the American Revolution. Affiant knew said John Flowers in Buckingham county in the state of Virginia where in the year A.D. 1779 he enlisted in the Virginia Continental Line, and affiant declares that said John Flowers was reputed a "small officer" of some kind Affiant further declares that she remembers of his return on furlough several times during his service which affiant declares continued for the space of three years or nearly so, and that shortly after his return from the service said John Flowers was married to Sarah Conner affiant was not at the marriage, but everybody told affiant that they were married. Affiant knows the foregoing facts to be true from the fact that she was living in Buckingham county Virginia at the time they occurred, and from the fact that John Flowers was a cousin of the affiant. Affiant further declares that Sarah Flowers who is now making application for a pension, from this county, is the widow of the identical John Flowers who is spoken of in in the foregoing affidavit Affiant further declares that she has no pecuniary interest whatever in the procurment of a pension by said Sarah Flowers [signed] Mary Robertson [Robert Miller, 89, and Mary Miller, both of Hawkins County, made similar statements.]

NOTES:

The file includes certificates from the Auditor of Virginia for two Continental soldiers named John Flowers. One John Flowers, "a Soldier of Infantry," settled his account on 25 May 1784 for £36.13.5. The other John Flowers, "Serjeant of Infy," settled his account on 11 March 1784 for £78.0.2. The latter John Flowers (VAS1380) was in the 9<sup>th</sup> Virginia Continental Regiment, which was recruited from the counties of Accomack, Albemarle, Goochland, and Northampton counties. Sarah Flowers's application for a pension was rejected because the Pension Commissioner was not convinced which of the two, if either, was her husband.

Charles Thurman (Thurmon), pension application R10582, from Bledsoe County TN, served in the militia and would therefore not have been in a company with Continental soldiers.

I found no record of a Captain John Morgan.

A letter dated 23 Oct 1847 states that the fragment of a family record on the back of the title page of a New Testament, transcribed below, was damaged by Sarah Flowers's children.

On 7 March 1855 the attorney for the heirs of Sarah Flowers appealed for a reconsideration of the claim for a pension.

John Flowers was Married the [illegible] Decm[?] 1783  
william Flowers was [page torn] November 23 1785  
[page torn]ers was bornd [or "bound"] [page torn] 1794

## Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Flowers John

VA  
(Sarah)

R36119

Transcription by FA Weyler

16Aug2013

[p4]

### Declaration

In order to obtain the benefit of the provision of the act of Congress passed the 7 July 1838 entitled an Act Granting half pay and pensions to certain widows- State of Tennessee, Hawkins County

On this 24<sup>th</sup> day of July 1847 personally appeared before me John Riggs, an acting Justice of the Peace in and for the county aforesaid, Sarah Flowers, a resident of said county aged 83 years, who being first sworn according to law doth make the following declaration in order to obtain her pension under the acts of Congress of July 7 1838 and 1843 & 1844. That she is the widow of John Flowers who belonged to the Continental line (from state of Va). That she cannot tell his officers &c or Regt but that he served and received his pay for the same as will more fully appear from the certificate of the Auditor of Virginia. She further states that her husband the aforesaid John Flowers was killed on the 16<sup>th</sup> day of April 1816 (in a fray). That she was not married to him previous to his leaving the service but that their marriage took place before the 11<sup>th</sup> day of Decr 1783 by license in Buckingham County Va. That said marriage was previous to the first day of January 1794 viz at the time above states.

Sworn and subscribed the day and year above written. Sarah Flowers x her mark  
Before me John Riggs Justice of the peace

[p6]

Sir

Washington, March 7 1855

As attorney of James W Newman, attorney of the heir of Sarah Flowers, widow of John Flowers, a sergeant of Infantry in the Cintinental Line of the State of Virginia, in the Revolutionary War, I respectfully request a re-examination of the claim as presented at your office for the following reasons.

In your letter of June 25 1853 you say that :the certificate of the auditor of Virginia filed in support of the claim adds to the difficulty heretofire urged against its admission, for it shows conclusively that there was in the Virginia Continental Line two men named John Flowers. If it were conclusively shown that he had ever served at all, I should not know which of these certificates indicated the serive of the husband of the applicant.”

Now allow me to say that these is no conflict between these two certificates or additional difficulty in consequence thereof and I flatter myself that upon further examination you will change your view on that point. For the auditor in his certificate of 28<sup>th</sup> June 1847 returns the name of John Flowers as entitled to £36.13.5 on 25<sup>th</sup> May 1784 as a soldier of Infantry & is that of 19<sup>th</sup> March 1853, the name of John Flowers as entitled to £78.0.2 on 11<sup>th</sup> March 1784 as sergeant of Infantry.

Now, Richard T Roberson, one of the witnesses whose deposition is on file deposed that Flowers was a Sergeant in the Virginia Continental Line. That he entered as a Private & was afterwards promoted to the grade of Sergeant of Infantry. And the other witnesses corroborate this statement & say he was a small or non commissioned officer. We have nothing to do with the John Flowers who was a private at the time of his discharge & entitled to pay on 28<sup>th</sup> May 1784. Our man was a Sergeant & entitled t pay on 11<sup>th</sup> March 1784. If service as sergeant is

established, the circumstances of a man having served during the same war with the same name, but a different grade, certainly cannot be considered as adding to the difficulty.

In your letter of Sep 9<sup>th</sup> 1853 you say “The applicant’s husband has not yet been sufficiently identified with the John Flowers of the Auditor’s Certificate & the witnesses who testify as to the date of the marriage should give some substantial reason for fixing the particular time.”

As we claim for the services of John Flowers mentioned in the Auditor’s Certificate of 19<sup>th</sup> March 1853, as Sergeant of Infantry & for none other, allow me to call your attention to the evidence on file on that point & to hope that, upon further examination you will find that the proof is sufficient as to such identify marriage. Ikies Roberson testifies that John Flowers who was

[p8] a sergeant of infantry in the Virginia Continental Line married Sarah Conner who is the identical person claiming pension in this case, & that his knowledge of the marriage arises from his having been a near neighbor at the time & that he has known tem ever since their marriage which took place shortly after the battle of Yorktown. That they lived as man & wife together until the death of John Flowers & that they were always recognized as such. Mrs. Mary Roberson remembers the marriage which occurred soon after his return from service & deposes that petitioner was wife of said John Flowers. John Riggs deposed that John & Sarah Flowers lived together as man & wife until John Flowers’ death. Elizabeth Bradley says she was present at the marriage of John Flowers & Sarah Conner & assisted in making the wedding clothes. All the witnesses agree as to their opinion of the service of John Flowers as a Sergeant of Infantry.

I therefore respectfully submit \_\_\_\_\_ that as the auditor has certified that John Flowers was entitled as a Sergeant of Infantry & the claimant’s witneeses have testified to his service as such – Sergeant & that they knew of the marriage from the fact of being neighbors, public notoriety, their living together as man & wife, & last but not least, that Sarah Bradley was present at the marriage, this is a case which urgently demands re-examination & allowance & for such I present it.

Hon L.P. Waldo  
Commissioner of Pensions

Respectfully yours  
John Carroll Brent  
Attorney for claimant

THIS IS TO CERTIFY, That it appears from a list in this office of such Officers and Soldiers of the Virginia *Continental Line* 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, directing the Auditors of Public Accounts to settle and adjust the pay and accounts of the said Officers and Soldiers from the 1st January 1777 to 31st December 1781, (see Hening's Statutes at Large, vol. 10, p. 462,) that a settlement was made on the 11<sup>th</sup> day of *March 1784* in the name of *John Flowers* as *Sergeant of Foot* and evidence of the indebtedness of the State to him for *£ 78. 1. 2* delivered to *Mr Stephens* but as the original settlements or copies thereof are not to be found in this office, the term of service embraced therein cannot be stated.

Given under my hand at the First Auditor's Office, Richmond, this *19<sup>th</sup>* day of *March* 18 *53*.

[No Seal of Office.]

*Robert Hunter*  
Audr Pub Accts

[The 48 page file contains those articles proclaimed in the attorney's letter above with certification, letters of transmittal, power of attorney, and various covers. I see no indication of the final disposition of the case.]