

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

Pension Application of Balaam Bowers S10096

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

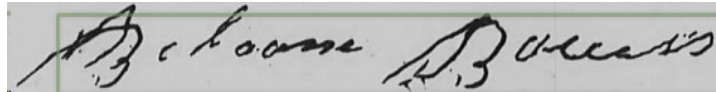
Virginia.

Greensville County To wit:

On this 7th day of August 1832 personally appeared before the Justices of the County Court of Greensville sitting, Balaam Bowers, a resident of the County and state aforesaid, aged seventy eight years next October, who being first duly sworn, according to Law, doth on his oath make the following declaration, in order to obtain the benefit of the provision made by Act of Congress passed June 7th 1832.

That he enlisted in the army of the United States, in the year 1780, with Capt. John Overton, and served in the 3rd Regiment of the Virg'a. Line on Continental Establishment, under the following named officers – after Capt. Overton marched to the South to join Gen'l. Green's [sic: Nathanael Greene's] army, being then in Hospital served under Capt. Nat. Lamb [sic: Nathan Lamme], under Col. Gaskin [sic: Thomas Gaskins] until the seige of York, and surrender of Lord Cornwallis [19 Oct 1781], at which time he was discharged which paper was filed in Richmond many years ago, with an application for a pension from the State of Virginia – that he was in no battle except the seige of York, in the whole of which he served that he served eighteen months on that occasion. He also served in the militia in the year 1777 under the command of Capt. Robert Threadgill at Wilmington in the State of North Carolina, one tour of three months; that he then returned to Virginia and marched from Brunswick County, under the com[paper damaged] of Capt. Wm. Goodrich [William Goodrich], to James River, under Col. Watson [probably Alexander Watson] from the same County and served another tour of three months. That he knows of no one who served with him, now living –

That he hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or an annuity, except the present, and he declares that his name is not on the pension roll of any agency in any State –
Sworn to and subscribed, the day and year afores'd.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Balaam Bowers". The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored background.

[Bowers's claim was denied by the Pension Office, but on 2 Feb 1836 he successfully petitioned Congress as follows:]

To the Congress of the United States:

The petition of Balaam Bowers, of Greensville County, Virginia, humbly represents, that he is now supported at the Poor House of his County as a pauper being entirely without the means of subsistence except through that charity. That he served faithfully in the army in the Revolutionary War as set forth in the declaration which accompanies this That from an accidental loss of his discharge he is without other proof of his service than his own oath, and that of the two venerable and respectable Gentlemen whose affidavit accompanies it – his age, infirmities and extreme poverty deprive him of the means of hunting up any of his old comrades who may, by chance, survive. He therefore humbly prays, that he may be placed on the pension roll and receive the benefit of the Act of 7 June 1832.

Balaam Bowers says he was a Continental Soldier & Enlisted under John Overton in the Third Regiment – Gen'l. Stuband [sic: Baron von Steuben] was the Officer Wm. Davis [sic: William Davies] the Col Stationed at Chesterfield Court House Va. he received a Furlow & from their he joined the army at Wmsburg in the year 1781 under the command of Capt Lamb from thence he marched to Little York & received his discharge from Capt Lamb after Service of 18 months [not signed or dated]

The affidavit of John Robinson [pension application R8884] of lawful age taken before me Edward B Ryland a Justice of the peace for the County of Greensville State of Virginia on the 18th day of April 1836 deposeth and sayeth that Balaam Bowers as well as my memry serves me enlisted in the year 1780 in first part of that year and continued in the ware until after the capture of Wallas which was in the year 1781. Some time after he returned home with an honourable discharge and at that time this County was called Brunswick and sence has been taken from Brunswick and further this deponant sayeth not
Given under my hand and seal the day & date above written [signed] John Robinson

Dear, Sir I see from a letter that Capt J. Robinson Have news from you that you wish me to state all the evidence which I know respecting the services of Balaam Bowers (Answer) I know nothing of the services of Balaam Bowers, but from the convisation that I have had with him divers of time, I believe he has served his cuntry faithfully as a soldier of the revilutionary war. Balaam Bowers is in his eighty third year and None more worthy of his pay than he is [signed] John Goodrum [S8589]
April 20th 1836

NOTE: A Treasury-Department document states that the final pension payment was made to Balaam Bowers, Jr. and Betsey Hodges, only children of Balaam Bowers, up to the day of his death, 8 Jan 1841.