

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements

Pension Application of John Bowen S32124

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

State of Georgia }

Gwinnett County } Inferior court Sitting for Ordinary purposes - July Term 1833.

Came in person before said Court (the same being a Court of record) John Bowen who doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to avail himself of the benefits of the act of Congress passed 7th June 1832.

That he entered the service as a drafted Militia Man under Captain Binns Jones - that his lieutenant's name was Robinson [possibly Robertson] - that he entered this service about the first day of June 1780 in Macklenburgh [sic: Mecklenburg] County in the State of Virginia. That he was marched from thence by the above named officers to Hillsborough in the State of North Carolina - a place of Rendezvous - at Hillsborough joined General Stephens [sic: Edward Stevens] and under his command marched into South Carolina to near Rugely's Mill [Rugeley's Mill] there joined General [Horatio] Gates on the 15th day of Augu[st] and was with him on the 16th in the defeat at Camden - that the militia were scattered on that occasion and that he fell in with one Major Morrison or [Nathaniel Garsden] Morris under whose command he served until his term of service expired which was on the first day of November 1780 having served in this tour five months. He received of Major Morris (or Morrison) a written discharge - which he has since lost - that he knows of no person living by whom he can establish the facts connected with the above stated service.

That he returned home to Mecklenburgh Co. in Virginia after the expiration of the above stated term of service - and remained there until about the 15th of February 1781 when he was again drafted as a private militia soldier & accordingly entered the service under the command of Captain Benjamin Ferrel & Lieutenant Clay - and by them was marched to a place of Rendezvous to wit old Luningburgh [sic: Lunenburg] Courthouse - in said State of Virginia. That after remaining there some days when in consequence of there being not call for so many soldiers at that time he was dismissed without any written discharge - having been employed in said service fifteen days. that he knows of no one by whom he can establish the last mentioned service. That about the first of August 1781 he again entered the service of his country as a private militia soldier for a three months tour under the command of Captain Samuel Martial [probably Samuel Marshall] - the Colonel of the regiment was by the name of Lewis Burrel [sic: Lewis Burwell] - was Rendezvoused at Newsom's Springs in Brunswick County in the State of Virginia aforesaid - from thence was marched to James river and crossed the same at a place called hog island near Williamsburgh [sic: Williamsburg] - passed through Williamsburgh and thence across the Pamunkey and Mattaponi [sic: Mattaponi] rivers into Gloucester where he remained until the surrender of Lord Cornwallis which took place on the 19th October 1781 according to the best of his recollection. that after reaching gloucester the company he belonged to together with himself was attached to that Division of the Army which was commanded by General Mulenburgh [sic: Peter Muhlenberg] - that a few days after the above mentioned surrender of Lord Cornwallis he was dismissed from the service before his term had expired. that he received a written discharge from under the hand of Captain Martial which he has since lost. that he was employed in such service two months and twenty days - and that he knows of no person whose evidence he can procure at this time whereby to establish his said last mentioned service.

That he was born in Mecklenburgh County in the State of Virginia in the year 1763 as he has been informed by his parents. That his birth is recorded in a family Bible that originally belonged to his father and which is now in possession of his Brother who resides in Abbeville district South Carolina. That after the close of the war he removed to Randolph County in the State of North Carolina where he remained one year from thence he removed to Rowan County in said State where he remained one year - from Rowan County he removed to Greene County South Carolina where he remained three years - from thence he removed to Abbeville County in South Carolina where he lived he thinks about thirty seven years - and thence he removed to Gwinnett

County in the State of Georgia in which County and State he now resides. That James Longbridge Esqr. - B. S. Smith - William Rakestraw Esqr - Daniel M Smith & divers others of his neighbors as well as the clergyman can & will [several illegible words] as he believes if required "testify as to his character for veracity and as to their belief of his services as a soldier of the revolution." He hereby relinquishes his every claim whatever to any pension or annuity except the present, ad he declares that his name is not on the pension roll of any agency of any State.

[signed] John Bowen

Georgia } Personally appeared before me the undersigned a Justice of the peace in &
Gwinnett County } for said County - John Bowen and being duly sworn saith on oath that by
reason of old age and the consequent loss of memory he cannot swear positively as to the
precise length of his service - but according to the best of his recollection he served not less
than the periods mentioned below and in the following grades. That for five months I served as a
drafted militiaman in the year 1780. For 15 days I served as a private militia soldier in the year
1781. That for two months and 20 days I served as a private militia soldier also in the year 1781.
- and for such service I claim a pension. The particulars of the above service will be seen by
referring to his original declaration. He further states in answer to an objection made by the war
department to one statement in his said original declaration - that drafts in the militia in the
State of Virginia were made at that time for 5 months instead of 3 - and that he was drafted for
that time & actually served that length of time - of this fact the Department can be satisfied by
referring to any of the surviving revolutionary officers in the State of virginia - who are
acquainted with the military regulations of that State at the above period.

[signed 24 Dec 1833] John Bowen