

[Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters](#)

Pension Application of William Bowen S8081

VA

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. Revised 8 Oct 2017.

State of Virginia }
Culpeper County } SS.

On this 17th day of September 1832 personally appeared before the county court of Culpeper State of Virginia, William Bowen senr a resident of the said County and State, aged seventy years 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 the act of Congress, passed June the 7th 1832, That he enlisted in the Army of the united States in the year 1799 with Captain Benjamin Roberts [S31343], and served in the Virginia State Regiment under the command of Col George Rogers Clarke [sic: George Rogers Clark VAS269], under the following named officers. That he enlisted for two years under Captain Benjamin Roberts who was recruiting soldiers to served in the Western part of then Virginia in the year 1779 in the County of Culpeper Virginia. That he marched to the falls of Ohio [at present Louisville KY] under the command of said Roberts that Major George Slaughter was the Major [illegible word] Command that he served the term of his enlistment in the said Virginia state Regiment under the immediate command of General George R Clarke who the greater part of the time, and that after his term of enlistment had expired received his discharge and returned home. That he proved his service in the year 1811 before the County Court of Culpeper by a living Witness Thomas Norman [pension application W26580], of said County, who was a private soldier in said Company and served untill he was discharged, and that at the same time produced his discharge in court which was ordered to be made a part of the record, that his discharge has been lost, or mislaid in the clerk's office of said County and that he herewith accompanies a certified Copy of the same with the proof of service [see below], That he can prove his service in addition by William Smith [S7548] and Hedgman Triplett [S11572], living witness resident in the County of Culpeper Virginia as well as by Thomas Norman who is now living and likewise a resident of the County of Culpeper Virginia He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present, and he declares that his name is not on the pension Roll of any agency of any State.

William hisXmark Bowen senr

Auditors Office Richmond/ 22 April 1833.

Sir/ Your communications of the 12 and 17th inst I have duly received and proceed the earliest convenient moment to answer.

I find among the papers relating to the Illinois Department of the Revolutionary army, a muster Roll, and only one, of Capt Benjamin Robert's company whilst in service under General Clarke. The Roll is very much defaced by time, but on minute examination I think there is no doubt but that the names of Wm. Bowen a corporal and Thomas Norman a private are to be found thereon. It appears that Bowen enlisted 22^d Nov. 1779 and was discharged the 21 Dec'r 1781. Norman enlisted on the same day & was discharged on the 26 Octo 1781. So far as I can perceive there is an exact correspondence between the evidence furnished by this Roll & Bowen's declaration.

I enclose you a certificate shewing that the name Pelkington appears on our Rolls. Doubtless Pilkinson was a mistake of the transcriber

I am Sir very respectfully/ your obedient serv't
Jas. E. Heath aud'r Va

[The following are from [bounty-land records in the Library of Virginia.](#)]

Culpeper county towit

October Court 1812

Thomas Norman came into Court and made Oath that William Bowen served as a soldier in the

late Virginia State Regiment for two years under the Command of Captain Benjamin Roberts in Major George Slaughters [George Slaughter W8729] Corps and the said William Bowen filed his Certificate of discharge which is ordered to be made a part of the Record. Copy Teste Wm. Broadus J [?] C

William Bowen a soldier in Captain Benjamin Roberts Company in Major George Slaughters Corps raised for the defence of the Western frontiers of Virginia Agreeable to an Act of Assembly Passed at Williamsburg the 5th day of November in the year of 1779 is hereby discharged having served the term of his enlistment Agreeable to the above recited act and that he is entitled to all emoluments allowed the soldiers of Virginia and that he has received no more than what is certified on the back of his discharge Dec'r 21st 1781 Benjamin Roberts Capt./ [undeciphered word]
One coat and wastcoat one pair flannel ovehalls one Hat one pair of shoes one shirt.
Copy Teste/ Wm. Broadus J [?] C

rejected. The length of time not suff't.

[The following are from [rejected claims in the Library of Virginia.](#)]

State of Virginia }
Culpeper County }

On this 23rd day of June 1835 before the subscriber a justice of the peace in and for the said County, personally appeared, Peter Triplett [Peter H. Triplett W2706] of said county of good character for veracity and 81 years of age who being duly sworn deposeth and saith that in the year 1779 at or about the close of it William Bowen then of Culpeper County and now dead enlisted in a company formed by Capt Benjamin Roberts for the western service at the same time that affiant did. That the company formed a part of Major George Slaughters Battalion. That they marched together to the falls of Ohio and were in that [undeciphered word], marching about and skirmishing and fighting the Battle at Picaway [Piqua, 8 Aug 1780]. That they remained in service till the object for which they enlisted was accomplished or till there was no further need of men to guard the frontier and then were discharged he thinks about the Close of 1781. That said Bowen acted in service as a corporal at the time of his discharge

Given under my hand the day and year first above written. O. N. Pemberton JP

State of Virginia }
Culpeper County } SS

On this 24th day of June 1835 before me a justice of the peace in and for said County personally appeared Thomas Norman of said County aged 75 years and of good character for veracity who being duly sworn deposeth and saith that in the year 1779 in the latter part of the year, he enlisted in the service of the State under Capt Benj Roberts for the Illinois service and as a part of Major George Slaughter's Battalion. That William Bowen late of Rappahannock county enlisted about the same time for the same service – he does not recollect whether under Roberts or Capt Thomas [Mark Thomas R18466] who raised a Company about that time – but supposes that it was Roberts as he and Bowen messed together. That they marched on to the Ohio River and remained about there in different directions and in different positions till discharged late in the year 1781 when nothing remained to be done. That he knew said William Bowen up to his death which took place some year or two since in or about the place he had lived for many years and that said Bowen left children but deponent is not acquainted with them.

Given under my hand this day and year first above written John F. Latham JP

1835 July 30 Rejected

State of Virginia
Rappahannock County.

The deposition of William Smith, taken at the Court house of the said County on the 9th day of October 1843.

This deponent, being first duly sworn, deposes and says. that he enlisted to serve as a soldier in the western army under Gen Clarke and received instead of bounty money a warrant for one hundred and sixty acres of land and he knew William Bowen, well, who also enlisted in the same company and marched with him, and that the said Bowen served out his time, and that they this deponent and the said William Bowen, marched, and served under Captain Benjamin Roberts, and Major George Slaughter, and that he, said William Bowen, also was entitled to the same bounty that the deponent was for the service in the western army – and that this deponent will be eighty seven years of age, next February 1844. And further this deponent says not.

William hisXmark Smith

To the Honorable the Governor and Council of the State of Virginia

The memorial of the heirs of Wiliam Bowen, deceased, late of the County of Rappahannock Va respectfully represents that he was a soldier in the Army of the revolution, in the Virginia troops – that he enlisted and marched under the command of Capt Benjamin Roberts, and Major George Slaughter, to the western country, and which is proved by the deposition of William Smith, (which accompanies this memorial) who was a soldier in the same company, and who has received compensation for his services, and by the Report of Commissioner Smith to the Legislature of Virginia in 1833. That he did not in his lifetime, (as your memorialists have every reason to believe) receive any compensation for his services in the army nor have they since received any therefor. And they respectfully represent that they have informed that he was entitled to receive for his said services two hundred acres of land, and they now ask that the said compensation may be allowed, to them and that you will direct the Register of the Land office to issue his warrant for that quantity of land, in favour of or to them.

[Registered Nov'r 6 1843

Wm. Bowen's claim to Bounty land as a soldier in the Illinois service

Ex'd. with care this 22nd of March 1844 and rejected – the evidence being insufficient to establish the time for which Bowen enlisted, or the actual length of his service (see Act of May 1779)

Jas McDowell

NOTES:

The federal pension file contains the following document:

Virginia In Rappahannock County Court 3rd June 1833

Ordered that it be certified to the Department of War of the United States that it was proven to the satisfaction of the Court, that William Bowen of the County of Rappahannock, (formed out of the County of Culpeper by a late Act of the General Assembly of Virginia) an applicant for a pension from the United States, departed this life on the first day of October 1832 And that John Bowen, Polly Bowen, (over the age of twenty one years) and Thompson Bowen (an infant) children of Thomas Bowen deceased Anne Bowen a child of Silas Bowen deceased, which said Silas and Thomas Bowen were children of the said William Bowen, the applicant as aforesaid, and Anne Beam late Anne Bowen, who has intermarried with John Beam, and William Bowen, are the Heirs and only Heirs and distributees of the said William Bowen deceased.

Another document states that the widow of William Bowen, Sr. died about two months after he did.