

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

Pension Application of Matthew Bowles W25270

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

State of Kentucky/ Grayson County Sct

On this 28<sup>th</sup> day of January 1833 personally appeared in open court before Charles H Stuteville, William Brunk, George W Neighbours and Henry Litsey  
The court of Grayson County and State of Kentucky now sitting Matthew Bowles a resident of Grayson County and State of Kentucky aged 70 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 act of Congress passed June 7<sup>th</sup> 1832, that he entered the service of the United States in the revolutionary war in the Spring of the year 1779 under the Command of Capt Pearce in the Militia of the State of Virginia as a substitute for his father William Bowles, he the said William Bowles being drafted for a tour of six months and he the said Matthew Bowles took his place as a substitute being then about 17 years of age he was marched from James City County in the state of Virginia to Williamsburg, Virginia in order to guard the public property and garrison at that place after staying there some time he together with others were sent off to break up the bridges and water crafts on the Chickahomeny [sic: Chickahominy] river & its waters also to keep the negroes and disaffected men in that section under subjection and after destroying the bridges &c were then marched back to Williamsburgh, there they were marched down to Hampton about 48 miles below Williamsburgh and they had a skirmish with a British man of war in attempting to land, and which vessel was prevented from landing, they were then marched back to Williamsburg and there were stationed until discharged, in which tour he served 5 months being discharged a short time before the expiration of the 6 months. – that in the year 1780 he volunteered under the command of Capt. Edward Power for three months and was kept as a guard to keep the negroes and disaffected men under subjugation and served the three months out. – That in the year 1781 he volunteered in the Militia of the State of Virginia in York county under Capt James Shield for the term of three months and was marched to Little York and was there at the time of the Surrender of Cornwallis & his Army [19 Oct 1781], and served at this time three months. That he saw Cornwallis surrender his sword to Gen'l. Washington [see endnote]. that he was born in Ireland and that his father came to America when he was about five years old and settled in James City County in the State of Virginia and was living there when he entered the service of the Revolutionary war. That after the revolutionary war he lived in Richmond Virginia about three years and then he lived at other places in Virginia, and then he moved to Kentucky and has lived there ever since except about 8 years he was in the service of the united states as a soldier including the late war. that he now lives in Grayson County Kentucky and has lived there about 11 years. That he has no documentary evidence and that he knows of no person whose testimony he can procure who can testify to his service.

He Hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present and declares that his name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any state.

Sworn and subscribed the day and year afores'd.                      [signed] Matthew Bowles

NOTES:

Cornwallis was indisposed on the day of the surrender and delegated the task to his second-in-command, Gen. Charles O'Hara. Washington, in turn, delegated the receiving of the sword to his second-in-command, Gen. Benjamin Lincoln.

On 21 Mar 1856 Nancy Bowles, about 66, of Green County IL, applied for a pension stating that as Nancy Chism she was married to Matthew Bowles by Rev. Hugh Cole in Grayson County on 4 Apr 1826, and her husband died in Perry County IN on or about 24 Mar 1837. Her statement was certified by one William Bowles. The file includes a copy of the record of her marriage to Matthew C. Bowles.