

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters

Pension Application of Jacob Bower W3212

Rebecca Bower

PA

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris.

Berks County, State of Pennsylvania Ss

Be it remembered, that on the first day of April, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and eighteen, before me George Ege, one of the Judges of the Court of Common Pleas in and for the County of Berks in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, personally appeared Jacob Bower of the Township of Heidelberg in the County of Berks and a resident citizen of the United States, and being duly sworn according to law, doth and did declare and say, that he entered into the Army of the United Colonies raised for the defence of American liberty, and for expelling every hostile invasion thereof, first as a Serjeant of a Company of Riflemen under Captain George Nagle [sic: George Nagel BLWt1290-500] in the month of June 1775 & July following Marchd from Reading in Berks County to Cambridge & prospect Hill near Boston & Joind the Regiment Commanded by Col [William] Thompson & was there appointed Quarter Master to said Regiment and continued therewith, for some time on Long Iland [sic: Long Island NY] in the latter part of 1776 he this deponent was elected a Captain in the Flying Camp joind the Battalion, took sick & returned home.

And was duly commissiond a Captain in the Sixth Pennsylvania Regiment by commission under the hand of John Hancock, president of Congress, dated at Philadelphia the fifteenth day of February in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and seventy seven (and the same renewd on parchment under the hand of John Jay President of Congress dated at Philadelphia the tenth day of April, in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred & seventy nine to rank from the said fifteenth day of February one thousand seven hundred & seventy seven) And also commissioned as a Major by Brevet in the army of the US by Commission under the hand of Elias Boudinot, presd't. dated at Princeton the 10<sup>th</sup> day of October 1783 as by the said commissions now in his possession manifestly appears.

That he did actually serve in the army of the United Colonies, afterwards the United States from June 1775 in different grades to the year 1777 and from thence as a Captain for six years & upwards to the time of the proclamation & discharge of the army of the US by the Honorable the Congress of the said U.S at Philadelphia the 29<sup>th</sup> day of October 1783. And the s'd. Jacob Bower doth further depose & say on Oath aforesaid, that from his reduced circumstances, he needs the assistance of his country for support. And that he hath no pension heretofore allowed him by the laws of the United States, to his knowledge, and if ny such exists he doth hereby fully and entirely release the same to the United States.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Jacob Bower', with a large, decorative flourish underneath. The signature is written on a light-colored background.

I Jacob Bower Capt in he Sixth Pensilvania Regiment do acknowledge the UNITED STATES of AMERICAN to be Free, Independent and Sovereign States, and declare that the people thereof owe no allegiance or obedience to George the Third, King of Great-Britain; and I renounce, refuse and abjure any allegiance or obedience to him; and I do swear that I will, to the utmost of my power, support, maintain and defend the said United States against the said King George the Third, his heirs and successors, and his or their abettors, assistants and adherents, and will serve the said United States in the office of Captain which I now hold, with fidelity, according to the best of my skill and understanding.

Sworn before me at valley Forge Camp this 27<sup>th</sup> Day of May 1778  
[signed by Major General William Alexander, Lord Stirling]

*Writing Major Genl. Jacob Bauer Capt*

I N C O N G R E S S.

The DELEGATES of the UNITED STATES of New-Hampshire, Massachusetts-Bay, Rhode-Island, Connecticut, New-York, New-Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, North-Carolina, South-Carolina, and Georgia, TO

**W**E, reposing especial Trust and Confidence in your Patriotism, Valour, Conduct and Fidelity, DO, by these Presents, constitute and appoint you to be *captain of a company of*  
*Foot in the 2<sup>d</sup> Penn<sup>a</sup> Regiment.*

in the Army of the United States, raised for the Defence of American Liberty, and for repelling every hostile Invasion thereof. You are therefore carefully and diligently to discharge the Duty of *captain*  
by doing and performing all manner of Things thereunto belonging. And we do strictly charge and require all Officers and Soldiers under your Command, to be obedient to your Orders as *followed*

And you are to observe and follow such Orders and Directions from Time to Time, as you shall receive from this or a future Congress of the United States, or Committee of Congress, or that Purpose appointed, or Commander in Chief for the Time being of the Army of the United States, or any other your superior Officer, according to the Rules and Discipline of War, in Pursuance of the Trust reposed in you. This Commission to continue in Force until revoked by this or a future Congress.

DATED at *Philadelphia* *the 27<sup>th</sup> Day of May 1778*

By Order of the CONGRESS,  
*John Hancock* PRESIDENT.

ATTEST.

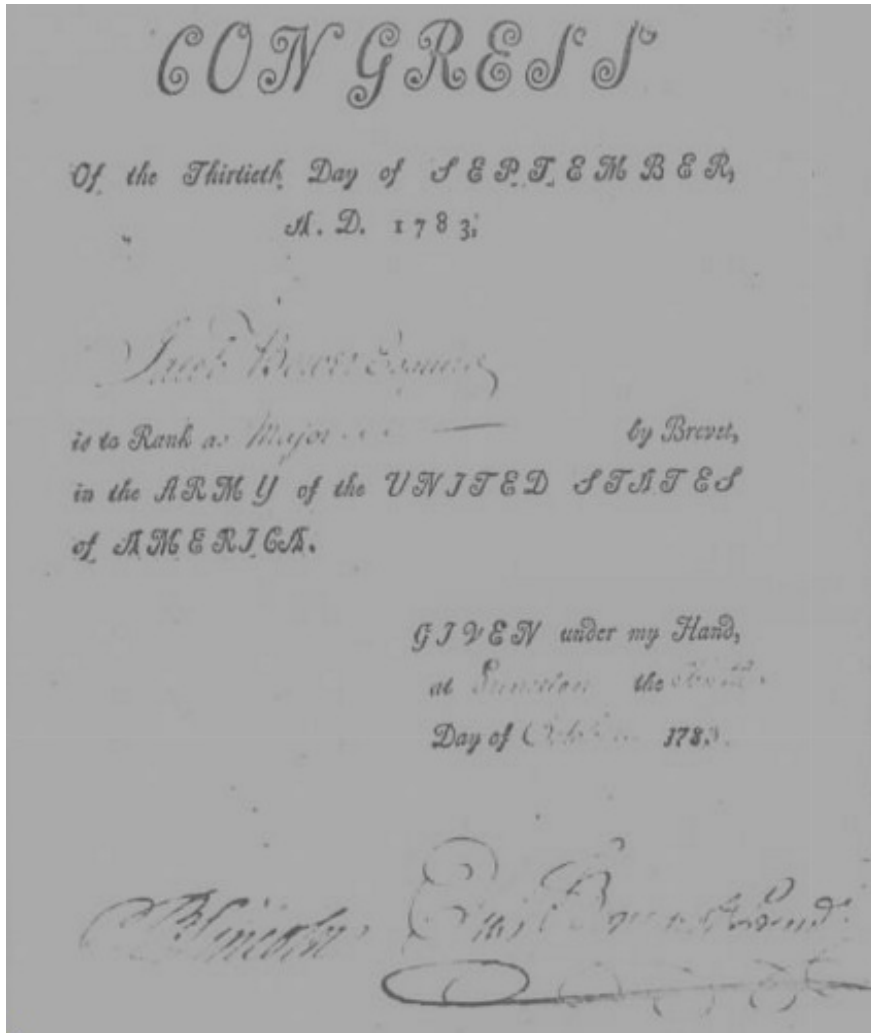
THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA *IN CONGRESS ASSEMBLED*

*For a Commission to give* **Witness.** We, Reposing especial trust and confidence in your Patriotism, Valour, Conduct, and Fidelity, DO by these presents constitute and appoint you to be a captain in the *2<sup>d</sup> Pennsylvania Regiment*  
in the Army of the United States, to take rank as *such* from the 15<sup>th</sup> day of *February* 1778. You are therefore carefully and diligently to discharge the duty of *captain*  
by doing and performing all manner of things thereunto belonging. And we do strictly charge and require all Officers and Soldiers under your command, to be obedient to your orders, as *followed*  
but you are to observe and follow such orders and directions, from time to time, as you shall receive from this or a future Congress of the United States or Committee of Congress for that purpose appointed, a Committee of the States or Commander in chief for the time being of the Army of the United States, or any other your superior Officer, according to the rules and discipline of War, in pursuance of the trust reposed in you. This Commission to continue in force until revoked by this or a future Congress, the Committee of Congress before mentioned, or a Committee of the States.

Enter'd in the War Office and examined by the Board

Attest  
*John Mifflin* Secretary of the Board of War

Witness *John Hancock* President of the Congress of the United States of America, at *Philadelphia* on the *27<sup>th</sup>* day of *April* 1778 and in the *1<sup>st</sup>* year of our Independence.



[Commission as Brevet Major signed by Gen. Benjamin Lincoln and Elias Boudinot.]

State of Pennsylvania } Ss.  
Lebanon County        }

On this fourteenth day of August A.D. 1838 personally appeared in open Court of the Common Pleas in and for said County, Rebecca Bower a resident of Meyerstown, in Jackson Township, County aforesaid aged seventy four years, who being first duly sworn according to law doth on her oath make the following declaration, in order to obtain the benefit of the provision made by the act of Congress, passed July 7 1838, entitled "An act granting half pay and pensions to certain widows": That she is widow of Jacob Bower, an officer in the army of the revolution of whose various ranks and services the following is a detail: he engaged in the service of the United States in June 1775 as a private in Capt. George Nagle's Company of Riflemen in the first regiment commanded by Col. Thompson. In July 1775 he was appointed a Serjeant to said company and in the same month marched with them from Reading in Berks County, Pa. to Cambridge and Prospect Hill near Boston. About the beginning of 1776 he was appointed Quarter master to said regiment and continued as such during the march from Boston to New York and from thence to Long Island and then renounced the appointment of Quarter Master: toward the latter end of 1776 he was appointed captain in the Flying Camp and marched to Amboy in Jersey, took sick and returned home to Reading: On the 15<sup>th</sup> day of February 1777 he was commissioned as a Captain in the 6<sup>th</sup> Penn'a. regiment and continued as such with the army in Virginia, North & South Carolina during the

remainder of the war until the discharge of the army by Congress through proclamation on the 29 October 1783.

She further declares that she was married to the said Jacob Bower on the Eighth day of May herein her recollectn differs from [undeciphered word] and 2 days in the year seventeen hundred and eighty five; that her husband the aforesaid Jacob Bower died on the third day of August eighteen hundred eighteen that she was not married to him prior to his leaving the service, but the marriage took place previous to the first of January seventeen hundred and ninety four, viz; at the time above stated. The documentary evidence possessed is here with sent. [signed] Rebecca Bower

NOTE: On 28 Oct 1850 Dr. William Bower, 32, of Jackson Township in Lebanon County, for himself and other heirs applied for a pension in the name of his grandmother, Rebecca Bower, who died on 12 June 1843. He listed the other grandchildren as follows: "Cyrus Jacob, Franklin Henry, May Amanda, intermarried to Joseph White, Rebecca Emeline, intermarried to John Pfleger, Matilda Angeline." On 22 Sep 1838 William Graydon stated that Rebecca Bower was the daughter of Joseph Wood, who had been a Major in the Revolutionary War, and that her sister married his (Graydon's) brother. The file contains the family register transcribed below, certified by Dr. William Bower as being from the family Bible of Jacob Bower.

[The page is torn where indicated by \*.]

Jacob Bower, Born the	20 <sup>th</sup> December 1757
Rebecca, his wife,	20 <sup>th</sup> September 1764
Maria, Daughter	18 <sup>th</sup> February 1786. 40 minutes af[ter] 2 Oclock after[noon]
Harry, Son	21 <sup>st</sup> February 1792.5 Oclock in *
William Son (Born dead	2 <sup>nd</sup> April 1794 after*
Mary Daughter, Born, on Saturday	12 <sup>th</sup> April 1800, 15 Minutes aft*
Mary took sick on friday afternoon the 17 <sup>th</sup> of December, and died on friday m* December twenty five minutes after 3 OClock in the morning.	
William W Son, Born the 4 <sup>th</sup> day of June 1804. 1 oClock in th*	
Harry & William Baptized on Sunday the 7 <sup>th</sup> day of Oct* 1804 by the Reverent Mr. William N*	
William died on Monday Morning the 2 <sup>nd</sup> * September 1805 at one quarter of an hour after *	
William Wood, Born the 4 <sup>th</sup> June 1756.	
William W. Bird ditto 18 <sup>th</sup> June 1779.	