

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

Pension Application of Elias Bowden W331

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

State of Tennessee } September Sessions 1832

Henry county }

on this 10th day of September 1832 personally appeared in open court – before the Justices of the court of Pleas & Quarter Sessions the same being a court of record now in Session Elias Bowden – a resident of said county – 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 7th 1832 – That he entered the service of the United States in July 1779 as a substitute under Capt William Gay (in the room of William Bowden) and Col John S. B. Wills Regiment – during which time I served about two months – that he again entered the service in July 1780 in the county Isle of Weight [sic: Isle of Wight] and State of Virginia – under the same officers and served a Two months tour – again as a substitute (for William Bowden who had served one month) – he was then about seventeen years old – that during the last tour he was in no engagement – more than at the retaking of some stock and other property that had been plundered by the British – which was between the towns of Suffolk & Portsmouth – the first of September 1781 – he again entered the service – and was placed under the command of M^jor Duval [probably Maj. Samuel Duval] – was marched from Williamsburg where I entered the service within about 3 miles of Little York – then returned back to head Quarters – then went on 2 days. stationed at Queens creek Bridge – thence back to head quarter – from thence we were marched to Macky’s mills [Mackie’s Mill] in Isle of Weight county on our way – we were taken from our scouting parties and placed back under our old officers – Capt William Gay and Col Wells – at which time I was appointed First Seargent in said company – from which period I continued in the army until peace was made – we were ordered from Macky’s mills to Portsmouth to pull down a Breast works the British had erected which we done – he states he was in the army at the time of Cornwallis’s surrender [19 Oct 1781] and at the illumination of Portsmouth – when the news reached there – that the army was discharged and the soldiers received no discharges to my knowledge

That his name is not on the pension roll of any state in the Union – and he hereby relinquishes every claim to a pension except the present.

[signed] Elias Bowden

State of Tennessee } Personally appeared before me John L Hagler and acting Justice for said

Henry county }

county Elias Bowden who being duly sworn deposeth & saith that by reason of the great laps or length of time he cannot swear positively as to the length of his service but according to the best of his recollection he served as a substitute under Capt William Gay in the room of William Bowden and Col John S. B. Wills Regiment for the term of two months – that he entered the service in July 1779 that in July 1780 he served a two months tour as a substitute under the same officers for said William Bowden – who had served one mouth – that on first of September 1781 he again entered the service under Capt William Gay and was appointed his orderly sergant and served in said company as his orderly sergant until the surrender of Cornwallis’s army, which if I am not mistaken took place in October 18 or 19 1781 – we were marched on to head quarters and then placed under the command of M^jor Duvall I have no documentary evidence by which I can prove said service, nor do I know of any person by whom I can prove said service – and for which service I claim a pension from my country

Sworn to & subscribed before me the 10th May 1833

[signed] Elias Bowden

NOTE: On 5 Feb 1855 Benjamin T. Bowden, 51, of New Boston TN, applied for a pension on behalf of himself and surviving brothers and sisters, children of Elias Bowden, who died on 25 Feb 1843, leaving a widow, Celia Bowden, formerly Celia Lawrance. He stated that his parents were married in Isle of Wight

County by Rev. William Hubbard on 22 Dec 1785, and that his mother died on 5 Dec 1852. He listed the other surviving children as follows: Francis Gay, Dempsey Bowden, Thomas Bowden, Mary Olive, Margaret Gwin, and Jackey Howard.