

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters

Pension Application of Abraham Bowman W396

Sarah Bowman VA

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. Revised 12 Oct 2017.

[Punctuation partly corrected.]

State of Kentucky }

Fayette County }

I Abraham Bowman aged seventy nine years, ten months & twenty days, do, upon oath, testify, and declare that in the winter of 1775 or spring of 1776, I was appointed by the Legislature of Virginia, Lieut Colonel of the [blank] Virginia State Regiment, and Peter Muhlenburgh [sic: Peter Muhlenberg BLWt1495-850]], Col of the same, that in the month of May or June 1776 the said Regiment was taken into Continental establishment, that upon the promotion of Col Muhlenburgh to a Brigadier General, I was promoted to the command of said Regiment, and that I continued to serve in the said regiment from the time of my appointment until after the battle of Monmouth in June 1778 [28 Jun 1778], when a consolidation of regiments took place [at White Plains NY, 14 Sep 1778], and many of the junior officers became supernumary, at that time I was ordered by my Brigadier General Scott [Charles Scott BLWt2055-850] to return to Virginia and call upon the Governor of Virginia for money to recruit the regiment, and having called upon him, he told me that the states quota had been given out before I had made the application, and certified it upon my orders. I then remained an officer during the War without being again called into service. I further declare that I have never at any time received a warrant from the United States for the bounty land due me as an officer aforesaid, nor have I ever at any time transferred or sold the same to any person. Therefore, know all men by these presents, that I, Abraham Bowman, do hereby constitute and appoint George H Bowman my true and lawful attorney for me and in my name, to ask, demand and receive from the Secretary at War of the United States, a warrant for the quantity of land due me as aforesaid, and my said attorney is authorised and empowered to do and perform all things necessary to be done in and about the business, and to constitute and appoint one or more substitutes or attorneys under him for the special purpose above named and the same to revoke at will. In witness thereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal, this 7th day of September 1829. (Signed) Abr'h.

Bowman

State of Kentucky }

Fayette County }

Personally appeared before me, the subscriber, a justice of the Peace in and for said County, Col Abraham Buford [pension application S46372], Col Jno. McDowell [John McDowell S40995] and Captn. John Nelson [S35537], revolutionary officers, persons of credibility, who being each duly sworn, saith that they are personally acquainted with Col Abraham Bowman, who made oath to the truth of the within statement, and signed the power of Attorney in their presence and have been for many years; And they say they know him to have been a Colonel in the Army of the Revolution, and they know him to be the identical person which he therein represents himself to be; further, they do believe that he actually did perform the military services by him represented, in the manner therein set forth. Also at the same time appeared the within named Abraham Bowman, who being duly sworn, made oath to the truth of the statements by him therein made, and acknowledged the power of Attorney to be his voluntary act and deed for the purposes therein named.

Sworn and acknowledged before me, this 7th day of September 1829 (Signed) J. E. Davis J. P.

29 Oct 1829.

Abraham Bowman of [blank] in the County of Fayette in the State of Kentucky has applied to the Secretary of the Treasury for the benefits of the act, entitled "An Act for the relief of certain surviving officers and soldiers of the army of the Revolution," approved on the 15th of May, 1828. He states that he was an officer on the Continental line, and swerved as such to the end of the war, at which period he was a Colonel in the [blank] regiment of the Virginia line; and, that he has received as a pensioner since the 3d

of March, 1826, not stated dollars, paid to him by the agent in the State of [blank]

The Third Auditor is requested to report how far these several statements are corroborated by the records in this office. By order of the Secretary/ F A Dickins.

State of Kentucky } S.S. In open Court March Term 1863
County of Fayette } Present Hon Charles D. Carr Judge

On this the 14th day of March 1863 before the court of Probate, held within and for the county and state aforesaid personally appeared, Abraham Bowman aged 78 years a resident of Fayette county state of Kentucky, who being duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the provisions made by the acts of congress passed November 24th, 1778, and February 11th, 1784 granting one years pay to deranged and supernumerary officers who served in the continental line of the revolutionary war that he is the son and executor of Colonel Abraham Bowman Deceased who was a Lieutenant Colonel appointed by the Legislature of Virginia, State line commanded by Colonel Peter Muhlenberg that in the month of May 1776 the said regiment was taken in to the continental line and on January 30th 1777, he was promoted and commissioned as a Colonel and then continued in actual service in said war until after the battle of Monmouth June 1778, when a consolidation of the Regiments took place and many of the Junior officers became supernumerarys, at which time, he the said Colonel Abraham Bowman Deceased was ordered by Brigadier General Scott to return to Virginia and call upon the Governor of Virginia for money to recruit, he there remained an officer during the war, that he never was discharged to his knowledge – remained in readiness to return to the war when ever could on to do so, that he was deranged at the White Plains. That the said Abraham Bowman Deceased was pensioner of the United States under act of May 15th 1828, at the rates of \$600.00 per annum which was paid to him at the agency in Lexington State of Kentucky, and he drew his pension up to his death and Died November 9th 1837 leaving a widow Mrs Sarah Bowman who also was a pensioner of the united states and drew her pension up to her death, who died December 8th 1845. That at the death of Colonel Abraham Bowman Deceased he left the following named children Viz Mrs Polly Keen wife of John Keen Deceased Abraham Bowman the executor John Bowman George H. Bowman William Bowman – who has sins died leaving the following children viz Robert T. Bowman the only living child of William Bowman Deceased whom is now of lawful age. Mrs Sarah Woolfolk wife of Souzel Woolfolk, Mrs Elizabeth Bowman a daughter who died prior to her Father leaving the following named children Viz, Abraham B. Bowman who has sins died Mrs Nancy Standhope wife of William Standhope, Catharan Duening[?] wife of Richard Dalney[?] who are all of lawful age
That he the said Abraham Bowman executor of Abraham Bowman Deceased makes this his declaration for the purpose of obtaining the one year's pay that was due to his Father the said Abraham Bowman Deceased, with interest from the time it was due under act of Congress June 3^{the} 1784

Resolved, That an interest of six per cent, per annum be allowed to all creditors of the United States for supplies furnished or services done, from the time the payment became due. Reference to the decision of Dr Absalom Beard's Heirs, interest was paid.

That for proof to sustain this his declaration he refers to the proof made by his Father during his life for pension, all of which will more fully appear by reference there to.

That he the said Abraham Bowman will also state that about the year 1830, that he as the agent of his Farther by a power of attorney made a demand for the amount that was due his Farther the said Abraham Bowman Deceased in person at the office of the United States at washington City D.C. wher they war paying claimes of comutation, and other demands due the officers of the revolutionary war, they then and their refused payment, and denied that their was any money due the said Abraham Bowman, that his certificate for pension had issued to his agent George H. Bowman, and their was nothing due the said Abraham Bowman for his Military services.

That he the said Abraham Bowman executor, will also state, that to the best of his knowledge and belief, that his Farther the said Abraham Bowman Deceased never received the first cent of the claim that he has now made application for – nor any one of his children. that if the amount has ever been received by any

agent it was never paid over to his Farther, that it is yet due and unpaid.
He the said Abraham Bowman executor hereby apoints Benjamin C. Wood of Lexington Kentucky, his true and lawful attorney, with power of substitution to prosecute this his claim to receive the certificate when issued and to do all other acts nessary and proper in the premises.

[signed] Abrm. Bowman

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

Falls of Ohio April 18th 1784

I do hereby Certify that Abraham Bowman Esq'r was appointed Lieutenant Colonel to the 8th Virg'a Reg't in January 1776 that he continued in actual service until the first of July 1778 when he was ordered to Virginia in order to Superintend & Assist the recruiting Bussiness in the upper Counties, with orders to hold himself in readiness to Join the Army whenever call'd upon. He was derang'd at White Plains but was not informed of it until some time in 1779 when I was directed by the Commander in Chief to inform Col. Bowman of his being deranged.

[Peter Muhlenberg Major General]

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "P. Muhlenberg", with a date "1784" written below it.

Abraham Bowman was appointed a Lieut. Colonel as above Certified. He was promoted to a Colonel and served as such in the above mentioned Regiment in the year 1777 and continued to serve as such in s'd Reg't untill he was deranged – his commission as a Colonel is now before me and is dated the 30th day of January 177seven this 8th Reg't was annexed to the [blank] Reg't in 1788 or 1789 [sic: 1778]. Certified this 25th of May 1810. Jona. Clark [Jonathan Clark VAS2169] a Lieut. Col the 8th Va Reg't on Continental establishment late Revo. War.

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

To His Excellency the Governor of Virginia

Your petitioner Abraham Bowman respectfully states that in the month of January 1776 he was appointed by the Legislature of Virginia Lt. Colonel of the 8th Virginia Regt. (See Journals p 93) and continued in the service without resigning until the end of the war, which the Executive Council of Va. have in innumerable instances decided took place in November 1783.

He has received land for only six years and ten months service but he considers that he is entitled to land bounty for 12 months longer service, having served seven years & ten months.

He respectfully refers you to the evidence on which he drew his land on 23^d July 1810 which will more fully shew the justice of his present claim in Virginia. T Green/ P. V.[?]

Copy from Journal of Legislature p. 93 – January 12 1776.

“Resolved That Peter Muhlenberg Esqr be appointed Colonel, Abraham Bowman Esqr Lt Colonel, & Peter Helphinstine [VAS1480] Major to the 8th or German Regiment.”

[The handwriting in the following is poor.]

Memorandum for the Claim of the Heirs of Col Abraham Bowman

In the fall of 1775 the German Regt was raised Peter Muhlinberg Col. Abraham Bowman Lt Col & Peter Helpenstine Major it was known as the German Regt also the 8th Va Regt. Again the Virginia Gazette of the 12th of January 1776 announced the appointment of Abraham Bowman as Lieut Col At what period appointed does not there appear See the Council Journals which will probably shew date of appointment Also see the Virginia Gazette of 12th of Jany 1776 presumed to be found in the library of Va Col

Abraham Bowman appears to have retired as a supernumerary on 14th of Sept 1778 [two undeciphered words] Rolls or reports. Yet he was admitted at the Treasury of the United States to have been in service to the end of the war As to have retired under the Resolve of Congress of 21st October 1780 [several undeciphered words] and thus intitled to the pay and emoluments of those serving to the end of the war And under such construction was allowed the benefit of the act of Congress of 15th of May 1828 giving full pay for life to those who served to the end of the war. See that Act. Col Bowmans case was it is said before the courts of Va in 18[?]3 as to Claiming half pay as a supernumerary Col of the Va Continental line and decided [undeciphered word] to all [undeciphered word] that officers have been [undeciphered word] whether arranged out as a supernumerary on 14th Sept 1778 as retiring under the resolve of Congress of 21st of Oct 1780 or any subsequent resolution as serving to the end of the war his right to Bounty land was the [undeciphered word] His heirs apply for the Bounty land due from say 1st Nov 1775 to the end of the war (3rd of Nov 1783) deducting there from the amount Heretofore received to wit 7991 acres [18 Jan 1845]

[Abraham Bowman's son, George Bowman, made a similar petition, which was rejected on 1 Sep 1847.

NOTES:

The state rejected-claim file contains a copy of the last will and testament of Abraham Bowman signed in Fayette County KY on 11 Nov 1825 with the following bequests:

To wife Sarah Bowman use of the plantation where he lived, "being part of Love's military survey, and also including the one hundred acres of land, part of Mary Frazier's survey, which I purchased of Lewis Craig," but subject to provisions made for son George Bowman. Also to wife Sarah Bowman "the use of my negro slaves Aaron, Elijah, Manuel, Fanny, Sam, Absolom, James and Amanda, and the increase of the females." Also to wife Sarah Bowman household furniture, farming utensils, and livestock, except for those reserved for son George Bowman.

To daughter Polly Keen, wife of John Keen, 200 acres now in her possession, part of Love's military survey, surveyed by John Bowman about seven years previously. Also "a negro woman named Edy and her child and all her increase."

To son Abraham Bowman 327 acres and ninety five poles of land, according to a survey by John Bowman, part of Love's military survey. Also "a negro man named Dick."

To son John Bowman 500 acres on which he lived in Mercer County. Also "a negro slave named William."

To son William Bowman 500 acres previously given in Mercer County adjoining the tract of his brother, John, plus an additional 39 acres and 19 poles. Also "a negro slave named Frank."

To son George Bowman, after the death of his mother, the land and stock devised to her above.

To daughter Sarah Woolfolk, wife of Lowyel Woolfolk, 111 acres and 120 poles, according to survey by John Bowman, part of Love's military survey, on which they then resided. Also "a negro woman named Jenny."

To daughter Elizabeth Bowman, wife of Joseph Bowman, 236 acres, according to survey by John Bowman, part of Love's military survey, on which they then resided. Also "a negro slave named Nathan."

To sons Abraham and George, 21 acres and 140 poles, according to survey by John Bowman, part of Love's military survey, including grist and saw mills.

To stepson David Bryan "my negro boy named Reuben."

On 30 Oct 1830 Abraham Bowman added a codicil giving to sons-in-law Joseph Bowman and David Bryan "my negro man Tom."

On 19 March 1839 Sarah Bowman, 81, applied for a pension stating that she married Abraham Bowman in 1782, and he died on 9 Nov 1837. On 6 Apr 1839 Elijah Foley stated that he had been present at the marriage of Abraham Bowman and Sarah Bryan in the summer of 1782 in the part of Lincoln County KY that became Mercer County.

In the file is a family register transcribed below, certified as being copied on 27 Jan 1871 from the family Bible of Abraham Bowman and provided by John B. Bowman of Lexington KY.

Abraham Bowman born	Oct 16 1749
Sarah “ ”	Sept 8, 1757
David Bryan “	April 30, 1779
Mary Bowman “	March 11, 1783
Abraham “ Jr. “	Feb 27, 1785
John “ ”	Jan 31, 1787 about 12 o'clock in the day
William “ ”	Nov 18 1789 “ X “ ” P.M.
George “ ”	Sept 21 1792 between 9 & 10 AM
Aaron (colored) “	Dec 21 1793
Bobb “ ”	April 7 1796
Sarah Bowman “	July 8, 1796 about 9 A.M.
Elizabeth d[itt]o “	Aug't 16 1798 between Sunset & dark
Jery (colored) “	Oct 26, 1798 in the morning
Antoney “ ”	Feb 23 1800
Lize “ ”	Nov 13 1801 between 8 & 9 evening
Nancy Keen “	Sept 3 1803 about midnight
Nathan (colored) “	Nov 1805
Easter “ ”	Aug't 29, 1811 about 1 o'clock AM
Dafney “ ”	Nov 17, 1812 “ 12 M
Reuben “ ”	Dec 16, 1812
Levi “ ”	Aug't 15 1813
Absolum “ ”	Jan 9, 1815
Nelson “ ”	May 23 1815
Sam “ ”	June 30 1818
Charles “ ”	March 27 1819
Fanny's child James “”	Sept 22 1820