

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Bowdoin Snead¹ W4810 Mary f135VA
Transcribed by Will Graves 3/11/12

[Methodology: Spelling, punctuation and/or grammar have been corrected in some instances for ease of reading and to facilitate searches of the database. Where the meaning is not compromised by adhering to the spelling, punctuation or grammar, no change has been made. Corrections or additional notes have been inserted within brackets or footnotes. Blanks appearing in the transcripts reflect blanks in the original. A bracketed question mark indicates that the word or words preceding it represent(s) a guess by me. Only materials pertinent to the military service of the veteran and to contemporary events have been transcribed. Affidavits that provide additional information on these events are included and genealogical information is abstracted, while standard, 'boilerplate' affidavits and attestations related solely to the application, and later nineteenth and twentieth century research requests for information have been omitted. I use speech recognition software to make all my transcriptions. Such software misinterprets my southern accent with unfortunate regularity and my poor proofreading fails to catch all misinterpretations. Also, dates or numbers which the software treats as numerals rather than words are not corrected: for example, the software transcribes "the eighth of June one thousand eighty six" as "the 8th of June 1786." Please call errors or omissions to my attention.]

[f p. 8]

[State of Virginia Accomack County]

At a Court held for Accomack County in the State of Virginia on the 1st day of August 1832 Bowdoin Snead of the County of Accomack this day personally appeared in court & made the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the Act of Congress of the 7th day of June 1832.

State of Virginia, County of Accomack Viz. On this 1st day of August 1832 personally appeared in open Court before the Justices of the County Court now sitting Bowdoin Snead a resident in the County of Accomack St. George's Parish aged seventy-two 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 7th 1832 –

That he served in the Militia of Accomack County Virginia from the time he was 16 years of age till free from duty by reason of age – that during the War of the Revolution he served in Captain Thomas Copes Company & afterwards in the same company under Captain Elisha Fitzgerald or Garrett and after the war ended under Captain Samuel Waples. That during the war the militia were frequently called out to keep guard & were in actual service a considerable portion of the time – that the companies were divided & part of them perform duty regularly & alternately – That Colonel Simpson had command of the militia of Accomack during part of the War & Colonels Corbin & Cropper afterwards – That this deponent was engaged principally on the Seacoast & on Chesapeake Bay coast in keeping guard & preventing the enemy from landing for the purpose of obtaining supplies, plundering the country & committing depredations of every kind – That the County of Accomack was very much exposed & frequent alarms were given & the militia was often compelled to turn out to defend the County – This deponent performed service principally at the Blockhouse on Colonel Cropper's Land & at the barracks near a windmill on George Parker's land – This deponent has no hesitation in saying that he was in actual service under arms at least two years during the Revolutionary War – that he was born in Accomack County – he has no record of his age – he was living in said County during the whole of the War of the Revolution & still resides in said County. There was no written discharges given in writing at the expiration of the respective tours. This deponent was well acquainted with Colonel John Cropper, Colonel Levin Joynes, Major John Poulson, Captain Smith Snead & various other officers in the Continental line who lived in this County & joined the Continental Army & is well acquainted with Captain Samuel Waples now living in this County who was a Lieutenant of the Continental Army. This deponent cannot state the dates of

¹ BLWt39338-160-55

his performing service, he was called out for the purposes aforesaid every few days & continued under arms for a longer or shorter period as circumstances required during nearly all the war – This deponent is known to John Bull Senior, Curtis Bull, Colonel Tinney, Colonel L. S. Joynes, & others in fact to nearly all the Citizens of Saint George's Parish. He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present & declares that his name is not on any pension Roll of the Agency of any State. Sworn to & subscribed the day & year aforesaid.

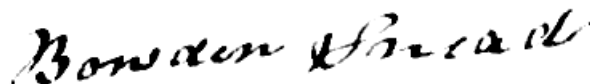
S/ Bowdoin Snead²

[Matthew Floyd, a clergyman, and John Bull Senior gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[f p. 92]

The affidavit of Bowdoin Snead an applicant for a pension who being duly sworn says in answer to the 4th objection – that he recollects that he was in service in the year 1776 & he continued in service till the end of the War regularly when called upon, which was almost every week & sometimes oftener, & continued in service for a longer or shorter period as circumstances required – & in answer to the 5th objection he says that it is utterly impossible for him to state the precise length of each tour of service – that the exposed situation of this County demanded the almost constant attention & action of the militia during the whole of the War – that the deponent was a young man at work for his father on his farm when the war commenced & that shortly afterwards his father hired a Negro man to supply the deponent's place on the farm because this deponent was absent from home on duty nearly all his time & could do no work on the farm & that his (this Deponent's) father kept said Negro four years which he would not have done but for the circumstance of this Deponent's being so absent. This deponent states in answer to the 17th objection & in regard to the 2nd interrogatory that when asked in Court about a record of his age he stated that he had no record of his age by which he meant that he had no record of his age with him – he had a record of his age in a large testament wherein his birth was recorded by his father & from this record it appears that he was born August 14th 1760. He states in regard to the 4th interrogatory that he was enrolled in the militia by law & that during the War, the militia were classed & did duty on guard by turns periodically excepting on alarms & then all turned out who heard of the alarm; that they were usually divided into small squads and guarded the coast constantly by turns = that he was not drafted in the usual sense of the term, but that it was on the same principle as drafting that the squads were selected = that he often volunteered out of his term, and always attended all alarms & though it is utterly impossible to mention dates of entering upon & leaving guard duty, because the squads were changed so often yet he has not the slightest hesitation in declaring that he was under arms more than two years during the War = that this County is washed on the East by the ocean & on the West by the Chesapeake Bay & is indented with numerous creeks & inlets and of which the British were almost constantly coming after provisions etc. etc.

S/ Bowden Snead



[Attested February 6, 1833]

[f p. 94]

² I do not believe this is the actual signature of the veteran as the handwriting is identical to the body of the application.

The deposition of John Bull Senior who being duly sworn testifies & says that he has been a near neighbor of Bowden Snead upwards of sixty years – that he has heard the foregoing deposition of Bowden Snead read & has no hesitation in saying that he knows that the militia of this County were called out upon duty as he therein states & that he (need) did perform service as he has testified & has no doubt that all his statements in regard to such service are strictly true, knowing as he himself does that he was on duty a great part of his time during the War.

S/ John Bull, Sr.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John Bull Sr." The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored background.

State of Virginia Accomack County February 21, 1833

The affidavit of Curtis Bull Senior³ aged about 70 years who says that he was a drummer in Captain Thomas Copes's company of militia in the time of the Revolutionary War, with Bowden Snead, that he has heard the foregoing deposition of said Snead read to him the witness – & that the statements therein made so far as regards his service are true = that he the witness has lived all his life time within half a mile of said Snead & knows of his service & has no hesitation in saying that he must have served upwards of 2 years under arms during the Revolutionary War.

S/ Curtis Bull, X his mark

[f p. 95]

The affidavit of Hillary Means aged about 75 years who says he kept guard several times & attended alarms with Bowdoin Snead & has no doubt from his own knowledge that said Snead was under arms more than two years during the Revolutionary War.

S/ Hillary Means, X his mark

[f p. 21: On April 25, 1853 in Accomack County Virginia, the widow filed for a widow's pension under the 1853 act stating that she was then 37 years old; that her husband was a pensioner at the rate of \$80 per annum for his service in the revolution; that she married him January 26, 1841; that her husband died July 1, 1841, and that she remains his widow. She signed her application with her mark.]

[f p. 4: On October 26, 1855 in Accomack County Virginia, Mary Snead, widow of Bowden Snead [sic], a pensioner of the United States for his service in the revolution; that she herself is a pensioner at the rate of \$80 per annum pursuant to the act passed in February 1853; that she married her husband January 26, 1841; that her name prior to her marriage was Mary Howell; that her husband died in Accomack County July 1, 1841 and that she remains his widow. She filed this application in order to obtain the bounty land to which he was entitled under the 1855 act.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mary Snead". The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored background.

[f. p. 12: On September 27, 1869 in Accomack County Virginia, the widow, 53, filed yet another

³ FPA S18338

application to obtain her bounty land under the 1855 act; in this document she states that she married her husband January 26, 1841; that they were married by the Reverend George Ewell; that her name prior to her marriage was Mary Howell; and that her husband died July 29, 1842.]

[f p. 15: in 1890, the widow was still living and drawing a pension of \$30 per month.]

[Facts in file: the widow died June 29, 1902.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$80 per month commencing March 4th, 1831, for service as a private for 2 years in the Virginia militia.]