

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

Pension Application of John Bowen W5851

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

State of Virginia: Albemarle County Ss.

On this 15th day of February 1839 personally appeared before me John S Thomas a Justice of the County Court of said County of Albemarle, Elizabeth Bowen, a resident of the said County of Albemarle State of Virginia, aged seventy seven 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 7th 1838 entitled "An act granting half pay and pensions to certain widows." that she is the widow of John Bowen who was a soldier in the Revolutionary service, she is unable to state the services rendered by her said husband but refers to the affidavit of Micajah Wheeler [pension application S7891] accompanying this declaration.

She further states that she was married to the said John Bowen in the year seventeen hundred and eighty one on the Ninth day of May of said year. that her husband the aforesaid John Bowen died on the [blank] day of January in the year eighteen hundred and eighteen that she was not married to him prior to his leaving the service, but the marriage took place previous to the 1st day of January seventeen hundred and ninety four viz – at the time above stated Elizabeth herXmark Bowen

I Micajah Wheeler sen'r. of the County of Nelson and State of Virginia being in his eighty first year doth hereby Certify that he was well acquainted with a certain John Bowen during the American Revolution, who then resided and since died in Albemarle County State of Virginia, was the husband of Mrs. Elizabeth Bowen, his widow who is now living in the North Garden Albemarle County near the place where her husband the said John Bowen died, never having married again and that he well remembers that the said John Bowen was married to his wife Elizabeth aforesaid (who was Elizabeth Mayo, before she was married being the daughter of James Mayo dec'd. of the aforesaid County of Albemarle State of Virginia) several years before he was say not less than four or five from the best of his recollection, he having been married himself in the year 1786 and that the s'd. John Bowen he thinks has been dead about twenty years, and thinks the said Elizabeth not less than seventy five, or seventy six years old and he doth hereby further Certify, that the said John Bowen was at the Albemarle Barracks performing regular Service at the time he the said Wheeler was serving, and various other times when visiting the Barracks when he always saw, the said John Bowen in the performance, or ready in place, to discharge any duty called on to perform at said Barracks, and he is confident that the said John Bowen did not perform less than twelve months actual service at the said Barracks & according to his best recollection he the s'd. Bowen was under and subject to the Command of Capt ___ Pervis [probably James Purvis] who he thinks was from the County of Culpepper [sic: Culpeper] state of Va. and that he the said Wheeler had a brother by the name of John [John Wheeler] who served at the same time with the said John Bowen under the command of the said Capt Pervis, and further Certifys that he is under an impression that the said Bowen was ordered at one time to Williamsburg but on what occasion or under what officer he has no recollection, nor how long he staid, it being only an imperfect, or first, impression at best. He recollects of no other military service the said Bowen performed during the revolution. And he further Certify's that in consequence of his old age, and many infirmities, that it would be inconvenient, painful, & very uncertain, to attend Court. As Given under his hand & seal this the Eighth day of February 1839
[signed] Micajah Wheeler

Virginia: At a Court held for Albemarle County the 2^d. day of March 1840

Elizabeth Bowen widow and relect of John Bowen deceased, resident of this County, this day

filed her declaration in writing in order to obtain the provisions made to widows &c. by an act of Congress; accompanied by the affidavits of Micajah Bowen, sen'r. [pension application S29643], Howell Lewis and John Harris residents of this County – all of which is ordered to be certified to the war department. – And the Court doth Certify that the said Micajah Bowen sen'r. Howell Lewis and John Harris are men of strict integrity and entitled to credit on oath.

The declaration and affidavits follow in these words viz:

I Elizabeth Bowen the relect or widow of John Bowen dec'd. of the County of Albemarle (North Garden) and State of Virginia – Hereby Certify in addition to what she has already testified to, and heretofore sent on to the war department Washington City. – That she was married to her late husband John Bowen by a Rev'd. Andrew Tribble a Baptist minister, the publication of her intended marriage being made at what was then called Lewis' meeting house about two miles from Charlottesville Albemarle County aforesaid but which she believes is now gone to ruins, and in accordance with the custom of the times; and that she was afterwards married by the said Richard Tribble at his residence not far from the said meetinghouse and church, and whether any record was kept by the said Tribble or deposited any where, she cannot tell as the said Tribble removed not long after their marriage to the west, leaving no decendents behind him in this part of the world, nor does she know whether he or any of them are alive; – She also testifys that she does not believe that her father ever kept any record in a Bible or any where else but the births of his children, and that no such record can now be found in possession of any of his descendants, except the births aforesaid, and that by an application to the clerk of the aforesaid County through a friend, no such record can be found in the clerks office of said County, she is therefore entirely at loss nor do not know how any such record can be found which the department of war seem to require; And she further certifys that her husband John Bowen kept no such record of marriages and deaths, but kept a record only of his childrens births.

As Given under my hand and seal this 23^d day of January 1840.

Elizabeth herXmark Bowen

I Micajah Bowen sen'r. of the North Garden Albemarle County and State of Virginia now in his 85th year as he believes, having no register, and he himself being a Pensioner – doth hereby Certify that dureing the revolutionary war with Great Britain that his brother John Bowen who has been dead upwards of twenty years (leaving a widow Elizabeth now living in a few miles of him) marched to Williamsburg as a Soldier under the command of the Capt. Lander alias Olander Jones [Orlando Jones], he understanding that his brother had enlisted under said Jones in the state service for three years, with the understanding by his brother that he was not to be ordered out of the State and that his brother was in service at Williamsburg about six months, afterwards the said Jones as he believes and understood at the time marched with his men some where northard and out of the state, and his brother not willing to go, returned with a furlo to stand in readiness untill he was called for, and that after remaining at his fathers a little while, who lived about 13 miles from the Albemarle Albemarle Barracks, he was ordered to the said Barracks under the Command of a Capt. Pervis, he the said Micajah Bowen being often at the Barracks and saw his brother with arms performing Guard duty. He also Certified that being illiterate, not being able either to read or write, that while he cannot remember dates, which reading from time to time of events that have passed so long and which is so necessary in refreshing the memory – yet circumstances and facts are strong and fresh on his mind. He further certifies that in and about twelve months after his brother left the Barracks, he was married to his wife and widow above alluded to, and whose maiden name was Elizabeth Mayo, daughter of James Mayo deceased who always resided and died in the County of Albemarle; and that he the said Micajah went with his brother John to see a certain Andrew Tribble a Baptist minister residing in Albemarle County, and not far from a meeting house called Lewis' meeting house (but now gone to ruins) to have the necessary steps taken to have the contemplated marriage published at said meeting house, which was done according to the custom of the times and that he with the sister of said Elizabeth

(Caty Mayo) saw and witnessed the marriage of said John Bowen and Elizabeth Mayo at the residence of said Rev'd. Andrew Tribble; He further certifies that he thinks that his father never kept any Bible in which he registered the births, marriages, and deaths of his children, if he did, he does not remember it, nor what has become of it. – He further certifies that not long after the aforesaid marriage that the said Andrew Tribble removed to the Western Country leaving no descendants behind, and he does not know where they are or whether any are alive. – the said Bowen further certifies that in consequence of his owning no house and his old age, tho in good health, but much bodily debility that it would produce great personal fatigue and inconvenience to attend court.

As given under my hand and seal this the 22^d. day of January 1840.

Micajah hisXmark Bowen Sr.

NOTES:

On 27 Jan 1840 Elizabeth Bowen referred to a family record copied from her husband's Bible by John Harris, who married her sister, Nancy Mayo. She stated that the record showed that her first child, Nancy Bowen, was born on 13 Feb 1782, and that her own date of birth was 25 Feb 1762.

On 24 Jan 1840 John Harris, 70, stated that in 1792 he married Nancy Mayo, who had died many years before. It was certified that John Harris was so deaf that a court officer had been "compelled to put [his] mouth to his ear and then hallow loudly... but being able to read, he examined the above certificate himself and signed it." On 27 Jan 1840 Howell Lewis stated that his family moved to Albemarle County in 1791, and that James Mayo, father of Elizabeth Bowen, had been Overseer for Lewis's father.

Documents in the file state that Elizabeth Bowen died in May 1848 leaving the following children: Nancy, Frances, James, Ephraim, John, Avis, Mary, Elizabeth, Susan, Catharine, Lydia, and Martha.

The file includes data on a John Bowen from Berkeley County VA who was not the present John Bowen. See <http://southerncampaign.org/pen/b81.pdf>, p 46.