

## Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Stephen Bowen W5853

Rachel Bowen

f65NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

9/23/10: rev'd 1/1/19

[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. The word 'illegible' or 'indecipherable' appearing in brackets indicates that at the time I made the transcription, I was unable to decipher the word or phrase in question. 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 skills fail 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 8<sup>th</sup> of June 1786." Please call material errors or omissions to my attention.]

[p 5]

District of Georgia Tattnall County} On this Eleventh day of October 1825, Personally appeared in open court, being a Court of record Stephen Bowen aged Sixty-eight years, who being first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following declaration, in order to obtain the provisions made by the acts of Congress of the 18th March 1818 and the 1st of May 1820.

Declaration of Stephen Bowen. He now lives in the County of Tattnall, and has so resided for twenty years & upwards, and that he was 68 years old in June 1825. That he was born in Duplin County North Carolina – that he enlisted in the Continental Army August or in September 1778 under Lieutenant Curtis Ivey, belonging to the 5th Regiment of NC Continental troops, which was commanded by Colonel John Armstrong. That in January 1779 he joined the Continental Army at Purrysburg in South Carolina, under command of General Lincoln [Benjamin Lincoln] & Maltrie [sic, William Moultrie of South Carolina?]. That said deponent was in the action of Stono River,<sup>1</sup> commanded by General Lincoln on the 20th January 1779 [sic, 20th June 1779] and in the month of January 1779 this deponent returned home under furlough, on account of sickness, and recovered at home until the last of May 1780 when this deponent joined the Army which had just been defeated under Gates [the forces under the command of Horatio Gates were defeated at the Battle of Camden, August 15-16, 1780].<sup>2</sup> And this deponent again got a furlough, and returned home, and stayed at home but a short time, when the deponent joined the Army at Bluford's bridge in Hanover County NC [sic, New Hanover County NC] and then started for the headquarters at the Eutaw Springs, and term of three years expired before he reached the Eutaw Springs, and the deponent obtained his discharge from a Major Redding Blount, which was dated in August 1781, and which discharge with a bounty warrant of land and the deponent's wages for 3 years Service he placed in the hands of one Captain Curtis Ivey to get for him, who shortly after departed this life, and the deponent has never seen them since, nor got the land &c. That he has a helpless wife 66 years old and infirm, he is afflicted with a complaint of the kidneys and badly ruptured. He has a few wearing clothes, a bed & some household furniture, no land or horse: and that he has no other evidence in his power except his own oath and the affidavit of George Willis, and his Enlistment in 1778, all which is hereunto attached. And in pursuance of the act of the first of May 1820, I do solemnly swear that I was a resident Citizen of the United States on the 18<sup>th</sup> day of March 1818 and that I have not since that time by gift, sale or in any manner whatever disposed of my property or any part thereof with intent

<sup>1</sup> [http://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution\\_stono\\_ferry.html](http://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_stono_ferry.html)

<sup>2</sup> [http://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution\\_battle\\_of\\_camden.html](http://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_battle_of_camden.html)

thereby so to diminish it as to bring myself within the provision of an act of Congress entitled "an act to provide for certain persons engaged in the land and naval service of the United States in the revolutionary war" passed on the 18<sup>th</sup> day of March 1818, and that I have not nor has any person in trust for me any property, or securities, contracts or debts due to me nor have I any income other than what is contained in the schedule hereto annexed and by me subscribed.

Signed Stephen Bowen

Sworn & subscribed in  
open Court 11th of October 1825  
S/ Robert Raymond Reid, Judge

Schedule

2 Small iron pots	\$1.00	
1 Tea kettle	\$.75	
5 Knives & forks	\$.25	
4 Chairs	\$2.00	\$4.00

S/ Stephen Bowen

Sworn before me in Open court 11 October 1825  
S/ Robert Raymond Reid

This may certify that I have enlisted Stephen Bowen Say in the Continental service for the term of three years from this date, and to have the same clothing and the same privilege as the other Continental [indecipherable word, looks like "Sarjts." and maybe intended as an abbreviation of the word "Sergeants"] P.

August 28, 1778

S/ Curtis Ivey Lieutenant

[the above is a certified copy of the document given by Ivey, the original does not appear to be in this file.]

[p 44]

Georgia Tattnell County} In the Superior Court of said County Personally appeared in open Court George Willis<sup>3</sup> who being duly sworn, saith that this deponent is well acquainted with Stephen Bowen applicant for a pension; that this deponent has been acquainted from the time of their infancy: That in the month of September 1778 this deponent does know that said Bowen enlisted in the Continental Army in Duplin County in the State of North Carolina under one Curtis Ivey a first Lieutenant the 5th North Carolina Regiment one Daniel Williams was the Captain in the Company, and one Colonel Armstrong [James Armstrong]<sup>4</sup> commanded said Regiment, and that in the month of March 1779 this deponent volunteered his services as a militia man for 6 months, under one Captain Lanier [probably James Lanier], and Colonel Johnson [most likely Lt. Col. Thomas Johnston of Onslow County, NC], was the Colonel, and that this deponent joined the Continental Army under the command of General Lincoln & General Moultrie, at or near Augusta in Georgia, about the month of April 1779. And when this deponent joined said Continental Army he found said Bowen in service in the Continental Troop near Augusta, and that this deponent served a 6 months tour of duty in the same Army with said Bowen. And when this deponent left the Army, said Bowen still remained in service, and that sometime after this deponent had returned home, said Bowen was brought home to his father's house, sick, and after having restored his health the said Bowen returned to the Army, and

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<sup>3</sup> [George Willis R11639](#)

<sup>4</sup> Armstrong was commissioned Colonel of the 4<sup>th</sup> NC Regiment on 6/1/1778

finished his term of service, which this deponent believes was 3 years; and after said Bowen had served his time, he again returned home; and after which time, there was a call for men, but said Bowen claimed his right to be exempt from draft, & it was granted to him; After which he volunteered, and served till nearly the end of the war, under one Aaron Williams and Captain Ivey, at which time this deponent, again served in the same Army with said Bowen, under one General James Kenyan [sic, James Kenan].

S/ George Willis, X his mark

Sworn to in open Court before me, this 12th April 1825

S/ Robert Raymond Reid, Judge

[p 62]

North Carolina Secretary's Office 12 November 1825

I William Hill Secretary of State in & for the State of North Carolina, do certify that it appears from the musterrolls of the Continental line of this State in the Revolutionary War, that Stephen Bowen a Sergeant in Captain Sharpe's Company of the 10th Regiment was mustered on the 28th day of August 1778 for 3 years. His name is entered again on the same page as follows: "Stephen Bowen Sergeant Sharp's Company 10th Regiment for 3 years mustered February 1779 see above."

Given under my hand this 12th day of November 1825

S/ Wm Hill

[p 11]

Georgia Tattnall County} In the Superior Court of said County Being declared by the laws of said state to be a court of record, and proceeding according to the course of her common law, with a jurisdiction unlimited in point of amount, and keeping a record of its proceedings. – Personally appeared Stephen Bowen, of the County and state aforesaid in open Court this eleventh day of April 1826, who being duly sworn, – Saith – and makes the following declaration in addition to the declaration already made before the Court on the eleventh day of October 1825, and gives the following as his reasons for not making an earlier application for a pension under the acts of the Congress of the United States, in such cases made and provided. –

For that this Declarant resides in a part of the County where the laws of Congress are rarely known – That this declarant did not know that he was entitled to a Pension for his services in the Revolutionary War, until the year of our Lord 1821, at which time this declarant then made an application to an attorney of the Court (as none resided in the County where the declarant lives), who informed this declarant, that he had no form, by which he could make out his application, in the form prescribed by the Acts of Congress; and this declarant has been making application to several attorneys for the purpose of obtaining a pension, – But being poor, and having no money whereby he could jog their memory, they would forget to bring a form, by which the application could be made out, until the October term of this Court in the year 1825, when this declarant made his declaration as he supposed according to law, but which has been returned to be amended. And this declarant further swears, that he has not had any other property in his possession, nor owned or possessed by him, than that set forth in his Schedule, attached to his application, made in October 1825; – On the 18<sup>th</sup> day of March 1818, nor have I sold nor transferred any specie of property whatever, by sale or otherwise, having had none to sell at that time nor since. And this declarant further swears that he has no other family than a helpless wife about 68 years old, that heretofore; that heretofore [sic] they have by hard suffering made out to

live. But that this declarant, and his wife, are now too old and infirm to maintain themselves, and that unless he can obtain some relief from his Country, he and his wife must suffer. – And further that this declarant is almost Deaf.

S/ Stephen Bowen

Sworn to and subscribed  
in open court this 11<sup>th</sup> day  
of April 1826  
S/ Wm Schley  
Judge superior Court Middle District – Georgia

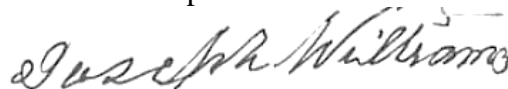
[p 33]

Georgia Telfair County } Personally appeared before me D. B. Graham an acting Justice of the  
Inferior Court in and for said County Joseph Williams<sup>5</sup> who being duly sworn depose and saith  
on oath, that he was acquainted with Stephen Bowen and served with him as a Soldier in the  
Revolutionary War (he the said Bowen was a Regular Soldier) and that he had just reasons to  
believe that the said Bowen departed this life sometime in the year 1838 leaving a widow viz.  
Rachael Bowen and also saith that he was acquainted with the said Rachael Bowen previous to  
her marriage and her name at that time was Rachael HighSmith [sic] also says that he has good  
reason to believe that the said Rachel Highsmith was married to the said Stephen Bowen as they  
both resided in the same neighborhood where he did, and knew them to reside at the said  
Bowen's Father's for some time after their marriage.

Sworn to and subscribed before me this the 3<sup>rd</sup> day of April 1839

S/ Duncan B. Graham, JIC

S/ Joseph Williams



[p 37]

State of North Carolina Office of Secretary of State

I, William Hill, Secretary of State, in and for the State of North Carolina, do hereby  
certify, that it appears from the muster-rolls of the Continental line of this State, in the  
Revolutionary War, that Stephen Bowen a Sergeant in Captain Sharpe's Company of the 10th  
Regiment, entered the service on the 28th day of August 1778, for the term of 3 years, and that a  
warrant was issued to him on the 25th of October 1783 for 3 years Services.

Given under my hand this 21st day of September 1846.

S/ Wm Hill, Secretary of State

[p 8: On August 19, 1846 in Telfair County Georgia, Rachel Bowen 90 filed a claim for a  
widow's pension stating that she is the widow of Stephen Bowen who died in Telfair County  
Georgia November 10, 1838; that she married him in Duplin County North Carolina, she does  
not remember the date but it was about the middle of the Revolutionary War while her husband  
was home on furlough; they were married by Samuel Newton, a Baptist Minister; that her name  
prior to her marriage was Rachel Highsmith, her father was Daniel Highsmith; that her husband's  
father was Clifton Bowen; that they were married in Clifton Bowen's house. She signed her  
application with her mark.]

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<sup>5</sup> [S32065 Joseph Williams](#)

[p 15: On August 24, 1846 in the book County Georgia, Amelia Pridgeon, 84, gave testimony in support of the claim by the veteran's widow in which she that she is the sister of Stephen Bowen and the daughter of Clifton Bowen; that her brother Stephen and Rachel Highsmith were lawfully married at her father's house; that she was present and witnessed the ceremony. She signed her affidavit with her mark.]

[p 25: In a power of attorney dated March 29, 1854 filed in Telfair County Georgia by John Douglass and Thomas H Ashley, they claimed to be legal heirs of Rachel Bowen, widow of Stephen Bowen.

Thomas H Ashley (LS)  
John H Douglass (LS)  
Mark ]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$8 per month commencing May 15, 1826, for 3 years service as a private in the North Carolina Continental line. His widow was granted a pension at the rate of \$80 per annum commencing November 10, 1838 and ending 30 June 1848.]