

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of James Bowling W5863 Letty M. Bowling VA
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. Revised 7 July 2014.

State of Virginia & County of Amherst Sc

On this twentieth day of August 1832. personally appeared before the Court of the County aforesaid James Bowling Sen'r a resident in the County and State aforesaid aged eighty 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 provision made by the act of Congress passed June 7th 1832 That he enlisted in the army raised by the State of Virg'a in the fall of the year 1775 under Capt William Fontaine [pension application W7319], then of Amherst County and served in the 2^d Virginia regiment till the fall of the year 1776 under the following named officers Viz. Colo [William] Woodford, Lieut. Colo Ch's Scott and Major Hardiman, who were the field Officers of the 2nd regiment, and Capt William Fontaine, Jno. Marx [sic: John Marks] of Albemarle 1st Lieut, Thos Hughes [Thomas Hughes] of Virginia 2nd Lieut. and Ensign Robertson of Augusta, who were the officers that commanded the company to which I belonged. I left the service in the fall of the year 1776 a year after my enlistment. The company in which I enlisted was raised in the Counties of Amherst, Augusta, Albemarle and Buckingham; the men which composed it rendezvous'd at Charlottesville in Albemarle, and were marched to Williamsburg. From thence the regiment to which my company belonged with the other Virg'a regiments crossed James River at Jamestown, and marched towards Norfolk thro Smithfield and Suffolk. We came up with the enemy at the longbridge where we had an action sometime in December 1775 I think it was about the 9th of the month [Battle of Great Bridge, 9 Dec 1775]. The enemy was defeated and retreated to Norfolk having lost in the engagement [Capt. Charles] Fordyce, a brave officer who commanded on ye occasion. We pursued the retreating enemy and took possession of Norfolk, after compelling ye troops which were under the direction of L'd Dunmore to evacuate the Town and take shelter in their shipping. While we were in Norfolk the enemy set fire to the Town [1 Jan 1776]. a considerable part of the Town was destroyed by the fire. We remained in Norfolk during the winter or the greater part of it [sic]. We burnt the remaining part of the Town [on 2 Jan 1776] just as we were about to leave it, in order to render it a less convenient position for the enemy if disposed thereafter to occupy it. We returned to Williamsburg marching thro the same district of Country thro which we marched to Norfolk. We remained sometime in Suffolk on act [account?] ye sickness which prevailed among the soldiers. I think we reached Williamsburg some time in ye month of May, or latter part of April, where and in its vicinity we were stationed till our term of service (one year) expired, when we were regularly discharged. I was constantly in service with the company to which I belonged till it was discharged as aforesaid. He also performed a tour of duty in the Militia service of the State of Virginia as a guard over the British troops at the barracks in the County of Albemarle and state aforesaid under the command of Captain Philip Thurmond. He also performed a tour of militia duty in guarding a parcel of British soldiers at Amherst Court House. He also performed a tour of militia duty in the early part of the year 1781. immediately preceeding the Capture of Lord Cornwallis [19 Oct 1781] under the command of Colo Merewether [probably Thomas Meriwether]. the precise time in which he was engaged in performing these three tours of duty is not precisely recollected, but he is very confident that it was not less than six months. I hereby relinquish every claim whatever to a pension or an annuity except the present and I declare that my name is not on the pension roll of any agency in any State

James Bowling

Virginia Amherst County Court

On the 17th day of September 1832 personally appeared before the Court of the County aforesaid James Bowling a resident of the said County of Amherst who being first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following declaration as an amendment to his declaration made in the said Court on the 20th day of August last in order to obtain the benefit of the provision made by the act of Congress passed

on the 7th day of June 1832.

That he was born in the County of St Marys in the State of Maryland in the year 1752, that he has no record of his age, that he was living in Amherst County State of Virginia when called into the Service as stated in the body of his declaration, and that he now resides in the said County of Amherst where he has continued to live since the Revolutionary war, that he did receive a written discharge signed by Colo Charles Scott the Lieut Col. of his regiment but that it has been mislaid or lost: That he refers to the Reverend Daniel Day and David S Garland as persons who know him and can testify as to his veracity and as their belief of his Revolutionary Services. James Bowling

NOTE: On 4 Sep 1838 Letty M Bowling, 76, applied for a pension stating that as Letty M. Gillaspie she married James Bowling on 7 April 1777 at her father's house on Piney River in Nelson County, and that her husband died 12 Nov 1836. I supporting certificate stated that their children were "many in number."