

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters

Pension Application of Bowlin Curtis W349 Mary Curtis VA
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. Revised 12 May 2019.

State of Tennessee } S.S.
Washington County }

On this twentieth day of June Eighteen hundred and forty four personally appeared before the subscriber an Acting justice of the peace in and for said County Mrs. Mary Curtis aged seventy three years a resident of the County and state aforesaid, who being first duly sworn according to Law doth on her Oath make the following Declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the provisions made by the Acts of Congress passed 7th July 1838 and 3^d March 1843 entitled An Act granting half pay and pensions to certain Widows.

That she is the Widow of Bowlin Curtis who was a Soldier of the Regular Army in the war of the Revolution. That he first served a tour of 6 or 7 months as a drafted soldier from the state of Virginia, the time he entered this service the names of his Officers, and when he came out of said service she does not know; that he afterwards enlisted as a regular soldier for five years or during the war, and that he served as such to the end of the war part of the time under the Command of General Washington, that he was under the Command of Washington at the battle of Brandywine [11 Sep 1777] where his brother Wyly Curtis was killed [William Wilie Curtis VAS3233], that he was also at the Battle of Trenton [26 Dec 1776] under the same Commander. She also declares that the aforesaid Bowlin Curtis was afterwards transfered from the Northern Army to the Southern Army and that he was at the battle of Guilford [Guilford Courthouse NC, 15 Mar 1781] and Eutaw springs [SC, 8 Sep 1781] in the states of North and South Carolina under the Command of General Green [sic: Nathanael Greene] and Colonel Armand [see endnote], that he belonged to the horse or Cavalry during part of the said five years service under the Command of the aforesaid Colonel Armand and that he the aforesaid Bowlin Curtis served in the foot or infantry during part of the said service but she declares that she does not know the names of the other officers. She further declares that she was married to the aforesaid Bowlin Curtis in the County of Shenandoah state of Virginia in the year 1787 but she cannot remember the month or day, but that it was sometime in the fall of the said year. She further declares that she has no record of her marriage to the aforesaid Bowlin Curtis, nor does she know of any living Witness by whom she could prove it. She further declares that her husband the aforesaid Bowlin Curtis died in Rowan County State of North Carolina near the Yadkin river in the fall of 1808; that she was not married to him before his leaving the service but the marriage took place previous to the year 1794 to wit; at the time above stated. She further declares that she has no record or documentary evidence of her husbands military services and that she still remains a Widow and that she has not been married since her husbands death. Mary herXmark Curtis

State of Tennessee } S.S.
Carter County }

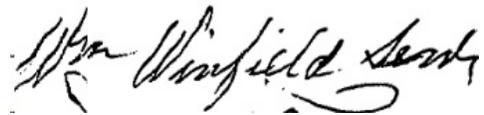
On this 20th day of June 1844 personally appeared before the subscriber an acting justice of the peace in and for said County John Curtis a resident of the County and state aforesaid aged fifty six years who after being duly sworn according to Law doth on his Oath make the following Declaration relative to his Father Bowlin Curtis a soldier of the War of the Revolution, to wit, That the aforesaid Bowlin Curtis was the husband of Mary Curtis his mother, who is now making application to the Government for Land and money on account of her husbands services in the war of the revolution as a soldier; That he always considered, and believed and understood, that the aforesaid Bowlin and Mary Curtis his father and Mother were lawfully married, and that he and her brothers and sisters were the Legitimate children of the aforesaid Bowlin and Mary Curtis; and that he never knew it doubted or contradicted by any one. He further states that he often heard his father converse about his military services in the War of the Revolution; That he heard him say that he, his father, the aforesaid Bowlin was drafted in the state of

Virginia for six months service in the War of the Revolution; but that he had served seven months instead of six; the names of his officers in that tour he does not recollect of hearing his father mention, neither does he know the time or year he entered the service or left the same in the seven months tour. He further states that he heard his father say that after he came home from the seven months campaign, that a draft for soldiers came; and that rather than submit to so many drafts he joined the regular Army for five years or during the war by enlistment; The names of all the Officers he heard his father talk about he does not now recollect, but he remembers distinctly of hearing his father say that he was under General Washington at the battles of Brandywine and Trenton and that he was under General Greene at the Battle of Guilford and Eutaw springs; That after his father and mother removed from the State of Virginia to North Carolina and when they left that state for Tennessee, and while on the journey, he recollects of passing over the ground where his father said was fought the battle of Guilford, in which he the aforesaid Bowlin Curtis said he was engaged under the command of General Greene; he believes also that his father said his Colonel's name was Armand and that he, his father, had served part of the time in the horse or Cavalry under Col. Armand, and a part of the time in the foot, but it has been so long ago that he cannot recollect many of the names and circumstances which his father mentioned, That he served to the end of the War or five years and seven months. He further states that his father and mother removed from the state of Virginia to the state of North Carolina and thence into the state of Tennessee and lived near the Wattauga [sic: Watauga] river in the County of Washington now Carter County; that his father the aforesaid Bowlin and Mary his wife and family removed back to the state of North Carolina and settled on the Yadkin, Rowan County; where his father died of fever and ague and other complaints about the year 1808; that a short time thereafter his mother the aforesaid Mary Curtis with the family removed back to the state of Tennessee and settled in the same neighborhood where they formerly lived, where they all now reside except a deceased sister and that the aforesaid Mary Curtis still remains a Widow in indigent circumstances. He further states that there is no record of his age, but from what his parents always told him he was fifty six years old on the 20th March 1844.

He further declares that his father while living in the state of North Carolina went to Richmond in the state of Virginia in order to obtain some Land which he said was due him for his military services in the war of the Revolution, but that he failed to get it, and that his father said if he had his just dues from the Government he would have three hundred acres of Land John hisXmark Curtis

[The following is from [rejected claims in the Library of Virginia](#) indexed as Curtis, Bolling. It appears to be a fraudulent claim made for the service of the same soldier as above.]

I William Winfield Sen'r of Sussex County Virginia do hereby Certify that I was well acquainted with Bolin Curtis and William Wilie Curtis of said County and I believe that they both enlisted in the Virginia Contineltal Servis in the Revolutionary war Wm Willie was Slain at Bufords Defeat [sic: defeat of Col. Abraham Buford, Battle of Waxhaws SC, 29 May 1780] and Bolin has never returned given under my hand this the 5th november 1831



Sussex County towit, Va

This day William Winfield appear'd before me & made oath to the justness of the above certificate
Given under my hand this 5th of Nov'r 1831 Th. Hunt J.P.

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

Executive Department
Richmond, Va. Nov. 24 45.

Sir, It appears by a statement of the Register of the Land office, to whom application was made, that

Bowlin Curtis has never draw land bounty. In presenting a claim to this department for Revolutionary services, it is only necessary to furnish such evidence as will satisfy the Executive of a service of three years or for the war, accompanied by a petition from the claimant. Death in service is equivalent to full service for the term of enlistment.

Persons not themselves interested must exhibit a power of attorney from those in whose name they act.
Yr ob't serv't/ Wm H. Richardson sec. com.

Greenville Tennessee
July 1st 1846

Sir [Gov of the state of Virginia/ Richmond] Enclosed, is the application of the heirs of Bowlin Curtis for Land due their father for military services rendered during the war of the Revolution, also two letters [not transcribed here] from J L Edwards commissioner of pensions relative to the same, and one from Wm H Richardson Sec. of State of Va. You will see in the accompanying letter of Mr. Edwards marked A that Bowlin Curtis was an inhabitant of Virginia when he enlisted, that he enlisted for "during the war" and served to the end thereof

The letter marked B shows that he served not less than three years, and according to the letter of Sec. Richardson, Curtis was entitled to Virginia Land bounty, which his heirs now claim.

You will see from the Power given by the heirs that I am the Attorney.

You will please direct that the warrant for bounty Land on the part of Virginia shall issue in favor of said heirs and that it be sent to me directing to Greenville Tennessee. If any receipts on my part should be necessary, you can instruct me.

Immediate attention to this matter is respectfully requested

I have the honor to be/ With great respect/ Your obt. svt./ Blackston McDannel

P.S. Bowlin Curtis always said that he served 2 years in the Infantry before he was transfered to Armands corps. that Armand had choice of the young men of Infantry companies to fill up his regiment of Dragoons, and as Curtis was a stout able bodied man and a good horseman, he was chosen His name, no doubt, can be found on the Roll of some of the Virginia Infantry Regiments, together with the time of his enlistment. He served 5 years in the Va. Continental Line. If he did, he was entitled to 200 acres from the State of Va & 100 from the U.S.
B McDannel

NOTES:

Col. Charles Armand, commander of Armand's Partizan Corps, was in France at the times of the battles of Guilford Courthouse and Eutaw Springs. The few soldiers remaining in his Legion were then attached to Gen. Lafayette in Virginia.

A size roll of noncommissioned officers and privates taken at Chesterfield Courthouse includes the following: Bowlin Curtis, age 19, height 5' 7", black hair, grey eyes, fair complexion, scar on nose, farmer, born and residing in Sussex County VA, enlisted at Chesterfield Courthouse 23 Nov 1780 for the duration of the war, sized on 5 Apr 1781. No previous service listed.

The file includes a copy of a bond signed in Rockingham County VA on 10 Nov 1789 by "Bowlen Curtise" and John McDonald for the marriage of Curtis to Mary Lee.

On 18 June 1844 John Smith, 73, of Sullivan County TN stated that almost 52 years previously Bowlin and Mary Curtis moved from North Carolina and settled on his farm in Washington County TN for about a year, then returned to North Carolina. After Bowlin Curtis's death his widow returned to the same neighborhood and still lived there near the Watauga River.

On 13 Apr 1846 William Curtis and Nathan Curtis of Washington County, and John Curtis and Mary West of Carter County applied for bounty land for the services of their father. The application was witnessed by Bowling Curtis, son of John Curtis.

On 25 Sep 1848 Mary Curtis was living in Carter County.