

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters

Pension Application of John Brittain Bowers S6674 VA
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. Revised 9 Oct 2017.

[Punctuation partly corrected.]

State of North Carolina } Sct
Orange County } On this 22^d day of September 1824

Personally appeared in open Court being the Superior Court of Law for Orange County in the State aforesaid, and being also a Court of Record having unlimited Jurisdiction in all criminal matters within the county aforesaid, and being unlimited as to the amount of damages in its jurisdiction touching civil matters, John Brittain Bowers aged about sixty five years, and a resident in the aforesaid County of Orange who being first duly sworn according to Law, doth on his oath make the following declaration, in order to obtain the provision made by the acts of Congress of the 18th March 1818 and the 1st May 1820 that he the said John B. Bowers enlisted for and during the term and continuation of the War on the [blank] day of [blank] 1780 as he beleives in the State of Virginia and County of Southampton in the Company Commanded by Capt Edmonds in the Regiment commanded by Colo. Blount in the line of the State of Virginia on the Continental establishment that he continued to serve in the said Corps until the Fall of 1781 immediately after the surrender of Lord Corn Wallis at York Town Virginia [sic: Cornwallis at Yorktown, 19 Oct 1781] when he was discharged upon Furlough and was never afterwards called into service, the said Furlough was given to him at York Town Virginia.

That he was in the Battles of Guilford North Carolina [Guilford Courthouse, 15 Mar 1781] in the Company and Regiment aforesaid, that he was engaged in a smart skirmish at Shoulders Hill [now in Suffolk City] near Portsmouth Virginia under the command of Capt Hart who commanded the detachment of volunteers for the time being, upon that service. – That he received a wound upon the Ankle in said skirmish with a Buck Shot which has in some measure disabled him from active exercise ever since. That he was at the Seige at York Town under Capt Edmonds & Colo. Blount where he served until the Surrender and discharge aforesaid. That he has no other evidence to his knowledge of his said services.

And in pursuance of the Act of the 1st of May 1820 I do solemnly swear that I was a resident Citizen of the United States on the 18th day of March 1818 and that I have not since that time by gift sale or in any manner disposed of my property or any part thereof with intent thereby so to diminish it as to bring myself within the provisions of an act of Congress entitled “an act to provide for certain person engaged in the land and naval service of the United States in the Revolutionary War” passed on the 18th 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; that he is a farmer, or common labourer, that he has a wife and five children, and only one son being ten years old, that labours for him; the other children are still younger and the youngest was born the 15th of December last.

Schedule of the Estate of John B. Bowers

1 Cow \$8. 1 Pig 50 cts. 1 Bed \$10.	\$18.50
Some little Vessels & working articles not exceeding in value. . .	<u>2</u>
	\$20.50

Sworn to and declared the 22^d day of September 1824 in open court as aforesaid before the Honorable William Norwood Judge of the said Superior Court aforesaid.

John B. hisXmark Bowers

[I could not identify any of the American officers named.]

State of North Carolina } S.S. Court of pleas & qu'r. sessions }
Orange County } May Term 1834 }

On this the 28th day of May A.D. 1834 personally appeared before the Court of pleas & quarter sessions for the County of Orange aforesaid now sitting (the same being a Court of Record) Brittain Bowers, a resident Citizen of Orange County aforesaid, now in the 71st year of his age, 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 the 15th day of May 1828 being “an act for the relief of certain surviving officers and Soldiers of the Revolution.”

That he enlisted in the army of the United States, At Jerusalem [now Courtland], in Southampton County Virginia, under one Captain Boykin, for or during the war about the 1st of April 1780 (as well as this applicant now remembers) In a few days after enlisting was marched under Boykin, as a reinforcement to Gen'l. [Benjamin] Lincoln at Charleston in South Carolina; and when on his march thither, at Salisbury in this State, was then attached to a Company of Continental Soldiers under Command of Captain Moore, and Benjamin Newsum Lieutenant in said Company – our regiment was now put under Command of Col. Thompson (as well as he remembers) and took up the line of March for Charleston South Carolina, and when he got as far as Monks' Corner [sic: Moncks Corner] (he thinks it was) we received intelligence of the Surrender of Charleston to the British troops [12 May 1780], and while at this place many of the Militia passed them going home on parole – we now took a Northern direction and went towards the upper part of the State of South Carolina when we had orders to join [Gen. Horatio] Gates, who was then [sic] at Coxe's Mills [Cox's Mill] on Deep River in North Carolina and advancing to the South. About the first of August of this year this Declarant is of opinion, Gates reached Masks Ferry [on Pee Dee River] and in a week or less joined Gen'l. [Richard] Caswell, with the North Carolina militia. My regiment joined Gates, the day before he thinks it was that they arrived at the Cross Roads where several hundred Virginia militia also joined our army, this was perhaps about 2 or 3 days only before the engagement with the enemy near Cambden [sic: Battle of Camden] 16th August 1780 Our army fell in unexpectedly with the enemy on our march about one or two oClock on the night, previous to the Battle. In the engagement of the 16th my Company fell under the command of Col. Otho Williams of the Maryland Line we were all defeated and routed. In a few days afterwards we rendezvoused at Charlotte, N.Ca. when fearful the British might be disposed to improve their late advantage over us. we were all marched to Hillsboro' [Hillsborough] in this State under Gen'l. [William] Smallwood and Huttet about a mile East of Town upon William Courtney's plantation where we remained till about the 10th of November following, when we were marched to Salisbury under Col. Williams & [Gen. Griffith] Rutherford from Salisbury we went to Charlotte, where Gen'l. [Nathanael] Greene arrived at our Camp about the first of the Winter and succeeded Gates in Command of our army [3 Dec 1780]. About the middle of Dec'r. we were marched down the Pee dee River to the mouth of Hicks Creek against the Town of Cheraw in South Carolina – about the middle of the month January. Col. Lee [Lt. Col. Henry Lee] with his legion of Cavalary came to our Camp – while here we learn't that Gen'l. [Daniel] Morgan who had been sent below us, had defeated Tarlton [sic: Lt. Col. Banastre Tarleton, Battle of Cowpens, 17 Jan 1781], and had taken many baggage wagons and prisoners and was on his march towards North Carolina – about the last of January we were ordered to Salisbury N. Ca. and at Guilfr'd fell in with Gen'l. Morgan – we now retreated to Virginia, the British being close in pursuit, after leaving Guilford C. H. our Col. (Williams) commanded us Light infantry & with Col. Lees Cavalry were thrown in between Gen'l Green and the British Army, thereby giving the main army an opportunity to get so far in advance of Cornwallis as to Cross the Dan [14 Feb 1781] and get into Virginia before the enemy could possibly force him into an engagement – we all crossed the Dan at Irwins [Irwin's Ferry], in safety before the British could reach us. The British now marched down to Hillsboro' and made that Town Headquarters. But our army presently [22 Feb] recrossed the Dan into North Carolina, where the enemy again came up to Guilford County. But our army kept within the neighbourhood of the British troops reconnoitering for some weeks. At Whitsells Mills on the Reedy Fork had a skirmish with the enemy [at Wetzel's Mill on Reedy Fork of Haw River, 6 Mar] about 8 or 10 days before the general engagement at Guilford old Courthouse on the 15th day of March of that year in which

engagement this applicant was. – the evening after the battle marched to our camp on Reedy fork [sic: Troublesome Creek] About 10 miles from the Battle ground. Here we remained several days in order to attend to the wounded and collect those that left us during the engagement, thence we marched to Ramseys Mills on Deep River, where Gen'l. Green lay till about the latter part of April [sic: 7 Apr]. Lord Cornwallis having marched toward Wilmington. This applicant states that he continued no longer with the main army of Greene, But parted with him at the Mills aforesaid; and with other troops were marched to Halifax in North Carolina, expecting that Lord Cornwallis might go to that place or pass it for Virginia. But the enemy passed that section of Country before we reached there – we now were on the same road with the enemy and occasionally picked up horses which they had abandoned as too fatigued for march. Crossed Meherrin at Hicks ford; went thro' Jerusalem in South Ampton by Suffolk to the neighbourhood of Norfolk – marched up James River, to Swan's point [sic: Swanns Point], crossed the said River there – thence to Wiliamsburg [sic: Williamsburg], and were there put under Command of Marquis De Lafayette & Gen'l. [Anthony] Wayne, who had formed a junction a little before this time [at Brock's Bridge on North Anna River, 10 June]. and in the first or second week after being under Lafayette (this Declarant thinks it was) the engagement took place at Green Springs [Battle of Green Springs Plantation, 6 Jul 1781], where we very narrowly escaped a serious defeat; – in this battle, this declarant was wounded in his left ancle by a Buck Shot, which was extracted by one of the Surgeons, by which wound he was disqualified from duty; placed in the Hospital and after the Surrender of the British Army, at the Siege of Little York in October following, this Declarant received a furlough in consequence of his wound (which wound he exhibits to the Hon. Court) and after receiving his furlough, returned home as an invalid & never was afterwards called on. In consequence of said wound he has been in a great measure unable to perform regularly hard labour – that leg having become smaller & consequently weaker than the other & his ancle siffened.

This applicant further states upon his oath, that he now knows of no person living except J. Cumming [sic: William Cumming, pension application S8265] & John Baudy [John Boudy (Bondy, Bodray), W5858] that was in the army with him. An artillerist by the name of Joseph Williams, late of Person County in North Carolina aforesaid, whose affidavit this applicant procured about Five years since for the purpose of availing himself of the act of 18 March 1818, he also got the affidavit of Baxter Bowlin of orange of the Cont. Line, both of these affiants have since that period died their affidavits are misplaced and their testimony is now lost to this applicant – he has however recently found the testimony of William Cumming qua'r. master in the War. Rev. and now a United States pensioner. This declarant has also obtained the evidence of John Baudy of Orange, aforesaid who was at the Siege of Little York and testifys that said Bowers was at the said siege and wounded a short time previous. And said Cumming testifys that at the defeat of Gates on 16th August 1780 remembers of seeing the said Brittain Bowers there, and at the rendezvous at Charlotte a few days after. And besides these witnesses this Declarant knows of none others, by whom he can prove he was in the Service as he has set forth in this Declaration. And this applicant further states upon his said oath, that he has caused application to be made to the Hon. Secretary of State for the State of Virginia to know if his name could be found on the Virginia Roll, but has had no reply. He has therefore given briefly a detail of his Services, 'till furloughed after the Seige of Little York; And altho in a great measure an invalid, had he been call'd upon to rejoin his regiment, he would have done so. He was paid by the United States 'till November 1783.

He rec'd. a furlough as above stated. he thinks Sergeant Cobb brought him his furlough which furlough he left at his residence in Virginia and makes no doubt but it has been lost many years.

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or an annuity except the present, and declares that his name is not on the pension roll of any agency in any state.

Sworn to and subscribed, the day and year aforesaid. Brittain hisXmark Bowers

[The reason given for rejection of this claim is that Bowers did not serve in the Continental line until the end of the war as required by the law under which he applied.]

State of North Carolina } S.S.
Orange County }

On this the first day of April 1834, personally appeared before the undersigned an acting justice for Orange aforesaid (at his own residence John Boudy a soldier of the 2nd Maryland Regiment, Cont. line and united states pensioner, under act June 7th A.D. 1832 who being duly qualified maketh oath that while at the Siege of Little York in 1781, he became acquainted with Brittain Bowers, of Orange aforesaid then of Virginia, and that said Bowers was a Continental Soldier, and was wounded some short time previous to the Siege, he thinks in some skirmish with the enemy in a reconnoitre. The said Bowers, as far as his acquaintance with him, was always reputed a good Whig. Said Brittain Bowers is a resident of this County and has been for a number of years. Is a man of truth & veracity and has always been considered a revolutionary soldier.

John hisXmark Boudy

[Boudy made a similar statement on 25 Aug 1834.]

State of North Carolina } S.S.
Orange County }

On this the 15 day of April A.D. 1834 personally appeared before the undersigned an acting Justice for Orange, aforesaid William Cumming, an United pensioner, who being first duly qualified maketh oath, that during the war of the Revolution he knew Brittain Bowers as a Continental Soldier, and the first engagement he remembers of seeing Bowers in was at Gates' defeat 16th August 1780 at which time this affiant was quarter Master, and after the route at Camden remembers of seeing said Bowers at our rendexvoz at Charlotte, and that he has known said Brittain Bowers ever since, and has always understood that the said Bowers continued in the Continental Service 'till he was wounded a little before the Seige of Little York he has shown me the wound he says he got in said engagement – Said Brittain Bowers was always reputed a good Soldier in the cause of freedom and is a man of truth and veracity.

Wm Cumming

[Cumming made a similar declaration on 28 Aug 1834.]

State of North Carolina } Sct. Court of pleas and quarter Sessions
Orange County } August Term A.D. 1834.

On this the 29th day of August 1834 personally appeared in open Court, before the Court of pleas and quarter Sessions now sitting Brittain Bowers a resident Citizen of the aforesaid County seventy one years of age who being first duly qualified maketh on oath the following Declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the act of Congress passed 7th June 1832

That he entered the service of the United States by Enlistment and served in the Virginia Line as herein after named: (viz)

That he enlisted in the Service of the United States on or about the 1st day of April 1780, in the Town of Jerusalem in Southampton County Virginia, under one Captain Boykin a recruiting officer. That he with others rendezvoused at Jerusalem aforesaid in about two weeks after he enlisted, and was marched under Boykin to Salisbury in North Carolina. Thence under Major Thompson a Continental officer to the relief of the City of Charleston in South Carolina – and when within 30 or 40 miles of that City, was informed of its surrender to the British Troops – many of the militia passed as returning home on parole.

we were presently ordered to North Carolina, being too weak to remain in the South State. Some time in August following we joined Gen'l. Gates army, a few days only, before General Gates was defeated near Camden in South Carolina – was in the engagement on the 16th of August when our army was defeated and routed. In said engagement was in the Regiment commanded by Col. Otho Williams, upon being routed we went to Charlotte in North Carolina. Thence under Gen'l. Smallwood was marched to Hillsboro' in Orange County where we (the Regular Troops) were put under Command of Col. Otho Williams. We were after remaining in Hillsboro' a while tented on the plantation of William Courtney about one mile out of Town where we remained till about the 1st of November following, when we were marched under command of Col. Williams to Charlotte in Mecklenburg North Carolina. The Continentals composing but one Brigade. All the militia were under Smallwood (he thinks) and marched ahead of the

Regulars – the militia were at Providence some 18 or 20 miles south of Charlotte, then Headquarters when we reached there. While at Charlotte in Dec'r. following Gen'l. Greene reached us and took Command of the army. About the 20th of December we marched to the mouth of Hicks' Creek on the Pee Dee, against where the Town of Cheraw stands – after remaining in this encampment 'till about the 20th of January, we were ordered to Salisbury in North Carolina – (while at Hicks' Creek Col. Lee & Legion arrived at our Camp –) we marched Northwardly and when in Guilford County joined Gen'l. Morgan. Green now retreated to Virginia, and this declarant now formed one of the Light troops, that were thrown in between Genl. Green & the British Army to aid Green's retreat to Virginia. As soon as our army was across the Dan, Cornwallis marched to Hillsboro, and made that town his head quarters – our army returned into North Carolina, when the enemy left Hillsboro and marched to give us battle. About the last of February or 1st of March, we had an engagement at Wetzells mills on Reedy Fork, and a partial engagement at or near Allemance [sic: skirmish at Clapp's Mill near Alamance Creek, 2 Mar] with the enemy. This declarant was also in the General engagement at Guilford Court House, on the 15th of March 1781 – and remained with Gen'l. Green, at Ramsey's Mill 'till it was understood Lord Cornwallis was directing his march to Virginia. This Declarant with other troops, was ordered to Virginia, passing thro' Hillsboro', Halifax N.C. Crossed the Meherrin at Hick's Ford. And fell under Command of Gen'l LaFayette a few days before his defeat at Green Spring, near the James River, was badly wounded by a shot in the ankle in said engagement and was put in a baggage wagon and taken to camp that night 6 or 8 miles from the battle ground – continued still with Lafayette's troops an invalid – 'till after the Surrender of Lord Cornwallis in October following when the Surgeon of his troops, reported him an invalid and unfit for duty, whereupon he rec'd. a Furlough, went home, but was never called upon to do duty again in consequence of his wound received at Green Springs.

And said Bowers further says, That he was born in Southampton in Va. some time in 1763. – That when he entered in the United States Service he enlisted for the War. That he rec'd. a furlough after the Surrender of Cornwallis But his furlough has been lost many years. That in proof of his services he produces the affidavit of John Baudy, a United States pensioner, of Orange aforesaid. Also that of William Cumming, United States pensioner. Sworn & subscribed to

Brittain his Xmark Bowers

[The following are from [rejected claims in the Library of Virginia](#) under the name Bowers, Britain.]

Declaration of Brittain Bowers with Certain evidence to be forwarded to the executive Department, Commonwealth of Virginia, to enable the said Bowers to obtain a military Land Warrant form that state for Services he rendered the United States in the Virginia Line, During the war of the Revolution.

State of North Carolina } S.S. Court of pleas & quarter Sessions
 Orange County } August Term, 1834

On this the 30th day of August 1834 personally appeared in open Court before the Court of pleas & quarter sessions now sitting, Brittain Bowers a resident Citizen of the aforesaid County, who being first duly sworn according to Law Deposeeth as follows to wit:

That he was born in the County of Southampton in the state of Virginia, some time in the year of 1763. And when about 17 years of age (to Wit) on or about the 1st day of April 1780 (being at the time bound an apprentice to one Daniel Edmunds, of Southampton aforesaid) he enlisted for the war, in Jerusalem in the aforesaid county, under one Captain Boykin a recruiting officer – the design of this recruit was to relieve Charleston in South Carolina, which was then besieged by the enemy. That he rendezvoused at Jerusalem and with other troops was marched to Salisbury North Carolina, then a place of rendezvouses – that he was marched to this latter place under Boykin – and after remaining there about two weeks with other regulars under Command of Major Thompson (he thinks) left Salisbury for Charleston, South Carolina; and when within thirty or forty miles of that City met North Carolina Militia returning home on parole, from after the fall of that City – we then marched back into North Carolina and in the month of August

following we joined Gen'l. Gates' army about two or three day before the defeat of Ge'l. Gates at Camden – was in the defeat at Camden on the 16th day of August of that year, to wit 1780, and in said engagement was under command of Col. Otho Williams – after the defeat we retreated to Charlotte in North Carolina – Thence was marched to Hillsboro' under Gen'l. Smallwood where he was put under Command of Otho Williams as was all the regulars – we were tented about a mile out of Town on the lands of William Courtney.

That on or about the 1st November following (1780) we were marched under Col. Williams to Charlotte in Mecklenburg County (the Continentals composing but one Brigade) All the militia under Smallwood (he thinks) were marched in advance of us, and were at Providence when we reached Charlotte, and now head Quarters. That early in the winter, perhaps the first week in Dec'r Gen'l Greene reached Head quarters, and took command of the army. After remaining in Charlotte some two or three weeks we were marched down the Pee Dee to the mouth of Hicks Creek, where we encamped 'till about the 15th of the next month (January) and while at this encampment were re-enforced with Lee's legion of Cavalry. After remaining at Hick's Creek till the 15th or thereabouts, we were ordered to Salisbury in North Carolina, and when in Guilford County (he thinks it was) fell in with Gen'l Morgan – who was on his retreat from the Cowpens.

upon Green's retreat from Guilford this Declarant composed on of the light Troops (under Otho Williams) that covered Gen'l Green's retreat to the Dan. That after the American army had retreated into Virginia, the enemy marched down to Hillsboro' and made that Town their head quarters – our army now recrossed the Dan and returned to North Carolina, where upon the British marched in pursuit of us – we had a partial engagement with them at Witzell's mills on Reedy Fork and a skirmish with them on Allemance. This was probably about the first week of March and on the 15th of that month was in the general engagement at Guilford Court House – remained with Greene 'till it was ascertained the enemy would probably make for Virginia when this Declarant with other troops from Ramsey's Mills (at that time Gen'l Green's encampment) marched for the State of Virginia passing thro Hillsbro Halifax North Carolina. Crossed the Meherin at Hick's ford (being but a few days march behind the enemy) Fell in with the troops und Gen'l Lafayette not far from the City of Richmond and had a [words possibly missing at end of page] a few days before Lafayette was well nigh surprised by Lord Cornwallis at Green Spring where this Declarant was wounded in the ancle; put in a baggage wagon and carried six or eight miles to Camp that Night – was with the army at the Siege of Little York in October following “an invalid” and assisted in making Catridges – after the Surrender, he was reported by the Surgeon, from said wound to be disqualified from duty and received a Furlough, whereupon he went home, and never was again called upon to do duty, in consequence of said wound. He yet feels the effects of it, being pained when he walks much or labours hard. The leg and foot of the wounded side are small in circuit than its opposite. this Declarant says his Furlough has long since been lost. That he removed to North Carolina, about thirty-five years ago. And for proof of his Services &c refers to the affidavits of John Baudy & William Cumming – & J. Blackwood & David Strain. Sworn and subscribed in open Court the day and date first above written.
Test John Taylor C.C. Brittain hisXmark Bowers

State of North Carolina } Sct
Orange County }

On this the 28th day of August 1834 personally appeared before the undersigned, an acting Justice of the peace for the County aforesaid, John Baudy a resident citizen of Orange and said now in the 77th year of his age and a United State pensioner who being first duly qualified maketh oath, that he was a Continental soldier during the war of the Revolution, as at the Siege of Little york in Virginia in October 1781 and well remembers of seeing there, Brittain Bowers of Orange aforesaid who he then understood was of the Virginia Regulars & was at the time an invalid having been wounded some short time before in an engagement with the enemy – does not distinctly remember the place of the engagement, but is of the impression it was near the James River – this affiant Remembers distinctly of hearing said Bowers say he was under Command of Marquis De Lafayette when he got wounded. In conclusion the said John Boudy

saith that Brittain Bowers aforesaid has the reputation of being a Continental Soldier in the war of the Revolution & is a man of truth & veracity.

Sworn and subscribed the day & year first above written.

Test Jno Stockard[?] JP

John HisXmark Baudy

State of North Carolina }

Orange County }

On this the 28th day of August 1834, personally appeared before the undersigned an acting Justice for the aforesaid County William Cumming of Orange aforesaid, who being first duly qualified maketh oath that he was quarter master in the Regular army under Gen'l Gates in August 1780 and remembers well of seeing Brittain Bowers of Orange aforesaid, at that time a regular soldier in the United States Service. And this affiant in conclusion says that the said Brittain Bowers aforesaid has always been reputed a man of truth & veracity & a regular soldier in the war of the Revolution.

Sworn and subscribed the day & date first above written before me

Thos Clancy J.P.



State of North Carolina } SS.

Orange County }

On this the 29th day of August A.D. 1834 personally appeared before the undersigned an acting Justice of the peace in and for the County aforesaid, John Blackwood, esq'r and David Strain, Citizens of the County aforesaid, who being first duly qualified, make oath, that, for upwards of thirty years they have been well acquainted with Brittain Bowers of Orange aforesaid and as far back as their first acquaintance with him, have heard him say he was a Continental Soldier in the war of the Revolution in te Virginia Line. And that they concur in that opinion – these affiants also say that the said Bowers is a man of truth and veracity.

Sworn and subscribed the day and date first above written, before me
Wm H Hall JP

[signed] John Blackwood

[signed] David Strain

Note: The claim for bounty land from Virginia was rejected for lack of proof of three-years service.