

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Bracy Bowen S6693

f14VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

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[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 8th of June 1786." Please call material errors or omissions to my attention.]

State of North Carolina Rutherford County

On this 23rd day of September 1832 personally appeared in open court before the Justices of the court now sitting, Bracy Bowen a resident of the United States in the County of Rutherford and State of North Carolina, Aged about 70 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 Act of Congress passed 7th of June 1832.

He entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated.

I was living in Mecklenburg County in the State of Virginia and was drafted & placed in Capt. Reuben Vaughn's Company for the term, I think, of five months. I served the Tour out under him. We first marched to the Village, now called Oxford, Virginia, where we joined the Regiment under Col. Lu burril [Lewis Burwell] and General Mason. From this place we marched by the way of Hillsboro North Carolina, Salisbury, Charlotte on to Camden South Carolina and from there over to Stono where we joined General Lincoln, & remained with him at Stono, till the Battle called the Battle of Stono, I think the Battle ground, where we fought is about 12 miles below where we were stationed. I was in this engagement and served my Term out here, and was dismissed by Col. Lu burril, who directed us to meet him at Moncks Corner to receive our pay. That he did not receive it there, but had to go on to Camden, before we received it. From here I went home to Virginia. I have no recollection of having received any written discharge from service, not being able to read, if I received any, I took no care of it.

When it came to my term to serve again (all of us being numbered & called out by regular successive Terms) I was placed in Capt. Binns Jones Company. The Col.'s name I cannot remember. We marched from home under Capt. Jones to a place called Rugeley's Mills, within 18 or 20 miles of Camden South Carolina where we joined General Gates in General Decalb [DeKalb]. The same night that we joined General Gates, we marched on towards Camden, and were met by the Enemy 8 or 9 miles above Camden, where the Engagement [August 15-16, 1780] took place in which Gates was defeated. I was in this Battle called Gates Defeat. We were all dispersed and made our way home the best we could. I have no recollection, for how long a time this draft called, nor can I recollect how long I was in the service in this Tour. I can safely say I was in service in this tour one month & a half.

When it came to my term again to serve we were called to march to ~~Caswell~~ Guilford Court house But owing to inability I was unable to perform this term of service. The exposure that I was in, and the fatigues that I endured at the defeat of Gates at Camden rendered me

entirely helpless for some time, nor have I yet recovered from them. I have never since been a sound man. I have for many years [been] partly dependent on my friends for support & sustenance. From my present condition of Body, I cannot hope for amendment. But remain an Invalid the small balance of my life and it is the above mentioned causes that I must attribute my condition. I received a furlough from Col. Robert Montford [Robert Munford] and remained at home during that campaign. I was born in Mecklenburg County in Virginia in the year 1762. Having no record of my age I know thence by comparison with my Brother's age who has a record of his age. I was called into service when living in the State & County above mentioned I cannot recollect the dates, or the months or years that I was called into service, nor have I any record of them, nor the record of any other circumstances to assist my recollection in relation to those dates. I know no person living in this country who was with me in the Revolutionary Service.

I hereby relinquish every claim to a pension or annuity, whatever Except the present and declare my name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any State whatsoever.

Interrogatories by the Court

1st Where and in what year were you born?

Ans: In Mecklenburg County Virginia in the year I think of 1762.

2nd Have you any record of your age and if so where is it?

Ans: I have none. I judge of my age by knowing the difference between my age & my brother's who has a record of his age.

3rd Where were you living when called into service: where have you lived since the Revolutionary War and where do you now live?

Ans: In Mecklenburg County State of Virginia where I lived till the year 1822. I then moved to North Carolina Rutherford County where I now live.

4th How were you called into service; were you drafted; did you volunteer or were you a substitute, and if in substitute, for whom?

Ans: I was first drafted -- we all were numbered and served in rotation in the regular succession as it came to the each of our terms. I can safely say, I was in actual service in all my tours 8 months. If my health had permitted I should have performed 3 months service more. But I did not recover till the men returned home that were called out with me.

5th State the names of some of the regular officers who were with the troops when you served, such Continental and militia regiments as you can recollect and the general circumstances of your service.

Ans: Capt. Vaughn, Capt. Lewis Burwell, General Mason, General Lincoln, General Gates -- I fought under him at Gates Defeat.

6th Did you ever receive a discharge from the service, and if so, by whom was it given and what has become of it?

Ans: I never did to my recollection. If I did I took no care of it -- being no scholar

7th State the names of persons to whom you are known in your present neighborhood and who can testify as to your character for veracity and their belief in your services as a soldier in the revolution.

Ans: I know no person in this Country who knows of my service in the Revolution. For my character Theo Birchett, Esq. &c.

S/ Bracy Bowen, X his mark

[Joseph Moore & Theodorick Birchett gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

State of North Carolina Rutherford County

Personally appeared before me the undersigned a justice of the peace of said County Bracy Bowen who being duly sworn, deposeth & saith, that by reason of old age & the consequent loss of memory he cannot swear positively as to the precise length of his service, But according to the best of his recollection he served not less than the periods mentioned below & in the following grades

1st I was drafted & served under Capt. Reuben Vaughn -- Col. Lewis Burwell and General Mason & General Lincoln I served in this Tour not less than 5 months, as a private.

2nd My 2nd Tour I performed under Capt. Binns Jones -- General Gates & General DeKalb under them I served as a private not less than one month & 15 days

In all my actual service not less than 6 months & 15 days.

3rd My 3rd Tour called for 3 months. This service I did not perform on account of sickness. I remained at home under furlough for six days from Col. Robert Burton, which were renewed regularly during this 3 months & brought to me by Capt. Drumright -- I drew wages for this Tour just as the soldiers did, who were called out with me & who went on to perform the Tour. They were in the Battle of Guilford [March 15, 1781].

In answer to the 5th query, I would further state that I have no precise [words missing] of the periods of the war when I served.

In answer to the 7th Interrogatory as prescribed by the War Department –

I know of no person who can testify to my services in the revolution. But for my character for veracity I refer to Theo Drake Birchett, Esqr. & the Reverend Joseph Moore who have testified in my first Declaration.

Sworn to the 8th May 1833

S/ Bracy Bowen, X his mark

S/ W. G. Irvine, JP

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$21.66 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for service as a private for 6 ½ months in the Virginia militia.]