

[Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters](#)

Pension Application of William Bowman R1080

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

State of Georgia }  
Lumpkin County }

On the Sixth day of October 1851 personally Appeared before us Judges of the Inferior Court for the County aforesaid, and in open Court, Mary Bowman a resident of Lumpkin County and State of Georgia, Aged 91 years, who first being duly sworn according to law, doth on her oath make the following declaration in Order to obtain the benefits of the provision made by the Act of Congress passed July 7<sup>th</sup> 1838, entitled an Act granting half pay and Pension to Certain Widows

That she is the Widow of William Bowman, who was a private in the Revolutionary War, and who first Volunteered in defence of his Country about the middle of the year 1778 in the State of Virginia, but at what particular place she cannot now state. That he had served a Tour of 18 months before their marriage, which took place in the latter part of the month of December 1779 the particular day she has forgotten. That the greater part of his services were rendered in the State of Georgia in which State he drew a Land Bounty which he sold after they emigrated to North Carolina some 12 or 15 years after the war; That she does not recollect the names of any of the Officers under whom he served but Gen's. Washington and [Daniel] Morgan. That she has often heard her Husband speak of the engagements he was in, but that it had been so long since his death a period of over 40 years and that too of trouble and affliction her memory having become impaired. Consequently she is unable on her Oath to give as accurate an account of his services as she once could have done. That since his death all his papers together with his discharges had been Carelessly scattered and destroyed, and only very recently had she learned that they ought to have been preserved. She also further declares that after their marriage early in the year 1780 her husband volunteered in the Militia Service, which Service was alternate and in which he could not have been less than 8 months, as he was absent for two or three months several times. She therefore asks as her husband never drew a Pension a bestowal of a Pension on her in her old age. She further declares that she was married to the said William Bowman in the latter part of the month of December 1779 in Goochland County Virginia By the Rev'd. Mr. Douglass [sic: William Douglas; see endnote] in which county they lived during his military services. After which they emigrated to Rutherford County State of North Carolina, where her husband died on the 12<sup>th</sup> day of January 1808. That she was married to him prior to his leaving the Services. The marriage took place previous to the first of January Seventeen hundred and Ninety four at the time above stated Sworn to and Subscribed on the day and year above written before

Mary herXmark Bowman

Wm. Burt, J.I.C/ Isaac Head JIC/ Enos Barnes J.I.C.

State of North Carolina } Court of Pleas & Quarter Sessions,  
Rutherford County } May Term 1853.

On this 31 May 1853, personally appeared in open Court & before the Court of Pleas & quarter Sessions now opened and held at the Court House in Rutherfordton in and for the county of Rutherford & State aforesaid Ele Bowman [elsewhere spelled Eli Bowman], a son & heir at law of William Bowman & wife Mary both late deceased, a resident of the County & State aforesaid aged 63 years, who being first duly sworn according to Law, doth, on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefits of the provisions made by the act of Congress passed on the 4 July 1836, granting pensions to certain widows of Revolutionary Soldiers and any other acts in relation to pensions now applicable. That this declarant the aforesaid Ele Bowman in the behalf of himself & the other hers of the said William & Mary Bowman, States, that the said William Bowman was a Soldier in the army of the Revolution as the heirs do understand & as such he served the United States against the Common Enemy. That during the

Revolution the said William Bowman resided in Goochland County, State of Virginia and in the summer of 1778 he the s'd. William Bowman volunteered or Enlisted for the Term of 18 months in to the Virginia Continental Line & served out the same and was honorably discharged. That soon after the said Wm. Bowman return home from the said 18 m Campaign and in December (1779) seventeen hundred & seventy nine he married Mary Cosby, with whom he lived till his death. That early in the year 1780 following his marriage he again volunteerd for some \_\_\_ months and was in the service a part of the year 1780 & 1781 and for a number of months, but for the precise length of time deponent cannot now say, but that during this last campaign he distinctly recollects of hearing his father often say that he was in the Battle of the Cowpens in South Carolina [17 Jan 1781], under General Morgan. That during his first Campaign in Virginia the said Wm. Bowman sevd under General Washington, but to give the names of his Capt. or other officers he cannot

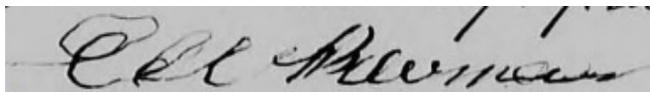
This deponent further states that in Dec'r. 1779 his father the aforesaid William Bowman, marrid in the County of Goochland State of Va Mary Cosby and as husband they lived together till the death of said William Bowman which took place at his late residence in Rutherford County No. Ca. on the 12<sup>th</sup> January 1808 and that his widow the aforesaid Mary departed this life within the last twelve months in the County of Lumpkin, State of Georgia, to which place she had removed within the last 8 or nine years, and that Polly Mchan, Edy Mchan, Patsey Richardson, Catharine Richardson, Betsey Young, Cosby Bowman & Ele Bowman, the declarant are now the only living children of the aforesaid William and Mary Bowman dec'd. and all of lawful ages

This declarant also states that for some years before his said mothers death, she made efforts to obtain her pension, and that he has now the affidavits of Thos. Edwards and Wm. Richardson which have been taken & will be submitted in support of there said claim

Deponent further states that his father the said William Bowman first Enlisted for 18 months in the Via. Line & served out the same under General Washington & other officer

That in the Early part of 1780 he volunteered for a second Term of some months and was marched South through North Carolina & into So. Carolina & was in the battle of the Cowpens under General Morgan. That 40 odd years has past since his father died, & he cannot now recollect the particulars of his said service

Sworn to and subscribed on the day & year first above written before the Court



NOTES:

*The Douglas Register: Being a Detailed Record of Births, Marriages and Deaths Together with Other Interesting Notes, as Kept by the Rev. William Douglas, from 1750-1797* (Richmond VA.: J. W. Fergusson & Sons, 1928.) shows that Will Bowman and Mary Cosby, both of Goochland, were married on 28 Dec 1779. The file includes the following letter regarding the celebrated *Douglas Register*:

Pemberton P.O. Goochland Co./ 23<sup>d</sup> Dec. 1850

Sir:/ A communication from you dated 8<sup>th</sup> Augst last, & directed "to any Episcopalian Minister," was handed to me two days ago, & being the only Minister of that denomination in the county, I suppose I may consider it as addressed to myself.

The record of marriages &c kept by the Rev. Mr. Douglass, & which of right belonged to the Parish, I understand fell into the hands of some of his family who refused to give it up. I have been told that it was a short time ago in the possession of a Mr. Merriwether [sic: Nicholas Meriwether] of Albemarle County, who married a daughter of Mr Douglass [Margaret Douglas], & is now dead. I would advise you to write to the clerk of Albemarle on the subject. He can no doubt tell you which of Mr. Merriwether's family now has the book. I am sorry that I am unable to give you no more definite & satisfactory information. Respectfully yr obdt. servt./ Francis M. Whittle

On 6 Aug 1850 Thomas Edwards stated that William Bowman had told him that he gave the Episcopal minister 50 dollars for performing the marriage ceremony. William Richardson on the same date stated that he had been bound to Bowman as an apprentice brick mason.

The family register transcribed below is from a blank page in *An Universal Etymological English Dictionary* printed in Edinburgh in 1783. Data shown in brackets are now illegible in the original but are given in a certificate of authenticity by Eli Bowman.

Lezebeth Bowman was Born in the year Decem'r 9<sup>th</sup> 178[0]

Nancey Bowman was Born 20 July 1782

Asa Bowman was Born 20 Oct 1783

Patsay Bowman was Born 26 June 1786

Cosby Bowman was Born 23 of March 1788

Eli Bowman was Born 28 Sept 1790

Eadith Bowman was Born 21 Apr'l 1792

Wm Bowman Jr was Born [31] March 1794

Polley Bowman was Born 9 Jenerary 1797

Catharin was born Mar 22 1800