

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

Pension Application of Frederick Gowen (Going) R4167 VA
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. Revised 25 April 2014.

The State of Alabama }
County of Lawrence } SS

On this 21st day of March 1838 personally appeared in the Circuit Court now holden for the said County of Lawrence Frederick Gowen a free man of Color a resident of said County of Lawrence aged about 78 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 served in the troops of the state of Virginia various terms of duty during the Revolutionary War, of which he will give as precise an account as his memory will permit him. that he was born in Bellfield on Maherin River [sic: Belfield on Meherrin River] in what was called Brunswick County untill after the revolutionary war when that part of it was struck off into a new county called Greenville. He does not know what year he was born as no record of his birth was preserved. I lived in Brunswick when I was drafted under No. 7. [militia class 7] was then about 16 years of age but do not recollect how long it was before I was called into service I served as near as I can recollect five tours of duty of six weeks each. The first tour was under Captain James Robertson or Capt. Cock. Nothing memorable happen during this tour. We formed no junction with the regular army but spent the time mostly in Camp at Stone's Mills [near Jamestown] & Cabin point [in Surry County]

The second tour was under one of the above named Captains. The third or fourth tour of duty was performed under Capt. Law[?] House [possibly Lawrence House], Major William Boys [sic: William Boyce] of Surry and Col Austin commanding. This was about the time of the Battle at Guilford [Guilford Courthouse NC, 15 Mar 1781]. We had been stationed at Cabin point where I acted as a cook when we received order to march to Petersburg.

On the march I was sent by Major Boys to a house near the road to have some horses fed and Corporal John Woodruff & a private were sent in company. the only reason I mention this is that Corporal Woodruff was killed on our arrival in Petersburg. There we found great confusion, the inhabitants were flying in every direction and our troops were ordered to form.

I was there ordered away with four horses, Maj Bais Col Aufling Capt House & my own to take care of them somewhere near the rendezvous ground which was in the direction of Chesterfield Courthouse. I crossed Pocahontas Bridge and while in sight the British commenced the attack – our troops came up and were preparing to act near Chesterfield Courthouse when there was an alarm that the British light horse were upon us and we immediately marched and at Richmond fell in with a part of Gen'l. Washingtons command called the Marquis army [army commanded by Gen. Marquis de Lafayette]. In a short time I received my discharge & returned home where I found the country in great confusion from the march of the British army through it from Guilford.

I served two tours of duty under Capt. Turner Bynum There was nothing worth mentioning except in the last We were stationed 30 miles South of Jamestown. Sugar Bynum brother of the Captain was taken sick an returned home on the captain's horse. Before the horse was sent back we were ordered to little York, and I was directed to remain for the horse and joined the army at York in some 8 or 10 days. I found my company stationed up the river to prevent the British from returning that way. This was about a week before Cornwallis surrender [on 19 Oct 1781]. that he has no documentary proof & that he knows of no person whose testimony he can procure who can testify to his service.

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or anuity except the present; and he declares that his name is not on the pension roll of any agency in any state

Frederick hisXmark Gown

Carmi Illinois

2nd December 1842

Sir [James L. Edwards, Commissioner of Pensions]

An old colored man by the name of Frederick Goin has come here well recommended from Alabama and has applied to me to aid him in getting a pension I suppose from what I can learn that a declaration for him has been forwarded to you from Alabama a few years ago. The object of these lines is to ask information from you whether that is the case and what are the objections that have to be removed before he can get the pension or whether his case is a hopeless one. he is quite intelligent for a person of his colour and age and I cannot doubt but what he served in the Revolution as he represents. That is, that being a free man of color he was subject to militia duty. that he belonged to class No. 7 in his company and was called out to serve five tours of six weeks each under Captains Robinson, Bynum, Cock & House. he resided in Brunswick County Virginia Will you please answer these lines and let me know whether it is likely I can do anything for him

Respectfully your ob't ser't

Daniel Hay

NOTES:

The British under Lord Cornwallis entered Virginia beginning on 10 May 1781. On the 23rd of that month Banastre Tarleton's feared Legion (probably the "light horse" referred to by Gowen) raided Chesterfield Courthouse and captured many militiamen.

A note in the file indicates, without further explanation, that the claim for a pension was rejected because Gowen "did not serve in a military capacity."