

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements

Pension Application of Leonard Bowers: W49

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

State of Tennessee Carter County.

September Term 1832.

On this 18th day of September 1832. personally appeared in open Court before the Honorable Samuel Powel Judge of the Circuit Court of Law & Equity for said County now sitting Leonard Bowers aged Seventy two years a resident of s'd County who being duly sworn according to Law doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to botain the benefit of the act of Congress passed June 7th 1832. That he is Seventy two years of age. that he enlisted in the Army of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated. towit that being at the time a resident citizen of Hagerstown Maryland and rased therein he in the spring of the year 1778. Enlisted in Frederik [sic: Frederick] Town in the State of Maryland for the Term of three years under Colonal Otto H. Williams [sic: Otho Holland Williams] of said Town was put under the command Cap'n Gasland and marched to the Valley forge where had been the winter quarters of Washingtons Army during the preceeding winter. & there placed under the command of Cap'n. James Summervell, Colonal [Benjamin] Ford & Maj'r. [John] Hardman, where he remained a short time when he was marched to Monmouth where the Army arived about the last of June [28 June 1778] where there was a severe Battle in which the american army kept the Ground. when night had caused the Armies to cease fireing & the British retreated from there was marched to the white plains where he remained untill toward the fall of said. from there was marched to the Baskin Ridge [sic: Basking Ridge NJ] where he with the army took winter quarters and remained untill Spring. he states that during the Summer of 1779. he was stationed at the Buttermilk falls on the north River & worked at the west point Fort on said River about one mile & half above the Buttermilk falls. he states that he does not recollect his particular marches during said summer & fall but the Army took winter quarters at wickses farm said to be about four miles from Morristown in the spring of 1780 was marched to Trentown [sic: Trenton] and to Burlington where he with the army took water and sailed by Philadelphia and to a little Town called Middle Town [sic: Middletown] in the State of Delaware as well as now recollected where he was marched to the head of Elk [now Elkton MD]. Christian [sic: Christiana] Bridge then to Baltimore, Fredericksburgh [sic: Fredericksburg] Va. Richmond, Petersburg Hillsbor[ough, NC] he states that he also was marched through Salsbery [sic: Salisbury NC] Charlot [sic: Charlotte] North Carolina to Rugeleys Mill said to be within twelve miles of Camden, where he remained some days when the Battle was fought in which General [Horatio] Gates was defeated [Battle of Camden SC, 16 Aug 1780], in which Battle this declarant was was taken prisoner by the British & retaken again by the Americans. the American army again rendezvoused at Hillsborough. at which place, or Charlot, as well as now recollected General Green [sic: Nathanael Greene] took the command [2 Dec 1780]. does not know what became of General Gates after the said Battle of Camden he remained under General Green untill General [Daniel] Morgan took three hundred infantry out of General Greens army, at what particular [illegible word] he was placed under General Morgan he does not now recollect. was marched under General Morgan across Broad River and lay some days between Broad River & Pacolet River. was then marched up between the two said Rivers, with Colonals [William] Washington & Lees hors [Henry Lee's horse troops]. to the Battle of the Cowpens [17 Jan 1780] near Broad River in which Battle the americans were successful, said to have taken five hundred prisoners & Eleven hundred stand of arms. from there was marched as well as now recollected to a small vilage called Morgantown. from thence to Salsberry across the Yadkin River and on untill he joined General Greens army in Va having been closely pursued by the British from the Cowpens untill he joined General Greens army as aforesaid he states that shortly after he joined General Greens army he was marched to Gilford Courthouse where there was a hard Battle between the Americans & British in which the Americans barely kept their Ground [sic: see note below], which was in the month of March which was the last engagement he was in & after which he was discharged in the course of some short time his three years having expired, when he was discharged by his said Captain

Somerville [sic] under whom he had served throughout the whole of his servitude & returned home which discharge he has in the lapse of time lost. He states that he has no documentary evidence, nor is there any person by whom he can prove his said services. nor is there any resident minister of the Gospel by whom he can establish his said services from reputation as directed by the instructions of the War Department. He hereby relenquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present and declares that his name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any state. [signed] lionard boweirs

NOTES:

After the Battle of Guilford Courthouse on 15 March 1781, the British, not the Americans, held the ground.

On 9 Nov 1844 Rebecca Nave Bowers, aged 75 on 24 Mar 1844, applied for a pension stating that she married Leonard Bowers on 2 Aug 1785, and he died 5 Oct 1840. The file includes a copy of the will of Rebecca Bowers dated 31 Mar 1849 naming her son, "Lenard Bowers," as heir. It also includes an original family record stating that "Leonard Bowars" was born in the fall of 1760, and "Rebekah bowars" was born 24 Mar 1769, and listing the names and dates of birth of their children. Leonard Bowers the heir applied for the amount of pension due his mother from the last payment until her death on 20 Sep 1849.