

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

Pension Application of Jacob Gowen S32273

VA

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. Revised 10 May 2014.

State of Illinois }
Vermillion [sic: Vermilion] County } SS.

On this fifth day of March AD 1834 personally appeared before the County Commissioners Court, the same being a court of Record, in and for Vermillion County and State of Illinois, Jacob Gowen a resident of said county of Vermillion and state of Illinois aged Seventy two 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 the 7 of June 1832

That he entered into the army of the Revolution, towit the Virginia Militia troops, in the month of July AD 1780 with & served under, the following named officers towit James Lyon Colonel, Elifus Shelton [sic: Eliphaz Shelton] Captain, John Wells Lieutenant. That he entered the said service in Henry County, state of Virginia, and marched up the country to what was called Big Dan river, and from there he marched with said company & Regiment to Kill-Kennon's Iron Works – and from there to New River, and continued said Service ranging from one point to another to guard the country & protect it from the invasion of the Tories – that during said Service the said Regiment and company, of which this deponent was one, they drove the Tories from the country – that they captured some of the tories, & the remainder of them fled from that section of country, as deponent believes. That some time late in the fall or first of the winter said Gowen & company were discharged, that he was in said Service about four months. That said Gowen was discharged near the head of Dan River in the said state of Virginia.

Deponent further states that in the year 1781, in the Summer of that year he believes, he again entered the Army as a substitute for John Berry under the following named officers towit Capt Owen Ruble [Owen Rubell], commanded the company, in the Regiment commanded by Col. John Waller [probably Maj. George Waller], that said Service was in the militia, and that he entered the army aforesaid in Henry County Virginia, that deponent marched with the company & troops aforesaid to the butter wood [Butterwood] spring, to Petersburg, and continued our march and crossed James River, at James Town, from thence to Williamsburg and from thence to York Town.

That deponent & company & Regiment aforesaid joined the army at said Town of York, which said army of the Revolutionary war was there & there commanded by General Washington in person. Deponent further says that he continued in the service aforesaid and assisted as before stated at the Battle & Seige at York untill Lord Cornwallis surrendered [19 Oct 1781] – that said deponent laboured with the soldiers in making entrenchments several nights, & assisted to convey timber & material for the breast works, and was at the surrender of the british army, as before stated Deponent further says that he continued in said service from the time he left home in Henry County untill he returned, and was gone upwards of four months.

I was born in Henry County and State of Virginia in the year 1762. [Henry County formed in 1776 from Pittsylvania County, which was formed in 1766 from Halifax County.]

I have no record of my age at this time, I once had but is lost by time and accident.

I was living in Henry County, Virginia, when I was called into service both times, & after the Revolutionary war, I removed to Kentucky & lived there about thirty years. from there I removed to Vincennes & lived there seven years, & now reside in Vermillion County State of Illinois.

I was called into service by volunteering the first time, that is in 1780 – and upon the second trip in 1781 I entered as a substitute for John Berry. That in the two terms I was in the service about eight months.

I received a discharge from the Service, but it is lost by time and accident.

I am known to Asahel L Risley, Dan W Beckwith, & James Parmer who reside in my neighbourhood, and who can testify as to my veracity, and their belief of my services as a soldier of the

Revolution.

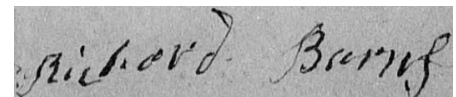
The only persons of whom I have any knowledge that can prove my services in the Revolutionary war that I know of, who are now living, are Richard Barns of Hendrix County state of Indiana [Richard Barns (Barnes) of Hendricks County, pension application R526], and John Watson of Russell County State of Virginia and whose deposition I inclose with this application as part of the same.

I hereby relinquish every claim whatever to a pension or annuity, except the present, and the said Jacob Gowen hereby declares that his name is not on the pension roll of any agency in any state
Jacob hisXmark Gowen

State of Indiana }

Shelby County }

Before me Royal Mayhew a Justice of the peace of said County on this 20th day of September 1834 personally came Richard Barns aged 72 years Who being by me duly sworn deposeth and saith that he was well acquainted with Jacob Gowen (the same who is here personally present) from the time of his early youth till the present time first in Henry County in the State of Virginia and afterwards in the State of Kentucky – until he removed to Illinois about 13 or 14 years ago and has occasionally seen him since & that some time in the month of July in the year one thousand, seven Hundred and Eighty one the said Jacob Gowen (together with this deponent) entered the Army of the Virginia Militia as a private Soldier and that he & this deponent followed after the company that had met at Henry Courthouse, and overtook them at Pittsylvania and joined the said company under the command of Captain Owen Rubel & under the command of Colonel John Waller – that the said Jacob Gowen (together with this deponent) went from Pittsylvania trough a corner of Halifax County and crossed the river Staunton at Bookers ferry and marched to Charlottesville – and thence through Petersburg, through Blanford [sic: Petersburg through Blandford], thence trough cabin point [on James River in Surry County] to James Town and there crossed the river a short time after the battle fought there by Gen'l. Wayne [Anthony Wayne, Battle of Green Springs Plantation, 6 Jul 1781] – thence into Williamsburg where they received their arms and equipments – and thence into York twelve miles below and there joined the Army – which he thinks was under the command of General Davison – and that the said Jacob Gowen & this deponent there was employed in making thrash ends [probably fascines] and carrying them and digging & making entrenchments – and that this deponent and said Jacob Gowen continued there until within about 9 days of the time that Cornwallis surrendered and then this deponent enlisted in the virginia state legion and the said Gowen remained in the service at york as he verily believes until the Surrender of Cornwallis which he believes was on the 17th day of October 1781 soon after which time he recollects the said Jacob Gowen returned home



State of Illinois }

Vermilion County ss }

[9 Jan 1835]

Personally appeared before the undersigned Probate Judge, in and for said County Jacob Gowen, who being d[uly] sworn deposeth and saith, that by reason of old age and the consequent loss of memory he cannot swear precisely as to the length of his service But according to the best of his recollection He served not less than the periods mentioned below and in the following grades He served Four months on the Two first Tours against tories in the year 1780 as aluded to in his declaration, (a private) On the third tour against the Brittish in the Year 1781, He served as a private being a substitute for John Berry For Four months all of said tours has been fully set out in deponants declaration
Jacob hisXmark Gowen

NOTES:

On 28 May 1838 Jacob Gowen applied to have his pension payable at Vincennes IN, having moved to 3 miles from there in Lawrence County IL about two years previously.

The file contains a letter to James L. Edwards, the Pension Commissioner, dated 26 June 1838 from the office of the Pension Agent in Cavini IL, which reads in part as follows: "Jacob Gowen has been paid to the 4th of September 1836 – the old sinner came here this spring, and we could not pay him without authority from you – and he prevailed on my son to lend him a part of his pension until he could draw – and now I suppose he will avoid paying us." On 5 March 1839 the agent wrote to Edwards with the same complaint and referred to Gowen's son-in-law, Edward Purdue, an invalid pensioner."

A Treasury-Department document states that the widow of Jacob Gowen received the final pension payment up to 4 Sep 1838. Notes on the pension certificate indicate that Gowen died before June 1839.