Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters

NY

Pension Application of Samuel Bowman W27663 Dorothy Bowman Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris.

Virginia Ss.

At a Court Held for Ohio County on the 6th day of October 1823.

Samuel Bowman presented to the Court his declaration under oath together with a schedule of his property, and the Court having examined the said Samuel Bowman, Benjamin Manning and Daniel Terrell witnesses produced in Court by the said Samuel Bowman who are of Opinion that the value of the property contained in the said schedule is just and true, and the Court doth order that the declaration, together with the said schedule and the Testimony that the said Samuel Bowman did serve in the Revolutionary war against the common enemy, be certified by the Clerk of this Court, to the Secretary of the department of war,

The declaration of Samuel Bowman made under oath before the County Court of Ohio County in the Commonwealth of Virginia, which said Court is a court of record, the said Samuel Bowman, doth declare and set forth, that sometime in the month of November in the year of our Lord 1782, he enlisted in the Continental service, for three years, in the Company of Captain Cornelius Swarthout [Cornelius Swartwout], in the Second Regiment of New Yor artilery commanded by Capt John Lamb, and that he served the whole time of his enlistment [sic: see endnote]; at the expiration of which time he received an honourable discharge from service in the said Regiment, that about six months after his discharge, while he lived in the State of New York his pocket book, containing his discharge was stolen from him, which renders it out of his power to produce said discharge at the present time, to the court, that he is poor and infirm and has a large family of Children to support and that he stands in need of that relief to which by law, he thinks himself, from his former services and present distressed situation justly entitled; the said Samuel Bowman further states, that he is now a resident citizen of the County of Ohio and state of Virginia. (Sign'd) Samuel Bowman

Schedule of Samuel Bowman, made to the county court, of Ohio County on applying for a pension from Government.

Property in possession of and belonging to said Bowman. 132 Acres of Land bought of R Wood at \$100.00 with interest untill paid, no title made for the land nor any part of the principal or interest of the purchase money paid.

percincy para.	
132 Acres of land	\$100.00
1 Mare	16.00
2 Cows	16.00
1 Heifer	4.00
2 Steers	6.00
1 Calf	1.00
13 sheep	13.00
14 Hogs \$8. 1 Shovel plow 1\$	9.00
2 hoes \$1 1 mattock \$1.25	2.25
1 Ax \$1 1 Sett gears 1\$	2.00
2 potts \$1.50 dresser furniture 1\$	2.50
1 Loom \$3 note for 75 barrels	
corn due from Jas. Chambers \$15	18.00
Barrels	2.00
	\$191.75

debts owing from Sam;l Bowman to Individuals

One note \$12.50 due Geo Howard 3.00

" Jos. Sinclair 9.00

due Robt. Wood for 1232 ac's.

of land principal & interest 160.00 184.51

184.51 \$7.24 balance in his favor

I Samuel Bowman, I do solemnly swear that I was a resident Citizen of the United States on the 18th day of March 1818 and that I have not since that time by gift sale or in any manner disposed of my property or any part thereof with intent thereby so to diminish it as to bring myself within the provisions of an act of Congress entitled "an act to provide for certain persons engaged in the land and naval service of the United States in the Revolutionary War" passed on the 18th day of March 1818 and that I have not nor has any person in trust for me any property or securities contracts or debts due to me nor have I any income other than what is contained in the Schedule hereto annexed and by me subscribed.

(Sign'd) Samuel Bowman

The State of Ohio Belmont County Ss.

Personally appeared the subscriber Nathaniel Price [pension application S40295] before me Joseph Alexander, a justice of the peace in and for said County, who after being duly sworn according to law, deposeth & saith, that he is well acquainted with Samuel Bowman and the said Identical Samuel Bowman did enlist in the revolutionary war for the time of three years, he did serve nine months in the aforesaid company and always had the name of an honest good soldier and behaved himself well while I was in the same Company, and had the good respect of all his Officers and fellow soldiers, at the time I was discharged from said Company, and said deponent further saith, that he has good reason to beleive that the said Bowman did serve his time faithfully. Sworn and subscribed before me this 30th day of August 1823. (Sign'd) Nathan. Price

[On 9 Sep 1834 Samuel Bowman stated that he had lived in Ohio County for 19 years and in the state of Ohio previously, and he assigned power of attorney to collect his pension. He signed as shown:

Samuel Bowman

[The following report is by US District Attorney Washington G. Singleton who investigated hundreds of pension applications from present West Virginia. For details see my appendix to the pension application of David W. Sleeth S6111.]

Samuel Bowman – a Pensioner under the law of 1818 – Ohio cty – the attention of the Com'r of Pensions [James L. Edwards] is specially directed to this case – W G Singleton/ Fraud

Samuel Bowman. a Pensioner under the Law of 1818.

I the undersigned Samuel Bowman aged seventy eight years old august next [see endnote] am a native of the county Down in Ireland and emigrated with my father Robert Bowman and his family to the United States some two or three years before the war of the Revolution. (I can not tell in what year) we landed at the City of New York and went directly after to Albany, where we lived during the war of the Revolution and for many years after the war closed. I removed to this country about 40 yrs. ago

about two years before Genl Burgoin and his army were taken Prissoners [sic: Burgoyne at Saratoga, 17 Oct 1777; see endnote] I was drafted for 3 months & marched from New Cambridge State of New York under Capt John Barnes to Fort Edward on the Hudson River. I remained at Fort Edward and in its vicinity for the 3 months all the time in actual service. I cant tell now how many men there was at that Station. I think Genl. Skyler [sic: Philip Schuyler] commanded the fort whilst I was in service there as above stated but whether Genl. Starke [sic: John Stark] commanded before or after Genl. Skyler I cant

now recollect – nor can I recollect who was my colonel, nor to what Reg't. I belonged. I think there was a Major McCrackin [possibly Joseph McCracken] in command. I cant tell the year in which the foregoing service was done.

The year before Burgoin & his army was taken (I cant tell in what year this was) I was drafted again for nine months, my company Rendezvoused at Cambridge, we marched from there under Capt John Barns (the same under whom I served the preceeding tour) to Saratoga. on getting there the most of Capt. Barnes company includeing my self volunteered under him for an indeffinate term, our company remained at and about Saratoga Scouting & raingeing about until Burgoin and his army was captured at that place. I was in the Battle [Battle of Freeman's Farm, 19 Sep 1777 and/or Battle of Bemis Heights, 7 Oct 1777] and at the Capturing of Burgoin & his army at Saratoga. Genl. [Horatio] Gates commanded the american forces in this engagement. I dont know who was my colonel or to what Reg't. I belonged whilst I was serveing the forgoing tour of duty. I think there was a Major McCrackin with us but whether or not I belonged to his Betallion I cant say. Nor can I now say when it was that Burgoin and his army was taken prissoners as before stated but I think it was in October 1775 or 1776. I remained in service this time until after Burgoin was taken but I cant now tell how long I was in service. I volunteered as before stated for no particular term. after expiration of the forgoing term I returned to my fathers, and was immediately thereafter drafted again for nine months. I was marched to Saratoga under a captain whose name I have now forgotten. Genl. Gates commanded the american army at Saratoga. from Saratoga we were marched to West Point where I remained until my nine months expired, cant now recollect who commanded at West Point – after the expiration of the last mentioned tour of service & whilst at West Point (but I cant tell in what year this was) I Enlisted for three years or during the war. I was attached to Capt. Cornelieus Swathouts company & Col. John Lombs Regt of artilery. (I think the 2nd Regt) the New York line. I remained at West Point for three years after my enlistment and until after the war closed – there was no fighting at West Point after my enlistment.

I Proved my service by Nathaniel Price by whom I was recruited[?] as before stated. my Declaration was written by a Mr. Gales [sic: P. W. Gale] who is now dead. I have been drawing a pension for eight or ten years perhaps longer. In Witness of all which I hereto subscribe my name. June 19 1835

Witness Samuel Bowman

Nathan Goff. A true copy. W G Singleton

Note – I was called on by Dennis M. Parriott, William Wilson, John Parriott, Walter Evans, & Jonathan Purdy, all of Ohio cty and Gentlemen of high respectability, and urged by them to Investigate the case of Bowman, these Gentlemen expressed their firm conviction that Bowman was not entitled to a Pension for Revolutionary services – they have all known and lived neighbours to him for twenty odd years – they all concur in saying that Bowman cannot exceed sixty two years of age. William Wilson (the same before mentioned) says he has had frequent conversations with Bowman about his age – in those conversations he Bowman always made himself seven year old when the war commenced and fourteen at its termination. the Gentlemen before named say further, that Bowman is believed by all who know him to be an imposter.

I will add from personal inspection I cannot believe Bowman to be as old as he represent himself to be. I should think him between sixty & seventy. he is a strong able bodied athletic man. I found him engaged in loading an ox cart with very heavy logs.

If upon comparison the statement here given by Bowman of his Revolutionary services should not agree with the Declaration made by him – and If it should turn out that Bowman is an impostur – he is fully able to restore all the money previously drawn by him. please let me hear from you specially in reference to this case.

Respectfully Reported.

W G Singleton/July 4 1835

Barnesville [OH] Augus 27th 1835

Mr Jacobs Esq [sic: Z. Jacob, attorney for Samuel Bowman]

Sir Yours by the hands of Mr Bowman requesting information as to the Truth & veracity of

Nathaiel Price Late of this place has been received in reply I state that Nathaniel Price was an ould man & no doubts Can exist but that he was a revolutionary soldier & Drew his pention as such & his verusity as to any statement he might make has not bee questioned her to my knowledge. I believe that full Confidence may be placed in his statements yours &C Thomas Shannon

NB Joseph Alexander Es. dose not reside hear he was the officer before whom the affadvid of N Price was taken J.S

We the undersigned citizens of Barnesville do certify that Nathaniel Price dec. was an old man reputed to be a revolutionary soldier, and so long as he resided amongst us, was believed to be a man of truth and entitled to belief & crdit as to any statements he made.

Barnesville August 27th 1835 [seven signatures]

[The file contains a copy of a suit filed by Washington G. Singleton alleging that on 10 August 1834 Samuel Bowman promised to repay the pension he had received amounting to \$1500, but that he had failed to do so after repeated requests. As noted in the documents below, Singleton lost his suit, but James L. Edwards, Commissioner of Pensions, refused to restore Bowman to the pension roll for an unrelated reason.]

United States District Court for the Western District of Virginia holden at Clarksburg on the 5 day of September 1838

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United States }
vs } In Case
Samuel Bowman }
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This day came as well the District Attorney as the Defendant by his Attorney and the Jury empannelled to try the issue in this cause appeared in Court pursuant to their adjournment on yesterday and again retired to their chamber to consider of their verdict, and after some time returned into Court and upon their Oath do say "We the Jury find for the defendant." Whereupon the District Attorney moved the Court to set aside the said verdict and grant a new trial herein upon the ground that the verdict was contrary to the evidence, which motion being argued, it is considered by the Court that the said motion be overruled, and that the plaintiffs take nothing by their bill but for their false clamour be in mercy &c And that the Deft. [defendant Bowman] go thereof without day.

The following are copies of the Affidavits or Depositions used by the Defendant on the trial of the above cause and are filed with the papers in said cause

"Brooke County State of Virginia July 24th 1837

This day Nancy Mills personally appeared before me one of the Commonwealth Justices of the Peace, and made Oath as the Law directs, that having lived in the State of New York with her Grandfather & Grand Mother the parants of Samuel Bowman from her earliest recollection, and do recollect the following circumstance as to his age and his being in Army. First. I heard his parents say that he was sixteen years old when he first went into the Army [see endnote], that after serving three months he came home, and in a short time went again and staid another three months, he went a third time and was gon three years and nine months. I well remember the circumstance of his coming home with a soldiers uniform. A short time after he came home I herd his Father and Mother mention his age when talking about his mising his schooling or leaning, his Mother said he is twenty one years of age and does not know his letters his Father observed he is almost twenty two years of age, but it cannot be helped he must yet go to school. She further recollects a man coming to Grand Father Bowman's who staid all night and after he was gone in the morning Samuel Bowman mised his Pocket Book, he suspected that the man had stolen it, and he and his brother Robert persud him but did not find him, or overtake him; Samuel said he did not care for the money so much as he did for his discharge and other papers &c And further this deponeth saith not Nancy Mills

The United States	}	
VS	}	Action defending in the United States Court for the Western District of
Samuel Bowman	}	Virginia at Clarksburg.
		The denosition of Robert Bowman

Be it known that on the twenty ninth day of July one thousand eight hundred and thirty seven I have caused to come before me at my Office in the County of Mercer and State of Pennsylvania, the following is the deposition of Robert Bowman. "This is to certify that the bearer Samuel Bowman my brother, and that I remember the following circumstances relating to his being in the American Revolution. That he went away to the Army and was gone some years and when he came home he had a soldiers regimentals on him, some time after he came home a man came to Fathers and staid all night and went away next morning, a short time after he went away, Samuel discovered that his Pocket Book was gone We suspected that the man had stolen it. Samuel and I followed him but did not catch him nor get the Pocket Book. Samuel said that he did not care so much about the money that was in it, as his discharge and other papers. And from the best of my recollection brother Samuel is at presant is about seventy two years of age. The deponant Robert Bowman is about seventy four years of age Sworn and subscribed

Robert Bowman

The United States	}	
VS	}	Action defending in the United States Court for the Western District of
Samuel Bowman	}	Virginia at Clarksburg.

Be it remembered that on the twenty ninth day of July one thousand eight hundred and thirty seven I have caused to come before me at my Office in the County of Mercer in the State of Pennsylvania the following Witnesses for Defendant Sam'l. Bowman Towit. The deposition of Samuel Bowman Jun'r. and the said Witnesses being first duly sworn and cautioned by me to speak the truth the whole truth and nothing but the truth as well on behalf of the United States as of the said Defendant did depose and say that the said Bowman defendant is aged about seventy two years, the deponant doth say he had his information from his Father John Bowman a brother to the Defendant and have frequently heard say that his (deponents) Uncle was born in the year 1765 and also have heard his Father say that the Defendant served several years in the Army of the Revolutionary War. Sworn and subscribed

Samuel Bowman

State of Ohio	}	
Belmont County	Ss }	Be it remembered that on this 5 th day of August AD 1837 I have caused
		to come before me Thomas F. Smith an Acting Justice of the Peace in &
for said County a	t my Office in	said County of Belmont State of Ohio the following witnesses for the
defendant Samue	l Bowman To	Wit Thomas Shannon, Samuel B Kimball and Robert Mills.

And the said Witnesses being first duly sworn and cautioned to speak the truth, the whole truth & nothing but the truth as well on behalf of the United States as of said Defendant did depose & say, the said the said Thomas Shannon aged about fifty years deposeth & saith that Nathaniel Price deceased was an old man reputed to be a Revolutionary Soldier and so long as he resided amongst us was believed to be a man of truth & entitled to belief & credit as to any statement he made. The said Samuel B Kimball aged about fifty one years deposeth & saith that he knew Nathaniel Price about fifteen or sixteen years ago that he lived neighbour to him for ten years previous to his death that he was an old man & reputed to be a Revolutionary Soldier and so long as he knew him he was believed to be a man of truth and entitled to belief & credit to any statement he made under oath.

Robert Mills deposeth & saith (aged about Fifty two years) that Nathaniel Price deceased was an old man reputed to be a Revolutionary Soldier and so long as he lived or resided amongst us was believed to be a man of truth and entitled to belief, and credit as to any statement he made

War Department/ Pension Office/ February 18, 1840

Sir [Lewis Steenrod/ House of Representatives.] The name of Samuel Bowman was placed on the pension roll under the act of March 18, 1818 on account of alleged service in Col. Lamb's regiment of Artillery. He was pensioned in 1824 upon the testimony of two [sic] persons who swore that he performed the service. In 1834 his pension was stopped, because it was stated in a communication to this office that the claim was fraudulent. The rolls of Col. Lamb's regiment which have been received here since he was pensioned do not contain his name. This of itself is deemed sufficient cause for not continuing his name on the roll. The original papers were sent to the District Attorney, and have not since been received here.

This Department cannot restore Mr. Bowman to the Pension Roll.

I have the honor to be/ Very respectfully/ Your obt. Servt.

J L Edwards

War Department/ Pension Office/ February 18, 1840

Sir [Steenrod], It appears on a further examination of the rolls of Col. Lamb's regiment of Artillery, that Swartout, under whom Samuel Bowman alleges to have served, was a Captain Lieutenant in Captain Bliss's company. On the roll of that company I find a man named Samuel Bauman, and I have no doubt he is the same person who was pensioned. He enlisted in October 1782, and could not therefore have served a sufficient length of time prior to April 11, 1783, when the war ended [sic: see endnote], to bring his case under the provisions of the act of March 18, 1818; but if he is the same person whose name is on the muster roll, he may obtain the benefits of the act of June 7, 1832. I enclose a printed sheet for his guidance. He should obtain from the Clerk of the Court, or the U. S. Attorney a certificate as to the decision in the case of the U. States versus Samuel Bowman.

I have the honor to be/ Very respectfully/ Your obt. Servt. J L Edwards

To the Congress of the United States

The petition of Dorothy Bowman of Marshall County Virginia respectfully represents unto your honourable body that she is the widow & relict of Samuel Bowman a Soldier of the Revolution, late of sd County who departed this life on the [blank] day of February last past (1840). That said Samuel Bowman in the month of November 1782 enlisted in the army of the revolution in Continental service for three years in the Company of Capt. Cornelius Swarthart in the 2nd Regiment of New Yorke Artillery commanded by Col. John Lamb. That he served the whole time of his enlistment & at the expiration thereof received an honourable discharge from service, but that in about six months after & while he was in the tate of New Yorke his pocket Book containing his discharge was stolen from him. That being poor & in great want of his Country's bounty he in 1823 made his declaration for that purpose before the County Court of Ohio County, Virginia (Marshall County then being a part of Ohio Co) and laid the same with other evidence of his enlistment & service before the proper Department of the Government, and thereupon the said Samuel Bowman was in 1824 placed on the pension Roll of the United States under as she is informed the act of the 18 of March 1818. To a copy of his original declaration & other evidence & of his certificate shewing him to be a pensioner from the proper department she here refers & prays that the same may be regarded as part of this memorial And thereupon the said Samuel Bowman continued to draw his said annual pension of 8 half yearly [\$8 per month drawn every six months] till the [blank] day of [blank] 1834 when the same was stoped, by as he contrues the unlawful act of some officer of the government & his name struck from the pension roll and suit commenced against him to recover from him that which he had previously received as the bounty of his Country for services in the revolutionary war, on the alleged ground that he had practiced a fraud upon the government. He said Samuel Bowman the & to the close of his life in February last denied the charge. He insisted he had served as set forth in his declaration. He therefore defended the suit & with much labour & expense by visiting his friends at a long distance procured additional testimony that he was a Soldier of the

Revolution & had served & lost his discharge as set forth in his declaration and also that an original witness whose affidavit accompanied his declaration but who was then dead was a man of truth & veracity & always considered & believed to be a Revolutionary Soldier. In the fall of 1838 after many continuances the the cause came of for trial before the District Court of the United States held at Clarksburgh, Virginia when the jury found a verdict for sd Samuel Bowman upon which (notwithstanding the Attorney for the U States moved for a new trial) a final judgment was rendered agst the Government & in his favour She also sends herewith a copy of the verdict & judgment & also of sd depositions used on sd trial all certified by Richard Moore Esgd Clerke of sd Court & requests that the same may be read & regarded as part of this petition.

Upon this verdict & acquittal the sd Samuel Bowman supposed the proper officer of department of the government would have restored him to the pension Roll; But so it is, it was not done Owing to ill health & other causes the said Samuel Bowman was not able during the winter of 1838-9 to apply to the proper department or to petition your honourable body for relief. But during the past winter a gentleman who had been his Counsel visited Washington on other business, and at the request of sd Samuel undertook to enquire into this matter Whereupon application was made to the Commissioner of pensions to restore sd Samuel to the pension Roll – but this he refused in February just past. As will be seen by the accompanying letters of J. L. Edwards Esqr Commissioner of Pensions addressed to an honourable member of your body. To these letters she also begs leave to refer. In a few days after this time the said Samuel Bowman departed this life leaving your petitioner his widow & a large family of children which he had by her, she being the only wife he ever had. It will be seen by these letters from Mr Edwards tho he at first denied that said Samuel Bowman's name was on the revolutionary rolls – but afterwards & on the same day he discovered his mistake having found his name on the rolls of the revolutionary army – but still he refused to restore him to the pension roll, deciding that he was not entitled to a pension under the act of March 18 1818, tho he had been placed on the pension roll by the Secretary at War on a state of facts no stronger in his favour of the [several words lined through]. For said Samuel's declaration stated his enlistment at or about November 1782 whereas the letter of Mr Edwards states it as happening in October 1782. Your petitioner is informed & contends that the Secretary at War was correct & that the sd Commissioner Edwards is in error; and that sd Samuel on his declaration & proofs, or on the facts stated in this letter of Mr. Edwards was entitled to a pension. She contends that all soldiers &c who had previously enlisted & who served to the close of the Revolution are entitled to a pension under the act of March 18 - 1818; and that it is not necessary they should have enlisted for nine months previous to the end of the war. This she contends is the fair construction of the Act of March 18 -1 1818 & is the same she supposes which was given by the Secretary at War when sd Samuel was placed on the pension roll. She now insists that she is entitled to the pension of the said Samuel Bowman from the time it was stoped or suspended in 1834 to the day of his death with interest and that if she is not entitled to the whole of it, that she & her children by him are; and she now prays your honourable body to grant her relief in the premises – and as in duty bourn she will ever pray &c

May 11 1841 Dorothy Bowman/ of Marshall Co. Virginia

[The file contains a copy of a report from the House Committee on revolutionary Pensions dated 9 Feb 1842, which reads in part as follows:]

From the papers accompanying the petition in this case, it appears that Samuel Bowman, the husband of the petitioner, was, in the year 1824, placed on the pension roll of the United States at the rate of eight dollars per month, under the act of the 18th of March, 1818. He continued to receive his pension under this law until some time in the year 1834, when, in consequence of a communication received at the Pension Office, stating that the claim was fraudulent, his name was stricken from the roll, and suit brought against him in the United States district court for the western district of Virginia, to recover back the pension money which had been paid him. It does not appear from the papers who gave the information to the department; nor does it appear that Bowman was notified that such charge was made before his name was stricken from the pension roll. During the pendency of this suit, the said Bowman, at

much labor and expense, obtained additional testimony; which, in the opinion of the committee, establishes the fact conclusively, that he was entitled to the benefit of the act of March 18, 1818, and was improperly stricken from the roll in 1834....

The money due him from the Government was improperly withheld during his lifetime. And certainly neither the erroneous decision of the agent of the Government, in striking his name from the list, nor his subsequent death, can cancel the obligation to pay...."

NOTES:

Samuel Bowman could not have served three years in the Continental Army if he enlisted in Nov 1782, because the Continental Army was dismissed on 23 Nov 1783. This error in the length of service had no effect on the amount of pension, which under the act of 1818 was the same for all who served in the Continental Army as privates at least nine months.

Samuel Bowman may not have mentioned his service in the militia in his application under the act of 1818, because only Continental service counted toward a pension.

If Bowman was 78 in August 1835, as quoted by Singleton, then he would have been born in August 1757. If, as he stated, he first enlisted late in 1775 and served to the close of the war, then he would have been 18 at the time of his first enlistment and 26 when the war ended. If quoted correctly by Singleton, Bowman was clearly confused about either his age, his times of service, or both. These ages do not agree with the dates given by Nancy Miller that Bowman was 16 when he first entered service (born in 1759) and 21 when he left the army (born in 1762). Nor do they agree with the recollections by Samuel Bowman's brother and his nephew that he was born in 1765, which seems most likely. His birth in 1765 would not be inconsistent with Singleton's estimate on 19 June 1835 that Bowman was 60 to 70, or with the 1830 federal census for Ohio County listing Samuel Bowman as aged 60-69. Although 16 was the minimum legal age to be drafted into service, it was not unheard of for younger men to serve.

In his second letter of 18 Feb 1840, Edwards has clearly misinterpreted his own regulations for administering the 1818 act. Although April 11, 1783 was taken as the date to which soldiers had to serve to claim credit for having served to the end of the war, it does not mean that no soldier served beyond that time. As noted before, the Continental Army was not disbanded until 23 Nov 1783, which means that Bowman could well have served two or three months more than the minimum of nine months.

In the letter transmitting Bowman's pension application, dated 20 Nov 1823, it was stated that he had nine or ten children.

On 9 Sep 1842 Dorothy Bowman was issued a certificate for her husband's pension from the time it was suspended in March 1834 until his death on 20 Feb 1840, calculated as shown. I could find nothing in the file indicating that the obvious error in addition was corrected.

