

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Samuel Espey (Espy) S6824

fn91NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

rev'd 12/3/08 & 1/2/15

Additional transcriptions added by William Lee Anderson III

rev'd 6/29/10

[Methodology: Spelling, punctuation and/or grammar have been corrected in some instances for ease of reading and to facilitate searches of the database. Where the meaning is not compromised by adhering to the spelling, punctuation or grammar, no change has been made. Corrections or additional notes have been inserted within brackets or footnotes. Blanks appearing in the transcripts reflect blanks in the original. A bracketed question mark indicates that the word or words preceding it represent(s) a guess by me. The word 'illegible' or 'indecipherable' appearing in brackets indicates that at the time I made the transcription, I was unable to decipher the word or phrase in question. Only materials pertinent to the military service of the veteran and to contemporary events have been transcribed. Affidavits that provide additional information on these events are included and genealogical information is abstracted, while standard, 'boilerplate' affidavits and attestations related solely to the application, and later nineteenth and twentieth century research requests for information have been omitted. I use speech recognition software to make all my transcriptions. Such software misinterprets my southern accent with unfortunate regularity and my poor proofreading skills fail to catch all misinterpretations. Also, dates or numbers which the software treats as numerals rather than words are not corrected: for example, the software transcribes "the eighth of June one thousand eighty six" as "the 8th of June 1786." Please call material errors or omissions to my attention.]

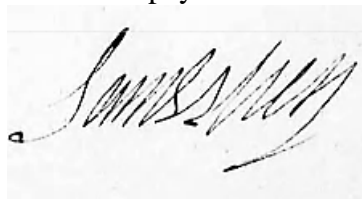
[p 16]

[Samuel Espey testimony in 1822]

State of North Carolina County of Lincoln

Be it known that Samuel Espie this day personally appeared before me Maxwell Wilson a Justice of the Peace for the said County of Lincoln who on his oath declared that he is the same Identical Samuel Espie who lately served as a private in the Revolutionary Service in the company commanded by Captain Isaac White in the Regiment commanded by Colonel William Graham — that he received no certificate of that fact under the signature seal of the Secretary of War placing him on the pension list of the United States Roll of the North Carolina agency but that he has for some time drawn his pension from the proper Authority of North Carolina and the United States agency at Fayetteville.

S/ Saml Espey



Sworn to & subscribed

before me this 10th Jan^y 1822

S/ Maxwell Wilson J.P.

State of North Carolina

Lincoln County

I Vardry M^cBee Clerk of the Court of Pleas & Quarter Sessions in the State & County aforesaid do certify that Maxwell Wilson Esquire before whom the foregoing affidavit was made who attested the same is an acting Justice of the Peace in & for said county, duly Sworn & Commissioned, & that his official attestations are entitled to all due faith & credit as such in testimony whereof I have set my hand & seal of office at Lincolnton the 21st day of January 1822 & in the 46th Year of our Independence.

S/ Vardry McBee Cle

State of No Carolina

Lincoln County

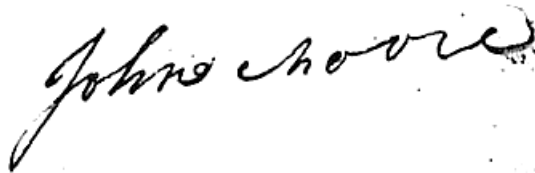
This is to certify that Vardry McBee who has attested the within certificate is the Clerk of the Court of Pleas & quarter Sessions for said county and that all due faith & credit should be placed in his official attestation. 21 January 1822.

S/ D. Rinhardt Justice peace
in & for said county

[p 53: the following was transmitted by a letter dated January 21, 1822 from D. Reinhardt in Lincoln to North Carolina. Its significance to this file is not clear to me.]

I State in Confirmation of my Military Services that at the End of the War I submitted my Military Claims to a Board of Auditors appointed to Settle and Liquidate the Claims and Services of the Officers and Soldiers of the Militia of the State of North Carolina who gave me Credit for every thin [sic, thing?] of the claim I now exhibit and gave me an Indent for the same.

S/ John Moore



[p 60]

[War Department form with inserted test shown in italics. Official signature of John C. Calhoun.]

WAR DEPARTMENT
INVALID PENSION

I CERTIFY That, in conformity with the Laws of the United States, *Samuel Espy* late a *private* of the *United States Army*, is inscribed on the Pension List, Roll of the *North Carolina Agency*, at the rate of *four* dollars per month, to commence *at the time to which he was last paid*.

GIVEN at the War Office of the United States, this *ninth* day of *February* one thousand eight hundred and twenty *two*.

S/ *J. C. Calhoun*
Secretary of War.

[p 83]

State of North Carolina Rutherford County

By virtue of a Commissioner to me directed by the Honorable H. Potter, Judge of the District Court of the United States for the North Carolina District authorizing me to take all evidence for substantiating the claim of Samuel Espy [sic], in the County of Lincoln within said District, I have caused & procured, Colonel William Graham to appear before me, this 18th day of October 1825, who after being sworn according to law deposed & saith -- That during the year 1780, he acted as Colonel of the militia in the County of Lincoln in the said State, & that Samuel Espey as Captain, both duly commissioned as he believes; that at the battle of Kings Mountain the said Samuel Espey was wounded in the engagement then commanding as Captain, under me as Colonel against the British & Tories -- Deponent further swears that he has been acquainted with said Espey, ever since the close of the revolutionary war, that he has always resided in Lincoln County since, and that he is the same Samuel Espey who has been heretofore placed on the pension list.

S/ William Graham



Sworn to & subscribed before me 18th of October 1825

S/ Robert H. Burton, Commissioner

North Carolina Lincoln County -- And on the 24th day of October 1825, came Nicholas Hofner¹ before me, & after being duly sworn deposed & saith, that during the revolutionary war he served under Samuel Espey who commanded as Captain in the militia served three months under him, & then was transferred to Captain Lytle's company That he served under said Espey in the Spring & summer before the battle of the Eutaw Springs.

Sworn to & subscribed before me 24th of October 1825.

S/ Nicholas Hofner, X his mark

[p 18. Form with inserted text shown in italics.]

IT IS HEREBY CERTIFIED, That *Samuel Espey* a *Captain* in the Company of — in the *Lincoln* Regiment of the United States *Militia* is rendered incapable of performing the duties of a Soldier, by reason of wounds or other injuries inflicted while he was actually in the service aforesaid, and in the line of his duty, viz.:

By satisfactory evidence and accurate examination, it appears that on the *7th* day of *October* in the year *1780* being engaged *a battle* at or near a place called *Kings Mountain* in the district, or territory, of *South Carolina* he received *a wound by a ball* in his *right arm passing through the elbow joint thereof*

and he is thereby not only incapacitated for Military Duty, but, in the opinion of the undersigned, is *one half* disabled him up training his subsistence of manual labor.

S/ S. P. Simpson, Surgeon

S/ Will Johnston, Surgeon



The image shows two handwritten signatures in cursive. The first signature is "S. P. Simpson" with "Surgeon." written below it. The second signature is "Will Johnston" with "Surgeon." written below it. There is a small "to" written between the two signatures.

Sworn to & subscribed before me at Lincolnton N. C. October 24th, 1825

Oath taken so far as respects disability & degree

S/ Robt. H. Benton

[p 81]

State of North Carolina Lincoln County

Samuel Espey personally appeared before me the subscriber and being duly sworn saith that when he was placed on the pension list it was at a time when the State of North Carolina made appropriations for Soldiers wounded in the time of the Revolution and at a time when he understood none but privates could obtain a pension. That some persons that then represented the County in the Legislature procured his name to be placed on the pension list at that time as a private, as no officer could then receive a Pension from the State That he continued to receive the pension of a private as a State pensioner and then as he understood was transferred to the United States Agency. That he has grown old and less able to labor in his sons have nearly all left him that he now stands more in need of his pension than formally

Sworn to & subscribed before me at Lincolnton October 25th, 1825.

S/ Sam Espey

S/ Robert H. Burton, Commissioner

Samuel Espey further swears that he did serve as Lieutenant at the Battle of the Cedar Springs²

¹ [Nicholas Hofner W3994](#)

² This is most likely a reference to the engagement called 2nd Cedar Springs or Wofford's Iron Works, August 8, 1780.
http://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_woffords_iron_works.html

in South Carolina that he commanded as a Captain in General Greene's Army in South Carolina and at the Battle of King's Mountain when he was wounded.

Sworn to & subscribed before me 25th of October 1825. S/ Sam Espey

S/ Robert H. Burton, Commissioner

[p 71]

State of North Carolina Lincoln County

Abram Forney³ of said County this day personally appeared before me Robert H. Burton and after being duly sworn, according to law; says, he was in the Battle of Kings Mountain on the 7th day of October 1780; as one of the militia of this county that Samuel Espy Commanded in the said Battle as a Captain, and was wounded, during the action in the Arm; this deponent further states, that in the year 1781, Captain Espy Commanded a company that this deponent then acted as a Sergeant in said Company, during this tour of service, Capt Espy's arm became very sore, not having been healed of the wound he received at Kings Mountain, in 1780, and during this tour of service, the soreness Increased, and smelt very offensive, at which time, Captain Espy was unable to perform the duties, that devolved on him as Captain, and got leave to return home, his arm was so offensive that the soldiers under his command complained of the offensiveness of the smell, before he consented to leave his company.

This the deponent further says, that he has known Capt Espy, ever since the Battle of Kings mountain, & before he has always supported the Character of an honest man, & has for many years acted as justice of the peace for the County.

Sworn to & subscribed before me April 27th 1827

S/ Abraham Forney



S/ Robt. H. Burton

[War Department letter]

War Department
Pension Office
February 11, 1828

Sir,

In answer to your letter respectation Samuel Espy, I have to inform you that he is on the Invalid Pension roll of North Carolina at the rate of four dollars per month.

I have the honor to be, Very respectfully, Your Obt. Servt
S/ J. L. Edwards

[Congressional Record]

21st Congress
206 Session
Congress of the United States
In the House of Representatives

On the motion of Mr. Conner, January 18th, 1831.

Ordered, That the petition of Samuel Espy, presented February 26, 1827, be referred to the Committee on Military Pensions, and that the said Committee be instructed to report specially upon the subject matter thereof to this House.

³ [Abraham Forney W3976](#)

Attest. M. S. [illegible] Clerk

[p 3 et seq.]

State of North Carolina, Lincoln County

On this 31st day of October A.D. 1832 personally appeared in open court before the honorable David Swain Judge of Lincoln County Superior Court of law & Equity now sitting, Samuel Espey Esquire a resident of said County of Lincoln in the State of North Carolina aged Seventy four 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 act of Congress passed June 7, 1832. That he was born in the County of Cumberland in the State of Pennsylvania on the 8th May 1758 (as he was informed & believes); he had a record of his age in a bible which was lost many years ago when his house was consumed by fire. He removed with his father in the year 1770 at the age of twelve years to the County of Tryon (now Lincoln) in the State of North Carolina, where he lived with him at the commencement of the Revolutionary War, and in which County he hath resided ever since & shortly after the end of the War he lived on the plantation where he now lives at the distance of about 8 miles from his father.

That about the 5th in July 1776 he volunteered as a private Soldier under the Command of Captain Peter Carpenter to go as a Ranger against the Cherokee Indians & remained some time at M^cFadden's Fort & afterwards went with the Army commanded by General Rutherford [Griffith Rutherford] to the Cherokee Nation against said Indians, the whole of this tour of service was about three months. About the year 1779 he volunteered as a private soldier under the command of Captain Barber [John Barber] in a Regiment commanded by Col. Charles M^cLean in the militia of North Carolina in the service of the United States against bands of Tories. He was in this service about one month. He again entered the service in the Militia of North Carolina as a Captain early in the Spring of 1780 under the command of Col. W^m Graham [William Graham] & General Charles M^cDowell & during that service sometime in the summer of the same year, he was engaged in a battle with the British & Tories at the Cedar Springs in the District of Spartanburg South Carolina and continued in the ranging service until the Battle of King's Mountain fought near the South & North Carolina line with the British & Tories under the command of Col. Ferguson [Patrick Ferguson] on the 7th October in that year, in which Battle he had his right arm broken by a Ball; after he recovered from said Wound, he again volunteered as a Captain of militia of North Carolina under the command of General Thomas Polk & marched to Rugeley's Mill in Kershaw District in the State of South Carolina; there he was first placed under the command of Col. Reed [James Read] of North Carolina & afterwards under Col. Marshall from which service he was discharged sometime in the summer of 1781. That he does not know what became of his Commission or Discharge unless they were burned in his house which was destroyed as above stated. He hath no documentary evidence in his power to provide but there are several persons living who can prove part of his service. The depositions of some of whom are hereunto annexed.

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present and declares that his name is not on the pension Roll of any agency of any State, only on that of the agency of the State of North Carolina at the Town of Fayetteville.

Sworn to and subscribed the day & year aforesaid.

S/ Sam Espey

S/ Lawson Henderson, Clk

[p 86: Hugh Quin, a clergyman, and Joseph Green gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[p 5]

James Hill⁴ a resident of Lincoln County in the State of N^o Carolina of the age of Seventy three

⁴ [James Hill W3815](#)

years being duly sworn in solemn form according to Law declares that he hath been well acquainted with Sam^l Espey Esq^r., the foregoing applicant, ever since about the year 1770 (who moved into Tryon (now Lincoln) County with his father about that time) & until the present time; that he was with said Espey as a Soldier in the revolutionary War, he being under the command of Capt. John Barber & this deponent under the command of Capt. Kirkendall [Kuykendall] in a Regiment commanded by Col. Charles M^cLean & afterwards was in the service with said Espey at the Battle of King's Mountain fought with the Tories and British under Command of Col. Ferguson in which Battle said Espey had his arm broken by a ball; that they were together in the service for the greater part of the Summer of 1780.

S/ Jas. Hill



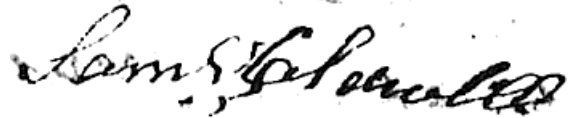
Sworn to and subscribed in open court this 31st day of October A.D. 1832
S/ Lawson Henderson, Clerk

[p 5]

Lincoln County Superior Court of law State of North Carolina

Samuel Caldwell⁵ a resident of Lincoln County in the State of North Carolina of the age of seventy three years being duly sworn according to law declares that he hath been well acquainted with Samuel Espey Esq^r the foregoing applicant for upwards of fifty years past, that they were soldiers together in the Revolutionary war at which time & ever since they have both resided in the then County of Tryon (now Lincoln) in the State of North Carolina, that this affiant & said Espey were together at the King's Mountain Battle as stated in said Espey's foregoing declaration where he had his arm broken by a Ball, at which time he understood said Espey was a Captain, & that this affiant was with him several excursions during the said revolutionary war, the particulars of which he is now unable to state. Sworn to & subscribed in open Court the 31st day of Oct^r A.D. 1832

S/ Saml Caldwell



S/ Lawson Henderson, Clerk of Lincoln County Superior Court.

[p 86]

State of North Carolina Lincoln County: General Joseph Graham⁶ appeared in open Court of Pleas & Quarter Sessions on the 30th day of April 1833 and after being duly sworn deposeth & saith that on the 15th or 16th of [indecipherable word, probably "Jan^y"] 1781 he came to an encampment in said County near Tuckaseegee Ford on the Catawba River where Colonel William Graham (then of this County now of Rutherford,) had the command of a Regiment of men then assembling to serve a tour of duty of three months and at different times from that to the 31st day of January saw him in command of said Regiment on the East side of Catawba in Mecklenburg and on the said 31st day of January near Cowans Ford he the said Colo. was arrested by Brigadier General William L. Davidson on a charge of being intoxicated it being the day before the British crossed the Catawba River at said Ford where General Davidson fell and the Command of the Regiment devolved on Major John Carruth until after the Battle of Guilford Court House.

Sworn to and subscribed the day above written.

⁵ [Samuel Caldwell W528](#)

⁶ [Joseph Graham S6937](#)

In open court
Test: S/ Vardry McBee, Clerk

S/ J. Graham

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "J. Graham". The signature is written in black ink on a white background. There are some faint scribbles above the signature.

[p 56]

State of North Carolina Rutherford County

Before John Sagan a Justice of the Peace in and for the County of Rutherford came William Graham⁷ who after being duly sworn, states that he is very old & his memory of consequence very much impaired; but he remembers that about the year 1776 Samuel Espey now resident in Lincoln County of this state marched under his command against the Cherokee Indians as a packhorse man; in this expedition Gen. Griffith Rutherford held chief command. -- said Espey was afterwards in the revolutionary service, and for some time before and after the battle of King's Mountain (the 7th of October 1780 as well as he now remembers) held the command of captain in the Regiment which was then commanded by this deponent and at that battle received a wound in his arm, which disabled him somewhat for a time -- perhaps to the present day. -- This deponent is not certain, but thinks said Espey was with him at a skirmish between him and some Tories near the Cedar Spring [August 8, 1780] him south of Pacolet River in South Carolina but he cannot give the date when it occurred. -- Sworn to & subscribed before me the sixth day of May A.D. 1833.

S/ John Logan, JP

S/ William Graham, X his mark him

[p 74]

State of North Carolina Lincoln County

Personally appeared before me the undersigned Justice of the Peace in and for the County and State aforesaid Samuel Espey who being duly sworn deposes and saith, that by reason of old age & the consequent loss of memory & the great length of time since the revolutionary War he cannot swear positively as to the precise length of his service, but according to the best of his recollection he served not less than the periods mentioned below & in the following grades Viz. For the term of three months in the year 1776 under the command of Captain Peter Carpenter against the Cherokee Indians as a private soldier -- One month under the command of Captain Barber in the year 1779 against the Tories as a private soldier -- one year & a half as a captain of militia viz. from early in the Spring of the year 1780 until the first of the year 1781 under Col. W^m Graham, & from the first of the year 1781 to the fall of the same year under the command of Col. Joseph Dickson; and for such service I claim a pension -- Sworn to and subscribed before me this 18th day of July A.D. 1833 and in the 58th year of our Independence.

S/ Sam Espey

S/ Wm J. Wilson, JP

[p 88]

State of North Carolina Lincoln County: Samuel Espey of said county this day personally appeared before me Carlos Leonard one of the Justices of the Peace in and for said County and being sworn according to Law makes the following statements amendatory to the annexed Declaration of the 31st day of October 1832 as the person who drew his declaration made use of the tours about when he should have stated a definite times, having thought much on the subject of his services and having

⁷ [William Graham S8624](#)

conversed with persons who reminded him of the different times he can now with certainty fixed the time of service as follows

First he volunteered in the company commanded by Captain Peter Carpenter as a Corporal on the 10th Day of July 1776 and was marched to M^cFadden's fort against the Cherokee Indians, the company remained at said fort one month, the company at the end of said month were discharged to prepare to march against the Cherokee nation.

That on the 19th day of August 1776 the company met at Moses Moore's 6 miles from Lincolnton and were placed under the command of Colonel William Graham that at the Pleasant Gardens they joined the troops under General Rutherford and were Marched across the Blue Ridge across French Broad River and were some time on the Tennessee River the army returned and was discharged from service on the 6th of October 1776, which was one month and sixteen days in this tour he served as corporal

In March 1779 he volunteered in a company then commanded by Captain Borter [Barber ?]: who had been called into service with his company by Colonel Charles M^cLean against a Band of Tories the Company was marched to [Ambrose] Mills in now Rutherford County, where the Tories had collected a quantity of provisions for the use of the Tories, who were commanded by Coll Ambrose Mills their leader, that he remained at Mills one month when he was dismissed from Service in this tour he served one month and two weeks

In the month of May 1780 he was Elected Captain of a company (on the 1st of June 1780 he marched his company to the Cherokee ford on Broad River in South Carolina and there his company was placed under the command of General Charles M^cDowell, who ordered him and his company to act as Rangers, and in the last of July he marched his company into now Spartanburg District under Colonel William Graham. Colonel Shelby and Clark [Clarke] of Georgia had united their Troops with Colonel William Graham. M^cDowell staid [sic stayed] with the remaining troops at the Cherokee ford) (when the troops met with the Tories & British at the Cedar Springs commanded by Colonel Dunlop who commanded a part of Ferguson's Army where they had a Battle with Dunlap's troops where they defeated Dunlap and his troops, from the Battle of the Cedar Springs the troops to which he was attached were marched back to the Cherokee ford, that the troops remained at the Cherokee ford and continued to do duty in different directions as Rangers until Colonel Ferguson with his army approached near to us when, the troops were marched by Colonel Graham to Sherrels ford [sic, Sherrill's Ford], that the troops remained at Sherrill's Ford until they heard that Colonels Shelby Cleveland & Cambel [sic, William Campbell] were on the march with their troops; and that all the troops were to meet at the Cowpens, they were marched back to the Cowpens under Coll Graham and Colonel Moffat [sic, Moffett] of South Carolina that they met the troops of Shelby Cleveland & Cambell at the Cowpens on the 6th day of October, after dark of the night of the 6th the army commenced the march to King's mountain Crossed at the Cherokee ford early on the morning of the 7th got to King's mountain on the evening when the Battle commenced, where and when commanding my company I was shot through the Right Elbow which Disabled the use of that joint that he was disabled by the wound and was attended by a doctor until May 1781.

When there was a draft among the Captains in my Regiment and although my arm had not got well I volunteered as a Captain, and in the last of May [March] 1781 took command of my company at Tuckasaga [sic, Tuckaseegee] ford and this county and marched through Charlotte to a place called Crooked Creek where we were joined by the Meckabary [sic, Mecklenburg] troops under the command of General Polk from there we were marched to Rugeley's Mill in South Carolina in Kershaw District where Colonel Reed took command of the Regiment and soon after Colonel Morshal [sic, Marshal] took command of the Regiment where we were continued until the last of April when after serving in this tour one month his Company was discharged by Colonel Marshall his arm yet not well from the wound, Sworn to and Subscribed this 9th day of May 1834 Before me
S/ Carlos Leonard, JP

S/ Sam Espey

[p 7]

[Claim of William Oates, Administrator of Samuel Espey's estate]

State of North Carolina, Cleveland County

Be it Known that on this 7th day of April 1852 before the undersigned Justices of the Peace in and for the County and State aforesaid personally appeared William Oates Adms a resident of the aforesaid County of Cleveland and made oath according to law that he is the Special Administrator of Samuel Espey who was a Revolutionary pensioner in the County of Lincoln NC at the Rate of \$98.72 per annum from the 6th of March 1831 to the day of his death 29th December 1838 under the act of 7 June 1832 and that as Adm and an heir at law of the said Samuel Espey deceased. He is directly interested as aforesaid as a claimant & as Adm and makes this affidavit for the purpose of obtaining such increase of pensions as may be due under any of the Laws Regulations or decisions that have been or may hereafter be adopted.

The said Applicant further declares that he [illegible] constitutes and appoints A. R. Hornsby of Shelby North Carolina to be Attorney and Agent to present said claim with power of Substitution to examine all papers and documents in relation to it and to do all things necessary and lawful in this procession.

Sworn to & Subscribed this day and year aforesaid before me Isaac Erwin JP

S/ Wm Oates



[p 9: Claim of Mary Oates, form with inserted information shown in italics]

State of NC, County of *Cleveland*

BE IT KNOWN, That on this *11th* day of *October* A. D. eighteen hundred and fifty *Six* before the undersigned, a Justice of the Peace in and for the County and State aforesaid, personally appeared *Mary Oates* a resident of —, in said County and made oath according to law that She is the *daughter of Captain Espey* who made application for a pension *under Act*, that *She* has been informed that the said pension ought to be *allowed*; that She is directly interested as a claimant in said Pension and makes this affidavit to be filed with such additional evidence or arguments as my Agent may use in prosecuting said claim.

S/ Mary Oates



Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid before me

S/ *Linius Gardner* J. Peace

I *Linius Gardner* Justice of the Peace in and for said County, do hereby certify that *Mary Oates* who executed the foregoing paper, is a respectable resident of this County, and is, I believe directly interested in said claim as therein set forth.

S/ *Linius Gardner*

I *S Williams*, clerk of the *County* Court of the County and State aforesaid, do hereby certify that *Linius Gardner* before whom the foregoing papers were executed was at the date of the same a Justice of the Peace in and for said County duly authorized by law to administer oaths and the name thereunto subscribed is his signature. In Testimony whereof, I have hereunto subscribed my name and affixed my official Seal, this *13th* day of *October* A. D. 1856

S/ *S. Williams*, Clerk

[p 62 appears to be an undated draft of a petition to the US Congress by Espey]

[p 68—NC Comptroller's Dept. report on payments to a "Samuel Espy"]

[Facts in file: Veteran was pensioned on September 4, 1808, based on the disability resulting from his wound; Veteran died December 29, 1838 in Lincoln County, NC; Mary Oates (wife of William Oates) of Cleveland County, NC (as of 1856) was the daughter of Capt. Samuel Espey]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$98.72 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for service as a private in the cavalry & Capt. in the North Carolina militia for 8 months and 7 days.]