# Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Absolom Spiers (Spires) W17860	Mary	fn78NC
Transcribed by Will Graves		3/5/11

[Methodology: Spelling, punctuation and/or grammar have been corrected in some instances for ease of reading and to facilitate searches of the database. Also, the handwriting of the original scribes often lends itself to varying interpretations. Users of this database are urged to view the original and to make their own decision as to how to decipher what the original scribe actually wrote. Blanks appearing in the transcripts reflect blanks in the original. Folks are free to make non-commercial use this transcript in any manner they may see fit, but please extend the courtesy of acknowledging the transcriber—besides, if it turns out the transcript contains mistakes, the resulting embarrassment will fall on the transcriber. I use speech recognition software to make all my transcriptions. Such software misinterprets my southern accent with unfortunate regularity and my poor proofreading fails to catch all misinterpretations. I welcome and encourage folks to call those and any other errors to my attention.]

#### Declaration

In order to obtain the benefit of the 3rd Section of the act of Congress of the 4th of July 1836 State of North Carolina Hertford County: On this 13th day of November 1840 personally appeared before me one of the Justices of the Court of Pleas & Quarter Sessions will Hertford County Mrs. Mary Spiers a resident of the said County aged eighty-two years, who being first duly sworn according to law doth, on her oath, make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the provision made by the act of Congress passed July 4th 1836 and the joint Resolution of July 7th: 1838.

That she is the widow of Absolum Spiers, who was a private soldier in the North Carolina Line & served as such from an early period of the Revolution to its close as will more fully appear by the proof hereunto annexed. She further declares that she was married to the said Absolum Spiers on the 15th day of December 1782. That her husband the aforesaid Absolum Spiers died on the 17th day of May 1810; and that she has remained a widow ever since that period; as will more fully appear by reference to the proof hereto annexed.

Sworn and subscribed on the day & year above written before S/ Jno. Vann, JP S/ Mary Spires

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State of North Carolina Hertford County: On this 13th day of November 1840 personally appeared before me Mrs. Mary Spiers of the said County and subscribed & swore to the foregoing declaration in due form of law. I also certify that Mrs. Spiers has produced to me a family Record of the ages of her children, along with the ages of his father and brothers and sisters. That part of the record containing the ages of the children of Absalom Spiers and his wife Mary now applying for a Pension commences with the birth of John Spiers which although partly rubbed out was on the 8th of December 1783 to my personal knowledge and he died on the 18th of December 1787 as appears from the entry. After that occurs the names of all the children of Absalom & Mary Spiers all known & raised in the same neighborhood with me, which I know to be correct.

Given under my hand & seal the day & year above written

## S/ Jno Vann, JP

Absalom Spiers Son of Absalom & Rachal Spiers was born November 1th 1760 Thomas Spiers son of Absolom & Rachil Spiers was Born Oct 28 [illegible] Elisha Spiers son of Absolom & Rashal Spiers was born January 31th 1767 John Spiers son of [torn and missing] [fn p. 7] October 5<sup>th</sup> 178? and departed this life December 18th 1787 James Spiers son of Absalom & Mary Spiers April 20th 1789 Thomas Spiers Son of Absalom & Mary Spiers was born September 12 1790 Nancy Spiers daughter of Absalom & Mary Spiers was born August 12th 1803 George Spiers son of Absalom & Mary Spiers was born December the 29th 1805 Absalom Spiers s departed this life May 19 1810 [fn p. 8] William Spiers son of Absalom & Mary Spiers was born January first 1796 Joseph Spiers son of Absalom & Mary Spiers was born March 4 179? Charles Spiers son of Absalom & Mary Spiers was born February 2nd 1800

[fn p. 32: On January 25, 1841 in Hertford County North Carolina, James Spiers gave testimony in support of his mother's application for a pension that the family Bible records submitted by her is in his handwriting; that he made the entries based on the originals taken by his uncle Elisha; that the record has remained in his possession until his mother attached it to her application.]

[fn p. 9: On November 18, 1840, Elisha Spiers, 84, testified in Hertford County North Carolina that he has the most distinct recollection of his brother Absalom leaving home to serve in the Army and of his marriage to Mary Cotton on December 15, 1782; that he lived with Mary cotton while his brother was in the service and their first child was born in October 1783.] [fn p. 15: Elisha Spiers gave further testimony that his brother and his wife had 3 children who were either born dead or died immediately after birth between the births of their first and second child as recorded in the family record.]

## State of North Carolina Secretary of State's Office

I William Hill Secretary of State in and for the State of North Carolina, do hereby certify, that it appears from the musterrolls of the Continental line of this State in the revolutionary War That Absalom [torn and missing] a private in Captain Fenner's Company of the 2nd Regiment enlisted on the 20th day of November 1776 for the term of three years, that on the 22nd day of October 1783, a [torn and missing] rant [warrant] for 360 acres of land was issued for his service as a Soldier for four years which Warrant is [torn and missing] and drawn by Colonel Hardy Murfree.

Given under my hand the [torn and missing] day of November 1840 S/ Wm Hill

[fn p. 19: Susanna Burton, 74, gave supporting evidence regarding the marriage of Absalom and Mary.]

[fn p. 21 & 25: Charles Powell,<sup>1</sup> 83, gave supporting evidence regarding the marriage of Absalom and Mary as well as supporting evidence as to the services of Absalom in the Revolution.]

[fn. p. 27 & 40: Henry Best<sup>2</sup> gave testimony as to the marriage of Absalom to Mary Cotton; in his affidavit he states that he was in the service at Cross Creek and returned home the last of December 1782 to find that Absalom and Mary had been married but a few days.] [fn p. 36: Charles Powell testified that after Absalom & Mary were married, Absalom returned to the Army and marched from Winton to Halifax under Captain Goodman and was there discharged; states that he was at the marriage between Absalom and Mary.]

### [fn p. 30]

State of North Carolina Northampton County

The affidavit of Nicholas Tyner<sup>3</sup> of the said County now in the 91st year of his age a pensioner of the United States, who being first duly sworn according to law testifies and says. That he knew and served with Absalom Spires in the war of the Revolution. He knew him before he entered the service, during the time, he served, and from that time up to his death. Absalom Spires entered the service in the fall of 1776 and served under Captain Fenner for 3 years. He then returned home and married and again entered the service and continued to serve until the spring of 1783 when he was discharged at Halifax at the same time this affiant was. Absalom Spires was at the time he was discharged under the command of Captain Goodman. This affiant knows that Absalom Spires was married at the time he left the service, this affiant well knew his wife whose name was Mary Cotton and she is the identical person known to this affiant as his wife & now applying for a pension.

Given under my hand this 19th day of January 1841.

S/ Nicholas Tyner, X his mark

#### [fn p. 38]

State of North Carolina Hertford County: The affidavit of James Weston<sup>4</sup> a pensioner of the United States taken to prove the marriage in service of Absalom Spiers – This affiant being first duly sworn according to law testifies and says.

I was born and raised in two miles of Absalom Spiers and his wife Mary Spiers now applying for a pension and knew him up to his death. I well remember when he enlisted under Captain Fenner in 1776 and marched to the North and his return, and he again joining the Army and his return home at the close of the War. He enlisted in January 1781 under Captain Goodman and served under him to the close of the War.

This affiant was not present at the marriage of Absalom Spiers with Mary Cotton now his widow but he knows it took place while Absalom Spiers was stationed near Winton in the month of December 1782 – at the time it took place this affiant was himself in service near Fayetteville after the Tories and on his return from that service he found Absalom Spiers married to Mary Cotton who is a cousin to this affiant. Absalom Spiers a short time after his marriage was

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Charles Powel (Powell) S7323

 $<sup>^{2}</sup>$  I could find no veteran by this name who filed for a federal pension based on service in the revolution. His statement that he was in service at Cross Creek in 1782 may be the only evidence in the federal pension records of his service.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Nicholas Tyner S7773

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> James Weston S7858

marched to Halifax where he was discharged in the spring of 1783.

This affiant can and does testify that Mary Spiers now applying for a pension is the identical person married to Absalom Spiers and the said Spiers is the identical person who served as before stated.

Given under my hand this 21st of January 1841.

Jane traton

[fn p. 62]

State of North Carolina Office of Secretary of State

I William Hill Secretary of State in and for the State of North Carolina, do hereby certify, that it appears from the muster rolls of the Continental line of this State in the revolutionary war that Absalom Spires a private Soldier in Captain Fenner's Company of the 2nd Regiment, enlisted on the 20th day of November 1776 for the term of 3 years. That Colonel Hardy Murfree appears to have served in said Regiment first as a Major from 1st February 1777 to 1st April 1778, and from that time as a Lieutenant Colonel to the end of the War. I do further certify that it appears of record in this Office that a Warrant for bounty land was issued for four years services of the said Absalom Spires on the 22nd day of October 1783, drawn by Colonel Hardy Murfree, which Warrant was obtained on the certificate of a Field Officer, which was the only evidence necessary to authorize the Secretary of State to issue such Warrants and I do further certify, that it appears from a book of settlements of the accounts of the Officers and Soldiers of the revolutionary war, that Absalom Spires was allowed the sum of £146.6.11 drawn by Colonel Hardy Murfree in 1783 or 1784.

Given under my hand at office in Raleigh this 10th day of January 1844 S/ Wm Hill

[Veteran's widow was pensioned at the rate of \$80 per annum commencing March 4th, 1836, for the 2 years service of her husband as a private in the North Carolina Continental line.]