

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Deposition of James Spicer, Caleb Bell, Joseph Bragg & Robert Turner NC47

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Transcribed by Will Graves

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[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' or 'undeciphered' 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. Researchers should not rely solely on the transcripts but should review the originals for themselves. These transcripts are intended as an aid to research, not to be used in lieu thereof.]

The Deposition of James Spicer Master of the Flag Schooner *Endeavour*,¹ Caleb Bell, Joseph Bragg [Joseph brag] & Robert Turner mariners on board the said Schooner who being duly sworn depose as follows, That they were fitted out as a flag of truce by the State of North Carolina in order to proceed to Charles Town [Charleston, South Carolina] to exchange prisoners, and had on board a quantity of Tobacco for the use of the American Prisoners there, That on the 9th day of June last, they sailed from Beaufort, that on the 20th of June they were taken and seized near Charles Town bar by the *Cormorant*² who put an officer and two men on board and carried her into the Harbour, pretending she was a lawful prize, & kept a guard constantly on board her, the said Deponent Captain Spicer made frequent applications to the commanding officers to have his Flag given up to him, but, refused, receiving for answer he could not be tried until the return of the *Cormorant* who was on a Cruise, and at her return they intended to try the property of the said Schooner – That, on August 10th a Severe gale of wind happened at Charles Town, in which the said Schooner was totally lost, and the Tobacco so damaged as scarcely to be worth any thing, a report was then made by these Deponents to the Commissary requesting leave to save some part of the wreck, but, was forbid on pain of being put under Guard, and finding no redress they were permitted to purchase a boat in order to return home, which boat was converted into a flag of Truce, and sailed from Charles Town August 17: and arrived at Beaufort August 26th and further these Deponents sayeth not

S/ Jas. Spicer

S/ Caleb Bell

S/ Joseph Bragg

S/ Robert Turner

Sworn before J. Parratt

¹ *Endeavor*. DaviesXIX:400, 2299, American flag of truce, Capt James Spicer, detained by R. N. *Cormorant*, 1781. Ford1781:437. <https://www.awiatsea.com/Hough/Hough%20List%20E-F.html>

² *Cormorant*. SchV:44, British vessel, 16 guns, Capt Rd.M'Evoy, captured in 1781 by the French off Charleston. Dandridge:187, VANavy:161, Ford1783:444n, Capt James Maxwell, taken from the British by the French and sold to the VA Navy. The vessel was used during the Yorktown operations as a transport, then was prepared in 1782 for protecting the Chesapeake. There is some indication this vessel was also known as the Rattlesnake was captured by the British Assurance in ?1782 on the American coast, taken back into the Royal Navy as the Cormarrant of 14 guns. <https://www.awiatsea.com/Hough/Hough%20List%20C-D.html>

Your friend
Caleb Bell
Joseph Bragg
Robert Owen