

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of William Spencer S31386

f14VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

3/29/12

[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. 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 fails 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 errors or omissions to my attention.]

State of Kentucky County of Bullitt: SS

On this 21st day of April 1834 personally appeared before the County Court of Bullitt County in the State of Kentucky William Spencer – a Resident of Bullitt County State of Kentucky aged Seventy-three 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 provisions made by the Act of Congress, passed June 7th 1832. That he entered the service of the United States under the following named Officers and served as herein stated: That he was enlisted by Lieutenant John Ward [?]¹ as a private man in the company commanded by Captain James Sherburne and was marched to Hampton, Norfolk, Old Williamsburg and other places in Virginia & at Hampton had a skirmish with the British also one at Portsmouth, during the year for which he enlisted as a minute man he was marched from place to place & kept in actual service and at the Expiration thereof he was discharged in writing by Captain Edward Montford [perhaps Edward Mumford] as well as he recollects. He does not, from the lapse of Time & his loss of memory, recollect the day, month or year when he entered the Service or when he was discharged by Captain Monford having lost his discharge many years ago. He, about a year and a half afterwards, enlisted in the Army of the United States for the Term of three years in the Company commanded by Captain William Kelsoe in the 71st Virginia Regiment and actually served out the said three years & was regularly discharged in writing by Major Richard James of the Army. During his Service of three years he was marched from place to place & he was in a Skirmish with the British at Norfolk Virginia and he was in the Battle at Stony Point [July 16, 1779] under the Command of General Anthony Wayne. Having lost his discharge & from the loss of his memory he cannot recollect the day, month or year in which he enlisted or the day month or year when he was discharged but he knows that he served full three years under the enlistment aforesaid. He also served afterwards several tours of duty as a drafted militia man during which time he was at the taking of Lord Cornwallis at Yorktown Virginia [October 19, 1781] but he cannot now recollect how long he served as such. He has no documentary evidence in his possession proving his service for one-year as a minute man or his three years service in the regular Army, nor does he know of any person now living by whom he can prove his service and he is now too old & poor to go to Virginia to search for proof. There is no Clergyman in his neighborhood whose Certificate he can obtain. He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a Pension or an annuity, except the present, and he declares that his name is not on the pension Roll of any Agency in any State. To the Interrogatories propounded by the Court he makes the following Answers. To the 1st. He

1

Ward

was born in King William County State of Virginia on the 2nd day of February 1761. To the 2nd. He has a record of his age and has it now at his house. To the 3rd. He was living in Prince Edward County State of Virginia. After the war he lived in Montgomery County, Virginia, & from there he moved about 35 years ago to Kentucky and he now lives in Bullitt County Kentucky.

To the 4th. He enlisted 1st for one-year as a minute man & then enlisted for 3 years. To the 5th. He cannot now recollect more of the Regular Officers than he has named to wit Captain James Sherburne, Lieutenant John Ward, Captain Edward Monferd, Captain William Kelsoe, Major Richard James, General Anthony Wayne. He also recollects Captain Henry Carter of the militia. He cannot recollect the names or number of any regiments except his own or who commanded them. The general Circumstances of his Service he has already stated as far as he can now recollect. To the 6th. He did receive written discharges – one was signed by Captain Edward Monford & the other by Major Richard James. To the 7th. He is known to General Henry Crist, Colonel Henry C. M. Cartmell & Jacob Friddle & Whitlege Overall of his neighborhood who can testify as to his character for veracity & their belief as to his services as a Soldier of the Revolution.

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid.

S/ William Spencer, X his mark

[H. Crist, W. Overall and H. C. M. Cartmell gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

State of Kentucky Bullitt County: SS

On this 16th day of June 1834 personally appeared before the County Court of Bullitt County in the State of Kentucky William Spencer who being first duly sworn according to law and amends his Declaration made on the 21st day of April 1834 in order to obtain the benefit of the provisions of the act of Congress passed June 7th, 1832 and which Declaration is hereto attached. From the great lapse of time and his age & consequent loss of memory he cannot recollect the name of the Colonel who commanded the minute man but he positively swears to having served one year as a minute man as stated in his original declaration. He cannot recollect the time when he enlisted for three years and he supposes he is mistaken as to the number of the Virginia Regiment in which he served. In making his former Declaration he was not questioned as to the name of the Colonel who commanded the Regiment of the Virginia line to which he belonged – He now states that he enlisted under Captain William Kelsoe in the Regiment then commanded by Colonel Reed – he cannot recollect the Christian name of Colonel Reed. He served three years under that enlistment making in all including the year as a minute man, four years as a private soldier for which he claims a pension. He served several tours of duty as a drafted militia man but he cannot recollect the periods or length of time therefore he has no claim to a pension on that account for his services as a militia man. He states that he well recollects that Major Richard James² discharged him from service as a militia man and he was mistaken as to the officer who signed his discharge from his three years service. He cannot recollect who done it.

The general Circumstances of his services as an enlisted Soldier of the Revolution he refers to his original Declaration. Those services he cannot prove by any living Witness as far as he knows & believes.

Sworn & subscribed the day and year aforesaid.

S/ William Spencer, X his mark

² The War Department read this as "Richard Jones"

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$80 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for service as a private for 2 years in the Virginia militia.]