

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters

Pension Application of Joseph Spencer S37436

VA

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. Revised 31 May 2015.

District of Kentucky sct

On this 28th of May 1818 before me the subscriber one of the Circuit Judges for the Comm[onweal]th afsd personally appeared Joseph Spencer aged 73 years resident in Pendleton County and District aforesd, who being by me first duly sworn according to Law, doth on his oath make the following Declaration, in order to obtain the provision, made by the late act of Congress entitled "An act to provide for certain person engaged in the land and naval service of the United States in the Revolutionary war" That he the said Joseph Spencer entered the service of the United States in the Revolutionary war, in the Continental establishment in the Month of October 1775 as a Captain in the 7th Virginia Regiment commanded by Wm Dangerfield [sic: William Daingerfield] in Gen'l Woodfords [William Woodford's] Brigade. That he served in the said capacity of Captain untill Nov'r. 1777 when he resigned and rec'd. his discharge from Gen'l. Washington in the State of Pennsylvania

That he was appointed a Lieutenant Colo of a Regiment of Virginia Malitia on the 5th of June 1780 as appears by his Commission here presented [not found] – and served about 14 months – That he was in the battles of the Great Bridge [9 Dec 1775], Burning of Norfolk [1-2 Jan 1776], Quinns Island [sic: Gwynn Island VA, 8-10 July 1776], Brandywine [11 Sep 1777], GermanTown [4 Oct 1777] as a Capt. and in Gates Defeat as a Colo. [defeat of Gen. Horatio Gates at Battle of Camden SC, 16 Aug 1780]

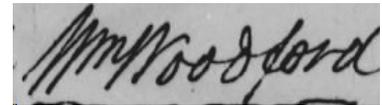
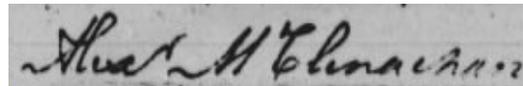
That he is in reduced circumstances and stands in need of the assistance of his country for support and he here produces all the evidence in his power of his said services. He further states that in the year 1776 James Monroe [pension application W26271], now President of U.S. joined his company a short time as an Ensign at Fredericksburgh [sic: Fredericksburg].

Cap'n. Joseph Spencer of the 7th Virg'a. Reg't. having been in the service of the united states since Oct'r. 1775, his Family being now in distress, for want of him; his affairs in disorder for want of proper care; and himself in a bad state of Health; begs that his Excellency General Washington would please to permitt him to resign that appointment which the Honourable the Cont'l. Congress were pleased to confer upon him.

Nov'br 11th[?] 1777 [Alexander McClenachan]

Colo. 7th Virg'a Reg't.

Wm Woodford Brig'r. Gen'l.



Personally appeared before me Maj'r. Rich'd Gaines [Richard Gaines] and made oath that he served in Captain Spencers Company in the Revolutionary war, in the 7th Continental Virginia Regement about 12 months and that Capt Spencer the present applicant is the person witness my hand this 28th of May 1818

Benj. Johnson Circuit Judge

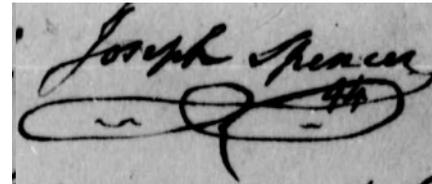
District of Kentucky SS

On this 21st day of Aug't 1820 personally appeared in open court being a court of record said Court being expressly made a court of record by the laws for said District and county of Grant Joseph Spencer aged 76 years resident in the County and District aforesaid, who being first duly sworn according to law, doth on his oath declare that he served in the Revolutionary war as follows: in Sept.

1775 he was appointed Captain in a Minute Battallion commanded by Col. L. Talefrow [sic: Lawrence Taliaferro], and in 1776 he was appointed captain in the regular army and attached to the 7th Virginia regiment commanded by Col. William Dangerfield in the Virginia line, agreeably to an Original declaration dated 13th February 1819 and a Pension certificate now in his possion No. 60 and 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 services 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 for me in trust 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

Viz	125	Acres of third rate land worth. . .	\$250.
	2	Old Negroes.	100.
	2	Old mars [mares] and one colt. . . .	70.
		small stock of cattle and hogs.	<u>30.</u>
		Total Amt.	\$450.

He further states that he is a farmer but very infirm and totally incapable to pursue it; and that he has with himself five in family, Viz. his wife Sarah Spencer aged 74 years, infirm and unable to support herself, Joseph D. Spencer aged 47 years not able to support himself in consequence of injuries sustained on a campaign under Gen'l. [Anthony] Wayne and in the late War under Gen'l. Harrison. Joseph and Milly two Slaves both old and infirm and unable to contribute only in a very small degree to either my support or their own.



[From [Library of Virginia Legislative Petitions Digital Collection](#)/ Orange County.]

To the honorable the Speaker & House of Delegates The Petition of Joseph Spencer respectfully states; That your Petitioner entered into the service of the United States as a Captain in the seventh Virginia Regiment on Continental establishment in the year 1775 and continued therein until the month of November 1777 when he was compelled from peculiar circumstances to resign his Commission.

That at the May session of Assembly 1780 your Petitioner was appointed a Lieutenant Colonel of a Regiment of the Militia of this State embodied for the relief of South Carolina; and in an engagement with the British in August 1780 he was made a Prisoner, and detained in captivity until the month of July in 1781.

That altho' your Petitioner did not serve in the Army three successive years so as thereby to entitle him to the bounty in Lands allowed by Law, yet as he has served that period at different intervals and as Officers under similar circumstances have experienced the generosity of the Legislature in bestowing to them a bounty in Lands, he confidently relies on the beneficence of this House in extending to him the same measure of Justice and he, as in duty bound will pray

Dec'r 24th 1798

[The following are from [bounty-land records in the Library of Virginia.](#)]

State of Kentucky, Owen County Sct

At a County Court held for said County at the Courthouse in the Town of Owenton, on Monday the seventh day of January, Eighteen hundred & thirty three,

It was proved to the satisfaction of the Court, before [three names illegible] Justices composing the Court, by the Testimony of Colo. Abraham Buford [S46372], who was a Colo Commandant, in the revolutionary war, and William B. Wallace [S42612] who was a Lieutenant in said war, the credibility of said Buford and Wallace is Certified to this Court, That Joseph Spencer a resident of Orange County State of Virginia, entered the service of the Revolution, in the year 1775 as a Captain of Minute men, and that he was in the Battle of the Great Bridge on the ninth of August [sic] of that year, in the State of Virginia that in the year 1776 he received a Commission as Captain, in the Continental army of the Revolution, and was arranged to the 7th Virginia Regiment, and continued to command as such until the Battle of Camden, in South carolina, when he was Captured and held in captivity until the summer of 1781 on Hadrilles Point [sic: Haddrell Point] and Edisto Island when a cartell for exchange of Prisoners was settled [cartel of 3 May 1781], when said Spencer was Imported to James town, in Company with said Wallace and parolled until peace was concluded in 1783. That said Spencer was a Supernumary officer, and entitled to commutation, That said Spencer moved to Kentucky and settled in Gallatin County, and died there on the 27th of August 1829 and It was also proved by the Testimony of John Leachman & Henry Blunt that said Spencer left at his death as his surviving children and heirs, Edward Spencer, Joseph D Spencer, of the males, and of the females Elizabeth Spencer who has intermarried with Robert Moore, and still live together as such, Winiford Spencer, who intermarried with Henry Blount, now deceased, Catharine Spencer who intermarried with Samuel Conner, and still lives together as such. That said Spencer left no widow at his death and died intestate, which is ordered to be Certified to all whom it may concern.