

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of William Spencer VAS1799

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Transcribed by Will Graves

3/22/15

[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.]

[From [Digital Library of Virginia](#)] Westmoreland County Legislative Papers

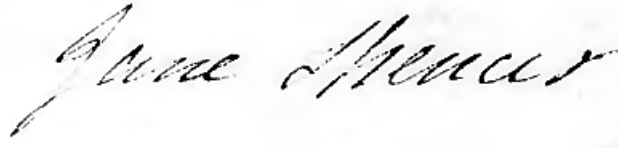
To the Honourable the Legislature of Virginia

The petition of Jane Spencer of the County of Westmoreland respectfully represents,
That she is the widow of the late Lieut. William Spencer who lived a gallant soldier and died in his country's service. At the commencement of the American Revolution, he entered as a private soldier on the Continental establishment and was in the year 1779 promoted to an Ensigncy [Ensign] on account of his meritorious conduct generally & more particularly on account of the bravery and [indecipherable word] he displayed in Storming Stony Point [July 16, 1779]. At the reduction of that memorable Fortress, the documents of your petitioner will prove that he was the second or third who entered the breach, and his gallantry was rewarded as well by pecuniary assistance by the honor of promotion. In the attack however his thigh [? very faint] was so shattered that he was rendered unfit for the Infantry service and being unwilling to remain altogether inactive he obtained a Cornetcy [Cornet] in the Cavalry. In this service he was again wounded, and after having been raised to the rank of Lieut. he was returned as a supernumerary but soon afterwards was unfortunately killed. Your petitioner was then left altogether [indecipherable word – very faint]. Her Husband had sacrificed everything for his Country & left behind him nothing but a Soldier's renowned name. Unfortunately he died too without having made a will and of course the little which ought [to] have been obtained from the State, would have been shared with distant relatives and her Dower Interest would have been of no value to her. Under these circumstances she thought it not worth applying for, but determined to support herself as long as she was able by her own Industry. This she has been hitherto able to effect, but as age and infirmity is creeping on her, She now finds herself obliged to solicit the benevolent interposition of the Legislature of Virginia. Her forlorn and helpless situation is known to several members of your Honourable Body, who she is confident will bear testimony in her favor; and if she should appear to be a proper object of relief, She relies on the strong claim she has upon her country in being the widow of a man who fought and bled for it. She has been informed that in cases of this kind, the Legislature of Virginia has been uniformly generous. That it has extended its protection from the Soldier who fought to every member of his family immediately dependent on him – And that it has ever been too liberal & she might add too grateful, to suffer the widow or the Orphans of one of her brave defenders, to feel the pressure of severe want from having been deprived of its only support.

Under these circumstances & conditions she humbly hopes that the General Assembly

will take her case into consideration, and grant her such annual assistance as is usual in similar cases: And she will ever pray &c

S/ Jane Spencer

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jane Spencer". The ink is dark and the handwriting is fluid, with a long, sweeping underline for the name.

[reverse]

Jane Spencer's Petition
Received December 25 07 [1807]
[(indcipherably faint word)]
To Claims
Referred December 29 -'07
Reasonable
Reported