

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Jesse Spruill R10021

fn18NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

4/21/10

[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 errors to my attention.]

State of North Carolina Tyrrell County

On this the 29th day of January 1833 personally appeared in open Court in the Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions of said County now sitting Jesse Spruill a resident of said County aged 69 to 70 years, who being duly sworn, doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the act of Congress passed June 7 1832;

That, with others he was drafted in the last of April or first May in the year 1781 to serve for three months in the militia of the State of North Carolina in the Revolutionary War; that immediately after being drafted he joined the company of about 60 men which were formed or organized at the Court House in said County; that the company being formed met 2 or 3 times a week at the Court House and was mustered till the time of marching; that it marched in July to go to the Great Bridge near Norfolk, and passed Albemarle sound in a boat, and arrived at Nixonton about the last of July or the first of August; that it Nixonton, information was received that the British had evacuated Norfolk, and the Company returned to Tyrrell County, and that the applicant arrived at home about the 20 August or perhaps a few days later, having served out the time for which he was enlisted. The Applicant says that being thus engaged he did nothing during the tour (or little or nothing) in the pursuit of his ordinary occupation. Of the officers belonging to the Company he remembers at this time the name James Phelps the Captain and of Lovick Swain the Lieutenant; he remembers the names of no more oral others of them. Of the privates he knows of but one now living besides himself though perhaps they are all others, and his name is Eleazer Craddick¹ of Tyrrell County.

Shortly after returning as aforesaid the applicant again joined a company of nine or eleven man, a Lieutenant whose name was Jonathan Sawyer (now dead) an orderly Sergeant named Benjamin Alexander (also dead) and seven or nine privates, embodied at the Court House in the County. Whether these men were drafted, or enlisted, or volunteered, or whether he himself was drafted, enlisted or volunteered, he does not now recollect. Nevertheless he joined them as early as the 10th of September 1781, to serve for three months, and shortly thereafter, he marched with them to Tarborough in the said State, there, upon their arrival they found a company of about 60 men stationed. Remaining at Tarborough but a short time, he with his company of 9 or 11 man, marched agreeably to orders to Kingston or Kinston NC, leaving at

¹ S8252

Tarborough, the troops he had found at that place. The march to Kingston, was he understood the commencement of one designed for Charleston SC. At Kingston they found a Company of about twenty-four men. The baggage horse of his small party was at this place either stolen or otherwise lost out of a field into which he had been placed. This loss he believes delayed in some degree their departure from Kingston. While he remained with his company at Kingston, he and they with the other privates already there were employed as a guard upon the jail. The jail had several prisoners of some kind in it, and to his memory it seems, they were Tories, and it was feared they would either break out themselves or their friends would collect together and released them. While he was yet at Kingston, a Major Shepherd arrived there with a body of men, with whom he had marched to Charleston some little time previously. At his return news was received that the British had evacuated Charleston²; and for this or some other cause, perhaps because their time of service was nearly expired, he and his small company were directed to return to their homes, and he accordingly arrived at home about the middle or latter end December 1781; having served a few days longer than the time for which he enlisted. Of this company of 9 or 11 man, the applicant does not at this time remember or know of one that is living besides himself.

He says he was born in Tyrrell County on the 9th July 1763 and has the record of his birth at home in his prayer book; that he lived in Tyrrell County at the time of enlisting as aforesaid, and has lived there ever since; he has stated how he was called into service, and was not, as far as he remembers the substitute of anybody; he has stated the names of all the officers with whom he had connections so far as he can remember the same; he joined no Regiment, and has stated the circumstances of his services; his discharges he received, the first from Captain James Phelps, and the second from Lieutenant Jonathan Sawyer & they are lost.

As to his character for veracity, and as to the general belief that he was a soldier in the Revolutionary War, he refers inquiries, if any, to General Daniel N. Bateman, a Senator for Carroll County in the last Legislature of this State; to Colonel Zebulon Tarkinton; John Houghton; Francis Overton, Eleazer Craddick, William Spruill and others in Tyrrell County, living nearby all of them, in his neighborhood. The elder portion of these will testify as he believes, if not all of them, that he has ever been reputed to have served in the Revolutionary War, and all of them to the goodness of his character for truth & conduct.

The Applicant hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present and declares that his name is not on the pension roll of any State, nor of that of the United States.

The said Jesse Spruill, being duly sworn as aforesaid, on his oath says, that the facts stated in the foregoing pages as of his knowledge are true, and those otherwise stated he believes to be true. There is no clergyman residing in this County.

S/ Jesse Spruill

Sworn to and subscribed in open Court the day and year aforesaid.

Test: S/ Jos. Halsy, Clk

[William Spruill and Eleazer Craddick gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

State of North Carolina Tyrrell County

On this day the 29th of January 1833, William Spruill of the said County personally appeared in open Court the Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions of the said County now sitting

² The British evacuated Charleston in December 1782, not 1781 as indicated by this veteran.

and being duly sworn & interrogated as to what he knows & believes, on his oath says,

That he is 71 years old, was born in Tyrrell County, has the record of his birth at home in his Bible, has lived throughout his life in the neighborhood where he was born and never further from Jesse Spruill's residence than five or six miles; has known Jesse Spruill from a small boy, believes him to be 69 or 70 years of age, is his first cousin, himself and the said Jesse being the children of brothers.

That he knows Jesse Spruill did belong to a company of militia which was embodied at the Court House in Tyrrell County in the year 1781, does not remember the month but it was hot whether; saw him two or three times mustering with the Company at that Court House; did not see them when they marched, but they marched in hot weather for Virginia, for the Great Bridge, near Norfolk, as he believes; they crossed the sound as he believes, taking water at the mouth of Scuppernong River and crossing to or near to Nixonton: does not know anything more of his service on that occasion, nor when he returned; believes he went with the Company and returned when his time of service was out, and that he served 3 months.

The witness says further, that he believes Jesse Spruill after his return as aforesaid and in the same year again joined the Army. He did not however see him in connection with any company or body of military men but he believes he went southward & joined the Army, and was absent for some time, how long does not know nor remember; but from the impression made upon his mind at that time which is still remaining though less distinctly, and because three months was the usual and shortest time of enlistment, believes he served his time of three months out on this occasion if not more. Don't know of any other military service rendered by him in the revolutionary war, nor does he now remember to have heard it said or believed that he served more: But knows and believes as above stated that he did serve as a soldier in the revolutionary war; and that it is generally believed in the neighborhood, especially by the elder portions of the inhabitants that he did render such service. He says that Jesse Spruill is a man of fair character for truth and conduct in his neighborhood.

The said William Spruill being duly sworn as aforesaid, on his oath says that the facts stated in the foregoing affidavit as to his knowledge are true, and those otherwise stated he believes to be true.

S/ Wm Spruill

Sworn to and subscribed in open Court the day & year above mentioned

Test: S/ Jos. Halsy, Clk