

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of William Spruill R10022

Transcribed by Will Graves

fn21SC/NC[HQ]

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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. 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 North Carolina Tyrrell County

On this day the 29th day of January 1833, personally appeared in open Court, in the Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions of the said County, now sitting, William Spruill [sic] a resident of the said County aged seventy-one years who being first duly sworn, doth on his oath make the following declaration, in order to obtain the benefit of the provision made by the act of Congress of the 7 June 1832: some time in the month of March 1780 he enlisted in the Army of the United States in Charleston, in a company commanded by Captain Hugh Johnson or Johnston, in the __ Regiment, in the __ line, under the following named officers, General Hogan [sic, James Hogun] & Lincoln [Benjamin Lincoln], Colonel Lowrie, Hugh Johnson Captain, __ Hall Lieutenant, John McCoy orderly Sergeant; He does not remember the Regiment, nor whether it was in the North Carolina line or South Carolina line of the Army. He saith that he enlisted as above mentioned and served as he shall relate, having first enlisted and served in the militia, and that the following are, to the best of his recollection, the facts and circumstances of his service. --

That a draft of Militia was had in Tyrrell County, in which County he then resided, about the last of October or first of November 1779; that he belonged to the company from which the draft was to be made, and not choosing to stand his draft he volunteered to serve for three months from the time the company should be formed or organized; that the Company was formed in the earlier part of December 1779, at the Court House in the County, and that he duly joined the same agreeably to orders received for that purpose; that of this Company Jeremiah Bateman (now dead) was Captain, James Long,¹ (now living in Washington County) was Lieutenant and Isaac Partrick [sic, Isaac Patrick?] (now dead) was Ensign; that shortly after the organization of the company as aforesaid, the weather set in so cold they could not march till sometime in February 1780; nonetheless, though the company could not march, it remained organized and was mustered once or twice a week and held in readiness for marching at command, and the time of the enlistment went on, and continued to draw nearer and nearer to its end; that the Company (of which he himself was one) marched in February to Charleston via the lower road by Wilmington and Georgetown and arrived in Charleston in March 1780 say from the 1st to the 15th of the month; that other companies had preceded them, and others followed and came afterwards; That on his arrival in Charleston, and while he remained attached to the Militia, his Company commanded by the officers aforesaid and himself joined a Regiment commanded as he believes by a Colonel Mathews. He does not himself recollect the name of this Colonel; but James Long, his old Lieutenant of Washington County, above mentioned, has

¹ [James Long R6428](#)

recently informed him, his name was Mathews, and he states that to have been his name upon this information; the time for which he volunteered in Tyrrell County, to serve as aforesaid, expired some short time after his arrival in Charleston, when, instead of taking his discharge and returning home with others of his company, he volunteered a second time and joined the company commanded by Captain Hugh Johnson as aforesaid; That on joining this company he received assurances that his wages and bounty and other compensation should, in all respects, be equal to that of other soldiers then at that place in the service of the United States; that of this compensation however, he never received to the value of one cent in anything whatsoever, except the bounty at the time of enlisting, which being in the paper money of that day, did him little or no good, and except one suit of clothes, and his food and drink, and his arms for fighting; that he continued to serve as a private soldier in that Company until he was taken prisoner by the British at the capitulation of Charleston, when he was paroled and permitted to come home by the British General Sir Henry Clinton, and he arrived at home about the 20 June 1780, having served in the Militia and Regular Army altogether a few days longer than 6 months, counting from the organization of his company at Tyrrell Court House, till his return home, as before stated.

He states, that when he arrived at Charleston the enemy was already there that their fleet lay some little distance below Fort Moultrie; that they landed their troops and fortified themselves on the southward of the Town across the River; and shortly after placed themselves betwixt the two rivers and fortified themselves there; that from Forts Johnson and Wappoo (Wappoo or some such name he thinks one of the forts was called) they fired cannon shot upon the Town, and bombs they fired from a fortification nearer the Town, and the town was thereby very considerably damaged; That their attack was received and returned by the American forces with what fortitude force and effect they could; That the siege lasted thirty-six days and nights, when the Town capitulated or was taken, and he was taken prisoner, and was paroled and came home as aforesaid.

In the course of a week, perhaps in two or three days only, after this capitulation or taking of the Town, the magazine which the British took from the American Army, blew up. The explosion killed several horses and men perhaps many persons were killed by it. It blew up several houses, set fire to the Town, burned down a square of it, and amongst other houses, consumed the "great Jail."

The parole what he received from the British General, he kept for 10 or 15 or perhaps more years; he kept it till after the was married; and since then it is lost, he knows not how, and has not seen it for many years: did not know or believes nor think it could possibly ever be of any value to him. --

He states that he was born in Tyrrell County North Carolina on the 28 October 1761; that he was living in that County when he enlisted in the Army as aforesaid, and has lived there during his life, when at home, not far from the place on which he was born; and as to the officers who served at or about the time and place that he did, he states he cannot recollect the names of any of them; but Colonel Silby Harney [Selby Harney] was one, and of the regular Army as he believes; Colonel Lowrie before mentioned another; a Captain Harney served, but does not recollect whether he was of the militia or regular Army; there was a fifer named Lowe from Bertie County NC; Josiah Powers was the drummer, & his brother John Powers was a fifer of the Company with which he marched to Charleston, and they afterwards became the fifer and drummer of Captain Hugh Johnson's company above mentioned; he has already stated the names of the American Generals to be Hogun & Lincoln; and of the British Generals, besides Clinton,

already mentioned, there was Lord Cornwallis. He states that being a private soldier he had not much intercourse with Officers, and was kept so constantly engaged at his post and duty that he did not learn the names of but few of them, got acquainted with still fewer, and of them he cannot now remember all. As to the circumstances of his service; these he says he has already detailed.

He states, that the record of his birth is in his Bible at home; that he received no discharge but came away on parole as aforesaid; and he refers to the following persons in his neighborhood, who had been long acquainted with him, and who will as he believes testify as to the fairness of his character for truth and conduct, and as to the common report and belief concerning him that he did serve as a private soldier in the revolutionary war, to wit, General Daniel N. Bateman, a Senator in the last session of the Legislature of this State; Colonel Zebulon Tarkinton; Jesse Spruill; Francis Overton; Ebenezer Pettigrew; Captain James Long, his old Lieutenant in the Company that was organized at Tyrrell Court House in December 1779, and indeed to his neighborhood generally, though most of these latter are too young to be contemporary with his revolutionary services, or even with the times when it was frequently or much talked of.

The applicant also says, that he did twice in the month of November last past call upon Captain James Long, who was the Lieutenant of the Company with which the applicant marched to Charleston as aforesaid, that he found him in tolerable health except as to the bleeding piles; that he persuaded him to come to court and give evidence as to what he might know and believe of the applicant's services in the revolutionary war; and that he received for answer, that he, (the said James Long) was now about 82 years of age; that his disease had prevented him for several years from riding even in a Gig or sulky; that he was addicted to bleeding profusely; and that although he wished to obtain a pension for his on services he could not go to the Court House of his own County for the purpose, and was compelled to refuse the applicant's request. The applicant states that James Long resides from the Court House in Washington County where he lives, about 14 miles, and about 21 miles distant from the Court House of Tyrrell County. Not being able to get him to come to Court and give his evidence, the applicant states that he has taken his affidavit, and submits it, together with this his own declaration.

William Spruill, 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 the agency of any State, nor on that of the United States. --

William Spruill, being duly sworn as aforesaid, on his oath saith, that all the facts herein stated as of his knowledge our troops; and that those otherwise stated he believes to be true.

S/ Wm. Spruill



Sworn to and subscribed in open Court

S/ Jos. Halsy, Clk

We Jesse Spruill residing in Carroll County & [indecipherable word] miles distant from William Spruill, and General Daniel Bateman residing in Carroll County & one & half miles distance from William Spruill, do hereby certify that we are well acquainted with him, who has subscribed the above declaration; that we believe him to be about seventy-one years of age or thereabouts; that he is reputed and believed in the neighborhood where he resides to have been a soldier of the revolution, and that we concur in that opinion.

Sworn to and subscribed the ___ day of January 1833

S/ Jesse Spruill
S/ Danl. N. Bateman

S/ Jos. Halsy, Clk

State of North Carolina Tyrrell County: Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions of the same County, now sitting,

On this day the 29th day of January 1833 personally appeared in Open Court, Jesse Spruill,² a resident of the said County who being duly sworn according to law, on his oath saith,

That he was born in the said County on the 9 in July 1763, and has the record of his age in his prayer book at home; That he resides now, and always, when at home, has resided in the neighborhood where he was born;

That he knows of William Spruill joining a militia Company at Tyrrell Court House in the year 1780, and of his marching with that company as soon as the freeze broke up in the winter of 1779 & 1780; of his being mustered with that company at the Court House, some weeks (don't know how long) before he marched; and that the company was delayed in marching by the very cold weather. He knows that it was said, at the time when that Company left, that it had marched to Charleston SC, and that William Spruill went with it; don't know that he did, because he (the witness) did not see him go, and was not with the Company nor at Charleston when nor after the Company arrived; it was so said and believed at the time, and has been so said and believed ever since; he has never heard it disputed. He states that William Spruill returned home sometime in the summer of 1780; does not remember the month, believes it was in June, the corn at the time was, some of it, knee-high and some not so high. He learned from William Spruill at or some short time after his return that Charleston had been taken by the British; indeed he had heard a report of it before, but had it confirmed by him. William Spruill also told him at that time of his being taken prisoner and paroled by the enemy. The witness saith that he saw William Spruill dressed, & some short time after he returned in clothes indicating that he had been a soldier, and like those usually given to, or worn by soldiers at that time; that these clothes were different from those worn by men not soldiers: That he believes the said William Spruill is 71 years old last October or November; that he was born in the same neighborhood with him the witness; that he has lived near the witness throughout his life, never further apart than 5 or 6 miles; that he has known him ever since he was a small boy; that he and William Spruill or first cousins being brothers' children, that William Spruill has always been and is now respected for his veracity and conduct.

The said Jesse Spruill being duly sworn as aforesaid, on his oath says that the facts stated herein as of his own knowledge are true; and those otherwise stated he believes to be true.

S/ Jesse Spruill



State of North Carolina Washington County

Personally appeared before me Charles Phelps one of the Justices of the Peace in and for said County Captain James Long, at his own house, in the said County, who being duly sworn, on his oath says that he was born in Tyrrell, now Washington County, in the said State, on the 8

² [Jesse Spruill R10021](#)

day of October 1755 or thereabouts and that he is now in the 77th year of his age: or thereabouts for a long time he has been so much indisposed and disabled as not to be able to ride on a horse or gig without endangering his health and perhaps his life, and that he cannot attend the Court of his County distant about 14 miles, nor the Court at Tyrrell, the adjoining County, distance of about 20 miles.

That he has known William Spruill of Tyrrell County ever since he was a small boy; that he remembers that he himself was the Lieutenant of a company of militia which was embodied at Tyrrell Court House in December 1779, of which Jeremiah Bateman was the Captain, and that the said William Spruill was a private in that company; that the company was prevented from marching by the very cold weather in the winter of 1779 & 1780; that he marched as soon as the weather permitted for Charleston South Carolina via Wilmington and Georgetown, and arrived in Charleston in March 1780; that he the said William Spruill marched with the Company, kept with it, and arrived with it; that the time of service of that Company was out at the expiration of three months; that himself and others quit the Army at the expiration of the time of service, but that William Spruill did not; he again enlisted in Charleston and that he the witness left him there.

The witness further saith that he knows of no other revolutionary service performed by the said William Spruill in the Army or militia of those days; that he believes he served at least six months, that it has always been reputed in the neighborhood that he was a revolutionary soldier; that the said William Spruill is of good general character for truth and conduct.

S/ Jas. Long, Capt.
at the Time

*2d Army Capt.
at the Time*