

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of John Spears R9966¹

Martha

fn76NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

3/4/11

[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 and any other errors to my attention.]

Application for a Certificate

State of North Carolina Cumberland County

Be it known that on this 25 day of October 1822 came John Spears personally before me Nicholas Robinson a Justice of the peace for said County of Cumberland and on his oath declares, that he is the identical John Spears, who served in the Army of the Revolution in the company commanded by Captain Israel Folsom in the Regiment commanded by Colonel Philip Alston, that in consequence of wounds & disabilities received whilst in the Service of the United States, he was placed on the pension list of the State of North Carolina & was afterwards transferred to the pension Roll of the United States, that he is now entitled to a pension of \$4.80 per month, but that he never received a certificate of that fact from the War Department, & now makes this oath for the purpose of obtaining one.

Sworn to & subscribed before me this 25th day of October 1822

S/ N. Robinson, JP

S/ John Spears, X his mark

[fn p. 25: commission dated March 15, 1826 issued by the federal judge Henry Potter to Doctors John H Hawkins of Haywood in Chatham County and Doctor Thomas Cottrell of Chatham or Cumberland County to examine John Spears to determine the extent of his disability.]

[fn p. 26]

Chatham County North Carolina 5th April 1826

Agreeably to a commission to us directed from Henry Potter District Judge United States for North Carolina we have this day [indecipherable word] on John Spears of Cumberland County and State aforesaid to ascertain his situation as respects his bodily infirmities etc. and make the following report of facts as far as we have been able to collect them – It is known to one of us that he has been in a helpless condition for upwards of 4 years, that he is disabled from all labor from a wound received (as he has hitherto alleged) in Moore County² North Carolina

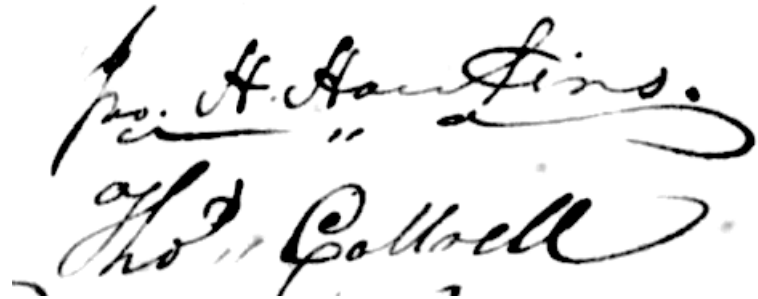
¹ BLWt7075-160-55

² Since the veteran says he was wounded in Moore County, and served under Philip Alston, I speculate that it is likely he was wounded on July 29, 1781 at any engagement had Colonel Philip Alston's house. The engagement is known as the House in the Horseshoe. http://www.carolana.com/NC/Revolution/revolution_house_in_the_horseshoe.html

during the revolutionary War, – But at this time his mind is so impaired by disease and old age that he cannot now give a correct account of his situation. He now labors under palsy. His left knee is perfectly stiff and wears the scars that account for its stiffness. From the best testimony we have been able to collect he is upwards of eighty years of age.

S/ Jno. H. Hawkins

S/ Thos. Cottrell

The image shows two handwritten signatures in cursive. The top signature reads "Jno. H. Hawkins." and the bottom signature reads "Thos. Cottrell".

[fn p. 11]

State of North Carolina Cumberland County

On this the 12th day of June 1854 Personally came before me a Justice of the Court of Pleas Quarter Sessions of said County, Martha Spears to me well known, aged 89, years, a resident of said County & State, who being first duly sworn according to law, doth on her oath, make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefits of the provision made by the act of Congress passed 3rd day of February 1853, granting Pensions to widows of persons who served during the Revolutionary War, that she is the widow of John Spears who was a soldier in the Revolutionary War & was placed on the Pension Roll In the lead Pensions for the North Carolina Roll at the rate of \$36 per annum commencing she thinks September 4 1808, that he was subsequently increased to \$57.60 per annum commencing 24 April 1816 & I again increased to \$96 per annum commencing on the 5 April 1826 – all of which will fully appear by reference to the papers now on file in the Pension Office & to which papers she now refers –

She further declares that she was married to the said John Spears about the year 1814 by Richard Huckabee a Justice of the Peace in the said County of Cumberland & that her said husband died on the 19th June 1828 that she was not married to him prior to 2nd day of January 1800, but at the time above stated. She further declares that she is now a widow.

S/ Martha Spears, X her mark

[fn p. 6: bounty land claim filed March 23rd, 1855 by Martha Spears, 88, the widow of John Spears; that she married him in Cumberland County 46 or 47 years ago; that they were married by Richard Huckabee a justice of the peace; that her name prior to her marriage was Martha Cook; that her husband died in Cumberland County North Carolina June 19, 1828 in that portion of Cumberland County which is now Harnett County; she states that her husband was first placed on the pension roll as an invalid on September 4, 1808 at the Fayetteville North Carolina agency.]

[fn p. 21: letter dated Raleigh, NC 6th April 1838 from C. M. Cook in which he refers to the widow as his sister.]