

## Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Gideon Spencer R9973

Ann Spencer

f75VA<sup>1</sup>

Transcribed by Will Graves

3/25/12: rev'd 8/27/21

[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' or 'undeciphered' 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 8<sup>th</sup> of June 1786." Please call material errors or omissions to my attention. Researchers should not rely solely on the transcripts but should review the originals for themselves. These transcripts are intended as an aid to research, not to be used in lieu thereof.]

[p 2]

State of Virginia County of Powhatan } to wit

On this 27th day of November 1856 personally appeared before me William Wren, a Justice of the Peace duly authorized to administer oaths within and for the County and State aforesaid Ann Spencer aged seventy-two years who being 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 on the 3rd of February 1853, granting pensions to widows of persons who served during the Revolutionary War, That she is the widow of Gideon's Spencer who was a Lieutenant of Cavalry in a Company commanded as she believes by Captain Read in the Virginia State line, That there was a land warrant for 2666 2/3 acres numbered 7,300 issued to Clement M. Spencer & others on or about January 11th 1833 by the Land office at Richmond, Virginia, for the services in the Revolutionary War by her deceased husband, The same may be referred to in "Senate Document 2<sup>nd</sup> Sess. 23rd Congress 1834 & 35, page 30, Document 4? The said parties there referred to being the children of her deceased husband.

She further declares that she was married to the said Gideon Spencer on the 20th [?]<sup>2</sup> day of February 1805, and that her name before marriage was Ann Porter, That she was married to the said Gideon Spencer in the County of Powhatan by the Reverend Mister Watkins a Minister of the Gospel, That her said husband died in Charlotte County Virginia on the 8th day of May 1822. That she was not married to him prior to the 2nd day of January 1800 – but at the time above stated. She further declares that she is now a widow never having married after the death of her deceased husband, the said Gideon Spencer. That her said husband the said Gideon Spencer was born and raised, lived and died in Charlotte County Virginia.

S/ Ann Spencer



[In a supporting affidavit the following statement is made by the deponents: "That the family Bible is now before the said affiant's, in the following is an extract from same in reference to marriage to which: 'Gideon's Spencer married his 2nd wife Ann Porter the 21st February 1805.'"]

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<sup>1</sup> Va Half pay Act. July 5, 1832

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Wednesday the 20<sup>th</sup> of November 1782

Also a petition of Gideon Spencer on behalf of himself and a company of militia who served under his command at the siege of York; setting forth, that the pay of the said company have been liquidated by the Auditors in paper money, and praying that the certificates granted for the same may be exchanged and specie certificates granted in lieu thereof –

Wednesday 27 November 1782

Mr. Richard Lee reported from the committee of trade that the committee had &c &c

1. Resolved that [it] is the opinion of this committee, That the petition of Gideon Spencer setting forth, that at the siege of York, the petitioner commanded a company of militia from the County of Charlotte, that previous to the passage of the act “making provision for the payment of the militia in specie” the petitioner settled a pay roll with the auditors of public accounts, and receive certificates payable in paper money as well for his own services as those of his said company which remain unpaid, praying that the Auditors of public accounts may be directed and empowered to grant the holders of the said certificates, specie certificates for their services in lieu of those issued, is reasonable, –

The foregoing extracts are truly taken from the Journal of the House of Delegates of Virginia

S/ James E Heath, Auditor Virginia

[p 5: Power of attorney dated January 9, 1833 and granted by Mace C. Spencer of Buckingham County Virginia, and one of the children of Gideon Spencer deceased late of the County of Charlotte. He states the following in this document "whereas my Father Gideon Spencer in his lifetime was entitled to half pay and bounty land as Lieutenant in the Troop of Cavalry commanded by Captain Edmund Read in the Virginia State line, during the Revolutionary War...."]

[p 11: Power of attorney dated November 30, 1832 given by Ann Spencer, widow of the late Colonel Gideon Spencer of Charlotte; Edwin J Spencer, Isaac P Spencer, Caroline M. Spencer, Ann E. S. Spencer, Maria L. Spencer and Julia F Spencer authorizing the attorney to pursue their claim for half pay due Gideon Spencer as an officer in the revolutionary war.]

[p 15: Power of attorney dated January 2, 1833 given in Prince Edward County Virginia by Ransom Price, husband of Mary C. Spencer, and James D. Price, husband of Harriet P. Spencer, empowering their attorney to pursue the half pay due Gideon Spencer, the father of their wives.]

[p 17: facts in summary letter: The children of the veteran's 1st wife: Clement M; Pitman C; Mace C.; Lion Gideon; Thomas F.; Mary A., married Ransom Price; Harriet P., married James D. Price; Julia, married John Daniel; children of second wife: Edwin I; Isaac P.; Caroline M.; Ann E. S.; Maria L.; and Julia F.]

[p 51]

I James Mullins<sup>3</sup> of the County of Charlotte and State of Virginia, do hereby certify that I am nearly in the 82nd year of my age, and was a soldier of the Revolutionary war. I well recollect, went into service, of meeting in the County of Goochland with Edmund Read and Gideon

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<sup>3</sup> [James Mullings \(Mullins\) S10251](#)

Spencer of Charlotte, both of whom were officers in the same company, under the command of Major John Nelson of Mecklenburg County. At this great distance in time, I do not recollect distinctly what commission either of them held in the cavalry, but know they were officers in the same company; and am under the impression that Edmund Read was Captain, and Gideon Spencer was Lieutenant. I also recollect a Frenchman who was an officer attached to Major Nelson's command I believe by the name of Captain R. Mong, or Mongue [perhaps Charles Armand, Marquis de la Rouarie], for I do not know how the name is spelt in French. We first met with Major Nelson's troop of cavalry in Goochland and marched together to the Green Springs [July 6, 1781] in James City County. I cannot say that Edmund Read or Gideon Spencer was engaged in the battle fought at that place, as I did not see them engaged; but I have every reason to believe they were engaged in it, from the circumstance of their being on the ground at the time. 3 or 4 days after the little battle at Green Springs, the company to which I was attached was ordered to Maubin Hills [Malvern Hills], a little higher up James River, I was discharged on the 19th of July 1781 – I never afterwards had an opportunity of seeing either Edmund Read or Gideon Spencer in the service.

S/ James Mullines



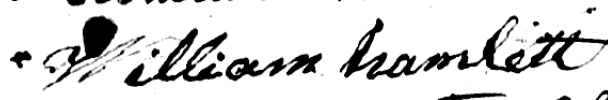
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Virginia, Charlotte County, to wit

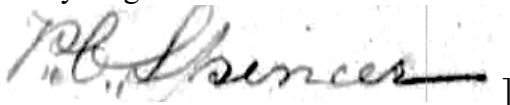
This day William Hamlett<sup>4</sup> came before me a Justice of the Peace for the County aforesaid, and being duly sworn according to law, made the following statement of facts:

That he the said William Hamlett was a soldier during the Revolutionary War, and was well acquainted with the late Colonel Gideon Spencer of Charlotte County until the time of his death; that the said Gideon Spencer was a valuable Officer in the Revolutionary War, and was promoted while in the service, and the said William Hamlett, moreover, states, that he well recollects that the said Gideon Spencer was an Officer in the Virginia State line, and was Lieutenant in the company of Cavalry commanded by Captain Edmund Read.

S/ William Hamlett



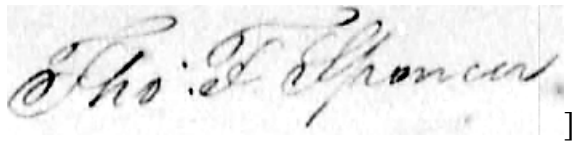
[p 68: Power of attorney dated December 31, 1832 given by Pitman C Spencer of Petersburg Virginia, one of the children and heirs at law of Gideon Spencer, deceased, late of Charlotte County Virginia.



[p 71: Power of attorney dated December 3, 1832, given by Thomas F Spencer of Charlotte County one of the children of Gideon Spencer, deceased, late of Charlotte County Virginia.

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<sup>4</sup> [William P. Hamlett S13305](#)

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[p 74: Power of attorney dated December 31, 1832, given by Sion Gideon Spencer of Cumberland County Virginia as one of the children of Gideon Spencer, deceased late of the County of Charlotte Virginia.

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Addendum to Gideon Spencer R9973

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. 26 Aug 2021.

[From [bounty-land records in the Library of Virginia](#) indexed as Spencer, Gideon. The file includes a copy of the above statement by William Hamlett but nothing else of substance regarding the service of Gideon Spencer. The following letter is also in the file, apparently by mistake.]

Charlotte Ct House/ December 4<sup>th</sup> 1832

Dear Sir, On yesterday Mr. Winston Henry, son of the late Governor Patrick Henry, assind me to examine into the claim of Capt Thomas Ewell of Halifax [see endnote] for half-pay and Bounty land. Mr. Henry married a daughter of Capt Thomas Ewell of Halifax, who belonged to the First State Regiment in the Virginia State line during the Revolutionary war. Mr. Henry does not know that Capt Ewell has ever obtained any thing for his services; if he has not, which I suppose you can readily ascertain, he wishes to employ you as agent in his behalf, as also, for the Children of Capt Ewell, to prosecute and recover whatever may be coming to them as heirs of the said Capt Thomas Ewell. You will be pleased to inform me of the standing of Capt Ewell's claim, and if any thing is coming to the heirs, will immediately send on a power of attorney authorising you to prosecute and demand the Treasury whatever may be coming to the heirs. [The ]ate Capt Thomas Ewell was in the Virginia State line, [page torn] proof can be obtained. He died some 8 or 9 years ago and left seven children. By reference to the official list as advertised by you, you will find the name of Capt Ewell.

I have taken the liberty of making this an envelope to the many papers enclosed you, for the purpose of saving as much postage as possible, which you will be pleased to excuse. In haste &c with much respect &c/ Wm J. B. Bedford

NOTE: There were two known captains named Thomas Ewell. The heirs of Capt. Thomas Ewell of Princess Anne County VA filed pension application R14502. The heirs of Capt. Thomas Winder Ewell of Prince William County VA filed bounty-land application BLWt2497-300 for his services in the First State Regiment. I could find no record of a Capt. Thomas Ewell from Halifax County VA. Edward Winston Henry, son of Patrick Henry, married Jane Randolph Yuille, daughter of Thomas Yuille/Ewell (1749-1825) of Halifax County VA, and this Thomas Yuille appears to be the one referred to in the 1832 letter above. I could find no record of Thomas Yuille/Ewell having served as a captain, however, so it appears he was confused with Thomas Winder Ewell.