

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of John Sperry R9992

f43VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

3/29/12

[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.]

[f p. 3]

State of Virginia County of Frederick: Sct.

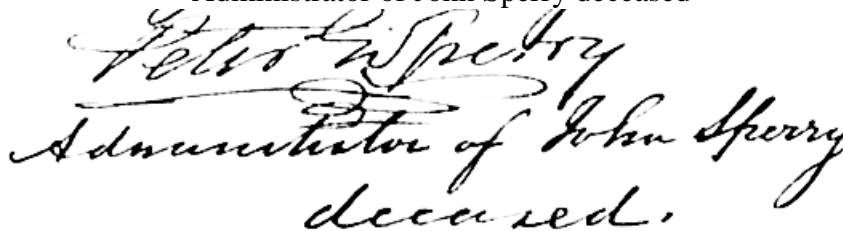
On this 20th day of March 1854 personally appeared before me Abraham Nulton a Justice of the Peace in and for the County of Frederick in the State of Virginia aforesaid, duly authorized to administer oaths according to law Peter G Sperry, administrator of John Sperry, deceased, who was a soldier in the war of the Revolution. The said Peter G Sperry as administrator of John Sperry, deceased, makes the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the provision made by an act of Congress passed the 7th of June 1832, full benefit of certain soldiers who served in the Revolutionary war for a period of two years and more, or a period not less than six months, pay for life &c &c as follows: to wit: That John Sperry served as a private soldier in the Company commanded by Captain Charles M Thurston¹ in war of the Revolution. That said Captain Charles M Thurston joined the Army under the command of General George Washington at or near Princeton and that said John Sperry was in the Battle of Princeton [January 3, 1777] as a soldier, and was in various other battles, and particularly the Battle of Brandywine [September 11, 1777]. That he said administrator believes that said John Sperry performed a period of duty in said Revolutionary war as a soldier under Captain Charles M Thurston, and under other Captains (whose names he cannot give) of more than two years. That after and before Captain Charles M Thurston was promoted, said John Sperry was transferred to other commands, but to what particular command his administrator cannot say. He states that evidence of the service of said John Sperry as aforesaid might be found in the Department of the United States at Washington City, that on one occasion the Deposition of said John Sperry many years ago was taken to be used as evidence in an application for pay or pension made by the heirs of said Captain Charles M Thurston, for the service of said Thurston in the war of the Revolution. He states that John Sperry never in his life time received any pay as Pension from the government of the United States nor from the State of Virginia and as a reason for this your affiant or declarant, administrator as aforesaid, states that John Sperry was a very remarkable man in this to wit: that he never would converse with any man [?] as a general thing; and would not answer questions on any general subject but with all his singularity of character he was remarkable for his uprightness and integrity. Said John Sperry was Born on the 10th day of November 1757 and on the 29th of September 1779 married to one Sarah Maria Orrbetter, and by this marriage had the following children all of whom are living to which John Sperry, Thomas Sperry, Isaac Sperry and Peter G Sperry and Sarah M Reed Read who was Sarah M. Sperry, that now the wife of John Reed and M. A. Graves who was M. A. Sperry but now the wife of George B Graves. That Sarah Maria

¹ [Charles Mynn Thruston Dis. \[X806\]](#)

Sperry wife of said John Sperry died in Winchester Frederick County in Virginia on the 3rd day of March 1836 and the said John Sperry died on the 14 day of November 1842 in Winchester Frederick County in the State of Virginia. That the six children of John Sperry now deceased, and before named reside in the State of Virginia but are dispersed and resided various places, and this makes it necessary in the opinion of declarant to apply for compensation under the act of Congress aforesaid by and in the capacity of Administrator of John Sperry deceased. The declarant states that he is one of the children of said John and Sarah Maria Sperry both deceased and has also qualified as the Administrator aforesaid. He asked that the Departments at Washington City be examined and especially the rolls of the Company commanded by Captain Charles M Thurston and the transfers from that Company to others at the time that Thurston was promoted, and the rolls of said Company after it was under the command of another officer after the promotion of said Thurston be examined and the papers in the application made by the heirs or legatees of said Charles M Thurston full pay in right of the services of said Charles M Thurston be examined for the affidavit or deposition of said John Sperry now deceased which in that case is to be found in the papers of which are either at Washington City District of Columbia or at Richmond Virginia, and that all such other and further search be made so as to establish the service performed by said John Sperry deceased as a soldier in the war of the Revolution and that such Pension may be allowed to said Administrator of said John Sperry for distribution between the children and heirs of said John Sperry deceased.

S/ Peter G Sperry

Administrator of John Sperry deceased



Peter G Sperry
Administrator of John Sperry
deceased.

[f p. 10]

State of Virginia Frederick County, to wit:

This 15th day of January in the year 1833 John Sperry a resident of the County and State aforesaid, aged seventy-six years personally appeared before me a Justice of the Peace in the County aforesaid and being first duly sworn according to law made oath – that either in the year 1776 or '77, this affiant cannot positively state which, he was a private in a Volunteer Company raised by the late Colonel Charles M. Thurston in the County aforesaid – that the said Thurston with his Company joined the Army under General Washington in New Jersey: that soon after joining the Army Colonel Thurston with a force composed of several Companies, with the command of which he was entrusted by General Washington attacked a British Redoubt at or near a place called Piscataway or Quibble Town [present New Market, New Jersey, June 22, 1777], Colonel Thurston was leading the attack and was near the enemy when he received a wound in one of his arms. This affiant was near Colonel Thurston when he received the wound, and thought he was fainting from pain and the loss of blood, when two of the soldiers carried him from the field. This affiant thinks that the Company served about three months. He also thinks that Colonel Thurston took with him into the battle his son, then a mere boy. Given under my hand and seal this day and year first above written

(signed) Ch H. Clark {LS}

Virginia, Frederick County Sct.

Executive Department Richmond April 10th, 1854

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true copy of a deposition filed in this Department, as evidence to support the claim of the representatives of Colonel Charles M. Thurston for revolutionary services

S/ George W Mumford, Secretary of the Commonwealth

[f p. 14: Evidence given June 14, 1854 in Frederick County Virginia by Mrs. Margaret Miller and Mary A Lauch, both aged over 60 and residents of Frederick County Virginia; that John Sperry died in Frederick County Virginia at Winchester November 14, 1842 and his wife Maria Sarah died in Frederick County Winchester, Virginia March 3rd 1836 and that there are living at this time 6 children of John and Maria Sarah Sperry: namely: John, Thomas, Peter and Isaac Sperry and Mary Sarah who married John P. Reed, and Ann Maria who married George B Graves.]

[f p. 30]

Certificate of birth and baptism of John Sperry who was a son of Thomas Sperry his mother was Sarah Christmann. He had 10 brothers and sisters viz.: Sarah, Thomas, Jacob, Maria, Peter, Maria Magdalena, Daniel, Rachel, Abraham and Rebecca.

He was born on the 10th of November 1757 in Frederick County, State of Virginia, he was baptized by the Reverend ___ in his youth, and confirmed in the evangelists reformed church by Reverend Weimert in the fall of 1787 in the Winchester church, in Frederick County State of Virginia. He was married on the 29th of September 1779 with Maria's Sarah Urlettig a daughter of Valentine Urlettig. Her mother was Catharine Soltz. She had 6 brothers and sisters, viz.: Valentine, Ann Margaret, Philip, Jacob, Gertrude, Maria Magdalena. She was born on the 28th of December 1756 in Berks County State of Pennsylvania, baptized by Reverend ___ in her youth. She was confirmed in the evangelists reformed church by the Reverend Wm Bos on the 1st Easterday 1771 in the Reading church, Berks County and State of Pennsylvania. Said John Sperry had with said Maria Sarah Urlettig the following children, viz.

Names	When born	Baptized by	Witnessed	Confirmed in the evangelists	Married to
Catherine	5 th Octbr. 1758	W. in his youth	Catherine Weidelt Sperry	reformed church by W. in August, 1782	Thomas Sperry, Sept 29 th 1779
John	10 th January 1759	W. in his youth	The parents	reformed church by W. in August, 1782	Rebecca Sperry, Dec 21 st 1779
Jacob	18 th February 1760	W. in his youth	The parents	reformed church by W. in August, 1782	
Thomas	10 th May 1761	" " " "	The parents	reformed church by W. in August, 1782	
Peter	5 th August 1762	W. in his youth	The father & wife		Ann Maria Sperry, Dec 27 th 1779
Isaac	26 th August 1763	W. in his youth	The parents		
Abraham	17 th February 1764	W. in his youth	The parents		
Maria Sarah	16 th November 1765	W. in his youth	The parents		
Ann Maria	29 th January 1770	" " " "	Catherine Weidelt		

Translated into English from the German
August 18th 1854
G. W. Mumford