

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters

Pension Application of Dennis Slaven (Duncan Spier) R9996 DE  
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. Revised 19 June 2015.

State of Ohio }  
Richland County } SS On this seventeenth day of September A.D. 1832 personally appeared before William Riddle one of the associate Judges of the court of common pleas in and for said County of Richland, at the Township of Jefferson in the same County, Duncan Spier a resident of said Township, County & State aforesaid aged Sixty eight years, and who from bodily infirmity is unable to attend at the seat of Justice, to appear in open Court, being first duly sworn according to law makes the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the act of Congress passed June 7<sup>th</sup> 1832 That he enlisted at Lewistown [sic: town of Lewes], in Sussex County, Delaware sometime in the month of March 1780 being the same year that General [Horatio] Gates went to South Carolina – his officers were as follows: Lieut [Henry] Duff, Captain John Larmoth [sic: John Learmonth], Major [Joseph] Vaughan, and Col David Hale [sic: David Hall]. his engagement was for three years or during the war. declarant accompanied the army under General Gates command to South Carolina when they were defeated at Camden [16 Aug 1780]. Afterwards General [Nathanael] Greene took the command [on 3 Dec 1780] & declarant remained several months under said General Green, and was then sent with Henry King Company, to Maryland, and was by consent transfered for a short period of time to Genl. Smallwoods [William Smallwood's] army at Anapolis Md. until he had an opportunity of again joining his company, which he did shortly before the battle at Yorktown [siege of Yorktown, 28 Sep - 19 Oct 1781]. Declarant's company was then commanded by Capt [William] McKennan, Lieut Quinole [sic: Paul Quenowault]. Declarant was at said Battle of Yorktown, and was discharged the Summer or fall following (being in the year 1782) at Lewistown, by Colonel David Hale, by whom a written discharge was made out for declarant but he neglected to lift it. Declarant was very young when he enlisted, being only about 15 years old. Declarant never received his discharge and it is not in his power to produce any documentary evidence of his service, nor does he know of any person now living who would be able to testify to his said services. declarant further states that he was born at Sussex County Delaware A.D. 1764 that he has now a record of his age in his Bible to which he can refer. Declarant resided near Lewistown in the State of Delaware at the time of the breaking out of the Revolutionary War. that about a year after the war he he removed to Maryland, & after a short residence there (thinks about 1 year) – Then resided for about 17 years in upper Canada, when at the approach of the last war & hostilities between the two countries when declarant removed to this state in the County of Richland where he has resided ever since. Declarant further states that Abraham Smith and John W Thornton are persons residing in his neighborhood and have been for a long time well acquainted with him, and he accompanies their certificate with this Declaration. Declarant has never received any pension. He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present, and declares that his name is not on the pension role of the agency of any State. Duncan hisXmark Spier

The State of Ohio Richland County, Court of Common pleas  
Of the month of November A.D. 1833

Richland County SS. On this 11<sup>th</sup> day of November A.D. 1833 personally appeared in open Court, before the Judges of the Court of Common pleas for said County, Duncan Spier a resident of Jefferson Township in said County of Richland, and State aforesaid aged Sixty Eight years, who being first duly sworn according to law, doth on his oath make the following Declaration, in order to obtain the benefit of the provision made by the Act of Congress passed June 7<sup>th</sup> 1832: That he enlisted in the Army of the United States in the Month of March, in the same year of the battle of Camden which he believes was the year 1780 at Lewistown in Sussex County in the State of Delaware for the term of three years or during the war. He enlisted in a company commanded by Capt. John Larmonth – his Lieut. name was Duff. And

he marched with said Company in about a month after his said enlistment to Philadelphia and from thence to Trenton where he joined his regiment, which was of the Delaware line. The name of his Colonel was David Hale who resided and remained at Lewistown and the Regiment was commanded by Lt. Colonel Vaughan. Declarants Captain also remained at Lewistown and the Company was commanded by Lt. Duff. From Trenton Declarant was marched with the regiment aforesaid (the No of which he cannot recollect) in Company with, and as declarant believes attached to a Brigade of the Maryland line, to the "head of Elk" [now Elkton MD] so called, where they remained a few days, and then embarked in vessels and proceeded to Petersburg [sic: Petersburg] in Virginia. Thence marched to Hillsborough in North Carolina. Thence we were marched to Camden where we were engaged in a battle with the British. The American forces were commanded by General Gates and were defeated. This battle took place sometime in the month of August of the same year of Declarants enlistment. In this battle declarants Lieutenant (Duff) was killed or taken prisoner and the Company was much reduced and broken. Declarant with the regiment to which he belonged & part of the army retreated back to Hillsborough; where in consequence of being taken by the small pox and being dangerously sick, he was left. Declarant was an invalid during all the following winter and in the spring of 1781 learning that Col. Tarlton [sic: Banastre Tarleton] of the British forces was about to invest himself of that place [March 1781], declarant effected a flight with some soldiers of the Maryland line, to Prince Edward Court House in Virginia where some of the Maryland State troops were stationed. Declarant was here employed in assisting the Commissary of the fort Henry King, who belonged to the regular Army – in which duty he was engaged when he was again overtaken by Col. Tarlton & his forces [July 1781], and there not being sufficient American force present to defend the place, the public stores fell into the hands of the enemy. Declarant escaped saving for the Commissary two horses. Declarant soon after proceeded to Annapolis where he drew provisions and obtained advice from General Smallwood of the Maryland line, who was then stationed there with a part of the Maryland troops. He here found two of the Sergeants of his Company to wit George Collins and Sergeant Brooks with a few recruits who were on their way to join their Company and the Army, then at Yorktown. Declarant then proceeded with them and under their command to Yorktown where the remnant of their company was found & which he with said Sergeant and recruits joined, and were placed under the command of a Lieutenant Quenolt, who acted as Captain, but Declarant does not know whether he belonged to the Company or not. Some other parts of Declarants regiment were present, and were under command of Captain Mechanon (or Buckanan) being the oldest Captain & officer as declarant understood of that regiment, then present.) His colonel was not there but still remained at Lewistown, nor does Declarant recollect or know what had become of the Lt. Col. Vaughan, but thinks he was not present at the Battle of Yorktown. Declarant was engaged in said Battle of Yorktown which lasted about 18 days as near as declarant can remember. he saw the surrender of the British Army and positively saw Lord Cornwallis deliver up his Sword to the American Commander General Washington. [See endnote] Declarant after said Battle next marched to Dover where he remained under the command of a recruiting officer, until he was discharged at the end of the War. Declarant rec'd word from Col. David Hale that by calling on him at Lewistown he could receive his written discharge, but as it was some distance for decl't. to go, & peace having been published and declared, & having received a verbal discharge, he did not consider it matter of importance and therefore never called to receive his written discharge.

☞ Declarant further states by way of explanation & to avoid confusion and mistake in respect to his name: That his fathers name was Lanten Slaven, and his mothers maiden name was "Spier." That his father and mother both died before he was six years old. That Declarants proper name was "Dennis Slaven" instead of "Duncan Spier" and that according to his best recollection it was by the name of "Dennis Slaven" that he served in the revolutionary War. his only doubt on that subject is whether it was "Dennis Slaven" or "Dennis Slaven Spier" (as he was known by both names) but he believes it was by the former. Declarant further explains that he became commonly known by the name of "Spier" as his surname in consequence of living when young most generally with his mothers relations – And he gradually lost the name of "Dennis" and acquired the name of "Duncan" from living among Scotch

people in the State of Pennsylvania, who said that Dennis was an Irish name, and that it was "Duncan" in Scotch. In this way Declarants name became changed and he is now known alone by the name of "Duncan Spier" and has been for more than thirty years past. Declarant further states that he has no documentary evidence by which he could prove his said service, within his power or knowledge, nor does he know of any person living by whom he could prove the same. He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present and declares that his name is not on the pension role of the agency of any state.

And in reply to the interrogatories propounded by the Court under the direction of the War Department, he saith as follows: Interrogatory

1. Declarant was born in Sussex County Delaware on 16<sup>th</sup> of June 1765
2. He has a record of his age in his bible to which he refers
3. Was living in said Sussex County at the time of his enlistment. And since the Revolutionary War resided about one year in State of Delaware. Then about a year in Maryland. Then removed to Pennsylvania where he resided about 10 years. Then resided at the head of Lake Ontario about 17 years And then removed to the County of Richland in the State of Ohio, where he has resided ever since, being about 21 years.
4. Declarants enlistment was voluntary.
5. For the names of his officers as far as he is able to remember them, he refers to the body of his Declaration.
6. He received no written Discharge.
7. Samuel Poppleston (a clergyman) and William Cooper reside in Declarants neighborhood and have been long acquainted with him.

Declarant further adds that he served his Country faithfully and according to the best of his abilities during all his said terms of service which was from the day of his said enlistment until the end of the war. He has never received his warrant for his land, nor has he ever rec'd. or enjoyed any land from the Government by reason or on account of his said Services. And now submits to the War department whether he is not still entitled to receive the same. further saith not

Duncan hisXmark Spier

#### NOTES:

Lord Cornwallis was "indisposed" on 19 Oct 1781 and delegated his second in command, Gen. Charles O'Hara, to surrender his sword. Gen. Washington in turn delegated his second in command, Gen. Benjamin Lincoln, to receive the sword.

Correspondence in the file indicates that the claim was rejected because the name Duncan Spier could not be found in the Delaware rolls.