

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of James Spilman (Spelman) S14549

f23VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

4/5/12: rev'd 10/10/21

[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 8th 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 8]

James Spilman aged 55 years this 28th day of April 1818 personally appears in the County Court of Green County and desiring to take the benefit of the law of the Congress of the United States makes oath that in the year 1779 in Culpeper State of Virginia he enlisted for two years as a soldier in the Cavalry in the American Continental Army in the revolutionary war with Great Britain, in the Company of Captain John Rodgers and under the command and in the Regiment of Colonel George Rodgers Clark [George Rogers Clark] and of the Virginia line – he was marched in the first place after his enlistment to Fort Pitt and from there to the Illinois country and there he was employed until not long before the expiration of the said two years he was marched back to Fort Pitt, where he was discharged by the Lieutenant his Captain not being present. This was at the end or expiration of the term of his enlistment – Afterwards he obtained his discharge in writing herewith filed¹ marked on the back "[indecipherable word] James Spilman dated August 18th, 178? [last digit and remaining portion of this sentence illegible]. He further makes oath that he is now a Citizen of Green County State of Kentucky and that from his reduced circumstances he stands in need of the assistance of his Country for support.

[The document ends here and does not appear to have been signed although it is possible that the signature has faded and cannot even be discerned.]

[Attested August 28, 1818 by John Barret, Clerk of Green County, Kentucky]

[p 5]

State of Kentucky County of Barren Sct.

On this 20th day of August 1832 personally appeared before the Justices of the County Court for Barren County in the State aforesaid James Spilman, a resident of the town of Glasgow in the County of Barren in the State of Kentucky aged 69 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 7th of June 1832: That he enlisted in the Army of the revolution in the year 1779 with Captain John Rogers, and served in the Regiment called the Illinois Regiment of the Virginia State line, under the following named officers: Colonel George Rogers Clarke [George Rogers Clark] commanded the Regiment & Captain George Rogers the Company in which he served – James Merewether [James Meriwether] was Lieutenant & John Thruston Cornet of the Company which was raised for a Company of Light

¹ The discharge is not among the documents in this file.

horse, but, though otherwise equipped for that service, were not furnished with horses. – The said James Spilman further states, that at the time he enlisted he resided in Culpeper County, Virginia; that he joined the Company of Captain Rogers at Fauquier Court House, Virginia, and marched by the way of Winchester, Virginia & Old town, Maryland, to Pittsburgh (or Fort Pitt), and thence descended the Ohio River to Louisville, where they joined Colonel Clark & in the spring of the year 1780, went down the River under the command of said Clark to the Iron Banks on the Mississippi River – From the Iron Banks Captain Rogers' Company was ordered to & including the said James Spilman, marched to Kaskaskia in the now State of Illinois, from which place they marched to and were stationed some time at Cahokia [Cahokia], also in the now State of Illinois. From Cahokia, the said James Spilman & part of Captain Rogers' Company went, under command of the said Captain Rogers, on an expedition commanded by Colonel Montgomery [Lt. Col. John Montgomery] against the Indians up the Illinois River – they did not encounter the enemy, but destroyed some of their villages & returned to Cahokia. The said Spilman & the Company of said Captain Rogers afterwards returned to the Iron Banks by the way of Kaskaskia [Kaskaskia?], from the Iron Banks they marched to Louisville, & from this last named place were ordered to Pittsburgh with some artillery. On their arrival at Pittsburgh, the term of the said James Spilman's enlistment which was for two years, had expired, & he was set at liberty and directed, with others, to attend at Fredericksburg, Virginia, to receive a discharge, which was not given at Pittsburgh for want of the proper officer – the said Spilman accordingly went to Fredericksburg, but did not get his discharge until he afterwards went to see Captain Rogers at his father's, and he there received a discharge, having served two years agreeably to his enlistment, signed by the said Captain Rogers. – The said James Spilman further states, that he is informed that his said discharge together with other papers which he confided last autumn to Christopher Tompkins, was by him deposited in the pension office at Washington. The said James Spilman hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present, and he declares that his name is not on the pension roll of any agency in any State.

Sworn to and subscribed the day & year aforesaid.

S/ Jas. Spilman



[Facts in file: Veteran died June 27, 1840; there is no reference in the file material to any wife or children of the veteran. I did not see in this file the discharge referred to by the veteran as having been enclosed with his application.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$80 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for service as a private for 2 years in the Virginia State Troops.]

Addendum to James Spilman (Spelman) S14549

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. 10 Oct. 2021.

[From [rejected claims in the Library of Virginia](#) indexed as Spillman, James.]

To his Excellency Lyttleton W. Tazewell, Governour of the Commonwealth of Virginia:

Your petitioner James Spilman, now a resident of the County of Barren in the State of Kentucky,

respectfully sheweth: That about the month of August in the year 1779, at Culpepper County in the State of Virginia, he enlisted as a soldier in the Company of Cavalry commanded by Capt. John Rogers in the Regiment (known as the Illinois Regiment) commanded by Col. George Rogers Clark, for the term of two years, and served in the said company and Regiment during the said term of two years and, according to the best of his recollection and belief, six months afterwards. That he obtained a regular discharge in the County of Caroline and State of Virginia, whither he and the rest of his company had been ordered. Your petitioner farther states that after his said enlistment he marched under the command of his Officers aforesaid in the expedition against the publick enemy on the North West of the Ohio River and was in the said service at the Capture of the posts of Kaskaskia [4 Jul 1778] & Cohokia [Cahokia, 6 Jul 1778]. The discharge obtained by your petitioner as aforesaid has been, as he is informed and verily believes, recently deposited by his agent in the Pension Office at the City of Washington, where it still remains on file. The said discharge is referred to for greater certainty as to the time of the enlistment of your petitioner & the time and manner of his leaving the service.

Your petitioner prays that, the premises considered, a warrant be granted him for the bounty land he may be entitled to for his said services under the laws.

[15 July 1835]

James Spilman

To his Excellency the Governor of the Commonwealth of Virginia. Your memorialist would most respectfully beg leave to represent unto your Excellency, That they are the only children and heirs at law of James Spilman deceased, that your memorialist Mariah R. Moss now resides in Glasgow Barren County Kentucky, and your memorialist Robert Spilman and Benjamin Spilman both reside in Greene County Kentucky.

They state that their ancestor and father James Spilman deceased, was a Soldier in the Revolution, and that he served in the Virginia State line, that he enlisted in 1779 for the term of 'during the war' that he served during that period, and was finally discharged at the end of the war in 1783. They state that he served under John Rogers, who was his captain, and that he was attached to the Illinois Regiment commanded by General, (or Col'n) George Rogers Clark. They state that he enlisted and entered the Service in the state of Virginia in Culpepper or Fauquire [sic: Fauquier] County.

Your memorialist would beg leave further to state that in the year 1835, the claim of the said James Spilman to bounty land from the State of Virginia, was presented to the Executive of Virginia, by Robert Burton who at that time was acting as the attorney for said Spilman, but that owing to the death of said Burton which occurred shortly afterward, and some informalities in the memorial which was presented, said claim was rejected, as your memorialist have been informed. They further state that said James Spilman died in Glasgow Kentucky in June 1840

Wherefore your memorialist beg your Excellency that the case of the said James Spilman be reconsidered, and that his claim to bounty lands as a Soldier in the Virginia State line be allowed, and that a warrant issue therefor in favour of your memorialist &c.

Glasgow January 27th 1845

Maria R Moss

Robert Spilman

Benjamin Spilman

Know all men by these presents that we Benjamin Spilman, Robert Spilman and Mariah R. Moss do hereby nominate constitute and appoint Hon Henry Grider, our true and lawful attorney in fact for us and in our names to present the claim of James Spilman (our father) to bounty land [the rest not transcribed] [28 Jan 1845]

H. Reprs. Washington/ Feby 5th 18455

Wm H. Richardson/ Secry of the comth of Virginia,

Dr Sir, your last communication informed me the claim of Jas Spilman for bounty land was

rejected because from his own shewing he did not serve three years or during the war but served only two years – now Sir if such fact appears in his memorial it is an error occurring by mere mistake He in fact served more than three years & during the war as was reported by your own commissioner in the year 1833 [see endnote] and as the rolls & record of the government fully shews, placed as I believe before you myself – if not, ready to be furnished I give an unofficial statement of the facts marked A [not in file] –If these are not sufficient I will (if you have not the copies) furnish copies from the war department. I also send the [part missing at bottom of page] heirs of James Spilman please let me hear from you if you please & say if you have or I must send the record copied I am &c/ most Obedient &c/ H. Grider

NOTES:

Edmond Rogers, brother of Capt. John Rogers, certified the identity of James Spilman.

John H Smith, Commissioner of Revolutionary Claims for Virginia, reported on 29 August 1835 that Spilman “enlisted for 3 years or for the war (as the Illinois Soldiers generally did) and been, heretofore, reported him entitled to land for the war. The evidence now furnish’d by this claimant (via his own statement of his enlistment & services) proves, that he is not entitled to bounty land.