

[Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters](#)

Pension Application of Joseph Spicer S14554

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

Virginia Louisa County (to wit)

On this 11th day of February 1833 personally appeared before the court of the county of Louisa, now sitting, Joseph Spicer, aged seventy two 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 act of Congress passed June 7th 1832.

That he was born in the county of Caroline and State of Virginia, on the 16th day of October 1760, as appears from the family Bible, now in his possession, and in which his birth is recorded. He was raised in Hanover county and has lived in Louisa county for the last forty eight years and still resides in Louisa county. He lived in Hanover county during the whole of the Revolutionary war, when not in the army, and was draughted and served his first tour of militia duty for six months in 1780 in the Carolinas and at Camden [SC] under Capt John Price of Hanover and Colo Holt Richeson [sic: Holt Richardson], in the first Regiment of Virginia militia. He was called into service on the first day of May 1780 and marched from the City of Richmond in Virginia, on the 20th day of June 1780 for Hillsborough in North Carolina, where he was commanded by General Edward Stevens. there were four Regiments of Virginia militia at Hillsborough. After being trained some weeks at Hillsborough, he was placed under Thomas Wash [pension application W6381], who was appointed Forage Master by Gen Stevens, and marched to Deep River thence to Pedee [sic: Pee Dee River] thence to the vicinity of Camden, where he joined the Regulars at Rugeley's on the 15th of August 1780 the day before the Battle of Camden. He retreated with a part of the army from Camden, through Charlotte [NC] and Salisbury to Hillsborough, where they made a halt and collected the fragments of the army. He did not like many others come home after the defeat at Camden, but continued with the army till the last day of October 1780, when he was discharged at Guilford Court House N. Carolina and arrived at home on the 10th of November 1780. He recollects Gen [Horatio] Gates, Gen. [William] Smallwood & Colo. [Otho Holland] Williams of the Maryland line.

He was draughted and served his second tour of militia duty of two months in January and February 1781 at Westham [in present Richmond VA], Shirley Hundred [on James River below Richmond], Holts Forge, Smithfield and Cabin Point [on James River in Surry County] under Capt. Edward Bullock, Major Trevellian [probably Trevilian] and Colo. William Dandridge. He was draughted and performed his third tour of militia duty for two months at Williamsburg, Richmond &c, in March, April and May 1781 under Capt. John Anderson of Hanover, Major [Thomas] Armistead and Colo. Thomas Matthews in the Third Regiment of militia. He recollects that Gen. [George] Weedon commanded at Williamsburg and Gen. Lafayette at Richmond, when the Tobacco warehouses at Manchester opposite Richmond were burnt, before the eyes of the whole army, by the British troops [30 Apr 1781]. Shortly after the termination of his third tour (say the first of June 1781) he was detailed by Capt. William Smith [pension application R9872] to repair muskets at Duggins' Shop near Davenports Ford, in Hanover County, under William Duggins, as master armourer, and in the company with John Lively, James Hall [S6946], James Seay [W8038] and others, all of whom are now dead except James Hall and James Seay whose testimony he annexes hereto. He is positive he was constantly employed as armourer from June 1781 till after the surrender of Lord Cornwallis on the 19th of October 1781, but how much longer he cannot positively say, from the great lapse of time and the imperfection of his memory. He never had a written discharge that he recollects after performing any one of the three tours above mentioned. He hereby relinquishes any claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present, and declares that his name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any state. Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid. [signed] Joseph Spicer

State of Virginia, Louisa County to wit.

James Hall made oath before me, William Nelson an acting Justice of the peace in and for the county aforesaid that to the best of his recollection he the said Hall commenced working as an armourer with William Duggins early in the month of January 1781 and continued to do so for eighteen months, That he has read the declaration of Joseph Spicer hereto annexed, and entertains the full belief that the said Spicer performed the military services which are set forth in the said Declaration; that he knows that said Spicer commenced working as an armourer early in June 1781, and continued to do so for fourteen months thereafter; James Seay aged seventy two years also made oath before me William Nelson that he performed the second tour of Military duty as it is set forth in the said Spicer's Declaration hereto annexed in the same Militia company with said Spicer and that he knows said Spicer's account of that tour to be true. The said James Seay further made oath that he himself worked as an armourer for the full term of five months (commencing in June or July 1781) with William Duggins as Master armourer in repairing Muskets, and that he well remembers that Joseph Spicer laboured with him throughout the whole time, in repairing muskets. Nathaniel Snelson & Thomas Badget also made oath before me William Nelson that the said Spicer's Declaration in relation to the first and third tours of military duty therein set forth is true; that they were in service with said Spicer during both those tours and know that he performed them. And I the said William Nelson do hereby further certify that the said James Hall, James Seay, Nathaniel Snelson [W6135] and Thomas Badget [S6593] are credible Witnesses and that full faith ought to be given to their testimony: I further certify that I have known the said Joseph Spicer for nearly forty years; that in all that time I have never heard his veracity questioned or his integrity doubted; that in making his Declaration he appeared to be very scrupulous and conscientious, and that I do not entertain a shadow of doubt in relation to any fact which is set forth in his said declaration

Given under my and this 11th day of February in the year 1833.

W. Nelson

NOTE: On 22 Apr 1848 Joseph Spicer applied to have his pension transferred to Shelby County KY because "He is old & Infirm & his Daughter with whom he resided in Virginia removed to Kentucky & he accompanied her for the benefit of her society & attention to him in his old age."