

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

Pension Application of Spencer Calvert S30312

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

State of Kentucky, Caldwell county SS: On this 20th day of May 1833 personally appeared in open court, before William Lander, James A Cartwright & James C Weller Esqrs. justices of the county court of said county, now sitting in Court, Spencer Calvert, resident of said county, aged about 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 entered the service of the United States under the following named officers, and served as herein stated: In the fall of the year 1777 a draft for militia was made to join Washington's army as I then understood. I had only a few months previous been placed on the muster roll in the county of Prince William, State of Virginia where I then lived, and on this occasion stood my draft, but was not chosen. However, being young and having a brother in the 3^d Virginia regiment whom I wished to see, I determined to enter the service, and therefore substituted in the place of a married man (whose name I have forgotten) who had been drafted for three months in the draft first mentioned as a private. We rendezvoused at a place called the Red house in Fauquier County [sic: Red House Tavern in Fauquier County], and I served under Capt. Valentine Payton [sic: Valentine Peyton] and in the regiment of Col. Jesse Ewel [sic: Jesse Ewell]. We were ordered to join Genl. Washington immediately, then being about 18 miles from Philadelphia, which we did just before he retired into winter quarters at Valley forge. At this time Philadelphia was in the possession of the British. I served out the three months according to the draft, and was regularly discharged. During this service, there was no movement of the army, or any other circumstance transpired, which was worth mentioning. Washington remained stationary. However, an attempt was made by a volunteer detachment to surprise the enemy's picket guard at the Rising Sun [sic: Rising Sun Tavern] between the two armies, but this project failed as the picket guard had been withdrawn before the arrival of the detachment. Again, sometime in the month of October 1780 I submitted in the place of a man drafted for three months, (whose name I have also forgotten, (my memory being much impaired by age) from the same county to go to the south and join Gen'l. Green [sic: Nathanael Greene, who took command of the Southern Army in Charlotte NC on 3 Dec 1780] as he was then weak, and not able to make a stand. We rendezvoused at Dumfries under Capt. Fritt & an Irish Lieutenant whose I do not remember. We marched through Guilford, crossed the Yadkin at Island ford; thence to Salisbury seven miles beyond; thence to the Cheraws [Cheraw Hills in SC] where we joined Green in the month of November or December [20 Dec 1780]. Soon after arriving in camp, and in the month of December, I was elected and appointed Sergeant of my company. Green soon discovered that Cornwallis intended an attack on him, as his army was weakened by the absence of Morgan who had been detached over the Catawba [see endnote], and in consequence broke up his camp at the Cheraws [28 Jan 1781] and moved towards Island ford, and learning that the enemy was then at Salisbury [3 Feb] he hastened his march in order to cross the river before he could be overtaken, which he effected except the rear guard of about 300 men, which was attacked by the British before they could cross and were dispersed. The most of them escaped however, and crossed above and below, and rejoined the army on the next day at the Camp. As soon as night came, Green ordered large fires to be built to deceive the enemy, and immediately began a forced march, which was continued until he reached Guilford. My term of service had expired before crossing the Yadkin, as well as those who were drafted at the same time; at the request of Green, whose situation was then critical, I consented, with others, voluntarily to remain with him until the danger ceased. In about three days after arriving at Guilford, the enemy appeared, and each army prepared for battle, for Green here determined to make a stand and await the enemy. The Virginia militia were commanded by Genls [Edward] Stevens & [Robert] Lawson, & Cols. [Charles] Lynch, [William] Preston and [William]

Campbell, as well as I remember. The battle of Guilford [Guilford Courthouse] was fought in March [15th] 1781, and the circumstances and result are known to all. I will not therefore repeat them. Soon afterwards I was discharged as our further service was not necessary. I was discharged about the middle of March, having served from the month of October previous – three months of which was as sergeant of my company. In this expedition I served with one John Bucklin from my County who was a drum major, and with Wm. McIntosh [William McIntosh] a private, and with my brother Raleigh Calvert. I declare that I have no documentary evidence now in my possession which would prove my service, having lost my discharge long ago; nor do I know of any person living by whom I could prove it, as those with whom I served are all dead as I believe. It is possible some of them may yet be in Virginia, but I know not of them. I entered the service in Prince William County, Virginia where I then lived, and was born and raised there. I hereby relinquish every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present, and I declare that my name is not on the pension roll of the Agency of any State or Territory whatever.

And the said court then propounded the following interrogatories to the said applicant as prescribed by the War Department, to which he made the subjoined answers to Wit: 1. Where and in what year were you born? Answer. I was born in Prince William County, Virginia, but the precise time I am unable to state, as the record of my age was lost by my family at an early period; but from all can learn, judging from the time of entering the service, and my age at that time &c. I must now be as much as seventy two years of age.

2. Have you any record of your age, and if so where is it?

Answer. I have none – it was lost as before mentioned.

3. Where were you living when you entered the service; where have you lived since the Revolutionary War, and where do you now live?

Answer. During the War, and for ten years after I lived in Prince William County, State of Virginia. Then I moved to South Carolina, where I lived twenty years, and then to this county where I have lived ever since.

4. How were you called into service? were you drafted, did you volunteer or were you a substitute, and if a substitute for whom? Answer. I was a substitute in both the expeditions mentioned by me, but I cannot now mention the names – my memory is much impaired, and I never was much acquainted with either of them. – 5 State the names of some of the regular officers who were with the troops where you served,

such Continental and militia regiments as you can recollect, and the general circumstances of your service. Answer. In my first expedition I knew several regular officers but remember at this time only Col. [Daniel] Morgan who commanded a rifle corps Gen'l. Greene & Washington – I remember Gen'l. [Mordecai] Gist who commanded Maryland militia, and Major [Joseph] Morris of Morgans regiment. In my expedition to the South under Green I remember Col [Henry] Lee & his legion, Col. [William] Washington & his Cavalry, and Col. [Otho Holland] Williams who I think command the Maryland Continental troops. I also remember the militia regiments from Virginia, viz. under Campbell, Preston & Lynch. Who commanded the N. Carolina militia I do not now remember. 6– Did you ever receive a discharge from the service, and if so by whom was given, and what has become of it? Answer. I received discharges from both tours – the first given by my Captain as well as I remember, as also the last. 7. State the names of persons to whom you are known in your present neighbourhood who can testify as to your character for veracity, and their belief of your services as a soldier of the Revolution. Answer. I am known to Wm. Blackburn, Rev. James W. Mansfield, Walter Mclehenney, Edmund Wilson, Jas. Morse Esq. and many others.

[signed] Spencer Calvert

NOTE: Cornwallis, in fact, intended to attack Gen. Daniel Morgan's forces to recover the prisoners taken at the Battle of Cowpens SC on 17 Jan 1781.