

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of Spencer Coleman S3194

VA

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

State of Tennessee } S.S. Court of Pleas & Quarter Sessions.
Monroe County }

On this 18th day of December 1832 personally appeared in open Court, before the Justices of the Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions, now sitting, Spencer Coleman, a resident of said County of Monroe, aged 80 years and 10 months, 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 King & Queen [King and Queen] County Va, where his father remained a year or two after, and then moved to Stafford County Va, where he remained till applicant was 14 or 15 years old, and then moved to Shenandoah County Va [sic: Shenandoah County, called Dunmore County until 1778], where applicant remained till he was 23 years old, or thereabouts, and had married. He then moved to the Seven mile ford in Western Virginia [present Smyth County] where he remained about one year. During this year, (what year he cannot remember,) he was attached to the Company of Capt ___ Francis [possibly Henry Francis] – under the Command of Col William Campbell. About the month of May the company to which he belonged was called out by Col. Campbell to go and guard the lead mines on New River, Va [at Fort Chiswell in present Wythe County]. After said Company had been some time at the mines (which the Tories had threatened to take possession of) Col Campbell heard that the tories were embodied up on New River, about 40 miles above the lead mines, at the Big Glades, and marched his men to give them battle. When he came within a short distance of the tories he encamped, and sent out two spies to ascertain how the tories were stationed. They fired on the spies, who had to return. Early in the morning, Col Campbell marched his forces, single file, on horse back against the tories, who were stationed in a thicket within the glade. When they came near the thicket, a young man came running towards them, and halloing something which was not heard distinctly. But the Col ordered a halt, till he came within hearing, when he told them that the tories were running. The young man was son of a Capt – a Whig, who lived near the glades, (and who joined Col. Campbell near the glades) that had been taken prisoner by the tories. So soon as it was ascertained that the tories had fled, the troops under Col. Campbell scattered and pursued and came up with but two of them, as they escaped at one side of the thicket, while Col. Campbell was on the other. The company consisted of between 90 and 100; the tories were much more numerous. Soon after the tories were routed Col. Cleaveland [sic: Benjamin Cleveland] from No. Ca. arrived, and joined Col. Campbell. Col Cleaveland brot a tory prisoner, charged with robbing a pedler, whom the soldiers hung, while the Court Martial were sitting on the trial of a prisoner taken by Col. Campbell. Col. Cleaveland and his men, with Col Campbell in company, then marched down one side of the river, and Col Campbells forces, under command of Capt – marched down the other side, and met at Wallens bottom. There many of the tories surrendered, some have given up before. Col Campbell told his men that they might stay till a sale of the property that had been taken, or go home. Applicant, as his crop was ruining, an no one was at home to attend to it, returned, and never got any part of the proceeds of the sale. He reached home in August, and was gone at least 3 months

The next winter he moved down to the wolf hills near Abingdon Va, under Command of Col Arthur Campbell, brother of Col William Campbell. The company to which he belonged was called out, shortly after, against the Cherokee Indians, who had been killing & plundering on the frontiers. The names of the Ind. towns they destroyed he disremembers, but they were in what is now Tennessee [probably 27-28 Dec 1780]. He disremembers how long they were out this campaign, but it was somewhat about three months. He was called out against the Indians on the frontiers frequently, & was out sometimes a larger and sometimes a period of but a week or two, under Captains, whose names he

disremembers. He also hired a substitute, and paid him for a three months term of service. Applicant cannot remember any of the names of the officers he served under except the Campbells.

He states that he was in actual service six months, and, he is confident, much longer but cannot exactly say, as, except the two campaigns mentioned, his service was principally in protecting the frontiers, and of short times. He therefore claims for but six months in all.

He has no record of his age; there was one made by his grandfather, but it is lost. He moved shortly after the last campaign he served against the Indians, down to Watauga in what is now Tennessee, and soon afterwards peace was declared. He then moved down to big Pidgeon [sic: Pigeon River] in Cocke County Tennessee, and there lived about 40 years. In 1826 he moved to said County of Monroe where he now lives. He rec'd. no discharge.

He states that the Rev'd. George Snider, Thomas Russell, William White, James Woody and Bradley Kimbrough are, at present, his neighbors and can testify as to his veracity, and their belief of his services as a soldier of the Revolution.

He hereby relinquishes every 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. He has no documentary evidence and knows of no person who can testify to his service. Spencer hisXmark Coleman

Amended Declaration of Spence Coleman the original having been sworn to on the 18th December 1832.

Personally appeared before me the undersigned a Justice of the peace for the county of Monroe, and State of Tennessee, Spencer Coleman, who being duly sworn deposeth and saith, that by reason of old age & the consequent loss of memory he cannot swear positively as to the precise length of his service, but according to the best of his recollection he served not less than the periods mentioned below and always as a private soldier of Infantry; never bearing any commission. In the year of 1777 he entered the service for a short space of time against the Indians and Tories. Being on the frontier he was frequently called on, and under Nelson and other captains whose names he cannot recollect, he served at least three months – (more he has no doubt by a good deal.) In 1778 he was called out for three months which he served, as a private, under Col. Wm Campbell. In 1779, (he thinks,) he was called out for three months again which term he served under Col Arthur Campbell. – In all he was in service not less than 9 months, for which he claims a pension.

Sworn & subscribed before me this 25th March 1833

Spencer hisXmark Coleman