

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of William Speares (Spears) S31980

f10VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

3/23/12

[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. 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 fails 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 errors or omissions to my attention.]

Declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the Act of Congress passed June 7th, 1832 –
State of Georgia Franklin County: SS

On this 6th day of May in the year 1833, personally appeared before the Court of Ordinary for the County and State aforesaid William Spears a resident of Captain Edwards District in the County and State aforesaid, aged about eighty-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 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 (viz.) That he entered the service of the United States in the year 1775 or 1776, as a volunteer in the militia of the State of Virginia, in Amherst County, as a sergeant in Captain Tankersly's Company, in Colonel Nevels [Neville's?] Regiment, and was marched to Powels Valley on the Frontiers of Virginia, where he remained as a guard six months, when he was discharged served six months as sergeant – He again entered the service in the year 1776 or 1777 – in the Militia of the State of Virginia, in Buckingham County, as a private in Captain John Bates Company in Colonel Cabbels [Campbell's?] Regiment, he was drafted to serve three months, but was sick great part of the time, and was out on furlough, and had not recovered so as to return to camp, when the other Militia drafted at the same time were discharged, and therefore he received no discharge, served twenty days before he was taken sick, as a private. He was again drafted in Buckingham County, aforesaid, on a call for four men from Captain Chambers Company of Militia, and served three months as a private as a guard to some Hessian prisoners at the point of Fort in Virginia, does not recollect the name of his officers, but thinks he was under the command of General Mecklinberg [Peter Muhlenberg]. He again served a three month tour as a private & [indecipherable word] Substitute for James Spears at the Point of Fork under the same officers, as last above stated, in the year 1780 – About the 1st of January 1781 – he again entered the service at Prince Edward Court house, Virginia as a volunteer under Captain William Cannon, and from thence was marched to meet General Green [Nathanael Greene] at Guilford North Carolina, and was in the battle at Guilford Court House [March 15, 1781], from thence he was marched to Deep or Rocky River North Carolina where they found that Cornwallis had crossed to avoid an attack, from there he was marched back to his own State of Virginia, where he was discharged by his then Captain Allen (his first Captain having left the Troops, which discharge is hereto annexed). In this last tour he served three months as a private. At Guilford he was under the command of Colonel Holcombe and General Lawson. He served in all as follows to wit – He served as a sergeant six months, and as a private twelve months, and for such service he claims a pension. He has no other documentary evidence than the discharge herewith enclosed and he knows of no person whose testimony he can procure, who can testify to his services – He hereby relinquishes

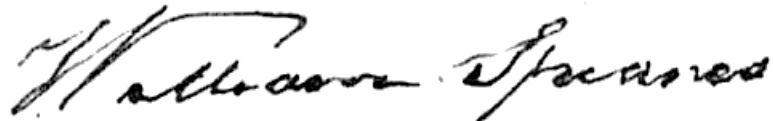
every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present, and declares that his name is not on the pension Roll of the Agency of any State. Does not know what has become of his Sergeant's warrant.

1. Was born in Amherst County Virginia, as near as he recollects in the year 1745 –
2. He does not know that there is any record of his age.
3. When first called into service was living in Buckingham County Virginia, where he lived until 1788, when he removed to Elbert County Georgia, and in 1798 – 1799 he removed to Franklin County Georgia, where he has resided ever since.
4. The Militia was drafted in Divisions of Companies, which Companies were to furnish a given number of men, and he volunteered as one of the men so called for, He was drafted at sometimes, and served once as a substitute for his brother James Spears.
5. Does not recollect any of the names of the Regular officers except Generals Green & Munford & Stevens, but does not recollect the rank of the last two.
6. Never received any other regular discharge than the one enclosed.
7. He is known to Nelson Osborne, James H. Little and Jesse Holbrook who can testify to his veracity &c.

Sworn to and subscribed in open Court the day and year aforesaid.

S/ Thos. King, C.C.O.

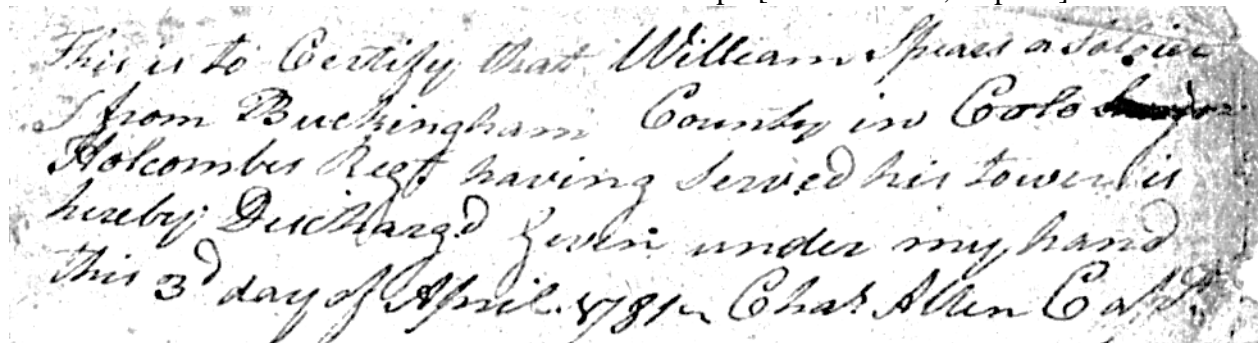
S/ William Speares



[Nelson Osborn, a clergyman, James H. Little and Jesse Holbrook gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

This is to Certify that William Speares a Soldier from Buckingham County in Colonel Holcomb's Regiment having served his term is hereby Discharged. Given under my hand this 3rd day of April 1781.

S/ Chas. Allen Capt. [Charles Allen, Captain]



This is to Certify that William Speares a Soldier
from Buckingham County in Colonel
Holcombes Regt. having served his term is
hereby Discharged Given under my hand
this 3^d day of April 1781 Chas. Allen Capt.

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$62.22 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for service as a private & sergeant for 15 months and 20 days in the Virginia service.]