

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of James Spence S36782

fn23NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

3/4/11

[Methodology: Spelling, punctuation and/or grammar have been corrected in some instances for ease of reading and to facilitate searches of the database. Also, the handwriting of the original scribes often lends itself to varying interpretations. Users of this database are urged to view the original and to make their own decision as to how to decipher what the original scribe actually wrote. Blanks appearing in the transcripts reflect blanks in the original. Folks are free to make non-commercial use this transcript in any manner they may see fit, but please extend the courtesy of acknowledging the transcriber—besides, if it turns out the transcript contains mistakes, the resulting embarrassment will fall on the transcriber. 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. I welcome and encourage folks to call those and any other errors to my attention.]

Commonwealth of Kentucky Shelby County: Sct.
Shelby Circuit September Term 1820

On this 29th day of September 1820 personally appeared in open Court being a Court of common law and criminal jurisdiction for the County and Circuit aforesaid James Spence aged about sixty-five years resident in the County of Shelby in the said State who being first duly sworn according to law, doth on his oath declare that he served in the revolutionary War as follows, that he enlisted for the term of two years & six months in the month of May 1776 in the State of North Carolina in the company commanded by Captain James Jones in the Regiment commanded by Colonel Sumpter, in the Horse service or in the cavalry, that his company was afterwards commanded by Captain Madisec [sic, Cosmo de Medici?] which Regiment was on the Continental establishment he continued to serve in said Corps until the Term of his service expired when he was discharged in the fall or winter 1778. That he was in the Battles of Charlestown¹ South Carolina several small skirmishes etc.

He further states that he made application by his declaration dated the 27th day of June 1818 which was certified by the Honorable Judge Davidge which Declaration was returned for want of proper form, he again made an additional declaration dated 25th day of June 1819 Certified by the Honorable Judge McKee which was also returned for the want of proof of service, which proved he has now been so fortunate as to obtain and has been sworn to by Tallon Embry² of Madison County Kentucky and the oath of Richmond Harris³ of Garrard County Kentucky both of whom know said service and was acquainted with him in his early life etc. He further states that his first declaration was forwarded in company with his second by the Honorable William Logan of the Senate U. S. the first one was either lost or mislaid etc. his second one he now transmits with the proof attached thereto. He further states that he is old and infirm he follows the occupation of Farming but is a cripple in his shoulder and blind in one eye etc. he has a wife who is old and infirm he has four children living with him two sons & two

¹ Given the dates of service claimed by the veteran, I assume this reference is to the first attack on Charleston in the summer of 1776. General Charles Lee was in charge of the Army that defended Charleston at that time.

² In other documents in this file, this man is referred to as Tarlton Embry. I could not find any affidavit signed by him in this file, nor do I find any federal pension application filed by a veteran of that or any similar name.

³ [Richmond Harris W8891](#)

daughters his sons one about seventeen years of age the other about thirteen his daughters one about twenty-one years of age the other about eight years old his sons is some help to him or he would have to be on the parish for support.

And I do solemnly swear that I was a resident Citizen of the United States on the 18th day of March 1818 and that I have not since that time by gift, sale or in any manner whatever disposed of my property or any part thereof with intent thereby so to diminish it as to bring myself within the provision of an act of Congress entitled “an act to provide for certain persons engaged in the land and naval service of the United States in the revolutionary war” passed on the 18th day of March 1818, and that I have not nor has any person in trust for me any property, or securities, contracts or debts due to me nor have I any income other than what is contained in the schedule hereto annexed and by me subscribed

The following is schedule of his property to wit

One mare & colt worth	\$30
One old mare	20
2 cows & calves & 3 young cows	28
Between 30 & 40 head of small shoats	20
20 head of sheep	20
Some household & kitchen fur.	10
	<hr/>
	\$128.00

making the whole amount of his property worth about \$128.

S/ James Spence⁴

[fn p. 9, bottom of the page and top of page 10]

State of North Carolina Secretary's Office 25th April 1820

The name of James Spence does not appear on the muster rolls, and from his mentioning in his Declaration that he served a part of his time under Captain Medici I have no doubt he belonged to the Cavalry of which there is no roll in this office.

S/ Wm Hill, Secretary

Any Warrant for Western land was issued to James Spence for two and a half years service on the Certificate of an Officer. Given under my hand this 25th of April 1820

S/ Wm Hill Secretary [Secretary of State for North Carolina]

[fn p. 22: On March 4, 1824, in Fayette County Kentucky, the veteran filed for a transfer of his pension benefit to the Indiana agency where he now resides and intends to remain. This document was signed by the veteran with his mark]

[fn p. 6]

Garrard County Kentucky: SCT

This day came Ritchmen Harris of lawful age before me Tyree Harris a justice of the peace in and for said County and made oath that James Spence enlisted in the United States Harmay [army] for 2 years & 6 months in the old Revolution War I was not present when he enlisted but lived in the same Naborhood [neighborhood] But to the best of my understanding he enlisted in the Army the above term named.

Given under my hand this and [indecipherable word or words] 17th day of August 1820

⁴ The signature of the veteran is in the identical handwriting to the balance of the document and therefore I do not think it is his signature.

S/ Tyree Harris, JP

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$8 per month commencing June 27, 1818 for 2 years and 6 months service as a private in the North Carolina Continental line.]