

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Richard Spinner S6140

f10VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

4/9/12: rev'd 10/11/21

[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. The word 'illegible' or 'indecipherable' or 'undeciphered' appearing in brackets indicates that at the time I made the transcription, I was unable to decipher the word or phrase in question. 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 skills fail 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 material errors or omissions to my attention. Researchers should not rely solely on the transcripts but should review the originals for themselves. These transcripts are intended as an aid to research, not to be used in lieu thereof.]

State of Virginia

At a Court held for Albemarle County the 2nd day of October 1832

On this 2nd day of October 1832 personally appeared in Open Court before the justices of the Court of Albemarle County now sitting Richard Spinner a Colored man aged upwards of ninety years, though as he has no record of his age he cannot be positive as to the date – 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 a slave in the County of Amelia in the State of Virginia – he does not remember the year – though he has been often told of his age so as now to know that he is upwards of ninety years old. That he went from Amelia to Mecklenburg [County], where his master removed, when he was nearly thirty years old – That while his master (Joel Bevil) lived in the County of Mecklenburg, he sat him free. After being set free, the war having commenced, he enlisted for three years as a regular soldier and went to Williamsburg. He enlisted under Captain William Green¹ & Captain Lewis Burwell². He marched to Williamsburg under Ensign Isaac Holmes. After being at Williamsburg some time Captain Burwell resigned and he was commanded by Captain ___ Dudley (Christian name not recollected) [perhaps Ambrose Dudley] he stayed at Williamsburg about one year. He was assigned generally on what was called the fatigue duty such as cutting wood & &. He aided in cutting down Walker's Grove near Williamsburg.

From Williamsburg he was marched towards the Potomac [River] where the troops were moving to the northward and he was taken sick at Nowlans ferry [probably Noland's Ferry] and was sent back after getting well, to Williamsburg, when he got well he was engaged in driving wagons for the Army and making trips from Williamsburg to the Barracks at Albemarle where Burgoyne's army were prisoners, almost constantly bringing provisions &c. He was thus employed during his service in the Army. He was three years in the Army under his own enlistment. When his time expired he took a man's place who he believes had enlisted during the war, his name was Billy Stanley he served for him four years, during that time he drove the wagon which had been driven by said Stanley before he became his substitute. He was

¹ Captain William Green was a Captain in the Mecklenburg County VA militia and was promoted to the rank of Major February 12, 1781.

² Lieutenant William Burwell of the Mecklenburg County militia VA was promoted to the rank of County Lieutenant February 12, 1781.

employed about Williamsburg and the lower part of Virginia at such places as it was necessary to send baggage of any sort, or to do any hauling with a wagon. He has no papers having lost his discharge. He drew his pay once after the war was over, at Richmond. He is now old, very infirm & entirely destitute. He would refer to the statements of Jesse Lewis of the County of Albemarle for proof of his services. He hereby relinquishes every claim to a pension or annuity except the present & declares that his name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any State.

Sworn to & subscribed the day & year aforesaid.

S/ Richard Spinner, X his mark

Whereupon the Court propounded to the Applicant the following Interrogatories.

1. Where and in what year were you born?

A. I was born in the County of Amelia State of Virginia, the year not recollected.

2. Have you any record of your age & if so where is it [sic]

A. I have none.

3. Where were you living when called into service, where have you lived since the Revolutionary war & where do you now live?

A. When called into service, I lived in Mecklenburg County State of Virginia, after the close of the war I removed to Albemarle County Virginia where I now live.

4. How were you called into service, were you drafted, did you volunteer or were you a substitute & if a substitute for whom?

A. I was drafted, & served on my own account – Afterwards I served as a Substitute for Billy Stanley –

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 services.

A. I don't now remember more than I have already stated in my declaration.

6. Did you ever receive a discharge from the Service, and if so by whom was it given and what has become of it [sic]

A. I did receive a discharge, but don't recollect by whom it was given having lost or mislaid it.

Jesse Lewis³ being first duly sworn deposes & says that during the time Burgoyne's troops were stationed prisoners at the Albemarle Barracks, he often saw the above named Applicant employed in driving a wagon in the Continental service, and he had on the Uniform of the Continental Army, one Matthew Pollock was wagon master.

And the said Court do hereby declare their opinion after the investigation of the matter and after putting the interrogatories prescribed by the war Department, that the above named Applicant was a Revolutionary soldier and served as he states. – And the Court further certifies that it appears to them that Jesse Lewis who has deposed as above is a resident in the County of Albemarle & State of Virginia and is a credible person & that his statement is entitled to Credit.

I Ira Garrett Clerk of the County Court of our mall County do hereby certify, that the foregoing contains the original proceedings of the said court in the matter of the Application of Richard Spinner for a Pension.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand & Seal of office this 15th day of November 1832 in the 57th year of the Commonwealth

S/ Ira Garrett, C. C.

[Facts in file: There is a letter dated February 26, 1836 from Egbert R. Watson of Charlottesville

³ [Jesse Lewis S5680](#)

Virginia to the Secretary of War stating that the veteran pensioner died "a few days since" leaving children (his wife having died) and inquiring as to the steps necessary for the children to obtain the accrued pension due their father. The names of the children and the wife are not stated in this letter.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$80 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for service as a private for 3 years in the Virginia service.]

The [Virginia State Library](#) online digital collection contains the following documents relating to this veteran.

Copy

Albemarle County Sct.

On this 9th day of November 1826 personally appeared in Open Court being a Court of Record for the County aforesaid legally constituted by State authority Richard Spinner aged 78 [? unclear] years who being first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the provisions made by the acts of Congress of the 18th of March 1818 and 1st May 1820. That he the said Richard Spinner enlisted for the term of three years on the ___ day of ___ in the year ___ in the State of Virginia in the Company commanded by Captain [illegible name]⁴ in the Regiment commanded by Colonel Charles Porterfield in the line of the State of Virginia on Continental establishment that he continued to serve in the said Corps until the end of three years when he enlisted for the term of four years in the State of Virginia in the company commanded by Captain Dudley in the Regiment commanded by Colonel ___ in the line of the State of Virginia on Continental establishment. That he continued to serve in the said Corps until the expiration of said term when he was discharged from the service in Williamsburg in the State of Virginia. That he hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension except the present that his name is not on the roll of any State except Virginia and that the following are the reasons for not making earlier application for a pension. That he was unwilling to apply so long as he could with the aid of his children procure a subsistence, and in pursuance of the act of the first of May 1820, 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 viz.

2 Chests 2 Weeden [weeding] hoes & 3 pigs, my occupation is that of a Well Cleaner and am getting old and infirm & therefore rendered almost incapable of pursuing it. I am not a housekeeper but living with my son, that since the 18th of March 1818 the following changes have been made in my property viz. I had in possession on the 18th of March 1818 the following property to wit 2 cows, one horse, 2 pots, one skillet the whole of which I was compelled to dispose of to procure necessities for my support and am now [indecipherable word] in debt. That

he has no other evidence left him of his said services, but his own oath, corroborated by the Records of the Department of War.

Sworn to and declared the 8th day of [document cut off and illegible]

(signed) Richard Spinner

[His affidavit was supported by James & Jesse Lewis but the content of their affidavit is largely illegible because it is cut off. It appears to contain the statement that the veteran served under the wagon master as a Waggoner [sic].]

Richard Spinner a soldier in the 2nd V. S. R. having served 3 years the full term of his enlistment is hereby discharged.

March 1st 1780

S/ Cs Porterfield

Lt. Col. S. I. R. [??]

[a copy]

Addendum to Richard Spinner S6140

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. 10 Oct 2021.

[From [bounty-land records in the Library of Virginia](#).]

We James [probably James Lewis W303] & Jesse Lewis do hereby certify that in the year one thousand seven hundred and seventy nine, [or] Eighty we were acquainted with Richard Spinner, who then served under Matthew Pollock as a Waggon master in the Continental line on the Continental establishment at Albemarle Barracks where Burgoine's Troops were then quartered the said Spinner acted at that time as a Waggoner said to be in Continental service We further Certify that the aforesaid Richard Spinner appears to be in indigent circumstances lives as we believe partly on the liberality of his son as Witness our hand this 7th day of November 1826 (signed) James Lewis Jesse Lewis

[From [bounty-land records in the Library of Virginia](#) indexed as Spinner, Richd.]

Richard Spinner a soldier in the 2^d V. S. R. having served three years the full term of his Inlistment is hereby discharged.

March 1st 1780

C Porterfield

Lt. Colo. S. G. R. [State Garrison Regiment]

Copy J. Pendleton