

## Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Spievy (Spivey) Wyatt S6456

f26VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

10/24/11

[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 8<sup>th</sup> of June 1786." Please call errors or omissions to my attention.]

State of Virginia County of Norfolk, to wit

On this 17th day of September in the year 1832 personally appeared in open court before the Justices of the Court of Norfolk County now sitting Spivey Wyatt a resident of the Town of Portsmouth in the County of Norfolk in State of Virginia, aged seventy-three, 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 the 7th 1832. That he entered the service of the United States under the following named Officers and served as herein stated – In the month of July in the year 1777 being then about the age of seventeen he entered the service of Country as a volunteer under the command of Captain John Brickel [John Brickell?] – he then commanded a company of militia belonging to the said County of Norfolk in which company he performed duty as a private soldier for three months in the Town of Portsmouth County of Norfolk, the said company was attached to the Regiment of Norfolk County commanded then by Colonel John Wilson.

At the expiration of the said three months, he was discharged by Captain Brickel, and in the month of November following he joined Captain William Hoffler's company of Continental troops and performed duty with them in the same place (acting as the recruiting Sergeant for Captain Hoffler for about three months[]) when he was taken sick with the smallpox, by which he was confined for nearly two months during which time Captain Hoffler was ordered with his men to the North and being then confined and badly off with the smallpox which he had taken in this service was consequently left behind, and afterwards upon the application of his father, was discharged from said service – In the month of November 1778 he again entered the service as a volunteer, under the command of Captain Miller, who commanded a company of Militia in the County of Norfolk, and performed duty in said company until the latter part of January 1779 when he was transferred to Captain Thomas Mathews company of state troops in which he performed duty in the same place for about five months when Captain Mathews received a Colonel's commission took command of the Fort near Norfolk on the Elizabeth River immediately after which, he was discharged from said company; and in the month of July or August, following, he again joined as a volunteer a company of Militia under the command of Captain Roan; he thinks Christopher, & served him in the same place for about five months (at this time the Regiment of Norfolk County was commanded by Colonel W. Godfrey) when he together with the whole company was discharged.

In the early part of the year 1780 he again joined as a volunteer a company of militia, commanded by Captain John Bowers [?] of the Norfolk County Regiment commanded as before stated by Colonel Godfrey and was performing service with the said company in Portsmouth when the traitor Arnold [Benedict Arnold] ascended James River and continued in Portsmouth

with said company until he Arnold descended the River when we were all marched to the mouth of Nansemond River and Arnold took possession of Norfolk & Portsmouth, we continued in service at the mouth of said River and along the shores of Elizabeth River to Crany Island until the month of November 1780 when we were all discharged.

He then remained at home until March 1781 when he received a letter from Colonel Godfrey directing him to assemble the company formerly commanded by her Richard Jolliff [?], who had turned Refugee and joined the British Army at Portsmouth under the command of Arnold. In conformity to said order, he assembled as many men as he could at shoulders hill in Nansemond County where it was most convenient & safe to rendezvous as Portsmouth was then occupied by the British; but finding he could not assemble a full company, he informed Colonel Godfrey who ordered him to discharge them which he did. In August 1781 Arnold evacuated Portsmouth and carried his troops by water to little York, immediately after which, he again received orders from Colonel Godfrey to assemble the same company and draft one half the men for service at little York who were to march under the command of Captain Charles Conner of the Norfolk County Regiment this duty he performed, in as short time possible and after Captain Conner took command of them, there being no officer in the company, he received an acting appointment from Colonel Godfrey. They were then ordered to proceed immediately to Jamestown, and thence to little York, but on our arrival at Jamestown we heard of the surrender of Cornwallis to the American forces, we remained at Jamestown however about two days for orders, when we were joined by Major Thomas Armistead of the Continental Army & his Battalion, who took command of us; we were then ordered to return to Norfolk & Portsmouth and level the works which had been thrown up at those places by the British troops, which service took us about three months to accomplish, when we were all honorably discharged to enjoy the blessings of peace and liberty for which we had long and arduously contended.

He has no documentary evidence to prove his aforesaid services, nor does he know of any person now living who could do so.

In conformity to the instructions of the Secretary of War the Court then propounded the following interrogatories to the applicant.

1<sup>st</sup> Question. Where and in what year were you born?

Answer. I was born in the County of Norfolk & state of Virginia, and in the year 1760.

2<sup>nd</sup> Question. Have you any record of your age and if so where is it?

Answer. I have it is now at home

3<sup>rd</sup> Question. Where were you living when called into service: where have you lived since the Revolutionary War and where do you now live?

Answer. I lived when I entered service in the County of Norfolk have lived there since the revolutionary war & continued to live there still.

4<sup>th</sup> Question. How were you called into service; were you drafted; did you volunteer or were you a substitute, and if in substitute, for whom?

Answer. I was a volunteer, I was never drafted or a substitute.

5<sup>th</sup> question. State the names of some of the regular officers who were with the troops when you served, such Continental and militia regiments as you can recollect and the general circumstances of your service.

Answer. I well recollect Major Thomas Armistead in Major William Hoffler, the Continental officers and who were attached to our command. I also recollect Colonel Harrison another Continental officer who commanded a Regiment of Artillery but was not attached to our command he remained here (that he is in Portsmouth) but a short time, he soon went off to the

North – There was no Continental Regiment in service with us, I do not recollect the names or numbers of any of the Militia regiments as we were never properly organized. The general circumstances of my service I have already stated in the preceding declaration.

6<sup>th</sup> Question. Did you ever receive a discharge from the service, and if so, by whom was it given and what has become of it?

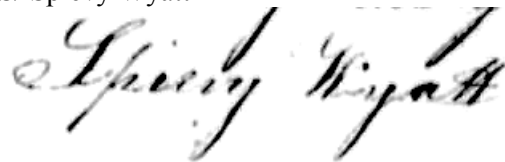
Answer. I received 2 discharges, one from Captain Conner, the other from Captain Millar, but both have been lost or destroyed

7<sup>th</sup> Question. State the names of persons to whom you are known in your present neighborhood and who can testify as to your character for veracity and their belief in your services as a soldier in the revolution.

Answer. I am personally well acquainted with the inhabitants of Portsmouth. I believe I could find 50 who could testify to my character for veracity. Captain Richard Blew and James Nimmo Esquire I have been acquainted with 4 more than 50 years either of whom would testify. I am also well acquainted with the Reverend Jesse Nicholson who is now sick at home and who was also a soldier of the Revolution, he would also testify as to my character, and his belief of my services. I would also add the name of Captain John Thomson and old inhabitant of this Town, & a member of the Court, and if necessary I could mention many others who would do the same thing – Also Captain Arthur Emmerson. 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 whatever.

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid

S/ Spievy Wyatt

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Spievy Wyatt". The signature is written in dark ink on a light background.

[David M. Woodson, a clergyman, and Arthur Emmerson gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$50 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for 15 months service as a private in the Virginia service.]