

[Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements](#)

Pension application of Obadiah Spears S7586

fn19SC

Transcribed by Will Graves

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[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.]

State of South Carolina, Sumner District, County of Claremont

On this 13th day of October 1832 Personally appeared in open court before B. J. Earle in the court of Common Pleas now sitting Obadiah Spears a resident of the County, District and State aforesaid aged nearly 78 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 the 7th 1832. I was born in what was called then Craven (now Claremont) County in the State of South Carolina, in the year of our Lord 1754, as will appear from the record in the Family Bible now at my Sister Mrs. Hampton's in this neighborhood. I was living in the same County and State when called into the service of my country in the revolutionary war and have resided ever since and still reside in the same County and State. On or about the first of February in the year of our Lord 1779, I entered as a volunteer into the service of the United States under the command of Colonel Matthew Singleton -- John Singleton being Captain of the company in which I belonged. The Regiment marched from Craven County to Augusta, and encamped there three months under the command of General Williamson. A party of about 60 men of which I was one under the command of one Captain Johnson made an excursion into Georgia and had a skirmish with the British and Tories, on Briar Creek about the last of March or first of April. At the expiration of three months we returned -- and I remained at home until June 1780. About that time as a volunteer, I joined General Marion near Murray's Ferry¹ on the South side of the Santee. I remained with Marion -- engaged in many skirmishes, until General Green [sic, Nathanael Greene] encamped on the High Hills of Santee in this District in the summer of 1781. Previous however to the encampment of General Greene at that place, I was under Marion at the taking of Fort Motte.² We were assisted by a troop of Horse under Colonel Lee. Some time afterwards we besieged and took Fort Watson³ in this District -- the officers were Marion, assisted by Mayham [sic, Hezekiah Maham] with his Corps of Cavalry. This Fort was taken on the 11th or 12th of May 1781. After this I was selected with five others to ride express for General Greene. I rode once to Charlotte the deposit [depot] at that time of the Stores for Greene's Army. Twice I went to Marion. My fourth trip was to Colonel Rutherford, at Cole's Bridge on Drowning Creek⁴ between Pedee and Fayetteville. On my return to Greene, I was immediately dispatched to Rutherford's camp about 20 miles from Wilmington at that time. On my return, I was taken prisoner by the Tories about 30 miles below Fayetteville on the Cape Fear

¹ <http://gaz.jrshelby.com/murraysfy.htm>

² May 8-12, 1781, <http://gaz.jrshelby.com/motte.htm>

³ April 15-21 1781, <http://gaz.jrshelby.com/watson.htm>

⁴ <http://gaz.jrshelby.com/drowningcr.htm>

River. I was condemned to death -- but effected my escape the night before the execution -- and after enduring the most severe suffering from hunger, fatigue and nakedness -- I reached the Army of Greene in safety. This was about the month of July or August. After this period, I joined General Marion once more. The first engagement in which I took part was the battle of Quinby.⁵ General Sumter had command of the day. Colonel Lee with his Every was there. Marion's forces were marched from this place to Georgetown. At least there was no action of consequence between the battle of Quinby and the Siege of Georgetown. The British evacuated the town shortly after the commencement of the siege -- and Marion took possession. The troops of Marion were then marched from Georgetown to a place called Catfish between the Big and the Little Pedee Rivers. General Marion there issued a proclamation for the Tories to come in and take pardon. Many of them took the benefit of the proclamation. This was the last of '81 or the beginning of '82 as well as deponent recollects. At this time I was seized with the Fever, and returning home -- I did not recover, until the Country no longer required my services. I do hereby relinquish every claim whatsoever to a pension or annuity except the present, and declare that my name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any State whatever.

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid.

S/ B. J. Earle, Presiding Judge

S/ Obadiah Spears

I William Vaughn,⁶ a revolutionary soldier residing in Claremont County Sumter District and State aforesaid do hereby certify, that I joined General Marion at the same time with the above deponent. We were frequently in the same mess. He served through the whole of the war. I have no very distinct recollection of the services in detail of the above deponent -- but know him to have served throughout the war from his entrance into Marion's Camp in 1780. To the best of my recollection Mr Spears was at the siege of Fort Motte -- Fort Watson -- Battle of Quinby's and the Siege of Georgetown.

Sworn and subscribed the ___ day of ___ in the year of all Lord 1832.

S/ B. J. Earle, Presiding judge

S/ Wm. Vaughan



[Thomas D. Glenn gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

Amendments to the Declaration of Obadiah Spears made to obtain the benefit of the Act of Congress passed June the 7th 1832.

The said Obadiah Spears being first duly sworn maketh the following answers to the interrogatories directed by the War Department to be proposed to applicants for Pensions.
Interrogatory 1st When and in what year were you born?

Answer 1 I was born in Craven County in the State of South Carolina in the year of our Lord 1754.

2nd Have you any record of your age and if so where is it?

Answer 2 My age is recorded in the family Bible which Bible is now at my sisters Amy Hampton's in the neighborhood of Sumterville [?]

⁵ July 17, 1781, <http://gaz.jrshelby.com/quinby.htm>

⁶ [William Vaughan W11691](#)

3rd Where were you living when called into service: where have you lived since the Revolutionary War and where do you now live?

Answer 3. I lived in Craven County State of South Carolina when called into service I have lived in the same County and State since the Revolutionary War -- And I now live in the same County and State -- the name of the County has been changed into that of Claremont.

4th How were you called into service; were you drafted; did you volunteer or were you a substitute, and if in substitute, for whom?

Answer 4. I was always a volunteer, and never drafted, nor ever went into service as a substitute for any person whatever.

5th 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 5. In answer to this interrogatory I can add but little to what is contained in my former declaration. On or about the first of February 1779 I volunteered under the command of Colonel Matthew Singleton, John Singleton being the Captain of the company of which I was a member we marched from Craven County to Augusta and were dismissed after a tour of three months. About the last of June or first of July in the year of our Lord 1780 I volunteered under General Marion who was then near Murray's Ferry on the Santee. I was engaged in continual marches, skirmishes &c incident to partisan warfare. The soldiers under Marion though not properly Cavalry were always mounted. From the great lapse of time and the defects of memory in my former declaration I stated that I was present at the taking of Fort Watson in this District in May 1781 -- but I was mistaken -- Fort Watson was taken before that time, and Fort Motte surrendered in May -- I was present at the siege of both forts, Colonel Lee commanded the Cavalry at the siege of both places. I was in a Regiment at that time under the command of Colonel Richard Richardson -- my Captain was named Malone. From the first of July 1780 until 16 July 1781 I remained under the immediate command of Marion. By order of General Marion I then joined General Greene and rode express until probably about the last of August. I then joined General Marion, I was not engaged in the Battle of Eutaws [Eutaw Springs] I stood guard, however over the magazine wagon about a mile or such a distance from the battleground. I was in the battle of Quinby where General Sumter commanded, Marion, Lee were there also -- according to my recollection the battle of Quinby bridge was after the Battle of Eutaw -- but by consulting a history of the Revolution I find myself mistaken, I have scarcely ever refreshed my memory of the revolutionary incidents by consulting books -- so that though recollecting important events -- I cannot remember anything very distinct about their dates. I remained with Marion until about the first of January 1782 making the whole term of my military service one year and nine months. In January 1782 I was seized with a fever and did not recover until my services were no longer required.

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

Answer 6th. I never received a written discharge from the service. I never heard of such a thing as a written discharge -- nor do I remember of anyone of Marion's men receiving a written discharge.

7th 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 7th. William Vaughan, John China,⁷ Reddin J. McCoy⁸ with whom I was acquainted in the Revolution, Noell Vaughn, Joseph B. Whitt, Robert Bradford &c. The Reverend Thomas D. Glenn who deposed to the tradictionary evidence of my revolutionary services is since dead.

South Carolina, Sumter District: Obadiah Spears being duly sworn maketh oath that the above answers to the above Interrogatories are true to the best of his recollection old age and the lapse of memory preventing him from being absolutely certain as to the precise length of the periods of his service.

Sworn to before me this March 7th 1834

S/ Obadiah Spears

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Obadiah Spears". The ink is dark and the handwriting is fluid, with a long, sweeping tail on the final letter.

S/ John Hemphill, N. P.

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$65.11 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for 19 months & 16 days service as a private in the South Carolina State Troops.]

⁷ [John China S46593](#)

⁸ FPA S7198 [Redden McCoy]