

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Claiborne Spain S7591

f11VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

3/17/12

[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.]

State of North Carolina Davidson County Court of Pleas [sic] and Quarter Sessions February Term 1834

On this 11th day of February 1834, personally appeared in open Court before the justices of said Court it being a Court of record Claborn Spain [sic] a resident of the United States in the County of Davidson and State of North Carolina aged 69 years the 14th of April 1834 according to his parents account of his age 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.

The said Claborn Spain states that he was drafted during three months in a short space of time after he was put on the Muster roll which was before he was 16 years of age from the County of Sussex State of Virginia (his native residence) and went to South Hampton County Virginia where he entered the service of the United States as a Militia Soldier of the Revolutionary War as well as he recollects in the last of January or the 1st of February in the year 1781 with the Virginia militia troops under the following named officers in the Virginia Regiment to wit General Muningburg [Peter Muhlenberg] commander in chief, Colonel Meriwether and Major McClomon [this MIGHT be a mistaken reference to Christian Charles de Klauman] and was put under Captain Smith his Lieutenant and Ensign's names not recollected Benjamin Green was orderly Sergeant. He states that he with the other troops an officer stationed some time in South Hampton County Virginia and from thence marched eastwardly to South Key where he with the Army were on the alert [alert?] and scout in and about the neighborhood to prevent the success of the enemy from hence he marched to the Long Bridge in Virginia where they were stationed four weeks in wait or watching for the British through that section of Country from thence West across a great desert where his tour of duty of three months expired and then he the said Claborn Spain returned home (Sussex County) and in a few days after which time he was drafted to serve three months more. Then he returned and went to Blandford the second tour of service the same Regiment under General Muningburg, Colonel Meriwether and Major McClomon and under Captain John Powel & Edward Powel Lieutenant, his Ensign's name not recollected and stationed at Blandford on James River sometime on the watch for the enemy or British out to, and along the seashore to prevent the British from landing from thence under the control of his officers he marched down James River on the watch for the British to Portsmouth a little town in Virginia where after remaining some time, his second tour of three months expired and he again returned home from the Army in the Summer or latter part of the spring season of the year as well as he can recollect. And in a short space of time the

alarm was that Lord Cornwallis was at Halifax North Carolina who marched his Army near his residence Sussex County Virginia and stationed a small space of time at the High Hills of Virginia in Sussex County of Nottoway River. He the said Claborn Spain further states that he was called & pressed out immediately for three months more in haste the third tour in order to attack Cornwallis by reinforcing General Washington and his Army. He the said Claborn Spain states that in the summer of 1781 as he believes he entered the third tour of three months at the High Hills of Virginia after Lord Cornwallis had vacated the place under Captain James Vawn [James Vaughn or James Vaughan?] in Company without any other officers and marched in haste to Yorktown to reinforce General Washington and his Army of the regular Soldiers. And at Yorktown he interseeked [sic] with General Washington's and the French troops and were then employed in making fortifications to attack Cornwallis which was done and terminated in the surrender of Cornwallis & his Army [October 19, 1781] to the Americans which was as he believes October or September. After preparation General Washington took part of Cornwallis' men and carried them off up the River by water and he the said Claborn Spain states that he was sent as one of the Guard to convey the other part of the British up to Fredericksburg in Virginia about 80 miles distance from Yorktown. After the Completion of that expedition his last tour of 3 months service expired and was then released from three tours of service each of which was 3 months amounting to nine months service as a soldier of the Revolutionary war of the Militia of Virginia; but was not in any battle only that of taking Cornwallis. He further states that he received a discharge given him by his last Captain (James Vawn) assigned by someone of the head officers but he states that he was without any education and does not recollect at this time by whom it was assigned having mislaid or lost it many years ago. He states that he never had any record of his age but from the statement of his parents he was born in the year 1765 the 14th of April in the State of Virginia Sussex County and entered the service as a soldier of the Militia of Virginia before he was 16 years of age; he was just put on the muster roll and was in a few days drafted and called into service as a soldier. He states after his service of 9 months ended as a soldier which was late in the fall as well as he can recollect in the year 1781 he returned to Sussex County Virginia (his former residence) and then married about 11 months after and lived there several years until he had in his family 7 children from thence he & family moved to Edgecombe County North Carolina there resided 10 or 11 years & from thence to Rowan County North Carolina and there resided 5 years and from thence to Guilford County North Carolina and resided there 16 years & from there to Davidson County North Carolina where he has lived ever since nearly 7 years. He the said Claiborne Spain states that he has no documentary evidence and in consequence of his removals he does not know of any person whose testimony he can procure who can testify to his service and in consequence of his being an old man and in indigent circumstances and not living near any clergyman, in the County of Davidson or any adjoining County with whom he has intimate acquaintance He further states some of his fellow soldiers names who served at the same time with him to wit John Cobet [?], Frederick Owen,¹ John Owen,² Frederick Threewits, Wm Studavent [William Sturdivant?], David Owen, Joshua Owen, Balsam Owen, Robert Parham, Lewis Parham, James Parham, Wm Parham, John Parham, Thos. Peebles³, Joseph Tyus, Edwin Tyus, Pinkney Tyus, Robert Studafan. 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.

¹ This MAY be the same man by that name who served from Sussex County, Va., See FPA S1578

² This MAY be the same man by that name who served from Sussex County, Va., See FPA W5461

³ This MAY be the same man by that name who served from Sussex County, Va., See FPA W13801

Sworn to, and subscribed, the day and year aforesaid.

He further states that he received no discharges except the one written mentioned to the best of his recollection or if he did he lost them.

S/ Claiborn Spain, X his mark

[Thomas Davis and Allen Newsom gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$30 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for service as a private for 9 months in the Virginia service.]