

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Spencer Kellam¹ W1178 Margaret Kellam f29VA
Transcribed by Will Graves 11/8/13

[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' 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.]

State of Virginia Accomack County SS

On the 28th day of April 1829 personally appeared in open Court being a Court of record for the County of Accomack in the State of Virginia Spencer Kellam resident in the said County aged sixty-nine 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 March 1818 and the 1st May 1820 that he was drafted in the County of Accomack in the State of Virginia in the month of October 1781 as a Soldier for 18 months in a Company Commanded by Captain Thomas Parker in the Regiment commanded by Colonel Campbell (whose Christian name the declarant does not recollect but he is the same Colonel Campbell [Richard Campbell] who was killed at the Battle of Eutaw Springs [September 8, 1781] in the line of the State of Virginia on Continental Establishment that he continued to serve in the said Corps until the expiration of his said 18 months when he was discharged from Service at Drummond Town in the County of Accomack 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 pension Roll of any State, and that the following are the reasons for not making earlier application for a pension that declarant was heretofore able to Support himself until recently when almost all the property of the declarant was lost in a Storm on the Chesapeake Bay – 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. That the declarant is a Sailor by occupation but from age & infirmity the declarant is unable to labor. That the family of the declarant consist of his wife Margaret aged near 70 years who is unable to contribute to her Support from age & ill health and a small Negro girl named Leah belonging to William Custis who is hired by the declarant for the term of 6 years for her victuals and clothes, that the declarant is incapable of Supporting himself without the aid of the Government or public or private Charity,

¹ BLWt95517-160-55

The Schedule named in the above declaration is in these words to wit "A Schedule of the property of Spencer Kellam necessary Clothing and bedding excepted on the 28th day of April 1829 Thirty-three acres of land of the value of about seventy-five acres in fee simple and worth about \$3 per annum, 2 pigs, 3 geese, 8 Dunghill Fowl, 1 axe, one old hoe, 2 tables, 9 chairs, 6 plates, 6 knives & forks, one small water tub, one washing tub, 2 iron pots"

S/ Spencer Kellam

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At a Court held for Accomack County on the 27th day of July 1829 Spencer Kellam appeared in Court and on oath made an additional declaration in these words "Additional declaration of Spencer Kellam in order to obtain a pension under the act of Congress of March 18th, 1818 who states on oath that on the 18th day of March 1818 he owned a Small Shallop and had then two sons with him by which he was enabled by trading in the Chesapeake Bay to support his family since which time one of his said sons has died and the other having attained the age of twenty-one years, has left him – he however by great economy and exertion continued to run his Shallop and thereby obtain a Scanty Support for his family until the 4th day of August 1828 when he in a squall on the Chesapeake Bay lost his vessel and nearly the whole of his Clothes, tools and several articles purchased for his family. That he is now unable to purchase another vessel and too infirm to support himself by manual labor. That the above was all the property he then held in addition to that contained in a former Schedule and the above is the only Change that has taken place.

[Certified as a true copy by the clerk of the court of Accomack County]

[p 27] At a Court of Quarter Sessions held for Accomack County on the 3rd day of September 1829

Spencer Kellam in order to obtain a Pension under the provisions of the act of Congress produced in court Branson E. W. Dolby who made deposition in these words the is "State of Virginia Accomack County SS: The Deposition of Branson E. W. Dolby of lawful age being first duly sworn deposeth and saith that he sailed as a hand on board a Shallop belonging to Spencer Kellam in the Summer 1828 that on the 4th day of August 1828 that he this deponent and Spencer Kellam were bound from Petersburg Virginia to Accomack County there place of residence when near the middle of the Chesapeake Bay off Naswaday the vessel was struck by a Sudden squall which immediately upset the vessel, although she had no sail on her that as soon as the squall had ceased they this deponent and the said Spencer Kellam abandoned the Vessel and took to their small Boat for the preservation of their lives and with great danger landed in the night on the Bay Shore in the County of Northampton Virginia that this deponent believes the said Kellam was the sole owner of the said Vessel that the said Kellam had a member other articles [sic, a number of other articles?] of his own on board the Vessel at the time, all of which was entirely lost, the Vessel and no part of the other property of this deponent verily believes ever having been saved & further saith not."

S/ Branson E. W. Dolby

[p 12: On May 9, 1853, in Accomack County Virginia, Margaret Kellam, 65, filed for a widow's pension under the 1853 act stating that she is the widow of Spencer Kellam, a pensioner for his service in the revolution; that she married him November 28, 1827; that her husband died February 9, 1837 and that she remains his widow. She signed her application with her mark.]

[p 8: On June 26, 1860 in Accomack County Virginia, Margaret Kellam, 74, filed for a widow's bounty land entitlement under the 1855 act as the widow of Spencer Kellam. She signed this application with her mark.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$8 per month commencing September 3, 1829, for service as a private for 18 months in the Virginia Continental line. His widow was pensioned at the rate of \$96 per annum commencing February 3rd, 1853.]