

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Amasa Spencer W2017 Precilla (Priscilla) f47VA
Transcribed by Will Graves 3/24/12

[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 Indiana Jennings County: SS

On this day personally appeared in open Court before the Honorable the Jennings Circuit Court of Jennings County State of Indiana now sitting Amasa Spencer aged seventy-two years a resident of the said County of Jennings and State aforesaid, who being first duly sworn deposeseth and saith and upon his oath makes the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the Act of Congress passed June 7th, 1832. That about the 1st of June 1779 he entered the service as a Soldier in the United States Army in the County of Charlotte in the State of Virginia as a substitute for and in the place and ranks of Irwin Wood a drafted private under the command of Captain William Morton in the Regiment commanded by Colonel Joel Watkins for the term of three months. And that afterwards to wit about the last of May 1780 at the said County of Charlotte in Virginia he was drafted for the term of five months and served as such drafted soldier in the company commanded by Captain Thomas Williams in the 4th Regiment of Virginia troops commanded by Colonel Lucas and in the Brigade of General Stevens [Edward Stevens], and served the said five months, was rendezvoused at Hillsboro in North Carolina, and served the above time in North Carolina & South Carolina under the following Regular Officers General Gates, General DeKalb of the Maryland troops, General Stevens of the Virginia troops and was discharged from the above service of five months at Guilford Court House in North Carolina, and that afterwards, to wit, in the month of February 1781 he enlisted for the term of six weeks in the company commanded by Captain William Morton at the County of Charlotte in the State of Virginia in the Regiment commanded by Colonel Cocke and served the said term of six weeks, and was discharged at Ramsay's Mills, on Deep River in North Carolina, making in all his services nine months and a half. And that his marches were from Virginia to North Carolina and to Suttons near Camden South Carolina, and that he was engaged in the Battle of General Gates with the British in August 1780 [August 15-16, 1780] near Camden in which the American Army was defeated, and that he was engaged in the Battle of Guilford Court House in North Carolina in March 1781 [March 15, 1781], under Major General Greene [Nathanael Greene], and skirmishes one at Reedy Fork of the Haw River in North Carolina and another on a Creek called Alamance in Guilford County North Carolina and that he hath no documentary evidence of his services and that he knows of no person except some persons in Mercer County State of Kentucky whose testimony he can procure, who can testify to his services. He hereby relinquishes all and every claim 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.

And in answer to Question 1st, He was born in the County of Albany State of New York in the year 1760.

Ans. 2. He has no record evidence of his age which he can exhibit in Court –

Ans. 3. He was living in Charlotte County State of Virginia when he entered the service and removed in the year 1782 into that part of the then state of Virginia, which is now Lincoln County Kentucky.

Ans. 4. He 1st entered the service by being a substitute for Irvin Wood, secondly by draft, thirdly by voluntary enlistment.

Ans. 5. The names of some of the Officers, he says our Brigadier General Stevens, Major General Gates, DeKalb, General Green, Colonels Watkins, Lucas and Cocke, Captain William Morton, Thomas Wil [paper cut off]

6. He did not receive a discharge, but was disbanded with the other troops without any written discharge.

He is known to John Walker, Clerk of the Jennings Circuit Court and William Sanford Sheriff of said County who can testify to his character for veracity and their belief of his services as a soldier of the Revolution.

Sworn & subscribed to in open Court this 29th day of August 1832

S/ Amasa Spencer, A his mark

[John Vawter, a clergyman, and Alanson Andrews gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[f p. 35]

Declaration of Amasa Spencer in order to procure an increase of his Pension under the Act of Congress passed June 7th 1832

State of Indiana Jennings County: SS

On this 8th day of March 1844 personally appeared in open Court before the Honorable the Judges of the Jennings Circuit Court in and for the County of Jennings and state of Indiana aforesaid, now in session, Amasa Spencer a resident of the said County of Jennings and State of Indiana aged eighty-four years the 5th day of next June (1844) who being first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to procure an increase in the Pension heretofore granted to him on the 15th day of March 1833 under 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. In the month of June 1777 in the County of Charlotte Virginia, he entered the service as a substitute for one Irwin Woods (who had been drafted) and served for three months under the following named officers, to wit, General Lawson, Colonel Falkner, Captain William Morton, Major Morris, Lieutenant Colonel Watkins (or Watkins) 1st Lieutenant Johnson, Ensign Wood Bowlin, Orderly Sergeant, John Burrows (or Burroughs) and 1st Corporal William Farrer (or Fareer). He rendezvoused, at Petersburg Virginia, continued there about 7 or 8 days from thence marched on through Richmond and the burnt towns (as they were called) to the mouth of James River; he continued there and at Williamsburg until the expiration of his time of three months for which he entered as above stated, During all of this term he was in no engagement, nor did he see the enemy nearer than where their shipping lay off the mouth of James River. This tour was performed in the 17th year of his age he having entered the service about the time of his completing his 17th year: He then after this tour was up, in the forepart of September 1777, returned to his residence in Charlotte County Virginia, where he remained until the beginning of the fall of 1778 when he again entered the service as a Substitute for three months for one John Cunningham. He resided also in Charlotte County Virginia, at the time and served his second tour under Colonel Watkins (a Lieutenant Colonel in his first tour) Lieutenant Colonel Jamison, Major Reed, Capt. William Morton, Lieutenant John Woods, Ensign John

Burroughs (who had also been advanced since his 1st tour from orderly Sergeant to Ensign) 2nd Sergeant James Cole (his 1st Sergeant not recollected) and Corporal Ford. He served this tour of three months at, and between old Williamsburg and New London as a guard to the military Stores. New London is in Bedford County about three hundred miles from Williamsburg as near as he can state and it was between these two places and at them where the services in this tour were rendered. He was not engaged all of the three months as a guard, but about two months and a half – the other two weeks were spent in foraging for the Army. Sometime about the 1st of December 1778, he was duly discharged after serving out the full period of time for which he entered, and he returned to his home in Charlotte County. He was discharged at Rocky River Meeting House. He remained at home, until about the 1st of June 1780, when he was drafted for five months. This draft was ordered by the Governor of Virginia; the object of it was to raise troops to reinforce the troops in South Carolina. A little before this time, the British had landed at Savannah or Augusta and marched up to Charleston and captured it, and if he remembers right it was about the time of the aforesaid events, that he entered for five months and which was his third tour. This tour of five months he served under General Stevens of Virginia, Colonel Lucas [James Lucas], Lieutenant Colonel Dowlman [perhaps William Downman or Dorman], Major Morris [perhaps Nathaniel G. Morris of Goochland County] (not the same Morris that he served under in his first tour) Adjutant Robert Bradshaw Captain Thomas Williams Lieutenant James Henney or Harvey – Ensign Andrew Irvin, Sergeant David Caldwell, and Corporal Ford, The Company rendezvoused at Charlotte Court House, and marched to Hillsboro North Carolina and crossed Dan River at Ferry. From Hillsboro he crossed the River and encamped there 7 or 8 days from thence to Pedee [River] and across the same to General Gates Head Quarters at Rugeleys [Rugeley's] Mills – about twelve miles from Camden. From thence he was marched for Camden having in the meantime been transferred to the command of Colonel Porterfield [Lieutenant Colonel Charles Porterfield]. This battle called the Battle of Camden was fought on the 16th day of August 1780, and was commenced about the break of day on the morning of the 16th of August. It was fought about halfway between the Rugeley's Mills and Camden – being about six miles short of Camden. The history of this day is known. This applicant was in the front ranks of this dreadful engagement and had to retreat from before the fixed bayonets of the enemy – no bayonets being furnished for those taken from the soldiers a few days previous by order of his commander, as was said at the time to disencumber as much as possible the soldiers, with the understanding that they were to draw others or the same at General Gates Head Quarters. It was here that DeKalb (*) fell at the head of his brave troops. It was here also that he saw his Colonel (Porterfield) mortally wounded and taken off the Battlefield held on to his horse by two soldiers – and he has never forgotten the dying words of that brave man "Boys don't be disheartened, I am a dead man, but don't mind that." Major Smith was also badly wounded at this engagement. General Gates had left the Army on the battlefield, and a disorderly retreat was made to Hillsboro North Carolina. He stayed here about 2 weeks, and then was marched to Guilford County to a place called New Garden – there he remained 5 or 6 weeks, when he was marched to Guilford Court House and encamped near the same. Here he remained for 3 or 4 weeks until his 5 months had expired when he was duly discharged by Colonel Stubblefield, and he returned home to Charlotte County Virginia in November 1780 – After the battle of the Cowpens in January 1781: It is known Tarlton [Banastre Tarleton] was defeated in this Battle, and Colonel

Morgan with about 320 [?]¹ prisoners of War marched to join General Greene. Greene marched the prisoners for Virginia pursued by Lord Cornwallis – General Greene sent an express for a reinforcements to Colonel Reed of Charlotte County Virginia. This was in the latter part of January 1781. Colonel Thomas Reed mustered his Regiment at Coles Ferry on Blantons River. He belonged to Captain William Morton's Company – and on Sunday ending the last of January 1781 or 1st of February – a Company of volunteers consisting of two hundred (among which was this applicant) was raised to march to the reinforcement of General Greene. They volunteered for 6 weeks. And on Monday morning marched for General Greene's head Quarters in Halifax County, near a Small River called Banister. This tour (being his fourth) he served under Colonel Teney Cock [?], Lieutenant Colonel Williams, Major James Hubbard, Adjutants [?] Caldwell and Whitelock Captain William Morton – Lieutenant Morton (a nephew of the Captain's), Ensign Barnes, also Sergeant Barnes, and Corporal Enes [?], After remaining a short time at Halifax County, he was transferred to Colonel Samuel McDowell's Command. McDowell, had command of Riflemen, and here this applicant was engaged in two skirmishes, one at Haw River, and the other at Alamant [Alamance] Creek Virginia, the first skirmish was fought across Haw River, and one William Parks had his thigh broken, and was left on the ground, and one other man had his thumb shot off. It was rumored that the British lost 27 men – yet they were so numerous and charged so fast on our people across the River that we could not stay to remove the wounded men. At Alamant Creek two Americans and one Catawba Indian were killed, never learned how many of the enemy were killed or wounded, These engagements were 3 or 4 days apart, and 6 or 8 days before the Battle of Guilford Courthouse. From marching and countermarching in Alamant County he was marched near to Guilford Court House.

He remained near Guilford Court-House marching and countermarching in the immediate vicinity and in hearing a part of the time the Drums of the enemy for about 2 weeks, until the 15th of March 1781. (He thinks this is the time) when the Battle of Guilford was fought. There the enemy kept the ground, but after burying their dead they did not pursue the American Army, but marched with all dispatch for Wilmington North Carolina where their shipping lay. This applicant was in the hottest of this engagement and saw General Stevens when he was shot through the thigh by a musket ball, and saw him taken off the field. The command of General Stevens' Brigade devolved upon Colonel Larey Cock [?]², who immediately pursued the British on their march to Wilmington with General Greene. The enemy had about one day's start on our forces yet so hotly where they pursued, that they were only five miles in advance of the American Army when they reached their shipping, and many of their rear guard were fired on by our riflemen and killed. On the road leading from Guilford to Wilmington about 8 or 10 miles from the latter place he was discharged by Colonel Cocke, after having served 8 weeks instead of 6 weeks he, together with the rest of the 200 (who survived the Battle) returned to their homes in Charlotte County Virginia. They had remained 2 weeks over the time for which they volunteered at the special request of General Greene. And in April 1781 he reached his home in Virginia. He remained but a few days at home before he again entered the service on his fifth and last tour. This was about the 1st of May 1781. He entered this time as a substitute for one John Fenkway

¹ 377.

² Larey Cock,

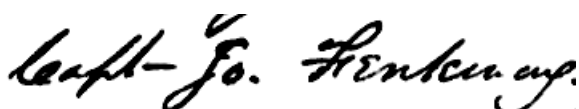
[?] and served for three months – During this tour he served under the following named officers, to which, Colonel Lynch, Lieutenant Colonel Joel H, Major Smith, Captain Jo. Fenkway [?],³ Lieutenant Jones, Ensign Jones (brothers), Sergeant James Cole and Corporal Barnes. They rendezvoused near the upper part of Halifax County where they took under their charge about 600 British prisoners, (the most of them were taken at the Cowpens) from thence he marched as one of the guard of the prisoners aforesaid to Winchester, where he remained as a guard, until the expiration of his time of three months, when he was discharged about the 1st of August 1781.

And here this applicant would remark that he has given the above history of his marches, and the names of places, dates &c &c solely from memory (never having ever read a history of those times, he being unable to read) and he may be mistaken as to dates but he is not mistaken as to the general facts in the case. That when he applied for a Pension, and one was granted him many years since 15th day of March 1833 for \$31.88 he was totally unacquainted with what he should do in the matter, and that his agent failed to put down all of his tours of service, that he has been advised long ago that he should have drawn more than the present amount of his Pension. And he now asked the Commissioner of Pensions to examine his present Declaration and to allow to him the amount which he should justly claim under the act of June 7th, 1832. And he hereby recapitulates his several tours – (viz.) from June 1777 to September same year 3 months – from the fall of the year 1778 to December same year – 3 months – from 1st of June 1780 to November same year 5 months – from 1st February 1780 to April same year 2 months from 1st May 1781 to August same year 3 months, making in the whole 16 months – and this is the true amount of time which he served. And he further states that the agent who made out the papers on which his Pension was granted informed him that it would be of no use to claim for the 3 months now claimed, as his second tour, and a three months now claimed as his fifth tour making 6 months, because he stood a great part of his said tours as a guard to the military stores, and a guard to the prisoners at Winchester. He has no idea at this time what his former declaration states, only he supposes that as he aimed to tell the truth then, as he has now that there will not be that kind of [several indecipherable words] – this confidence which he hopes the Department may have in this narrative of service is long since rendered to the Country. He hopes that he has been particular enough in his statements after naming the following Regular Officers with whom he served and personally knew, to wit, General Greene, General Gates, Colonel Morgan, Colonel Washington, Colonel Lee, (both commanded cavalry and were at the Battle of Guilford), He also knew General DeKalb and saw him a moment before he fell at Camden (or near Camden). He also remembers General Huger [Huger] who commanded the 1st Maryland line at the Barrel of Guilford. He also knew General Marion and General Peter Horry. (*) Mr. Spence would not say what particular troops DeKalb at Camden but thinks that they were the Maryland State Troops)

And this applicant further states that he knows of no person whose testimony he can procure to prove his said services, and that he has no documentary evidence to prove the same. 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 only on that of the Agency of the State of Indiana for the sum \$31.88 as above stated.

S/ Amasa Spencer, X his mark

[William C. Bramwell, a clergyman, and Hickman New gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

³ 

in the month of the peace[f p. 11: On April 6, 1853 in Jennings County Indiana, Priscilla Spencer, 66, made application for a widow's pension under the 1853 act stating that she is the widow of Amasa Spencer, a soldier of the revolution and pensioner who died July 10th, 1846; that she married him January 5th, 1835; that they were married by Seth M. Chace, JP. She signed her application with her mark.]

[f p. 13: copy of the license issued for the marriage of Amasa Spencer to Priscilla Fitzgerald issued January 5, 1835 in Jennings County Indiana.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$31.88 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for service as a private for 9 months & 12 days in the Virginia militia. Veteran's widow was pensioned in a like amount.]