

## Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Calvin Spencer W21983      Rebecca S. Powe<sup>1</sup>      fn61SC  
Transcribed by Will Graves      7/5/11

[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 South Carolina Chesterfield District SS

On this 27th day of May in the year of our Lord 1839 personally appeared before Turner Bryan Esquire Judge of the Court of Ordinary in & for the district aforesaid, Rebecca S Powe, a resident of the District of Chesterfield in the State of South Carolina, aged seventy-four years, who, being first duly sworn according to law, doth, on her oath, make the following declaration, in order to obtain the benefit of the provision made by act of Congress passed July the 4th 1836, and the Act explanatory of said act passed March 3rd, 1837; That she was married to Calvin Spencer, who was a Commissioned Officer in the War of the Revolution, in April or May 1782; that the said Spencer came to South Carolina from Connecticut before the War of the Revolution; that this deponent has reason to believe & does believe that the said Spencer entered the service in the War of the Revolution early in the year 1776 as a Lieutenant, but in what company or Regiment this deponent does not know; that he the said Spencer was on Sullivan's Island near Charleston, South Carolina, in June, 1776, and was in the engagement which there took place between Sir Peter Parker and Colonel Moultrie [William Moultrie] – Colonel Moultrie then having command of the Fort on said Island; that she believes the said Spencer had not been long in the service before he was promoted to a captaincy in the line, but whether before or after the engagement at Sullivan's Island above mentioned this deponent cannot say; that in December, 1777, the said Spencer was appointed Assistance Deputy Quarter-Master General in the Army of the Confederate States of America with the rank of Captain, which is proved by the certificate of Colonel Stephen Drayton hereto annexed; that the said Spencer was at the siege of Savannah in 1779; that when Charleston, in South Carolina, was taken by the British in May 1780, the said Spencer was out of the city on business connected with his office as Assistant Deputy Quarter Master General & did not, therefore, fall into the hands of the enemy; that after Charleston was taken by the British as aforesaid, the said Spencer retired into North Carolina, and as this deponent believes accompanied General Howe as his aid to the North; that after some months he returned to South Carolina & joined General Marion & served under him with the rank and in the capacity of Captain; that in the first of March, 1781, the British then having possession of Georgetown in South Carolina, the said Spencer with others having been sent out by General Marion as a reconnoitering party, he the said Spencer with one John Shackelford crossed the River a few miles above Georgetown and on reaching the bank found themselves very near a party of British Dragoons, they then tried to make their escape by re-crossing the River, but they were fired on by the Dragoons & the [indecipherable word, looks like "ourror", might be "cannon" but that doesn't make sense]; that the said Spencer was carried to Georgetown & put

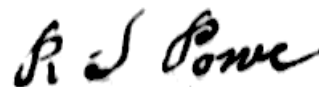
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<sup>1</sup> Former widow

into the dungeon where he remained a week or 2 and was then, with other prisoners carried towards Charleston, but General Marion or some of his men attacked the guard on the way & they returned with the prisoners to Georgetown, but in a few days afterwards, they were carried to Charleston & the said Spencer was put in the Provost where the said Spencer remained a short time but how long this deponent does not know; that in consequence of Colonel Postell's [James Postell] escaping from the Provost the said Spencer was put on board a prison ship then lying at Charleston; this deponent cannot say how long the said Spencer remained in the Prison ship, but he remained until he was sent to the North to be exchanged; That the said Spencer after having been exchanged, went on board a Privateer as Captain of Marines as this deponent has been informed & believes, but does not know the name of the vessel. He was principally on the coasts of North & South Carolina; this deponent saith that she does not know the particulars of the services of the said Spencer at sea, nor how long he served there, but knows that he quit the sea in the first of the year 1782: this deponent saith that the said Spencer served in the war of the Revolution from the time he first entered the service to the close of the war; that he served in the office of Captain or in some office with the rank of Captain during the whole time, except during a short period when he first entered the service when he served as Lieutenant as before stated. This deponent further saith that she does not know the Companies or Regiments in which, nor the officers under whom the said Spencer served further than as above set forth. She further declares that she was married to the aforesaid Calvin Spencer, at the house of her sister Mrs. Mary Bonneau near Georgetown South Carolina, by Reverend Mr. Warren an Episcopal Preacher in April or May 1782; that her husband, the aforesaid County Spencer, died on the 19th day of January, 1801; that she was afterwards married to Thomas Powe on the 23rd of February 1808, who died on the 7th day of May 1817; and that she was a widow on the 4th of July, 1836, and still remains a widow, as will more fully appear by reference to the proof hereto annexed. She further saith that she has no other documentary proof than that is hereto annexed & here with forwarded.

Sworn to and subscribed, on the day & year above written, before  
S/ Turner Bryan, Judge

S/ R. S. Powe



[fn p. 7: On the 27th of May 1839 in Chesterfield District, South Carolina, Mrs. Ann Taylor gave a supporting affidavit saying that the widow was married to Captain Calvin Spencer in the house of the deponent's mother near Georgetown South Carolina by an Episcopal preacher named Warren; that she was present at the ceremony and believes it was in April or May 1782; that she solved the said Captain Spencer taken as a prisoner from the house of her mother and that said Spencer and his widow were married before the end of the Revolution.



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[fn p. 8: On May 27, 1839 in Chesterfield district South Carolina, Thomas Godfrey gave a supporting affidavit in which he states that he saw Captain Calvin Spencer in uniform and called Captain Spencer; that he saw him in jail at Georgetown and in the Provost in Charleston and knows that he was put on board a prison ship in Charleston harbor; that he, affiant, himself

joined the service in April 1781.

*J. Godfrey*

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[fn p. 52: Grant dated October 8, 1789, from the state of South Carolina to Calvin Spencer Esquire a Continental Captain a tract containing 300 acres in Ninety Six District on the Branches of the Golden Growth Creek waters of Saluda River.]

[fn p. 56: receipt signed by C. Spencer A.D. Q. M. 16<sup>th</sup> Novr. 1779:

*I do hereby certify that the within mentioned  
book was done. —*  
*C. Spencer, A. D. Q. M. 16<sup>th</sup> Novr. 1779.*

[fn p. 58: Commission of Calvin Spencer as assistant deputy quartermaster general of the Army of South Carolina:

*State South Carolina*  
*This is to certify that Calvin Spencer Esq<sup>r</sup>*  
*was appointed in December 1779 Assistant Deputy Quarter*  
*Master General in the Army of the Independent States of America*  
*with the Rank of Captain, and that he still holds that*  
*appointment & acts as such*  
*Given under my hand at*  
*Charles Town this 5<sup>th</sup> day of Sept<sup>r</sup> 1779*  
*W. Drayton*  
*Deputy of the said*

[fn p. 10: marriage bond issued to Calvin Spencer and George Ford in Georgetown District South Carolina on August 16, 1782 for the marriage of said Calvin Spencer, Planter, to Rebecca Ford, spinster.]

[fn p. 13: On May 23rd, 1853, in Chesterfield District South Carolina, O. H. Spencer, son of Rebecca Powe, and executor of her estate, filed a claim seeking an increase in the pension paid to his mother from \$480 per annum, he believing that she was entitled to a larger pension. That he files the claim as the executor of her estate, his mother having died [date not stated in this document] survived by the following children: Eliza Powe, Samuel Spencer, Henry Spencer, Harriet Fleming, William Spencer and Oliver H Spencer, two of whom have since died the is Eliza Powe and Henry Spencer.]

[fn p. 30: Certificate dated December 16, 1853 from the South Carolina Comptroller General listing payments made to a Calvin Spencer full pay and subsistence due him as deputy quartermaster General of the Continental service.]

[facts in file: the widow died October 14th, 1843 in Chesterfield district, South Carolina.

[Veteran's widow was pensioned at the rate initially of \$480 per annum, increase subsequently to \$520 per annum, commencing March 4th, 1831, for her husband's service as a Captain in the South Carolina service.]