

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Spencer Watkins W2283 Sarah fn45VA
Transcribed by Will Graves 8/12/11

[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 8th of June 1786." Please call errors or omissions to my attention.]

State of Tennessee Jefferson County

On this second day of November personally appeared before Jacob Gear a Justice of the peace for the County of Jefferson Spencer Watkins, a resident of the County of Jefferson, and State of Tennessee, aged eighty-three 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 7th 1832.

That the Declarant Spencer Watkins was born on the 15th day of January in the year 1750 in the County of Amherst, and State of Virginia. In order to aid in repelling an invasion of Virginia by the British forces in the year of our Lord 1779 this declarant volunteered in the year 1779 in the month of October, date not recollected, under Captain Young Landrum [Younger Landrum] at Amherst Court House in the County of Amherst, State of Virginia. The Rendezvous was at the Court-House; whence he was marched to the Point of Forks, where the company crossed James River, there he was marched across the Appomattox on to Cabin Point, between James River and the Dismal Swamp; where the company joined General Lawson's Brigade. Captain Landrum returned home and his company was distributed amongst other companies not filled up. This Declarant was, with others, attached to Captain Patterson's company in the Regiment of Colonel Holcombe. He does not recollect the Lieutenants and Ensign of either Company – nor does he recollect the Majors of the Regiment. The Declarant was stationed mostly at Cabin Point where he was discharged in the month of January day not recollected, after the expiration of the term of 3 months for which he had volunteered.

In the year 1781 – the Declarant volunteered under Captain Jack Woodruff in the month of February day not recollected at Amherst Court House, State of Virginia. He served in Colonel Jack Meriwether's Regiment, Wm Cabell [William Campbell], Major – William and John Hosley were the lieutenants and Robin Hosley the Ensign of the company. Captain Woodruff's Company started with three other Companies – Captain Pamplin's, Captain Digges and Captain Montgomery. They all marched together from Amherst Court House – first to Brown's Tavern, thence to Cedar Point between Richmond and Fredericksburg, thence to Bacon's Old fields, where they joined General Stephens [Edward Stevens] thence to Holt's forge on Chickahominy River, thence to Bottoms Bridge on the same River thence to Mobbing Hills [Malvern Hills], where this Declarant was discharged late in the month of May, date not recollected, after the expiration of a tour of three months. At Mobbing Hills we joined the main Army under General Lafayette. This Declarant was engaged in two other short services during the Revolutionary war. He was marched in March of the year 1781 under Captain Lewis Neville to Albemarle Barracks, to guard the British prisoners stationed there – He was engaged in this service two weeks and three days – the prisoners being taken to Winchester: He was detailed from his militia Company

in Amherst County and sent under Nathaniel Dever after deserters in Amherst County and in the upper edge of Rockbridge he was engaged two weeks in this service in the month of August and year 1781. The Declarant has no documentary evidence as to his service having lost his discharges, where or when he does not know, and he knows of no person whose testimony he can procure, who can testify to his service. 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. That he has never received any pay for his service. That he was twenty-nine years of age when he entered the service – lived in Virginia forty-four years after the revolutionary war – and since has lived 6 years in East Tennessee where he now lives.

Sworn to and subscribed for me the 2nd day of September 1833

S/ Spencer Watkins, X his mark

S/ Jacob Gear, JP

Question 1st Where and in what year were you born?

Answer 1st I was born on the 15th day of January in the year 1750 in the County of Amherst, State of Virginia

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

Answer 2nd. I have none.

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

Answer 3rd. When called into service I was living in Amherst County State of Virginia. After the Revolutionary war, I lived 44 years in Virginia, and since have lived 6 years in Jefferson County East Tennessee, where I now live.

Question 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 4th. I was called into service by the orders of the Governor of Virginia. In the first term I volunteered and in the 2nd I volunteered in each of the short tours of duty I was detailed, I might say drafted.

Question 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 5th. In my first tour, General Steuben was with our troops a short time with a small body of regulars. In that tour I do not recollect any other Regular officer besides General Steuben. Our troops at Cabin Point were militia under the command of General Lawson. In my second tour the militia collected at Bacon's old field under the command of General Stephens. We then joined the main Army at Mobbing Hills under General Lafayette. There were some Continental troops under General Lafayette at Mobbing Hills. This Declarant recollects General Lafayette, General Lawson and General Steve. The General circumstances of my service are set forth in my declaration to the best of my recollection. In his tours the Declarant was not engaged in any battles or skirmishes. My first tour was in 1779 to aid in repelling the invasion of Virginia by the British forces in the year 1779. My 2nd tour was in 1781 – to aid in repelling the invasion of Virginia I General Cornwallis – and is Declarant's tour of service expired before any engagement or any skirmishes with the British forces; Lord Cornwallis not having reached the position which our troops occupied near Richmond, before the declarant was discharged.

Question 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 received 2 discharges from the service. They were given by my captains and I

have lost them where I do not know, never having paid any attention to them, never expecting to derive any benefit from them.

Question 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. I would referred to the Reverend William Minnis, Mr. Obadiah Smith and Mr. C. Flowers who reside in my neighborhood, and who can be examined touching my character and their belief of my services.

S/ Spencer Watkins, X his mark

[William Minnis, a clergyman, and Charles Flowers gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[facts in file: Spencer Watkins married January 10, 1796, in Buckingham County, Virginia, Sarah, whose maiden name is not shown; they were married by a Baptist Minister at the home of her brother-in-law, Isaac Staples, in the presence of Jane Staples and Ewell Staples; the widow was allowed her pension on her application dated June 5, 1850 at which time she lived in Jefferson County Tennessee and was then 76 years of age; reference is made in the file to the veteran and his wife having had a large family but none of the children are named in the final

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$23.33 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for 7 months service as a private in the Virginia militia. Veteran's widow was pensioned for a like amount commencing September 28, 1849.]