

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of John Spear (Spears)¹ W2363

Susannah

f65VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

3/23/12

[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.]

[f p 20]

State of Virginia Chesterfield County Sct.

On this 26 day of January in the year 1833, personally appeared before me, William Goode Junior a Justice of the Peace in the County and State aforesaid, John Spears, a resident of said County and State, aged seventy-four years; who being first 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 after stated.

In the year 177? [last digit overwritten and illegible], the month he thinks was April, having been regularly drafted, he entered the service of the United States as a private in Captain Joseph Royall's Company of militia in the Regiment commanded by Colonel Robert Goode in the County of Chesterfield, marched direct to Williamsburg, remained in the neighborhood of that place during the whole tour, and was discharged there after a service of three months.

After remaining at home a very short time, he was again called out and entered the service in the same company and Regiment commanded by the same Officers, marched by Petersburg down to Mackey's Mills and Smithfield in lower of Virginia; remained on service near those places during another tour of three months and was there discharged.

Shortly after the termination of the last mentioned tour, in the month not recollected in the year [marked through and illegible] – he again entered the service in the County of Chesterfield, in the same company commanded by the same Officers in the Regiment commanded by Colonel Francis Goode and Brigade by General Muhlenberg; marched to Randolph's mill near Petersburg, remained there a few weeks, marched thence by way of Chesterfield Court House to Tuckahoe Ferry, crossed James River at that place, marched down to Richmond, and remained there and in that neighborhood until the expiration of another tour of three months.

He remained at home but a short time, when he was again called out in the month & year not recollected and entered the same company & Regiment last mentioned, commanded by the same officers, marched from Chesterfield across Appomattox River at Bevill's bridge, and through Amelia County to Dinwiddie Court House, remained some time at that place, marched thence to Petersburg, and was stationed there until the expiration of another tour of three months, the usual term of service for the drafted militia, when he was discharged.

He was soon afterwards again called out in the same company in the month of August in

¹ BLWt26915-160-55

the year 1781, marched from Chesterfield through Amelia to the County of Nottoway to guard the public horses; remained at that County marching from one place to another until after the siege of York, when he was discharged after another service of three months.

That he was called out on many emergent locations during the Revolution, whereof his recollection is too imperfect to enable him to make a particular statement; but he thinks he was in the service the greater part of every year from 1778 to 1781; that from old age & the consequent loss of memory he is not able to swear positively as to the precise length of his service, and to the dates of the particular tours; but according to the best of his recollection, he served as a private in the militia during the Revolutionary War not less than fifteen months for which he claims a pension.

That he was never engaged in any battle; and does not remember to have served with any Continental troops, that he knew no Regular Officers, and did not well understand who were Regulars & who militia: that he never received any written discharge, as such was not usual to be given to the militia, & has no documentary evidence of his service; but that there are persons now living who can testify to some of the periods thereof.

That he was born on the 12th of February 1759 in the County of Chesterfield and State of Virginia, where he has resided from his birth to the present time, that he has a Register of his age which he found in an old pocket book that belonged to his father, which corresponds with the above.

He hereby relinquishes all claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present; and declares that his name is not on pension roll of the Agency of any State.

That he could mention the names of a great many persons who could testify to his character & the reputation of his service; but supposes it will be sufficient to refer to Mack Goode, James Elam & Richard Elam.

Subscribed & sworn to the day & year aforesaid.

S/ William Goode, JP

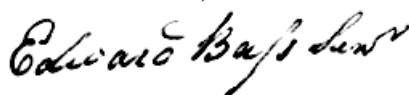
S/ John Spears



[Charles Forsee, a clergyman, Spencer Wooldridge & William Elliss gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

I, Edward Bass Senior,² a resident of the County of Chesterfield & State of Virginia aged seventy-eight years, certify that I am well acquainted with John Spears, who has made the foregoing declaration, whom I believe to be seventy-four years old, that we were raised in the same neighborhood and were acquainted before the Revolutionary War; and I do positively know that he served as a soldier of the Revolution; as we served together for some time, but how long & in what tours I cannot now recollect: and I have very little doubt that he served other tours during that war when I was not with him: and that the said Spears is a very respectable & credible man.

S/ Edward Bass, senior



² [Edward Bass S6595](#)

I, Allen Whitworth³ a resident of the County of Chesterfield in the State of Virginia hereby certify that I am well acquainted with the within mentioned John Spears and I remember perfectly well that we served two tours together during the Revolutionary War, one of which was at the time when the battle of Petersburg [April 25, 1781] was fought; though we were not at the battle. I also know that he served another tour when I was not in the service; having seen him upon some occasion with the troops. We were nearly of the same age; were well acquainted at the time, and have ever since been. I have also no doubt that Mr. Spears served other tours in that war, when I had not an opportunity of knowing it personally.

S/ Allen Whitworth

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Allen Whitworth". The ink is dark and the handwriting is fluid and somewhat slanted to the right.

[f p. 11: On April 30, 1853 in Chesterfield County Virginia, Susana Spear, 74, filed for a widow's pension under the 1853 act stating that she is the widow of John Spear, a revolutionary war pensioner at the rate of \$50 per annum for his service in the revolution; that she married him April 12, 1804 and that he died October 4, 1842. She signed her application with her mark.]

[f p. 15: On April 17, 1855 in Chesterfield County Virginia, the widow filed for her bounty land entitlement stating that she was then 77 years of age; that her name prior to her marriage to her husband was Susannah Womack; that her husband died in Chesterfield County and that she is still his widow.]

[f p. 19: copy of a marriage bond dated April 9th, 1804 issued in Chesterfield County to John Spear and Peter Rowlett conditioned upon the marriage of John Spear to Susana Womack.]

[Facts in file: the following children of the veteran and his wife are shown with their ages are not given: Thomas A Spears, a resident of Appomattox Depot, Virginia, in 1853 and William Spears, a resident of Chesterfield County, Virginia in 1855. The widow survived the Civil War and filed for the reinstatement of her pension which was reinstated April 28, 1866 at the rate of \$50 per annum.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$50 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for service as a private for 15 months in the Virginia militia. His widow was pensioned in a like amount.]

³ [Allen Whitworth S6367](#)