

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters

Pension Application of John Spiers (Spiers) W3731
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris.

Mary Spiers MD

District of Pennsylvania Ss

On this 17th Day of April 1818 before me the Subscriber one of the Judges of the Court of Common Pleas in and for the County of Indiana in the said district Personally appeared John Spiers aged fifty seven years resident in said County who being by me first duly sworn according to Law doth on his Solemn oath make the following decleration in order to obtain the provisions made by the late act of Congress Entitled An act to Provide for certain persons engaged in the Land and Naval Services of the United States in the revolutionary war

That he the said John Spiers Enlisted in the year 1781 in the State of Maryland in the Company Commanded by Captain Loyd Bell [sic: Lloyd Beall] of the third Maryland Regement that he continued to serve in said Corps or in the Service of the United States untill December 1783 when he was discharged from the service in the State of Maryland and that he was in the Battle of York Town [siege of Yorktown, 28 Sep - 19 Oct 1781] and that he is in Reduced circumstances and stands in need of the assistance of his Country for support and that he has no other evidence now in his power of his said services Sworn to and declared before me the day and year aforesaid John hisXmark Spiers

District of Pennsylvania }
County of Indiana }

On this twenty sixth day of September one thousand eight hundred and twenty Personally appeared in open Court of General Justic Sessions of the peace in and for said County (the same being s Court of record proceeding according to the course of Common Law and having power to fine and imprison and keeping a record of their proceeding and having a Seal) John Spiers aged fifty nine years resident in said County who being first duly sworn according to law doth on his solemn oath declare that he served in the Revolutionary War as follows in the third Regiment of the Maryland line Commanded by Col. John Stewart and Company commanded by Capt. Loyd Bell and that he was in the battle of yorktown in Virginia and that he has received a certificate from war department dated the seventh day of May 1819 No. 10402 by virtue of which he has drawn his pension until the fourth day of march last and further that he was a resident Citizen of the United States on the 18th day of March 1818 and that he has not since that time by gift sale or in any manner disposed of his property or any part thereof with intent thereby so to diminish it as to bring himself within the provisions 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 he has not nor has any person in trust for him any property or securities contracts or debts due to him nor has he any income other than what is contained in the Schedule hereto annexed and by him subscribed And further that the following is a correct list of all his property and income Viz.

1 horse	\$20.00
2 Cows	27.00
1 year old heifer	6.00
4 Sheep	4.00
2 Hogs	6.00
1 old sett horse geers	.75
2 old axes	1.75
1 mattock	1.00
1 old Saddle	.50
one old Bridle	0.25
Two old hoes	.60

one Iron wedg .50
 A Debt due from the estate of }
 of James Kelly deceased } 34.69½
 Also that the following is a list of debts by him owing

To Amos Lawrence	\$25.00
To Thomas McGough	6.40
To James Cantwell	1.00
To William Rankin Jun	1.00
To David Cummins	26.00
To Luther Geer	3.00
To James Dixon	3.00
To Rebecca Anderson	1.00
To James Allison	3.50
To Dr. E. P. Emerson	10.00
To Silas Davis	3.50
To George Rapine	2.50
To John Herrold Jr	2.50
To George Rankin	5.00

And that he is by occupation a Farmer but by reason of age and infirmity of body he is unable to persue it in such a manner as to be able to support himself without the assistance of his country and that his family consists of his wife Mary about fifty six or fifty seven years of age (who in her debilitated state is unable to perform much labor) his daughter Mary 16 years of age his son Hinton 12 years old his grand daughter Nancy Stone 3 years old who are as capable of contributing to their support as Children usually are of their age

Sworn & subscribed in open court Sept. 26th AD 1820 John hisXmark Spiers

NOTES:

A document in the paper indicates that on 27 July 1821 Spiers was dropped from the pension roll because he owned too much property. This was evidently the result of an error, because pensioners were usually dropped only if they owned more than \$200 worth of property after subtracting debts. On 21 Aug 1821 Amos Lawrence, as well as others, wrote to the Secretary of War that John Spiers's had purchased what property he had using his pension money, and that he had subsequently been forced to sell most of it for his maintenance. There is no record in the file that his pension was ever restored.

On 25 April 1849 Mary Spiers, 83, of Blacklick Township in Indiana County, applied for a pension stating that as Mary Hinton she was married to John Spiers by Edward Yant, a Presbyterian clergyman, at his house about seven miles from Bladensburg MD on 24 Aug 1784, and that her husband died on 27 Dec 1821. She stated that they had the following five children born before 1 Jan 1794: Susan, Richard, Joseph, John, and Lawson Spiers. On 7 March 1850 Thomas Leech, 64, of Prince Georges County MD, stated that his mother was the sister of Mary Spiers, and that until about 50 years previously the latter had lived near him with her husband on land owned by Capt. James Beck, and that their oldest child Susan was about his age. Other documents in the file contain additional family information.