

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of William Spain W6148

Nancy Spain

f55NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

3/3/11: rev'd 4/24/21

[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. The word 'illegible' or 'indcipherable' or 'undeciphered' appearing in brackets indicates that at the time I made the transcription, I was unable to decipher the word or phrase in question. 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 skills fail 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 material errors or omissions to my attention. Researchers should not rely solely on the transcripts but should review the originals for themselves. These transcripts are intended as an aid to research, not to be used in lieu thereof.]

[p 27]

State of North Carolina: SS

On this 2nd day of November A.D. 1818 before me the subscriber one of the Judges of the Superior Courts of law & equity for the State aforesaid personally appeared William Spain a resident of Pitt County in the State aforesaid who being by me first duly sworn according to law on his oath makes the following declaration in order to obtain the provision made by the late act of Congress entitled "An act to provide for certain persons engaged in the Land & naval service of the United States in the Revolutionary War" that he the said William enlisted in the County of Pitt and the State aforesaid on the 10th of March 1777 in the Company commanded first by Captain May [James May] afterwards by Captain Tartanson [Francis Tartanson] of the 8th Regiment of North Carolina and that he continued to serve in the said Regiment until its reduction in 1778 when he continued to serve in the 2nd Regiment of North Carolina until the surrender of Charleston South Carolina¹ to the British on the 12th of May 1780 when he was carried to Nova Scotia & remained a prisoner during the continuance of the war. He was in the Battles of Brandywine [September 11, 1777], Germantown [October 4, 1777] and at the Siege of Charleston and that he is in reduced Circumstances and stands in need of the assistance of his Country for support & that he has no other evidence now in his power of his said services. Sworn to & declared before me the day and year aforesaid

S/ Jno. Hall, Judge

S/ Wm Spain, X his mark

[Hardy Robinson & Thomas Spain gave testimony as to the reduced circumstances of the veteran.]

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State of North Carolina Pitt County} Court of Pleas & Quarter Sessions November Term 1820

On this 9th Day of November 1820 personally appeared before the Justices of the Court of Pleas & Quarter Sessions for the County of Pitt aforesaid in open Court being a Court of Record for said County proceeding according to the course of the common law keeping a record of its proceedings having a jurisdiction unlimited in its amount & having power to fine & imprisonment, William Spain aged 57 years the 28th September last resident in said County who being first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath declare that he served in the

¹ Battle of Charleston <http://www.myrevolutionarywar.com/battles/800401-charleston/>

Revolutionary War for three years as follows – he enlisted in March or April 1777 in the 8th North Carolina Regiment commanded by Colonel James Armstrong in Captain Tartenson's [sic, Francis Tartanson or Tarrtanson's] Company which Regiment he believes was afterwards, in January 1778 as he believes broke & turned into the 3rd Regiment which also was subsequently he believes in April at the Valley Forge, broke & turned into the 2nd Regiment and was taken prisoner at Charleston under General Lincoln [Benjamin Lincoln], that he made application in November 1818 for a pension under the act of 18th of March 1818 and obtained a Certificate of his pension which is numbered on the back thereof (6374) and dated the 2nd of February 1819 and I do solemnly swear that I was a resident Citizen of the United States on the 18th day of March 1818 and that I have not since that time by gift, sale or in any manner whatever disposed of my property or any part thereof with intent thereby so to diminish it as to bring myself within the provision 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 I have not nor has any person in trust for me any property, or securities, contracts or debts due to me nor have I any income other than what is contained in the schedule hereto annexed and by me subscribed to it

260 acres of poor piney woods land

1 old 30 gallons still nearly worn out

9 head Cattle

2 Horses both Small

40 head of hogs including pigs

2 pine Tables, 2 Chests, 1 Doz. plates 4 Dishes, 6 knives & forks

3 Bee hives 1 Case Bottles 7 Jugs a parcel of Barrels & Gums [?]

1 pr. of Cart Wheels & body 6 weeding hoes nearly Worn out 3 plow hoes & 2 plows,

Stocks 3 Iron Pots, 2 Frying pans 1 spider, 2 Trays, 4 mugs, 6 common Chans [sic?

chairs?], 2 Wash Bowls, 4 pewter Basons, 4 Tea Cups, 6 Canees [?], 2 China Bottles , 4

decanters, 2 Axes, 2 grubbing hoes 1 skellit, 2 Tumbles, 2 Tin Tumblers, 11 head poultry,

6 Geese, 1 Looking Glass, 2 washing Tubs, 2 pails, 1 half Bushel 1 piggin 1 Linnen

Wheel, 1 Woolen Wheel, 1 Loom with 2 pr. harness [?], 1 Sla 1 pr Cards 1 Curry Comb,

2 Saddles, 1 Wheat Sifter, 2 hammers, 2 Chissels, 2 hand Saws, 2 Augers, 1 Townl [?

Saw, 1 grind Stone, 1 Flat Iron, 1 Iron Candle Stand, 3 Baskets, 3 Stools, 1 Bench 6

Spoons, 1 Stun [?] Glass, about one barrel of old Corn & Corn not gathered sufficient for

my family use 25 pounds Bacon, 6 or 8 pounds lard, 5 bushels wheat, one pair Steelyards

I further swear that I am by occupation a Farmer that I am not able at all times to pursue my labor on account of a weakness in my right arm which I am not able at all times to raise to the top of my head that I have a Wife 56 years old who is sometimes quite helpless with the Rheumatic pains a daughter named Sarah 22 years old one named Agnes 21 years old Nancy 19 years old a son named Eppes 17 years old, William 15 years old who are usably [sic] as capable of labor as persons generally are although at this time some of them are sick.

Attest: S/ M. Dickinson, JP

S/ William Spain, X his mark

Sworn to and declared in open Court on the 9th day of November 1820 before us

S/ Marshall Dickinson, JP

S/ Ivey Foreman, JP

S/ George E Ellis, JP

[The court valued the property of the veteran at \$466.]

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State of North Carolina Pitt County: Court of Pleas & Quarter Sessions August Term 1832

On this tenth day of August A.D. 1832, personally appeared in open Court before the Justices of the Court of Pleas & Quarter Sessions for the State and County aforesaid now sitting (the same being a Court of record) William Spain a resident of Pitt County and State of North Carolina aged Sixty nine years, who being first duly sworn according to law, doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of an act of Congress passed June 7th 1832. That he was a musician of the Army of the Revolution in the 8th Regiment and in the 3rd and in the 2nd Regiments of the North Carolina Continental line, that he was placed on the Pension Roll under the act of March 18, 1818, of the North Carolina agency, received a Certificate thereof and drew the first payment due thereon – and was struck off from the same on account of property – that he now resides in the County of Pitt aforesaid, and resided there at the first time the application was made.

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present, and he declares that his name is not on the pension Roll of any agency in any State or if any, at only on that of the agency in the State of North Carolina from which he has been stricken off as aforesaid.

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid.

S/ Archibald Parker, Clerk

S/ William Spain, X his mark

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Rec'd 17 Augt.

Honored Sir: it is my wish that every Revolutionary Soldier should have the pension who is entitled to it & it is not my wish for the Government to be wronged. I shall make the statement of William Spain services –he entered in the American Service about the first of May 1777 in May 1780 he was taken a prisoner at Charleston S. C. & then enlisted with the British & served with them to the end of the War & then was carried to Nova Scotia & discharged by Lord Montague [Charles Montagu] which discharge I have seen likewise he received 50 acres of land and a lown lol [? Town lot?] I have seen the plats of it Several good Citizens of Pitt County don't think he ought to draw the pension Henry Barnhill² of said County served in a Minute Regiment with me for 6 months though a good part of the time at home & after that serve 9 months [paper torn text missing] I, believe that that was all he claimed for I [paper torn text missing] ent & there must a been a mistake in the Cler [paper torn text missing] l the War office which he has drawn \$80 a year ever since 1831 there is a John Moore of said County who has applied to me to prove a 3 months tower [tour] which did not exceed two weeks & I am told has proved it by an old woman which tower I served with him & it was when the British took Beaufort N. C. Carteret County I have understood there have been many defrauds [sic] committed on Government & I think it the duty of every Honest man to detect them if he can.

Honored Sir I am your most obedient & very humble servant

August 1, 1835

S/ John Anderson³

² [Henry Barnhill S6579](#)

³ [John Anderson S6511](#) It is interesting to note that William Spain was a supporting witness for the application made by John Anderson.

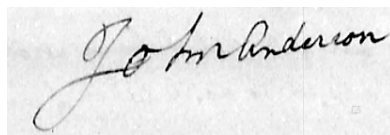
John Anderson

[p 52]

Sir I received your letter dated the 16th of instant & what Spain says respecting never bearing arms against the United States is true. He never bore arms in either Army but was a fifer in both & was discharged as such by Lord Montague at the end of the war you wrote he deems bearing arms against the United States a very poor excuse he played the fife for them that did he was stationed on Island of Jamaica to protect the island from being taken by our allies the French & our best friends & many of our American vessels were captured & carried there & the Regiment he belonged to had the seamen prisoners he also have told me of Admiral Rodney bringing the Count Grasse Ship & a part of his fleet & prisoner there & the sheltered condition they were in when Spain returned home from Nova Scotia I lived a near neighbor to his father which was several years after the end of the Revolution War we now live a considerable distance apart though both in one County & Simon Keal⁴ lives some miles from me was a prisoner when Spain was in the British service & I think I have heard them both talk of it & Keal did say which I have from good authority he would swear that he Spain was in the British service & he prisoner & Sir all that I have wrote I am willing to make affidavit of & intend to do it when I can see Keal which I hope will [be] at February court the first Monday but I see no occasion for it from his own acknowledgment he enlisted with the enemy they did not enlist him for to answer no purpose but they elisted [sic] them to bring the United States into Subjugation & they were afraid if they put them on the American shore they would desert them for they well knew the situation of our Country & I do not know it but I have no dispute in my mind but some of the troops from Jamaica were sent to the United States & they to fill their places for Spain have told me that the Regiment raised from the prisoners captured in Charleston were likely to what one of the old British Regiment were that were stationed there before them I just enter into the Seventy Seventh year of my age & am afflicted with the Rheumatic pains so I can hardly get about & am near the end of this year & never expect to see the end of another I do declare before Almighty God the greatest Satisfaction I have in life except for my eternal Salvation is that I was one of the Instruments that hope to bring about the happy government we live under. So I shall conclude after acknowledged myself with a thanful [sic, shameful or thankful?] heart to the Government of the United States & to your honor &c &c

December 30, 1835

S/ John Anderson



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State of North Carolina Pitt County

William Spain of the County & State aforesaid maketh answer to the charges preferred [sic] against him in the War Department and saith as follows: That on the 10th day of March 1777 his father enlisted as a soldier in the 1st Regiment of Continental line, commanded by General Nash [Francis Nash] and on the ___ day of April in the same year, he the said William

⁴ Sic, [Simon Keel W10164](#)

Spain, then 13 years of age offered himself as a substitute for his father and was received in his place. – That he continued in the service of the United States until 1780 and was posted in the aforesaid time at the places as follows – that he first marched to Alexandria in Virginia and continued there for 6 or 7 weeks for the purpose of being vaccinated, then marched to Philadelphia, from there to Trenton from there back to Philadelphia, thence to the head of Elk River, that he was present at the Battle of Brandywine, on the 11th of September, that on the 12th, retreated to Philadelphia, thence to Germantown and was present there on the 4th of October when the Battle was fought. He then took winter quarters at Valley Forge about 20 miles from Philadelphia – thence marched to Monmouth New Jersey and was present at the Battle of Monmouth on the 28th of June 1778 & from thence to Brunswick New Jersey, thence to White Plains New York, thence marched to Continental Village and there remained for nearly 2 months, thence marched to Haverstown [sic] on Hudson the liver from thence to West Point & remained there until orders were received for the North Carolina, & Virginia troops to March South, – then marched to Charleston South Carolina where he arrived 3rd [could be 2nd, the actual entry looks like "3nd"] day of March 1780, and remained there and was present at the different skirmishes and at the time of surrender on the 12th May 1780, the whole of which time he remained an American soldier, that he remained a prisoner in Charleston 5 months was then taken on board a British ship where he remained for 5 other months a prisoner when becoming destitute of clothing and money and not receiving any help from the United States, he enlisted in March 1781 with the British for the sole purpose of getting clothing, that the conditions of his enlistment was that he should either go [to] the Spanish Main or to Jamaica and not with a view to fight against the United States and had he have been brought back to fight against the United States, he would have deserted and joined the flag of his Country, that he remained in Jamaica until peace was made and received nothing but his wages & clothing – that he received no bounty lands from the British Government nor wished none his only object being as above stated of providing himself with clothing – that after his discharge he proceeded to Nova Scotia for the purpose of getting to his Country, there being no American vessel in the ports of Jamaica – he further saith that there is no person, by whom he can prove the latter part of the above facts by as there is no person in this country nor on any of the adjoining counties to his knowledge who was confined with him, – he further saith that during the last war, he used his exertions to encourage volunteers, that he attended the musters and acted as a musician for the avowed purpose of encouraging the youths to ~~join~~ volunteer their services to their Country.

State of North Carolina Pitt County: Court of Pleas & quarter Sessions November term 1835

Then William Spain appeared in open Court and maketh oath that the facts set forth here in the foregoing declaration are just & true to the best of his knowledge & belief

Attest

S/ William Spain, X his mark

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State of North Carolina Secretary of State's Office

I William Hill Secretary of State in and for the State aforesaid, do certify that it appears from the musterrolls of the Continental line of this State in the revolutionary war that William Spain a musician in Captain Tartanson's Company of the 8th Regiment enlisted on the 10th of February 1777 for 3 years, that nothing more is said of him on the rolls. A warrant for bounty land was issued to him on the 20th of October 1787 as a Fifer for the War.

Given under my hand this 20th day of November 1835

S/ Wm Hill, Secretary

[p 16: On July 16, 1853 [? year written over and unclear], Nancy Spain, 88 filed for a widow's pension; she states that she is the widow of William Spain a pensioner for his service in the revolution at the time of his death; that she was married to him in the month of February, the latter part thereof, in the year 1797 according to her recollection on a Sabbath day; that she has no family record of her marriage; that her husband died October 23rd, 1841. She signed her application with her mark.]

[p 2: Copy of a marriage bond (undated) issued to William Spain and Isaac Church to secure the marriage of William Spain to Nancy Church – issued in Pitt County North Carolina. The Pitt County clerk who certified the validity of the copy of the bond notes that the bond was in a folder labeled February 1797.]

[p 21: On August 24, 1850 in Pitt County North Carolina, Drury Spain, 60, gave testimony that he was well acquainted with William Spain, his uncle, late a pensioner of the United States now deceased and his wife Nancy, his widow; that he distinctly remembers that William and Nancy were married sometime after about the time he was 7 years old and before he was 9 years old; that he remembers being with one of his mother's sisters passing the house of Isaac Church and seeing William Spain and Nancy Church in the yard and his aunt asking him if he saw his "new aunt", that William and Nancy were now married; that Isaac Church lived about one and a half miles from the affiants grandfather whose name was Summerel; that his uncle William Spain did not know how to write and did not keep a record of the births of his children

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[Facts in the file: The veteran and his wife had 6 children but the only names appearing in the file all those of Sarah, Agnes, Nancy, Eppes and William.

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$80 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for two-year service as a private in the North Carolina Continental line.]