

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters

Pension Application of Michael Spainhour W6149 Elizabeth Spainhour NC
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. Revised 13 Jan 2015.

State of North Carolina }
County of Stokes } SS

On this second day of March 1838 before me Charles Banner a Justice of the peace in and for the County of Stokes aforesaid personally appeared Elizabeth Spainhour at her place of Residence in the County aforesaid aged Seventy Seven years this Month (March) 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 the Act of Congress passed the 4th of July 1836, that she is the Widdow of Michael Spainhour Dec'd. who was a private soldier in the Militia of the United States in the Revolutionary War and served as herein after stated. first he entered the service under Captain Henry Smith in Colo. Joseph Williams Regiment of Militia in Surry County N Carolina in July or August 1776 & march'd up the Yadkin River as he her husband the aforesaid Mich'l. Spainhour afterward informed her to a place call'd the Mulberry fields [now Wilkesboro] & then march'd back to Surry County aforesaid & Randavoused at a place called Myers old fields near Surry old Court house some time, then after being organized marched westwardly to the Cherokee Nation of Indians where they burn'd their Towns [early October 1776] & remained in the Nation some time as he related to this applicant & march'd home to Surry County in this expedition he said he served upwards of four months. the next service he was called (she believes he was drafted) & went on horse back commanded by Capt Meredith [William Meredith] ranging after Tories and join'd the Company at old Richmond then Surry Court house [now in Yadkin County] & was gone three weeks & return'd, but was to be in readiness as a Minute Man to march at a moments warning and several times after that was call'd on & with the Company & routed the Tories in different sexions of the Country & at different periods in the latter part of the year 1777 & part in the year 1778 not long before he the said Michael & this applicant was married together he told her he had served three months & upwards in the several Scouts ranging after tories & in one of the routs was in a Schirmish with a party of Tories at Surry Court house when the tories advanced upon them when they were scattered about in Town & had to run from the Tories Colo. Williams was commander & order'd the Minute Men to run when one Capt. Colin Crouse [Collin Crouse] was wounded as she was informed. the next service service he entered as a drafted private after she was married & was in May or June 1780 march'd from Richmond in Surry County under Capt. Meridith to Salisbury in Rowan County N Carolina remained there some length of time then to Charlotte he told her & from there into South Carolina & was in the Battle of Gates defeat [defeat of Gen. Horatio Gates, Battle of Camden, 16 Aug 1780] & shortly after that Battle he rec'd. a writen discharge for three months service which this applicant saw but it is lost and the next service he served as a Volunteer in guarding the Magazene or powder waggons he called them, from Salem to some place in Virginia & was twenty four days gone & return'd home, making in all his services Ten months & twenty four days. She has no documentary evidence of his Services. She further declares that she was married to said Michael Spainhour on the 4th day of August 1778 in Bethania [a Moravian town] then in Surry County N Carolina by Michael Houser Sen'r a Justice of the peace in said County, and that her husband the aforesaid Michael Spainhour died in the month of March 1827 & that she has remained a widdow ever since that Period as will more fully appear by the proof hereto affixed, further she declares that from bodily infirmity that cannot travel to the Court of the County to lay in her deliberation. Sworn to & subscribed the day and year first above mentioned

Elizabeth herXmark Spainhour

State of North Carolina } SS
Stokes County }

Be it known that on this 2^d day of March 1838 before me Charles Banner a Justice of the peace in & for the County aforesaid personally appeared Joseph Houser & Magdalen Houser widdow of George Houser Esq'r. Dec'd. [pension application W10118] Residents in the County aforesaid & they being sworn according to law, Deposeth & Saith on their oath, that they were well acquainted with the within named Michael Spainhour and Elizabeth Spainhour (who was Eliza Teague) that we were present & saw Michael House a Justice of the peace of the then Surry County in Bethania Town (now in Stokes) marry together the aforesaid Michael Spainhour & Elizabeth Teague as man & wife in time of the Revolutionary War they do not remember the month or year, But recollects that said Michael Spainhour went into service as a soldier under a Capt. Merideth & believes he served as a Minute Man with George Houser ranging after Tories at different periods, & also a Tour of three months to the South Carolina State, & was at the Battle of Gates Defeat as he always related in his narrative of the expeditions he had perform'd. and Joseph Houser on his part declares further, that said Spainhour went with him as one of the Guard of the Magazine from Salem N Carolina to Henry County Virginia, three weeks at least in January 1781. these services they know he performed after the marriage aforesaid that said Spainhour died Ten or eleven years past not far from this place (Bethania) and that the aforesaid Elizabeth has remained a widdow ever since that period & she is at present unable to go about but very little, and that previous to the marriage as aforesaid the said Michael Spainhour did serve a Tour of four Months at least under Capt. Henry Smith to the Cherokee Nation of Indians in the expedition of 1776 with George Houser this deponant Magdalena Housers husband as her husband related the fact. Sworn to & subscribed the day & year first above writen before me Joseph hisHmark Houser
Magdalena herXmark Houser

State of North Carolina } ss
Stokes County }

Be it known that on this 5th day of March 1838 Joseph Banner [W9716] a Pensioner Being Sworn according to law, before me the subscribing Justice of the peace, declares on his Oath that he was well acquainted with the within named Michael Spainhour Dec'd. that this deponant & said Spainhour served a Tour of four months together under Capt. Henry Smith in Collo Joseph Williams Regiment of Militia on an Exposit to the Cherokee Nation of Indians in the year 1776 and afterward he saw said Spainhour in service in Capt. Merideths Company as a Minute Man at Surry Courthouse and also after that time at Salisbury on his way home from the Battle of Gates Defeat, he said he had been in said Battle. Sworn to and subscribed the date first above mentioned before me C Banner J.P.

Joseph hisXmark Banner

State of North Carolina } SS
County of Stokes }

an amendatory Declaration of Elizabeth Spainhour widow of Michael Spainhour Decd for a Pension, taken pursuant to an order of the County Court aforesaid at her place of Residence in said County on the 30th day of August 1838. She being first sworn according to Law, before me Charles Banner one of the Justices of the peace for said Court declares on her oath that, her former declaration of the 2nd day of March 1838 which she made Oath to & subscribed before me to the best of her knowledge was just & true; but since that time she has found a paper writing purporting to be a discharge for one months service dated at Henry Courthouse 20th day of Feb'y 1781 & sign'd by William Reynolds, C. [Commissary] Military Stores, which is herein inclosed together with a Certificate, the Testamony of George Kregar in addition to the former Testamony will more particularly show the different services & names of places, & periods when performed & the Commanding officers under whom her husband served than this applicant could possibly relate. It appears in a Book of the Family Records that her husband Mich'l. Spainhour was born the 2nd day of January 1753 in the state of

Pensylvania & was removed with his parents to N. Carolina when he was Ten years old, and died in Stokes County 13th March 1827.

This Applicant was born 10 March 1761 whose maiden name was Elizabeth Teague & married to said Mich'l. 4th of August 1778

Elizabeth their eldest child was born the 18th March 1780 – living

Henry their 2nd “ ” “ 10 May 1783 – dead [see endnote]

Michael the 3^d “ ” “ 20 July 1786 – living

This Applicant declares that her husband Mich'l. Spainhour was never placed on the pension roll of any agency or State, and that she relinquishes all claims for a Pension except the present, for Eleven Months Sworn to and subscribed the date first above mentioned before me. all interlineations before signed

C. Banner J.P.

Elizabeth herXmark Spainhour

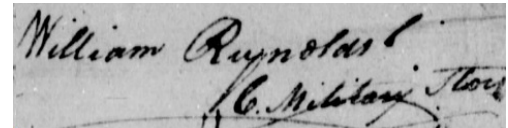
The bearer Michel Spoonhour Militia Soldier having duly and Faithfully serv'd one month the time for which he was draughted is hearby Discharg'd from the service of the united states.

Given under my hand at Henry Courthouse 20th day of Feb'y 1781

The above soldier has not yet rec'd.

paym't. for his months service

W.R.



State of North Carolina } SS

County of Stokes }

Be it known that on the 30th day of August 1838 before me Charles Banner a Justice of the peace in & for said County, personally appeared George Kregar [W3696] of said County a Pensioner of the U. States and a respectable Citizen for truth & Veracity who being sworn according to law declares on his oath that he was well acquainted with Michael Spainhour the Husband of Elizabeth Spainhour as Neighbors during the whole of the Revolutionary War, that he served in the same Company & Mess Mate with said Michael nearly Two Tours of Duty in the Militia of the United States army as follows. there being a call & Gen'l. Muster at old Richmond Surry old Court house in the year he thinks in 1778 by Colo. Martin Armstrong under Capt. Jo Philips [sic: John Phillips] when said Spainhour with himself & William Apperson [W3915] with about one hundred men was enrolld as Minute Men, to range after the Tories when a detachment was march'd. to the lead mines on New river [near Fort Chiswell in present Wythe County VA] & brought lead for Gen'l. Rutherfords [Griffith Rutherford's] Army & deposited it at said Court house, then march'd. back to New River to a Capt. Nalls to route the Tories then through the Mountains to Reddys River [Reddies River] then down to the Mulberry Fields then to the Brushy Mountains & to the Cataba River [sic: Catawba River] where an express met us that a Battle had been fought at Ramsours Mills [Ramseur's Mill, 20 Jun 1780], then march'd. back to old Richm'd. & encamp'd. there a few days. Colo. Wm. Shepperd [sic: Lt. Col. William Shepherd] Comanded in this Route, then march'd. to Salisbury & Anson County NC. to Rocky River & at a place call'd Golsons old field we had a Battle [sic: skirmish at Colson's, 20 Jul 1780] with some tories & we took Ten prisoners, when Colo. [William Lee] Davidson was wounded, then Colo. Lock [sic: Francis Locke] took command, where Mich'l. Spainhour (aforesaid after having served over three months) Volunteered himself & joined General Rutherfords army & left our Company & said Spainhour was march'd. towards the South through Charlotte & to Camden S. Carolina and was in the Battle of Gates defeat where he lost a nice Rifle Gun of his own property in the Battle, and some about three weeks after said Battle he the said Michael Spainhour return'd home after having been out in the whole service scouting or ranging after Tories in all more then six months, as this deponant verily believes as he remained off & on at intervills with him as Minute Men at least four months when they parted at Colsons old fields & said Spainhour went & joined Gen'l Rutherfords army. Sworn & subscribed the date first above mentioned at his this Deponants own residence near the Widdow Elizabeth Spainhours aforesaid before me

George hisXmark Kregar

North Carolina } SS Deposition in favor of Elizabeth Spainhour on this 19th Feb'y. 1839. Christopher
 Stokes County } Eaton [R3214] a resident of the County aforesaid & person of credibility on his
 Oath – he being first duly sworn according to law, before me the Subscribing Justice of the peace
 declares on his Oath that he was well acquainted with Michael Spainhour the husband of Elizabeth
 Spainhour in time of the Revolutionary War & lived not far apart in Surry County N Carolina, & saw &
 knew said Michael Spainhour served a Tour with him in the Campaign he does not recollect the date,
 exactly. But believes it was in the Spring & Summer of 1780 under the Command of Gen'l. Rutherford &
 Gen'l. Gates & was in Gates Defeat near Camden S. Carolina where this Deponant was taken prisoner
 but made his Escape next night after the Battle this Depn't. saith said Spainhour joined Gen'l.
 Rutherfords army at head quarters near Salisbury N.C. under a Capt. Wm. Bostick [William Bostick] in
 the same Company with this Deponent & said Spainhour related that he had a few days before he joined
 our Company, been in a Battle some place near Rocky River called Coltsons or Coles old fields & kill'd.
 & taken a parcel of Tories & British, & we remain'd at Salisbury head quarters several weeks then
 march'd. through Mecklinburg [sic: Mecklenburg] County on to the Cheraw hills in S. Carolina & then to
 Santee River & then to a place call'd. Rugeleys Mills, where head quarters was held about three weeks or
 perhaps longer, under the Command of Gen'l. Gates [sic: see endnote] when a detachment was sent by
 said General Gates to aid Gen'l. Sumpter [sic: Thomas Sumter] near Cataba River when our Capt.
 Bostick & Company. said Mich'l. Spainhour with the rest was along, but before we reached Sumpters
 Army. We received news. came to us that Sumpter had defeated the Tories [at Hanging Rock SC, 6 Aug
 1780], then we retreated back to head quarters and in a few days after we were engaged in the Battle of
 Gates defeat above mentioned, when this deponant was taken prisoner by the British and never said
 Michael Spainhour any more untill he return'd. home This depon't. deserted from the British the next
 night after said Battle & aimed for home & met with Gen'l. Greens [sic: Nathanael Greene's] Army near
 Salisbury [early December 1780]. But he & his fellow prisoners was permitted to go home they having
 been in Service nearly a month over their term of three months. and when he saw s'd. Mich'l. Spainhour
 after he return'd home he informed this deponant that he escaped narrowly in s'd Battle & had to leave
 his Gun a good rifle, & run for life, that he served in this Tour over three months which this depon't.
 believes to be the case. Sworn to and subscribed the day & year first above written before me
 C Banner J.P. Christopher hisXmark Eaton

NCarolina Stokes County}
 William Merritt [S2821] a Pensioner of the U. States & a person of respectable character for veracity &
 truth being sworn at his place of Residence this 19th Feb'y 1839 declares on his Oath that he was a
 Militia solder & served with the above named Christopher Eaton & Michael Spainhour and well
 acquainted with them both in time of the Revolutionary War & since. that he was in the Regiment with
 them at Salisbury head quarters, in May 1780 he believes & March'd with them, as stated in Eatons
 Deposition above as far as the Cheraw hills & near that place this Deponants Capt. Hill [Lt. Robert Hill]
 received a severe wound from the fall of a tree. When he this Deponant was ordered to Nurse & return
 home with his Capt. & three other soldiers thus he was seperated from Mich'l. Spainhour & Eaton some
 time previous to the Battle of Gates defeat. And further declares that the whole of the above statement of
 facts in said Eatons Declaration is the truth & ought to be credited as such to the best of his belief &c.
 Sworn to & subscribed the date above written before me
 C Banner J.P. William hisWmark Merritt

NOTES:

The file contains an original oath of allegiance transcribed as follows:

North Carolina } This is to Certifie that Michael Spenhower has taken the oath of Allegiance,
 Surry County } to the State of North Carolina, according to act of Assembly before me
 July the 11th 1778 } Michel Muller[?] J.P.

Santee River is far south and not on the way from Cheraw Hills to Camden. Gates was at Rugeley's Mill, which is about 12 mi N of Camden, for only about three days, having arrived on 13 Aug 1780.

On 1 Nov 1839 Elizabeth Spainhour requested a new pension certificate to replace one that was "consumed by fire when the dwelling house of Charles Banner was burned." On 10 Aug 1843 she certified that she was 80 and still a widow. On a similar certificate dated 30 July 1844 she was said to be 82.

The file contains three original records in German script shown below. The first is a fragment apparently showing that Elizabeth Teague was born on 10 Jan 1762.

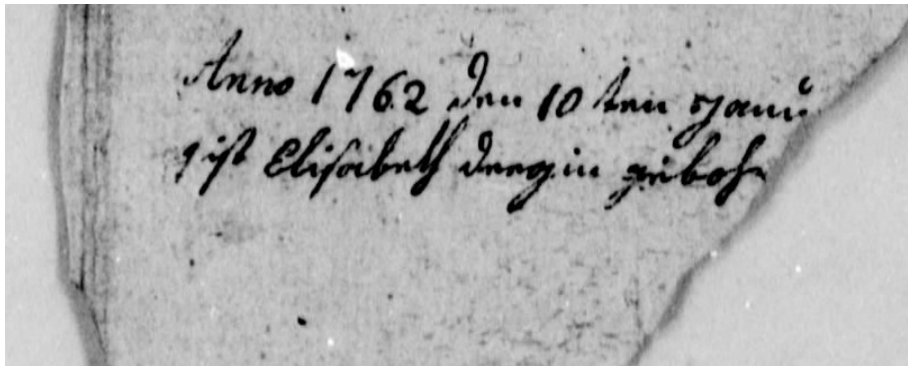
The second record has three entries signed by Michael Spainhouer, described as follows by his son, Michael Spainhower (as he signed): "On this 18th day of Feb'y. 1839 Michael Spainhour the Son of Michael Spainhour Sen'r. Dec'd. this affiants father & son of Elizabeth Spainhour the applicant for a Pension, declares on his oath that the within contains a true statement of the Family Records as wrote in German which he beliefs was wrote by his Father Mich'l. Spainhour Dec'd. Sworn to & subscribed the date above written before me C Banner J.P."

The file contains the following translation of the first entry, apparently by Michael Spainhower: "On the 18th of March, in the year 1780, at five o'clock in the morning, was born my daughter Elizabeth, and, on the 26th was baptized, at Bethany, by Jacob Ernst. Witnesses of baptism. Werner Spainhauer & Elizabeth/ (sig'd) Michael Spainhauer"

For the other two entries my reading gives the following data:
Johanheinrich [John Henry] born 11 Nov 1783 and baptized at Bethania by Jacob Ernst on the 23rd,
witnessed by Heinrich Spainhouer and his wife.

Michael born 20 July 1786 and baptized 19 Sep by Reuben [the rest illegible]

The last record is only partly legible, but it appears to state that Michael Spainhouer was born on 2 January 17?? [probably 1753] and arrived with the Moravians in North Carolina on 8 March 1773.



Anno 1780 Den 18ten März Um 5 Uhr Morgens ist
Mein Ehefrau Elisabetha zu Linz in Wall geboren und Den 26ten
im Luffania. Ludwig Jacob Ernst getauft. Taufzeugen Wunow
Feganspinner und Elisabetha

Michael Spaenhauer

Anno 1783 Den 11ten Novembur ist Mein Sohn Johannes zu Linz in Wall geboren
und getauft am 23ten Insulbigen Ludwig Jacob Ernst im balthianer taufzeugen
Friedrich Feganspinner und seiner Frau

Michael Feganspinner

Anno 1786 Den 20ten Julius ist Mein Sohn Michael zu Linz
Wall geboren und Den 19ten September in obigen Tafe getauft
Ludwig Rübner Elise Mathybaud Feganspinner

Michael Feganspinner

Anno 1787 Den 2ten Aug getauft. Mein Sohn Michael
Feganspinner zu Linz in Wall geboren in der quäkler
Kirche am 11ten Novembur und am 11ten August
im balthianer taufzeugen Ludwig Jacob Ernst
Mein Vater Nach New York Carolina gegangen und
Dafelbst Ludwig geliebten Taufzeugen Anno 79 Den 2ten Aug
März am 11ten ist Mein Elisabetha Dräger in der Stadt
Den 11ten August Epa getauft am 11ten Novembur ist Mein Sohn
Ludwig Mein der Hilfe Gottes zu Linz in der Stadt am 11ten