

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters

Pension Application of John Spitfathom (Spitfatham) W6151 Elizabeth Spitfathom VA
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. Revised 12 Oct 2021.

Virginia Nelson County, SS.

On this day being the 5th of October 1819, before me the subscriber, one of the Judges of the General Court of said State, personally appeared John Spitfatham, aged sixty six years, resident in the County and State aforesaid, who being by me first duly sworn, according to law, doth, on his Oath, make 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 and naval service of the United States in the revolutionary war:" That he, the said John Spitfatham enlisted in the year 1775 in said State under Capt George Johnson [VAS3887; company raised in Fairfax County] of the 2nd Virginia Regiment (he believes) commanded by Colo. [William] Woodford, for twelve months, on the Continental establishment; at the expiration of which enlistment he again enlisted at Leesburg in Loudon [sic: Loudoun] County in said State in a Company Commanded by Capt James McCleahany of the 5th Regiment on Continental establishment (he believes) commanded by Colo. Russel [sic: William Russell]; at the expiration of which time of enlistment, he again enlisted for three years in a company under the command of Capt Francis Willis of the 16th Virginia Regiment Commanded by Colo. William Grayson, on Continental establishment; at the expiration of which enlistment, which was in the year 1781 (he believes) that he was promoted to the Office of Ensign, and served in the Company Commanded by Capt Denholm [Archibald Denholm] of the 4th Virginia Regiment under the command of Colo. Richard Campbell (who was killed he believes at the Euteau Springs [sic: Eutaw Springs SC, 8 Sep 1781]) – That he the said John Spitfatham served in the Capacity of Ensign until the end of the War in the service of the United States on Continental establishment, about eighteen months, and that he served as seargeant all the time of his said enlistments except three weeks until he was promoted as aforesaid. That he the said John Spitfatham, was at the battles of Brandywine [11 Sep 1777], German Town [Germantown PA 4 Oct 1777], Monmouth [28 Jun 1778], Guilford [Guilford Courthouse NC, 15 Mar 1781], Camden [Battle of Hobkirk Hill near Camden SC, 25 Apr 1781] and other skirmishes, and that he is in reduced circumstances and stands in need of his Country's assistance for support; and that he has no other evidence now in his power of his said services; and that he has lost his Commission as Ensign aforesaid.

Virginia Nelson County SS.

On this 24th day of July 1820 personally appeared in open Court, being a Court of Record for said County, John Spitfatham, aged sixty seven years, resident in the town of Lovington, in said County, who being first duly sworn according to law, on his oath, declare that he served in the revolutionary War as follows; That he the said John Spitfatham enlisted in the year 1775 under Capt George Johnson of the second Regiment, he believes commanded by Colo. Woodford, for twelve months, on Continental establishment, when the term of his enlistment expired he again enlisted at Leesburg, in Loudon County Virginia, in a company commanded by Capt James Mackleahany of the 5th regiment, he believes commanded by Colo. Russel; when the term of which enlistment expired, he again enlisted for three years in a company under the command of Capt Frank Willis, and was enlisted by Lieutenant Christopher Greenup of the 16th Virginia Regiment, commanded by Colo. Grayson, at the expiration of the last enlistment, which was in the year 1781 (he believes) he was promoted to the Office of Ensign, and served in the company commanded by Captain Durham of the 4th Virginia Regiment, under the command of Colo. Richard Campbell; that he served in said office as ensign untill the end of the War, in the service of the United States, on Continental establishment. That he was at the Battles of Brandiwine, Germantown, Monmouth, Guilford, Camden and other skirmishes; that he made a declaration in the month of [blank] last past, that he received a pension certificate of the Number 15735. 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 disposed of my property or any part thereof with intent thereby so to diminish it as to bring myself within the provisions of an act of Congress entitled "an act to provide for certain person 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.

One negro woman about forty five years of age, one cow and Calf, one Walnut Bureau & Press, one Walnut folding Table, one small poplar Table, one Ditto, 7 Windsor chairs having been in use 15 years, 6 split bottom chairs in use ten years, one looking Glass, necessary Table furniture consisting of plates, Dishes, knives, forks, spoons, salts, cups & saucers, coffee pot &c. Kitchen furniture consisting of two pots one skillet one oven, two pails, one Tub, one Tea kettle, two Old Trunks without locks, one kitchen Table, one pole axe two weeding Hoes, one coffee Mill, one Gallon Jug, one stone pitcher, 3 tin waiters, one candlestand, one pair old steelyards

The said John Spitfatham further declareth that his occupation was heretofore a shoe and boot maker; that he is by no means able to carry it on; that he has been afflicted with a lingering disease for several years, and that he has not carried on his trade for the last three or four years; that he has a wife aged about 54 years; that she is not able to work for the maintainance of his family; that he has to rent a House & lot and to pay for it a high price; and that there is no one to work for him but the negro Woman mentioned, who is frequently sick and unable to do any thing for several days together, and that he has no unnecessary furniture in his House to spare. Sworn to and declared on the 24th day of July 1820 before the Court of Nelson County sitting
John spitfatham

On this 28th day of November 1823 personally appeared in open court, being a Court of record for the County of Nelson, and State of Virginia, John Spitfathom, resident in said County, aged Seventy years, who being first duly sworn according to law, doth, on his oath, make the following declaration, in order to obtain the provision made by the acts of the 18th of March 1818, the 1st of May 1820, and 1st March 1823; that he, the said John Spitfathom enlisted in the year 1775, under Captain George Johnson of the Second Regiment (he believes) commanded by Colonel [William] Woodford, for twelve months, in Continental establishment.

When the term of his Enlistment expired, he again enlisted at Leesburg in Loudoun County, Virginia, in a company commanded by Capt'n. James Macklehany of the fifth Regiment (he believes) Commanded by Colo. Russell; when the term of which Enlistment expired, he again enlisted for three years, in a company under the command of Capt'n. Frank Willis, and was enlisted by Lieutenant Christopher Greenup, of the 16th Virginia Regiment, commanded by Colonel Grayson. At the expiration of the last enlistment, which was in the year 1781, (he believes) he was promoted to the office of Ensign, and served in the Company commanded by Captain Durham of the 4th Virginia Regiment, under the Command of Colo. Richard Campbell – that he served in said office as Ensign, until the end of the War in the service of the United States, on continental establishment. That he was at the battles of Brandywine, Germantown, Monmouth, Guilford and Camden, and other skirmishes.

That he made a declaration in the month of [blank] last past, and that he received a pension certificate of the No. 15,735. [Oath similar to that in the previous declaration follows.] "One negro woman, Lucy, about 48 years old, one cow, one walnut Bureau, one walnut China Press, one Walnut folding table, one small table, half a dozen windsor chairs, one chair, five split bottom chairs, one looking Glass, necessary table furniture, consisting of Plates, dishes, knives and forks, spoons, salts and coffee pot, Kitchen furniture, consisting of two pots, one skellet, one oven, one tub, two pails, and one tea kettle; two old trunks without locks, one Kitchen table, one pole axe, two weeding hoes, one coffee mill, three tin waiters, one pair of old Steelyards, one broken set of China, part of a box of Segars, fifteen pounds of Pepper, one dozen bottles of porter, eighty eight gallons of whisky, and fifteen gallons of molasses.

John Spitfathom

That, since the exhibition of my first schedule, the following changes have been made in my property: one

calf, killed for beef, for the use of the family; one Gallon Jug and Pitcher broken by accident, one candlestand sold to catlett Wills.

Name of person to whom sold.	Time of Sale.	Amount of money, or description of property received in return.
One Candlestand to Catlett Wills.	not recollected.	Sold for Three dollars and twenty five cents

The said John Spitfathom further declareth, that his occupation was heretofore, a Boot and Shoe maker, that he is by no means able to carry it on, that he has been afflicted with a lingering disease for several years, and that he has not carried on his trade for the last six or seven years, that he has a wife aged about fifty seven years, that she is not able to work for the maintainance of his family, that he has to rent [page damaged] house and lott and to pay a high price for the same, and that he has no person to work for him, except the negro woman, mentioned in the foregoing schedule who is frequently sick, and unable to do any thing for several days together, and that he has no unnecessary furniture in house to spare.

John Spitfathom

State of Virginia } S.S
 County of Nelson } [28 Nov 1838]

I, John Spitfathom aged Eighty five years do upon oath testify and declare that I entered the service of the United States on the 28th day of November in the year 1781 in the Virginia continental line, war of the Revolution. The Regiment to which I was attached was commanded by Col Richard Campbell and my rank was that of Ensign. I furthermore declare that I continued in the said service for and during the war when I was honourably discharged. I furthermore declare that for my said services I am now a pensioner of the united states, and that at the last session of the Congress of the United States, by virtue of an act of Congress Entitled an Act for the Relief of John Spitfathom I have re[ceive]d the commutation of half pay for my said services, to the evidences filed in support of my petition upon which the act aforesaid was passed I respectfully refer in support of this application. I furthermore declare that I have never received a warrant for the bounty land promised to me on the part of the United States, nor have I ever assigned or transfered my claim in any manner whatever: [power of attorney follows].

John hisXmark Spitfatham

[From [bounty-land records in the Library of Virginia](#) indexed as Spitzfatham, John.]

Sergeant John Spitzfathom served upwards of three years in the Virginia line on Continental Establishment

3^d Jan'y 1785

James Wood late BG [BLWt2419-500]



Sir Please send by the Bearer a warrant for whatever Land is Due me for three years Service as a Sergeant in the Continental Army



[From [bounty-land records in the Library of Virginia](#).]

I do hereby certify that I knew Jno Spitfathom in the service of the united states on the continental

establishment about four years before the end of the war, and that the said Spitfathom continued in service from that time till the end of the war, during which time he was promoted to the rank of Ensign given under my and this 3rd day of June 1809 William hisXmark Lockard [William Lockard S38152]

I John Spitfatham of the county of Amherst do hereby certify that I entered the army of the united states at the commencement of the war with Great Britain, and continued in service till the end of the war, being during that time in the following battles, Viz. Great bridge in 1775-6 near norfolk [9 Dec 1775], Jamestown, hampton, white planes [White Plains NY, 28 Oct 1776] where I was severely wound in the hand with the sword, the battle of brandywine, Germantown, Monmouth, Guilford, the pine tree [Hobkirk Hill], likewise at the seige of york [Yorktown, 28 Sep - 19 Oct 1781];

I was in a number of skirmishes that took place from time to time during the war which is therefore unnecessary to detail in this place. Given under my hand this 6th day of June 1809.



City of Richmond, July 3^d 1809.

I do hereby certify, that John Spitfatham was an Ensign in my Company, which belonged to a detachm't commanded by Colo. Richard Campbell, in the Army under the immediate command of Major General Green [sic: Nathanael Greene], in the Campaign of Seventeen hundred and eighty one. I have been informed that previous to Mr. Spitfatham's appointment as Ensign, he served as a Sergeant in one of the Virginia Regiments on Continental establishm't. After the seige of Ninety Six [SC, 22 May - 19 Jun 1781] I returned to Virginia, and have not seen him since.

Arch'd Denholm
formerly a Captain in the 1st
Virginia Regiment on
Continental establishment



Henrico County to wit

This day James Dailey personally appeared before me Nath'l Selden a Justice of the peace for and in the County aforesaid & made oath that he knew John Sptifatham in the Revolutionary War on military service as early the 1st October 1776, and that he saw him in said service at several periods afterwards in the course of the six succeeding years.

Given under my hand this 13th day of December 1809. Nath'l Selden

NOTES:

On 28 Dec 1823 Robert Kincaid certified that John Spitfathom at times suffered from "the most violent and distressing attacks of a Biliious complaint, which has rendered him unable to attend to any kind of labour." On 3 Jan 1824, Arthur Hopkins, his family physician, stated that Spitfathom at times suffered "great bodily pain" from a disease from which he could never recover. A letter with the same date states that Spitfathom "kept a small Grocery, which will account for the quantity of whisky and some other articles on hand, and are only the fragments of the old stock which he had on hand, and has been unable to dispose of."

On 23 March 1840 Elizabeth Spitfathom, 79, applied for a pension stating that as Elizabeth Housewright she married John Spitfathom in 1783, and he died 13 June 1839. David S. Garland, 70, stated that he became acquainted with John and Elizabeth Spitfathom in 1793 when they lived in New Glasgow in Amherst County VA. On 23 Oct 1841 Elizabeth Stockton stated that she was living with John and Elizabeth Spitfathom, her uncle and aunt, in Moorefield in Hardy County now in WV on 9 May 1793 when they sold the property. On 22 Sep 1843 Elizabeth Spitfathom's age was said to be about 77.