

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Benjamin Spencer W6158¹

Mary Spencer

f63NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

3/4/11: rev'd 8/26/20

[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 'indecipherable' 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.]

State of North Carolina Burke County} SS

On this 28th day of January in the year 1834 personally appeared in open Court before the Worshipful County Court of Burke County in the State aforesaid Benjamin Spencer of the County of Lincoln and State of North Carolina aged seventy-three years doth on his Corporal oath say that he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated, viz. That he enlisted under Captain Godfrey Adams in the South Carolina State Troops in the cavalry for ten months in Colonel Middleton's [Charles S Myddelton's] Regiment No. 2nd Lieutenant name forgotten under Adjutant Lusk [James Lusk] 1st Sergeant Mares Raney [sic, Maurice Roney], mustering Sergeant John Bates. Said Spencer further swears at the time he entered the service he was a citizen of Burke County in the State aforesaid and that he entered said service either in the year 1779 or 1780 and was forthwith marched & rendezvoused at Ramsour's [Ramsour's Mill] near Lincolnton N. C. From which place he was marched to Ancrum's on Congaree [River] in South Carolina at which place he joined General Sumter's [Thomas Sumter's] Army at which place he remained for some time until he was ordered on a scouting party under Captain Waters [Philemon Waters] during which several scouts he encountered two engagements with the Tories, the first engagement was on the Saluda River in South Carolina the 2nd engagement was on Edisto River South Carolina when the American Army was fired upon out of a swamp at which time Captain Lipham was killed he then continued his service without encountering any further engagement sometime with the main Army & sometimes scouting until the Battle of the Etaugh Spring [Eutaw Springs, September 8, 1781] at which place he joined General Greens [sic, Nathanael Greene's] Army and was placed in front of the Battle on the left flank and continued in pursuit of the British Army to the Bull Swamp, from which place he marched to what is called the four hole bridge in forty miles of Charleston South Carolina at which place he was garrisoned a part of the winter until he was marched to Orangeburg South Carolina at which place he was discharged by Major John Moore. Said Spencer further swears that previous to the aforesaid term of service he served a three months tower [tour] as a volunteer in the North Carolina militia under Mardis Clarke [sic, probably Mordecai Clarke] Captain Lieutenant John Richardson & Ensign William Caulay in Colonel Joseph McDowell's Regiment by whom with Major Brevard he was marched to twelve mile Creek in South Carolina and there joined the Brigade commanded by General William Davidson [William Lee Davidson] and there remained until he was ordered to join General

¹ BLWt5107-160-55

Greene's Army and remained with said Army until he was ordered to the Tuckaseegee Ford on the Catawba River North Carolina to impede the march of Lord Cornwallis. He then was under the aforesaid General Greene, from which service he was transferred to Warford's Fort in Burke County to protect the Frontiers of said State of North Carolina from the Depredations of the Cherokee Indians under Colonel Warford at which place he served the remainder of his tour and at the end of his service he again volunteered to serve another tour in said forts and that he was then furloughed to go home & return again shortly to the Fort and on his road home he met with Captain Godfrey Adams & enlisted as stated in the first part of this Declaration, in consequence of which he never received any discharge for the first tour he served. He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present and that his name is not on any pension Roll or any agency thereof.

Sworn to & subscribed before the court aforesaid the day & year aforesaid.

Sworn to before 31st January 1834

S/ J. J. Erwin, Clk

S/ Benjamin Spencer, X his mark

After which the following Interrogatories were propounded to said Spencer which he answered as follows.

1st Where and in what year were you born? Answer I was born in Orange County North Carolina in the [year] 1760

2nd Have you any record of your age and if so where is it? Answer. I have a copy of my age but have not got it with me is at my house

3rd Where were you living when called into service: where have you lived since the Revolutionary War and where do you now live? Answer. When I first entered the service I was a resident of Burke County North Carolina – since the war I have lived a part of my time in the State of Virginia and a part of my time in Burke County North Carolina & am now living in Lincoln County North Carolina

4th How were you called into service; were you drafted; did you volunteer or were you a substitute, and if in substitute, for whom? Answer. The first tower I served which was three months, as I have before stated I was a volunteer the 2nd tower served I enlisted in the South Carolina State Troops as I have also stated in the Body of the foregoing Declaration

5th State the names of some of the regular officers who were with the troops when you served, such Continental and militia regiments as you can recollect and the general circumstances of your service. Answer. Captain Godfrey Adams, Captain Moore, Major John Mares, Colonel Middleton, Adjutant Lusk General Sumter General Greene, Major Bluford [probably William Buford of William Hill's Regiment] and in the Militia Colonel McDowell Captain Cauley, Major Brevard & General Davidson.

6th Did you ever receive a discharge from the service, and if so, by whom was it given and what has become of it? Answer. I did receive a discharge for my 10 months service by Major John Moore aforesaid I herewith transmit the same

Question 7th What is the cause of your not making your declaration in the County in which you now reside. Answer Because Thomas Smith² with whom I served in the War lives in Burke County & John Stamey Senior³ with whom I was also acquainted with in the Army both reside near Morganton in Burke County than they do to Lincolnton, whose evidence I was advised would be [indecipherable word].

² [Thomas Smith W592](#)

³ [John Stamey S7611](#)

28 January 1834
S/ J. J. Erwin, Clk

Sworn to & subscribed
S/ Benjamin Spencer, X his mark

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State of North Carolina Burke County

This day personally appeared in open Court in & for the County & State aforesaid Thomas Smith & John Stamey who after being duly sworn according to law saith on oath that they knew Benjamin Spencer who made the foregoing declaration in the Revolutionary War & served with him in the service of the United States in General Sumpters Army in the South Carolina State Troops.

Sworn to & subscribed the 28th of January 1834.

Test: S/ J. J. Erwin, Clk

S/ Thomas Smith, X his mark

S/ John Stamey, X his mark

[John Godfrey, a clergyman and Philip Warlick gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[p 14: On May 23, 1853, in Burke County North Carolina, Mary Spencer, 51, filed for a widow's pension under the 1853 act stating that she is the widow of Benjamin Spencer, a pensioner of the United States for his service in the revolution; that she married him March 29, 1826; that he died December 15, 1842; and that she remains his widow.]

[p 18: On March 26, 1855 in Burke County North Carolina, Mary Spencer, 51, filed for her bounty land entitlement as the widow of Benjamin Spencer; that they were married by Michael Elvin [?, could be Oliver or Chin], JP.]

[Facts in file: the widow's maiden name was Mary Winkler. The widow was alive as late as 1869. After the end of the Civil War, the widow applied for the reinstatement of her pension benefits]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$51.66 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for 13 months service as a private in the State troops of South Carolina and the militia of North Carolina.]