

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of John Spruce W9310

Mary Jane

f31VA 7HQ

Transcribed by Will Graves

4/12/12

[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. 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 fails 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 errors or omissions to my attention.]

State of Kentucky Kenton County Sct.

On this 11th day of January 1853 personally appeared before the County Court of Kenton County, Kentucky, held at Independence and in and for the County aforesaid Mary Jane Spruce, a resident of said County aged 89 years, who being duly sworn according to law, doth on her oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefits of the provisions made by the Acts of Congress passed July 4th 1836, July 7th, 1838, March 3rd, 1843, June 17, 1844 and February 2nd, 1848 or of such of them to the benefits of which she may be entitled.

That she is the widow of John Spruce who was a soldier for three years and one of the Regiments of the Virginia Continental Line in the Revolutionary War. She is unable to state the name of a Captain or Colonel under whom he served, but thinks his services for three years was rendered in the First Regiment Virginia Continental Line. That her said husband was a native of Loudon [Loudoun] County Virginia, but joined the Army in Hanover County, Virginia.

That she was married to her said husband on the 24th day of December 1787 by Reverend William Gridley a Minister of the Gospel as will more fully appear from the evidence hereto annexed. That her name previous to her marriage was Mary Jane Knowles. That her said husband died in the County of Bourbon, State of Kentucky on the 5th day of August 1830. That she and her said husband resided in Culpeper County Virginia at the time of their marriage, and for many years after. That they removed from that County to Kentucky in the year 1806 and settled in Fayette County Kentucky ten miles from Lexington where they resided until 1824 or 1825, when they removed to Bourbon County Kentucky and settled on Stoners Creek, where her husband died at the time above stated in his 76th year. That she afterwards in 1831 or 1832 removed to her present place of residence where she has continued to reside ever since with her children. That her said husband never applied for a Pension during his lifetime and she verily believes. That she was married to her said husband after that he left the service, viz. December 24, 1787, and is therefore unable to state anything definite with regard to his service but has frequently heard him say that he served three years at one time, and six months at another during the war of the Revolution, and that he joined the Army in Hanover County Virginia and was in the battle of Brandywine [September 11, 1777] and the Battle of Germantown [October 4, 1777], and that she knows that he did receive for his services in the Virginia Continental Line, during the Revolutionary War a Land Warrant for one hundred acres of Land, which warrant he retained from the time he received it in 1783 until his death, and has been in her possession ever since his death. That she has made diligent inquiry and used every exertion in her power to fine someone who served with him in the war of the Revolution, but has not been able to obtain any evidence from any of those with whom he served. But that she trust that the evidence of his service which he may be able to procure and file with this her declaration may be deemed by the Department

sufficient, conclusive and satisfactory to entitle her to a Pension under such Acts of Congress as may apply to her case, and that the Department in deciding upon her claim will take into consideration the great difficulty at this remote period of procuring living testimony to services rendered in the war of the Revolution.

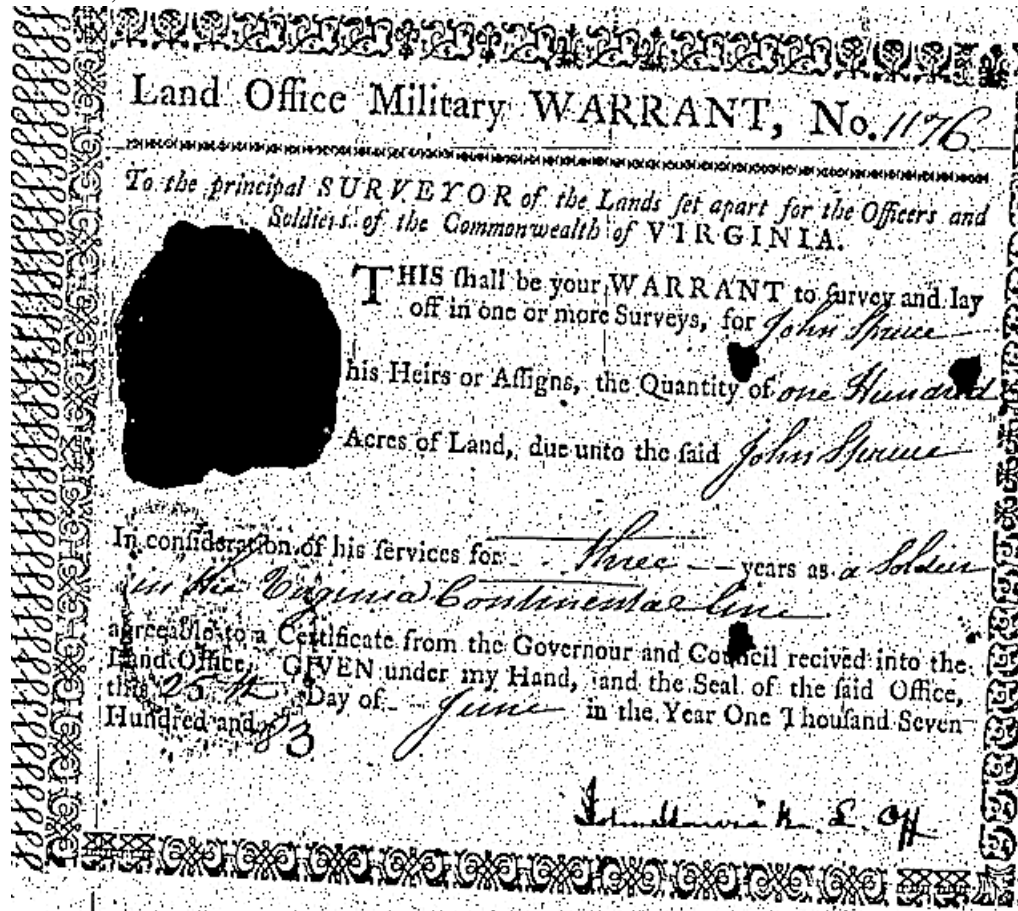
Witness

S/ S. C. Perrin

S/ Mary Jane Spruce, X her mark

S/ Alexander McCoy

Land warrant No. 1176 issued by the state of Virginia for the benefit of John Spruce or 100 acres of land for service for 3 years as a soldier in the Virginia Continental line. The warrant is dated June 25, 1783



[f p. 12: Copy of a marriage bond dated December 20, 1787 issued in Culpeper County Virginia to Benjamin Curtis and James Bell conditioned upon the marriage of John Spruce to Mary Jane Knowles, daughter of Samuel Knowles.]

[f p. 25: Testimony given in Kenton County Kentucky on January 12, 1853 by James Pangburn, 82, who said that he knew the veteran and his wife while living in Culpeper County Virginia; that the veteran was a farmer and lived some 6 miles from Culpeper Court House between that and Fredericksburg Virginia; that he frequently heard Captain Philip Slaughter speak of the services of John Spruce as able Revolutionary Soldier; that he knew the veteran and his widow before and after their marriage; that Mary Jane Spruce was the daughter of the Reverend James Knowles of

Culpeper County; that he, the affiant, left Culpeper County Virginia in the fall of 1803 and came to Bourbon County Kentucky; that John Spruce with his family came to Kentucky thereafter and settled between Harris and Lexington Kentucky in Fayette County; that he recalls the veteran stating he was in the battles of Germantown and Brandywine and later in the South in the Carolinas and was at the siege of Charleston.]

[Veteran's widow was pensioned at the rate of \$80 per annum commencing March 4th, 1848, for her husband's service as a private in the Virginia service.]

The [Virginia State Library](#) online digital collection includes the following document relating to the veteran

Richmond May 28, 1783

I do certify that John Spruce late of the first Virginia Continental Regiment was enlisted for 3 years which term he has served.

S/ Richard C Anderson, Lt. Colo.

Richmond - May 28th 1783
I do certify that John Spruce late of the first Virginia Continental Regiment was enlisted for three years which term he has served.
Richard C Anderson Lt. Colo.