

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of William Spencer¹ W9311 Mary

f56VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

3/29/12

[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.]

[f p. 19]

State of Kentucky Clark County: Sct.

On this 27th day of August in the year 1834 personally appeared before me Edmund W. Hockaday a justice of the Clark County Court, being a court of record, William Spencer a resident of Clark County and State of Kentucky, aged seventy-three years past, who being first duly sworn according to law, doth, on his oath make the following declaration, in order to obtain the benefit of the Act of Congress passed June 7th 1832. That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers, and served as herein stated – in the year 1779 he served his first tour of three months, viz., April, May & June. He was drafted as a militia man and served in a company commanded by Captain Robert Cravens [Robert Craven] said company was raised in Rockingham County Virginia, and marched to Tigers Valley [Tygart Valley] in the same state, where it was stationed watching the frontiers, at the expiration of the three months he was discharged, if he got a written discharge he has forgotten it, and it must have been long since lost, if he ever had one.

In the year 1780 he was again drafted as a militia man for three months. It was as well as he recollects about the 15th of October in that year that he again entered the service it was in a company raised in Rockingham County Virginia – commanded by Captain Cyrus Harrison. He was marched to the City of Richmond, and there joined two other companies commanded as well as he now recollects by Captains Koger and Ridale [perhaps, Anthony Rader], and after remaining there some time his company was discharged before the expiration of the three months. His service that tour was at least five weeks or six. He got no written discharge.

In the year 1781 he was again drafted for three months in a company of militia raised in Rockingham County commanded by Captain John Rice. The Regiment to which he belonged was commanded by Colonel John Bowyer. The Major was named Gavin Hambleton [Gawen Hamilton] it was early in that year about the 16th day of January. He was marched to Portsmouth Virginia where he joined the brigade commanded by General Muhlenberg. He was during this tour in a skirmish with the British at the Great Bridge. He served three months and 15 days and was discharged, if he got a written discharge which he does not recollect he has lost it.

He was again ordered out in the fall of the year 1781 to guard some British prisoners from Rockingham to Winchester Virginia and he was engaged in this service 15 days – he does not recollect the names of any of the officers with whom he served other than those he has stated. His whole service during the revolutionary war was eight months and a half a month, as a private

¹ BLWt26756-160-55

militia man being drafted every time. He has no documentary evidence and he knows of no person whose testimony he can procure, who can testify to his service.

He states that he was born on the 15th day of October 1760 in Rockingham County and State of Virginia. That he has a record of his age at his own house. That he was living in said County of Rockingham in the state of Virginia when called into service as before detailed and continued to reside there until he removed to the state of Kentucky in the year 1784 and has resided in said state of Kentucky ever since that period – and has lived where he now lives resides in Clark County for eighteen years last past.

He states that he is known in his present neighborhood to John Price, Reverend John Alexander, Samuel Fishback, James Stonestreet & others who can testify to his character for veracity and their belief of his services as a soldier of the revolution. He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present and declares that his name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any State.

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid

S/ William Spencer

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "William Spencer". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent initial "W".

[John Alexander, a clergyman, and John Price gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[f p. 26]

State of Kentucky Clark County: Sct.

On this 25th day of October in the year 1834 personally appeared before me Edward W Hockaday a justice of the Clark County Court William Spencer a resident of Clark County and State of Kentucky who being first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following amendment to his declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the Act of Congress passed June 7th 1832, being a more detailed statement of his tours of service in the Army of the United States during the revolutionary War.

The tour that he served in the year 1779 ended the last of June and he got home in the month of July in that year. The Company as he has stated in his former declaration was commanded by Captain Robert Cravens. The Lieutenant was named Cyrus Harrison. The Ensign was named Joseph Dicktow [Joseph Dictum]. Said company was marched to Tigers Valley on the waters of the Monongahela [River], and there stationed, being divided and stationed at three different points. He states that he was stationed at what was called Jacob Westfall's station with a part of the company commanded by Ensign Dicktow. The Captain was stationed with part of the company at a place called Warrick's Fort, at the upper part of said Valley and Lieutenant Harrison was stationed between the place where the Captain was, and where the men under said Ensign were stationed. The object of said Company being stationed at that frontier was as he understood was to guard and protect the inhabitants against the Indians or the Indians and British together. There was none but the one company stationed there at that time as far as he knows. He served that tour three months, and was discharged and returned home.

The tour that he served in the fall of the year 1780 he was in a Company commanded by Captain Cyrus Harrison. He was marched to the City of Richmond Virginia together with the two other companies named in his original declaration all of said companies being raised in the same County and marched there together Captain Koger was the oldest Captain and commanded all the companies. In his original declaration is stated that his company joined the other two in

Richmond. That was a mistake of the draftsman, for the companies all went there together, and remained a short time and were dismissed. His understanding of the object of marching said companies to Richmond was in expectation of a visit from the British who he then understood were at Portsmouth, but after the said companies had remained a short time at Richmond the British not appearing they were dismissed. His service that time although he was drafted for three months, not exceeding five or six weeks. His best impression however is it was six weeks.

Soon after he was discharged and got home he learned that the British had visited Richmond and that the assembly then in session there had to retreat to Charlottesville, – There was then a call made immediately, and on the 16th of January 1781, he started in a company commanded by John Rice Captain. The Rockingham militia in which his company was, were marched through Richmond, down the River to Sandy Point where we crossed, and then marched down the other side to Suffolk, where the baggage and part of the American Army lay. Part of the Army being the Virginia militia commanded by General Muhlenberg, marched from Suffolk town to Portsmouth and from there to the Great Bridge twelve miles below Portsmouth, at which place the British had a Fort with a strong garrison. While in the neighborhood of the Fort, a party were sent out from the Army to collect cattle in the cane and the swamps for the Army and whilst they were so engaged a party from the British Fort who had concealed themselves in the Lane attacked those from the American Army who were out collecting cattle, and both parties being reinforced one from Muhlenberg's brigade of Virginia militia and the other from the Fort, a smart little skirmish occurred between them, and the party of the British retreated to the Fort under cover of their guns. He states that he was engaged in this Skirmish, and it is the same one alluded to in his original declaration. He states that the Army was sometimes near said British Fort, and sometimes in the neighborhood of Portsmouth, marching and countermarching in the neighborhood of both places, and he recollects on two occasions the Americans had to retreat over into the edge of North Carolina to a place called Gregory's camp where the North Carolina militia were encamped commanded by General Gregory. He states that the Rockingham Battalion of militia, to which he belonged was marched back through Petersburg to Richmond, and were there discharged. He served this tour three months and 15 days.

In the fall of the year 1781, he served 15 days in guarding some British prisoners, he thinks part of those taken at the surrender of Cornwallis, and he merely guarded them from Rockingham County to the west Minister barracks in Virginia. His whole term of service as aforesaid was 8 months and a half or nearly a half.

Sworn and subscribed the day and year aforesaid

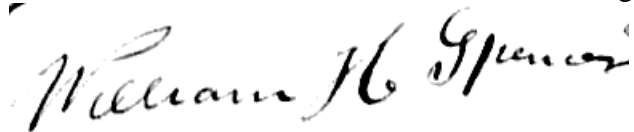
S/ William Spencer

[f p. 5: On April 3, 1855 in Clark County Kentucky, Mary Spencer, 88, filed for her bounty land entitlement as the widow of William Spencer stating that she married him in Bourbon County Kentucky September 25, 1792; that they were married by one McClure; that her name prior to her marriage was Mary Tillett; that her husband died in Clark County Kentucky August 2, 1835. She signed her application with her mark.]

[f p. 15: On the 2nd day of May 1855 in Clark County Kentucky, Mary Spencer, 88, filed for a pension under the 1853 act as the widow of William Spencer residing the same facts as set forth in her application for her bounty land entitlement. She signed her application with her mark]

[f p. 7: William H Spencer gave a supporting affidavit in which he states he is the "reputed son

of William Spencer deceased and Mary Spencer; that his mother has remained a widow ever since the death of his father and that she is living in Clark County with him and his brother.



[f p. 39—the following certificate, although found in this file, clearly relates to another William Spencer, as this veteran never claimed to have served in the Virginia Continental line.]

This is to certify, that it appears from a list in this office of such Officers and Soldiers of the Virginia Continental Line as settled their accounts and received certificates for the balance of their full pay, according to an act of assembly, passed the November session 1781, directing the Auditors of Public Accounts to settle and adjust the pay and accounts of said Officers and Soldiers from the first January 1777 to 31st December 1781, (see Hening's Statutes at Large, vol. 10, p. 462,) that a settlement was made on the 7th day of June 1783 in the name of William Spencer as Sol. Infantry and evidence of the indebtedness of the State to him was £83.17.7, delivered to Colonel Heth [William Heth] but as the original settlements or copies thereof or not to be found in this office, the term of service embraced therein cannot be stated.

Given under my hand at the First Auditor's Office, Richmond, this 9th day of July 1855.

S/ G. W. Clutter
Auditor P. Accts.

[No Seal of Office]

[f p. 40]-- the following certificate, although found in this file, clearly relates to another William Spencer,² as this veteran never claimed to have served as a fifer in the Virginia Continental line.]

This is to certify, that it appears from a list in this office of such Officers and Soldiers of the Virginia Continental Line as settled their accounts and received certificates for the balance of their full pay, according to an act of assembly, passed the November session 1781, directing the Auditors of Public Accounts to settle and adjust the pay and accounts of said Officers and Soldiers from the first January 1777 to 31st December 1781, (see Hening's Statutes at Large, vol. 10, p. 462,) that a settlement was made on the 1st day of September 1786 in the name of William Spencer as fifer infy. And evidence of the indebtedness of the State to him was £66.2.2, delivered to William Reynolds but as the original settlements or copies thereof or not to be found in this office, the term of service embraced therein cannot be stated.

Given under my hand at the First Auditor's Office, Richmond, this 9th day of July 1855.

S/ G. W. Clutter
Auditor P. Accts.

[No Seal of Office]

[f p. 42: Again, the following certificate clearly applies to a different William Spencer.]

This is to certify, that it appears from a list in this office of such Officers and Soldiers of the Virginia Continental Line as settled their accounts and received certificates for the balance of their full pay, according to an act of assembly, passed the November session 1781, directing the Auditors of Public Accounts to settle and adjust the pay and accounts of said Officers and Soldiers from the first January 1777 to 31st December 1781, (see Hening's Statutes at Large, vol.

² Probably [William Spencer VAS31](#) or [William Spencer R9988](#)

10, p. 462,) that a settlement was made on the 11th day of June 1783 in the name of William Spencer as Sergt. Inf. and evidence of the indebtedness of the State to him was £61.11 point can, delivered to himself but as the original settlements or copies thereof or not to be found in this office, the term of service embraced therein cannot be stated.

Given under my hand at the First Auditor's Office, Richmond, this
9th day of July 1855.

S/ G. W. Clutter
Auditor P. Accts.

[No Seal of Office]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$28 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for service as a private for 8 months and 12 days in the Virginia militia. His widow was pensioned in a like amount.]