

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements

Pension Application of Spencer Monroe S8900

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

State of Virginia } SS.

Loudoun County }

On this 14 day of November [1832] personally appeared in open Court before the Justices of the County Court of Loudoun County Va. now sitting, Spencer Monroe, residing in said County & State aged seventy two years 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 7 1832. That He entered the service of the United States under the following named officers & served as herein stated. I was born in Fairfax County, Va. in the year 1760 between the old and new Court House. The Record of my age was set down in my Fathers Bible, which at his Death, went to his oldest son, William & I expect it is lost. When I was called into service I resided in Fairfax Co'y Virg'a and I continued to reside there until thirteen years ago I removed to Loudoun Co'y. where I now reside. — Early in the month of october 1780 I volunteered in the company of Capt. William Mason of Fairfax Co'y. on the 2nd of that month we mustered at Alexandria & on the 7th of that Mo. marched from Colchester. Gen officers were Lieutenant Wm. Donell & James Nisbet - Ensign Josiah Adams. We marchd thro' Dumfries, Fredericksburg, Richmond & Petersburg - then to Hillsboro' [Hillsborough] in North Carolina & joined our Regiment under Gen'l. Stephens [sic: Edward Stevens] and Col. [James] Lucas. General [Nathanael] Greene was also there. I remember Majors Williams & Clayton were the Aids of General Stephens. We marched from Hillsboro & passed by Guilford Court House, Salisbury & Charlotte & thence to South Carolina on the Pedee [sic: Great Pee Dee] River, which we crossed on Christmas day at Haley's ferry [west of Rockingham NC]. Here we lived on parched corn & was allowed half a Gill [2 oz.] of whiskey a day. The day after crossing the Ferry we march'd to Cheraw Hills, where we staid till sometime in January [28th]. We were then ordered to take charge of the Prisoners taken by Gen'l. [Daniel] Morgan at the Cowpens [17 Jan 1781]: but the British pursued Morgan so closely that he was compelled to send them on with a guard of Carolina Militia. The Enemy would have captured Morgans Troops and the Virginia Militia if the Yadkin had been fordable: we got over before night [at Trading Ford, 4 Feb] and they came up about nine o'clock in the Evening, but was unable to cross. Gen'l. Morgan had collected several Boats from other ferries to convey his Troops over, and left one of them for the use of about eighty Riflemen [Virginia Militiamen under Maj. David Campbell] who said they would stay & fire on the British if they came up that night. They took a position behind an old fence and a number of Grape vines & as the Enemy passed fired on them twice, killing as they supposed about thirty. The British retreated up a Hill, formed & returned & received another fire from the Riflemen which they returned. Two of the Rifle Men were killed. Our Troops then retreated to their Boat & all that could get in succeeded in getting over - the others, with much exertion, effected their passage lower down. We had about Sixty British Prisoners & Tories which had been left from sickness there, we conveyed into Virginia leaving them at Pittsylvania old Court House. They were taken charge of by some of the militia of the western Counties. We then returned home for our discharges at Dumfries 23rd Feb'y 1781. My Discharge, which I rec'd. of Capt William Mason is long since lost. this tour of duty from Oct. 2 1780 - 23 Feb. 1781 inclusive embraced a period of four months & 24 days.

In the fall of 1781, as nearly as I can recollect, about the latter part of August I was drafted at Colchester for three months, and ordered to Yorktown, but said order was countermanded & I was placed under the command of Capt. Clarke Payne & made to do duty in opening & repairing the Road from Cameron Run to Colchester to aid the artillery and other Corps of the army in passing. As nearly as I can remember I was out about seven weeks on this service - making altogether 6 mos. & 15 days. I further declare that in the last session in Payne's Company I did not see Jesse Dailey [pension application W6980]. I account for this fact in this manner - that the men in Payne's Company were separated into several working parties which were employed at their several working places & did not meet at all. I was with a party working near Dogues Run,

Pohick Church [in Lorton about 3 mi NNE of Colchester] and Rose Hill some 4 or 5 miles [NE] from Colchester. I remember two Sergeants in Payne's company, named James Grimsby and Thomas Bailey.

The documentary evidence I offer is the affidavit of Jesse Dailey, my companion in Mason's company.

I hereby relinquish every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present, and declare that my name is not on the pension Roll of the agency of any State.

Spencer hisXmark Monroe