

Pension Application for John Spencer

W.19389 (Widow: Rebecca) John was a private and lieutenant.

State of New York

Chautauqua County SS.

On this eighth day of August 1843 before me, the undersigned, one of the Judges of the Court of Common Pleas held in and for said County personally appeared Rebecca Spencer, a resident of the town of Sheridan in the said County aged eighty years on the 14th day of April last past, and she being first duly sworn according to law, doth on her oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the provisions made by the act of Congress passed 7th July 1838:--

That she is the widow of John Spencer who was a first Lieutenant in the army of the Revolution and served in manner and for the times hereinafter, and in the documents and affidavits hereto annexed, set forth; and was a Lieutenant Commandant during a period of his service, his Captain named VanRensselaer being absent on other duty.

She further declares that she was married to said John Spencer on the fourteenth day of February one thousand seven hundred and eighty two (1782) at Spencertown in the County of Columbia in said State by the Rev. Mr. Clark, then the settled Congregational or Presbyterian minister of Spencertown aforesaid, and that he maiden name was Spencer, she being the daughter of Ithamar Spencer and Rebecca Spencer.

That he husband, the said John Spencer died on the 25th day of August (1826) one thousand eight hundred and twenty six at Busti in said County of Chautauqua, and that since his death she has never married again, but still remains his widow.

And she this declarant further saith that she is unable to give a full specification of all the services of her said husband in the war of the Revolution, but she can only state her general recollection of them, so far as her memory serves her, and so far as they have for a series of years been detailed to her from time to time by her said husband, in conversations between her and her said husband and in other various conversations between her said husband and various other Revolutionary War Soldier, whom he met with at various times since the said War, which conversations were had in her presence:--

From all which conversations, which she understood and believes and still believes to be true, and according to the best of her knowledge, information & belief, she has no doubt, that the said John Spencer, her husband, served as follows:

That he entered the army when quite young, but at what particular age, declarant is unable to state, if she ever knew or was informed:

That he served for a time under Captain Graves of Green River, but she cannot state the year nor other places he served at when in the company of said Graves from loss of memory:

That he served once in Vose's Regiment and once in the Regiment of Col. Willett, but she cannot specify the years nor length of service from same cause:

She remembers that in the spring of 1779, he came home from the army on a furlough. That he served with Gate's army at Saratoga:--Was at the Battles of Trenton and Princeton:--That he performed military duty in Providence R.I.—also at Johnstown, and Fort Plain, N.Y. That one winter he performed garrison duty in Quebec—that he served also at Montreal and he repeatedly stated that the different terms of his service amounting in the aggregate to more than four years, or that he was engaged in military duty from first to last, during the said war, for a period exceeding four years.

That she knows of no person now living who can testify to her said husband's services. That she has no document throwing light upon her said husband's services, save those which she left with her attorney, Giles F. Yates, Esq. of Schenectady N.Y. which she understands are now at the Pension Office at Washington City for inspection.

This declarant further states that the said John

spencer never applied for or received a Pension during his lifetime. That he was born at Spencertown aforesaid May 24, 1758; moved from Spencertown to Green River in Columbia County aforesaid when he was quite young—thence to Spencertown, thence to Rupert, Vermont, thence to Maryland, Otsego County, N.Y., thence he went to Spencertown aforesaid, where he studied divinity with the Rev. David Porter, Congregational or Presbyterian Minister of Spencertown aforesaid; then he removed to Freehold in Green [Greene] County N.Y. thence to Vernon Oneida County N.Y. and remained there two years, thence to August Oneida County N.Y. and Staid 3 years—thence to Pomfret (now Sheridan) Chautauqua County aforesaid in 1807, where he continued to reside with his family till the day of his death.

That he preached 18 years and 4 months as a Congregational Minister and Missionary under the Patronage of the Hartford (Conn.) Missionary Society, on the Holland Purchase (so then called) of which Chautauqua County aforesaid formed a part.

He knew, and often in his life time, spoke of Colonel Sprout and Major Pierce.

Declarant never saw her said husband's Commission nor can she tell what has become [of] it.

On mature reflection now, I do remember that my said husband served under Capt. Graves at Saratoga. (Signed) Rebecca Spencer.

Subscribed & Sworn to before me August 8, 1843. Francis H. Ruggles, Judge Chau. Co. Courts.

Letter in folder written in reply to a request for information. January 13, 1915.

In response to your letter of the 8th instant, relative to the military services of John Spencer of New York, you are advised that his widow, Rebecca Spencer (W. File No. 19,389) was allowed pension on an application executed August 8, 1843, at which time she was a resident of Sheridan, Chautauqua County, New York.

She stated that John Spencer was born at Spencertown, New York, May 24, 1758, and served more than four years in the Revolutionary War; that he was under Captain Graves at Saratoga, served under Colonel Vose, was a First Lieutenant of Captain Peter VanRensselaer's Company, Colonel Marinus Willett's regiment, served at Quebec, Montreal, Johnstown, Providence, Rhode Island, Fort Plain, New York, and that he was in the battles of Trenton and Princeton. (No dates given).

She further states that she was born April 14, 1763, daughter of Ithamar and Rebecca Spencer and was married to John Spencer of Spencertown, New York, February 14, 1782; that her husband was a Congregational Minister and died at Busti, Chautauqua County, New York, August 25, 1826.

The following family data is on file in the claim.

John Spencer was born May 24, 1758

Rebecca Spencer was born April 14, 1763. They were married February 14, 1782

Elizabeth Spencer was born April 27, 1783

Mary Spencer was born September 01, 1786

Seth Spencer was born February 17, 1789

Abram Spencer was born August 26, 1791, died December 16, 1792

Rebecca Spencer was born April 09, 1794

Lydia Spencer was born September 29, 1796

Joel Spencer was born July 31, 1799

Cyrus Spencer was born October 06, 1801, died January 31 1803

Philip Spencer was born April 25, 1804

Anne Spencer was born December 19, 1806

John Steele Spencer was born April 15, 1810, died April 20th 1811

John Spencer died August 25, 1826

Anna Spencer died April 21, 1827

Seth Spencer died May 5, 1830

Elizabeth Allen eldest daughter of John and Rebecca Spencer died October 8th 1835