

Pension Application for Orange Spencer

R.9985 (Widow: Sarah Bostwick. Married December 4, 1787.) Apparently Orange was successful in his application for pension, however his widow was not.

Declaration. In order to obtain the benefit of the act of Congress of the 7th July 1838.

State of Pennsylvania

County of Erie SS.

On this twenty first day of September 1832, personally appeared in open court before the judges of the Court of Common Pleas it being a court of record in and for the County of Erie and State of Pennsylvania, Orange Spencer a resident of the Township of North East in the County of Erie and state of Pennsylvania aged sixty eight 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 7th 1832.

That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein sated.

That he resided in the town of Warrensbush (now called Florida) in the County of Montgomery (then called Tryon) County in the state of N. York. That in the winter of 1778 and 2779 he volunteered to go in the militia as a musician to go to Johnstown. He went to the Fort at Johnstown and served as a musician in the company commanded by Capt. Lytle he thinks as that at this time he staid about ten or twelve days and was then dismissed and went home.

In the next summer (1779) he volunteered again to go as a musician to serve in the Fort at Johnstown—three or four times to serve in the same fort. This applicant states that he cannot state with exactness the length of time he served on those tours—but believes that in the course of that season he served as aforesaid for the period of about two months. The fort at Johnstown was garrisoned by the militia and he was frequently called out on alarms occasioned by the Indians and Tories. In the summer of 1780—he was called out in the militia to go to Sacondago block house under the command of Capt. Putman. He was called out at several different times at Sacondago in that year and believes that during that year he served as a militia man at that place at least for a period of two months.

In the year 1781 in the month of May or June this applicant was called out again in the militia to serve at the block house and helped build the blockhouse in which he served was under the command of Capt. Yurman, the block house was sometimes under t he command of an orderly serjeant. In this year and in the succeeding year 1782, he performed duty at this place for a period at different times amounting to about six months.

In the month of February 1782, this applicant went as a volunteer in the company under the command of Capt. Harrison in Col. Willett's regiment on an expedition into Oswego. We were about fourteen days on this expedition and then returned home. My feet were frozen on this expedition, which disabled me from labour and business for some months afterwards and I still feel the effects of it.

He has no documentary evidence and knows of no person by whom to prove his services in the revolution except the deposition of Jesse Skinner which is herewith submitted.

He hereby relinquishes ever claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present and declares that his name is not on the pension roll of the agency in any state—He further states, in answer to the interrogatory put by the court—that he was born in the year 1764—at Richmond in the State of Massachusetts—He removed from Massachusetts to Unadilla in the State of New York about the year 1786, from thence to Oneida County, town of Vernon State of New York—from thence to Chautauqua County in the same state and from thence to the Town of North East, Erie County, PA where I now reside—I knew, when in service Col. Fisher and Col. Veader of the Militia—Also Col. Willett of the New York State troops—He did not receive any written discharge—The names of persons who can testify to his character are Thaddeus Mitchell, [??], Mr. W. G. Seamon, Peter Soop, Barton [?], Darius Tayler, all of whome reside in North East excepting the [?] knows who resides in Erie. (Signed) Orange Spencer.

Sworn & Subscribed in open court this 20th Sept. 1832. Edwin. J. Kelco Pro.

The court propounded the following interrogatories the applicant.

1. Where and in what year were you born?
2. Have you any record of your age, and if so where is it?
3. Where were you living when called into service where have ho lived since the revolutionary war and where do you now live?
4. How were you called into service, were you drafted, did you volunteer – or were you a substitute and if a substitute for whom?
5. State the names of some of the regular officers who were with the troops where you served. Such continental and militia regiments as you can recollect and the general circumstances of your service.
6. Did you ever receive a discharge from the service and if so by whom was it given and what has become of it?
7. State the names of person to whom you are known in your present neighbourhood and who can testify as to your character for veracity and their belief of your services as a soldier of the revolution.

Letter in file dated October 18, 1939, written in reply to a request for information.

Reference is made to your request for information relative to Revolutionary War soldiers, Jonathan Spencer, who was born in 1744, and his son, Orange Spencer.

The data which follow were taken from papers on file in the pension claim, R.9985, based on the military service of Orange Spencer.

Orange Spencer was born July 30, 1764 or 1765, at Richmond, Massachusetts. He was the son of Jonathan Spencer who was born March 17, 1744, and who died June 1, 1821.

While living in Warrensbrush or Warrensbush, Tryon County, New York, which was later called Florida, New York, Orange Spencer enlisted in the winter of 1778 or 1779 and served at various times until sometime in 1782, amounting to eight months and twenty-six days in all, as musician and private with the New York troops under Captains Lytle, Putman, Yuman and Harrison and Colonel Willetts.

About 1784 he moved to Unadilla, New York, from there to Vernon, Oneida County, New York, from there to Monroe (?) County, from there to Chautauqua County, New York, and from there to North East, Erie County, Pennsylvania.

Orange Spencer was allowed pension on his application executed September 21, 1832, at which time he was living in North East Township, Erie County, Pennsylvania. He was then a minister of the Gospel.

He died January 10, 1843.

Orange Spencer married December 4, 1787, Sarah Bostwick, who was born December 25, 1768, and who died January 24, 1845.

In addition to Orange Spencer the following names of the children of Jonathan Spencer (soldier's father) appear:

Amos born November 11, 1767.

Jonathan L. born March 25, 1770.

Mica born December 4, 1772.

Nathaniel born February 12, 1782.

Elisha born May 24, 1784.

William D. born July 1, 1787.

Francis U.(?) born November 5, 1789.

Mercy or Marcy born April 9, 1795.

The following family data are also shown:

February 21, 1818, then was Ruth Spencer married to Nehemiah Yale his age 23 years on the 8th December last.

October 21, 1811, then was Philomeiah married to John Fray aged 21 years 12th day of April last.

2nd September 1812, then was Orange B. Spencer, son of Orange and Sarah Spencer married to Jemima Bostwick, daughter of Lyman and Rebeckah Bostwick, aged 16 years the 4th day of last November.

Masonville, June 17, 1817, then was Lena, daughter of Orange and Sarah Spencer married to Peter Loop.

Perinton, October 20, 1825, then was Gilbert Spencer married to Everline Gay, aged 16 years 12th day of June last.

NorthEast, April 14, 1835, then was Silas Spencer married to Jane Graham in her 23rd year of her age.

October 27, 1831, then was Alida Yale, daughter of Nehemiah and Ruth Yale married to Seth Record.

December 26, 1833, then was Lydia, daughter of Nehemiah and Ruth Yale married to Henry Beaty (?) surname illegible.

Nehemiah Yale, son of Enos and Sarah Yale died February 13, 1818, aged 33 years, 2 months (?) and 5 days.

Ruth (surname illegible) died March --, 1830, in 39th year of her age.

The Revolutionary War records of this office fail to show a claim for pension on file on account of the service of Jonathan Spencer, the father of Orange Spencer.

Pages from the family Bible.

Orange and Sarah Spencer had the following children:

Philemelah born Sept. married October 21, 1811, John Fry

Ruth born April 23, 179- married February 21, 1808, Nehemiah Yale

Orange B. born April 23, 179-, married September 2, 1812, Jemima Bostwick

Gains L. born March 9, 1794

Silvester born May 31, 1796

Lena born March 29, 1800, married June 17, 1817, Peter Leep

Gilbert born July 18, 1804, married October 30, 1825, Evaline Gay

Silas S. born March 5, 1809, married April 14, 1822, Jane Graham

Grandchildren---- Alida and Lydia, daughters of Nehemiah and Ruth Yale