

Pension Application for Joseph Speer or Spier or Spire

W.22282 (Widow: Martha) Married March 4, 1781. Joseph died April 11, 1822.

State of New York

Montgomery County SS.

On this sixth day of February 1840, personally appeared before me, John Hand, one of the Judges of County Courts of the County of Montgomery, Martha Spier, a resident of the town of Amsterdam in the County of Montgomery State of New York aged seventy six years who being first duly sworn according to law doth on her oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the Act of Congress passed June 4th 1836.

That she is the widow of Joseph Spire deceased who was a soldier of the Revolution and served as a private in the war of the same as she is informed and virally believes, that during the war she well recollects of the said Joseph Spier her husband's having been absent from home at several times during the war of the Revolution and at which time he was represented to have been in the Army.

She further declares that she was married to the said Joseph Spire on the fourth day of March in the year seventeen hundred and eighty one. That her husband the aforesaid Joseph Spier died at the town of Clifton Park in the County of Saratoga and State of New York on the eleventh day of April 1822.

She further declares that Elizabeth Gilbert now a resident of the town of Clifton Park Saratoga County was personally present at the marriage between her and her husband the said Joseph Spier on the date above named.

She further declares that she has no further evidence of her husband's services excepting those affidavits hereunto connected. That soon after her husband the aforesaid Joseph Spier came from the army he was taken ill was attacked with spasm, which continued to afflict him during his life. That whilst laboring under those afflictions it produced derangement and during those paroxysms the said Joseph would taken his papers into his possession and carry them with him, that among those was his discharge from the service in writing which he during some of those spells of Insanity lost or destroyed.

And she further declares that she has never intermarried but still remains the lawful widow of the said Joseph Spier aforesaid as more fully appear from reference to proof hereto annexed. (Signed with her mark)

Sworn to & Subscribed on the day and year first above written before m. John Hand, a Judge of the County Courts of the County of Montgomery.

State of New York

Saratoga County

I James Knight a revolutionary Pensioner of the United States aged eighty years a resident of the Town of Clifton Park in the County of Saratoga on oath depose and say that during the war of the Revolution, that as early as the year 1778 I became acquainted with Joseph Speer, that I resided in the said town where the said Joseph resided for many years previous to his death and at the time of his death. That after the close of the revolution the said Joseph did frequently talk with me on the subject of his services as a soldier of the revolution, related to the situation in which he was in in the army at the Battle of Monmouth and such other circumstances connected with the transaction as to fully satisfy me that he was a soldier at that time. Some time after the close of the War of the Revolution I saw a paper in his possession purporting to be his discharge from the service of a tour of nine months, this was signed by Col. William Whiting who commanded a regiment of Militia of the State troops of the State of New York. Yet the date of this paper I cannot now recollect, and I further depose and say that the said Joseph Speer left a widow named Martha Speer him surviving who has never intermarried but remained his lawful widow. And I further certify that I verily believe that the said Joseph Speer served as a soldier of the Revolution. (Signed with his mark) James Knight.

Taken, Sworn & Subscribed this 1st day of February 1840 before me. Seth W. Higgins, Justice Peace.

State of New York
Columbia County SS

I Ezra Gates a resident of the town of New Lebanon County of Columbia State of New York aged ninety one years a revolutionary Pensioner of the United States on oath depose and say that during the war of the Revolution and in the month of June 1777 I moved into the town of Canaan now New Lebanon and became personally acquainted with Joseph Spire then a resident of said town who since the period of the revolution died as I am informed & believe in the County of Saratoga State of New York. That in the year 1777 the month and day I cannot recollect the said Joseph Speer enlisted as a six month man in a company of New York Levies raised in the County of (then) Albany for the defense of the State which company I think was commanded by Captain Elisha Gilbert, yet this I will not be positive that the said Joseph Speer served as a levy for the term of his enlistment and was discharged or dismissed therefrom at the close or term of his enlistment which I think was in the year 1778 the commencement of the same. That I was in the army and in the same camp at the time of the said Speer service a part of this tour yet did not serve out the length of time at that periods which the said Speer served. That the said Speer was stationed on the Northern frontier and in the vicinity of where Burgoine's Army was marching. That the said Joseph Spere soldier aforesaid at the close of the Revolution was represented to have lost his health, whilst engaged in the service of the United States as a soldier, and that he was informed and believes that his health remained delicate from that cause until his death. (Signed) Ezra Gates

Taken Sworn and Subscribed this 22d day of November 1839 before me. Allen L. Wheeler Justice of [Peace]

State of New York
Secretary's Office.

I certify that it appears by the Military Register in this office that Joseph Speer enlisted as a soldier in Captain Pell's Company in the Second New York Regiment on the 5th of May 1778 for nine months and was discharged on the 13th of February 1779. Arch. Campbell, Dep. Secretary Albany March 25, 1840.