

Pension Application for Truman Spencer

W.25070 (Widow: Martha)
B.L.Wt. 14504-160-55
State of New York
County of Allegany SS.

On this twenty-fifth day of April A.D. 1855 before me, the undersigned, a Justice of the Peace duly authorized by law to administer oaths within and for the County and State aforesaid, personally appeared Martha Spencer aged 78 years, a resident of Willing in the County of Allegany and State of New York; who being duly sworn according to law declares that she is the widow of Truman Spencer deceased, who was a [blank] in the company commanded by Captain [blank] in the regiment [blank] commanded by [blank] in the War of the Revolution.

That her husband entered the service at [blank] about the [blank] day of [blank] A.D. 17[blank] for the term of [blank] and continued in actual service in said War for the term of [blank] and was honorably discharged at [blank] on the [blank] day of [blank] A.D. 17[blank] as will more particularly appear by referenced to the papers and proofs referred to and filed with her application under act of 3d February 1853 upon which she was placed upon the Pension list of Albany agency at the rate of \$46.66 and further that on account of the service of her said husband he was placed upon the pension list at the same agency under Act of June 7, 1832 at the same rate.

She further states that she was married to the said Truman Spencer in Milo State of New York on the 30th day of March A.D. 1834 by one Rev. Mr. Hoag a clergyman; and that her name before her said marriage was Martha Wheeler that her husband died at Benton NY on the 14th day of April A.D. 1840 and that she is still his widow.

And she further states that there is no public record of her marriage and that there is no private record of her marriage.

[Omitted part where nothing filled in.]

That she cannot file herewith his Certificate of discharge for the reason that she has none in her possession.

She makes this declaration for the purpose of obtaining the bounty land to which she may be entitled on account of said service, and mileage under the act passed 3d March 1855. She also declares that she has not received a Warrant for Bounty Land, under this or any other Act of Congress nor made any other application therefor: Hercules Darling

She hereby appoints C. W. Bennett, of Washington DC. Her true and lawful Attorney, with power of substitution to prosecute this her claim for land, to receive the Certificate or Warrant when issued and to do all other acts necessary and proper in the premises. (Signed with her mark) Martha Spencer. Witness: Hercules Darling.

State of New York
Yates County SS.

On this twenty eighth day of September 1832, personally appeared in open court before the Judges of the Court of Common Pleas now sitting, Truman Spencer a resident of the Town of Benton in the County and State aforesaid, 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 7, 1832.

That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers & served as herein stated viz. That the first of August in the year 1781 at Spencer Town in Albany County (now Austerlitz Columbia County) New York, he enlisted into Captain Aaron Hales (1) Company in Colonel Marinus Willett's Regiment of New York Levies, for four months—joined his company at Albany, marched to Schoharie, and was stationed there during the four months; Captain Dubois (2) was the senior Captain and commanding officer, during said service he was in two engagements with the Indians; one at Brackabin, and the other at Harpersfield (3), he was discharged at Schoharie, Middle Fort, the first of December—Colonel Willet was the commanding officer in that department and had his Head Quarters at Fort Plain.

That in the year 1782 at said Town of Spencer Town in the latter part of March he enlisted in Captain Nathaniel Henry's (4) Company in said Colonel Marinus Willett's Regiment of New York Levies for the term of nine months, joined the company at Albany as before, marched to Johnstown with Captain Tierce's (5) Company, was stationed at Johnstown about four months where Captain Tierce was commandant; on their arrival at that post they relieved three companies of Colonel Reed's Regiment of New Hampshire Troops, under captains Cherry, Carr and McGregor (6); while at Johnstown he was transferred to Captain Tierce's Company; after leaving Johnstown they were marched to Stone Arabia [sic] where they were encamped a month of six weeks, then to Fort Plain, Colonel Willett's Head Quarters, and from thence to Fort Herkimer where they were stationed until the latter end of December, when they were ordered to Fort Plain and was then discharged by Col. Willet—and that for the last five or six weeks previous to his discharge he was a Corporal.

That the year previous to his enlisting viz. in 1780 he was ordered out with the militia in Captain Hogaboom's Company in colonel VanNess' (7) Regiment in November or December—went to Albany on an alarm and when the alarm subsided he remained there as guard for the arsenal; and that he was out in the same company on several short tours of duty making in the whole a month or more.

That he has no documentary evidence and knows of no other persons whose testimony he can procure to prove his services except those whose affidavits accompany this declaration.

That at the time of his entering the service he resided at Spencer Town, Albany county—now called Austerlitz Columbia County, New York and resided there until he moved to Benton, Yates County where he now resides.

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, or territory. (Signed) Truman Spencer
Sworn to and subscribed in open court the day and year aforesaid. T. J. Nevins, Deputy Clerk

The last will and testament of Truman Spencer of the town of Benton, Yates County & State of New York.

I Truman Spencer considering the uncertainty of this mortal life and being of sound mind and memory (Blessed be Almighty God for the same) do make and publish my last will and testament in manner and form following that is to say.

First I will and bequest unto my faithful and beloved wife Martha the use of one third of my [nal?] estate during her natural life. I also will and bequest to her all the personal property she brought with her after our marriage and now in my possession and what carpeting & clothing she has made since she lived with me. The personal property hereby willed to my wife is declared to be in lieu of any dower she may be entitled to out of my personal property and the above in lieu of any dower in my nal estate.

Second I give and devise to my only son David P. Spencer & Abigail his wife thirty acres off of the north end of my farm including the buildings the south line of the said thirty acres to run parallel with the north line of my farm and ten acres off of the south end of my farm for and during their natural life, and the life of each of them with remainder to Truman Spencer, Isabella Spencer, Thomas Spencer, Lois Spencer, Andrew Jackson Spencer, Herman Spencer and Augusta Spencer children of the said David P. Spencer and Abigail Spencer in fee.

Third the remainder part of my farm supposed to be about seventy acres I will and bequeath to my two daughters Nancy Kelsey and Laura Barnes to be equally divided between them my daughter Nancy to have her part on the south next and adjoining the ten acres willed to David P. Spencer for and during their natural lives, and of each and both of them with remainder of my daughter Nancy's share to Caroline Kelsey, Arabella Kelsey, George Kelsey, Charles Kelsey, Heath Kelsey, Olive Kelsey, Laura Kelsey, Myron Kelsey, Children of Henry Kelsey and Nancy Kelsey in fee and with remainder of my daughter Laura Barnes' share to Charles Porter Barnes son of James Barnes and Laura Barnes on fee.

Fourth I give to my Grandson James Warner Barnes and my Granddaughter Martha Barnes children of David and Olive Barnes each one hundred dollars to be paid to them three years after my decease.

Fifth I give and bequeath to my grandson Truman Spencer son of David P. Spencer one hundred dollars to be paid to him six months after my decease.

Sixth I give and bequest to my son David P. Spencer all my wearing apparel.

Seventh The remainder of my personal property (after laying my debts, legacys, and funeral expenses and other charges aforesaid) I do give and bequeath to my three children David P. Spencer, Nancy Kelsey and Laura Barnes to be equally divided between them.

And I hereby appoint my son, David P. Spencer and my trusty friend Jesse T. Gage executors of this my last will and testament hereby revoking all former wills by me made.

In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal this thirtieth day of March 1840. Truman Spencer SS.

The above instrument consisting of two sheets was now here subscribed by Truman Spencer the testator in the presence of each of us and was at the same time declared by him to be his last will and testament and we at his request signed our names hereto as attesting witnesses. Henry Borden residing in Benton, Yates County. Reuben M. Gage residing in Benton, Yates County.

The will was admitted to probate April 30, 1840.

End Notes-Truman Spencer-W.25070

1. On Captain Hale's Pay Roll Truman had £10..18..8 due him and it was paid in 1784 to John Folsom. Revolutionary War Rolls 1775-1783, Series M246, Roll 78, folder 173, National Archives, Washington, D.C.
2. Captain Benjamin Dubois of Willett's Regiment of New York States Levies.
3. These skirmishes were on November 10 and 11, 1781.
4. Captain Nathaniel Henry's Company was consolidated into other companies in Colonel Willett's Regiment. Truman's name appears on three separate documents that were lists of men owed money, etc., in Willett's as follows: Certificates to be accounted for by Col. Willett in the year 1782. There are several names from the various companys. For Captain Henry's Company there are seven names plus Truman's Truman is owed £5..4..10. On the right side next to the names in Captain Henry's Company it is written "*No remark or vouchers at all for these mens Pay*". The other two documents are almost the same in same in content. There is no date for these documents but are circa 1784 when most certificates or vouchers were starting to be paid. I have seen some even later than this date. Revolutionary War Rolls. 1775-1783, Series M-246, Roll 78, folder 173, National Archives, Washington D.C.
5. Truman was transferred to Captain Simeon Newell's Company not to Captain Peter B. Tierce's Company in Colonel Willett's Regiment. But he certainly at times would have been under his command.
6. Colonel George Reid, Captain Samuel Cherry, James Carr, and David McGregor were officers in the Second New Hampshire Continental Regiment.

7. Captain Cornelius Hogeboom's Company in Colonel Peter Van Ness's Ninth Regiment of Albany County Militia.