

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements  
Pension application of John Spelce (Spelts) (Speltz) S14548  
Transcribed by Will Graves  
State of Alabama, County of Madison

On this 14th day of September 1837, personally appeared in open court, before the Judge of the County Court of said County, now sitting John Spelts, a resident of the County and State aforesaid, aged about seventy seven 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 and served as herein stated.

That at the time of the Revolution he resided in the County of Burk [sic, Burke] in the State of North Carolina, that he does not recollect the precise date at which he entered the service of the United States but that he first served one Tour under Captain William Smith and Lieutenant Robert Browne. Browne was the Pilot from the Fort at the head of the Catawba River where Captain Smith's company was stationed to the Cherokee Indian Nation. The term of service was nine months. The first three months of the aforesaid Tour of nine months he served as a drafted militia man. The second three months as a volunteer and Ranger on horseback. That this three months he was stationed at the Fort aforesaid. After this he was pressed [?] and went under the command of Colonel Benjamin Cleveland – the name of the Captain was Salathiel Martin—against the Tories at the Shallow Ford on the Yadkin River, his time of service on this occasion was twenty eight days – he was then drafted for three months under the command of Colonel Benjamin Cleveland and Captain Alexander Gordon against the Tories in Virginia which Captain James Roberts was then assembling on New River – during this term nine Tory prisoners were taken and two \_\_\_ [blank in original] Nichols and \_\_\_ [blank in original] Riddle, out of the nine were hung on our return – during the said last three months he was engaged in a battle on the Yadkin River at the Shallow ford in North Carolina in which said affiant received a wound from a rifle ball on the front part of his left shoulder or rather the breast near the shoulder. His next term of service was for three months and ten days to defeat the Tories at the Moravian Town sometimes called Old Town. He was then commanded by Colonel \_\_\_ [blank in original] Campbell – the Captain was John Brison [Bryson?] and his brother Maximilian Brison was Lieutenant. The two Tories, Nichols & Riddle, were hung in consequence of it appearing that they had been concerned in the robbery of a horse [could be house] a short time previous to their capture. The Tories at that place were arised [sic] by Colonel \_\_\_ [blank in original] Bronson [?]of for the purpose of going on (as it was said) to assist Cornwallis, but was defeated by Colonel Campbell and a Tory Captain by the name of Read was taken prisoner and a list of a Tory company of 30 men was found under a loose sole [indecipherable word] of his shoe--Read was tried by a court martial and condemned and was hung in a Moravian Town, sometimes called as he believes Betebury [Bethabara?] or Old Town. Then he was drafted for three months to go to King's Mountain but was discharged at the end of two months at a Moravian Town sometimes called as he believes Bethany during this tour he was commanded by Colonel \_\_\_ [blank in original] Shelby [Isaac Shelby] and Captain \_\_\_ [blank in original] Sevier [Valentine Sevier?] and there defeated Colonel Ferguson [Patrick Ferguson] and the Tories when nine were hung on one pole the third day after the battle, at the mouth of Cain [Cane?] Creek. The Tories hung at the mouth of Cain Creek were taken prisoner at the Battle of King's Mountain in which said battle said affiant was engaged.

Beside the above and foregoing, said affiant was on scouting parties frequently under Genl Sumpter [sic, Thomas Sumter] of South Carolina, who [affiant] some times served as Captain – in the first of these parties he served four days and during those four days a Tory named John Mattox was killed and in the whole ten or twelve days. He has no documentary evidence (nor did he have any except the discharge which he received after the Battle of King's Mountain and which he never took pains to preserve) and that he knows of no person, whose testimony he can procure, who can testify to his service. He hereby

relinquishes every claim 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. Subscribed and sworn the day and year aforesaid in open Court.

S/ John Speltz, J his mark

S/ Rich'd B. Pandom [sic], Clk Witness:

S/ John Powers

[David Jacks, a clergyman, and William Power gave these standards supporting affidavits.]

State of Alabama Madison County

A Statement of John Spelce now of Madison County, Alabama who is an applicant for a Pension, in addition to what he has already stated in a former declaration for a Pension, who after being duly sworn deposeth and saith

That he was in the Battle fought at King's Mountain, and he served in the Campaign two months and was then discharged that he went out as a volunteer under John Sevier & McDowell, he went from Burke County North Carolina, that when he arrived at King's Mountain, he was under Major McDowell & Shelby & Cleveland & Colonel Campbell, was the commanding Colonel in that Battle, Second That he was in the Battle at Shallow Ford on the Yadkin River N. C. Captain S. Martin was the commanding Captain and Colonel Cleveland, That he served as a minute man, & was discharged and that his discharge stated he had served three months. That he was in the Fort called the [word obliterated by water stain] Fort on the Catawba River nine months under Captain William Smith & Robert Brown. Three months of that time I was a Substitute part of that time I was marched to the Cherokee Nation, under Rutherford, Captain Smith & Brown Lieutenant & McDowell the Major.

I served under Colonel Campbell Captain Bryce him & his brother Lieutenant three months and 10 days at the Moravian Town where I was stationed. That he cannot recollect the time or years, I am now in my 93rd year.

I have nothing further to state. Sworn & Subscribed to before me an acting Justice of the peace in & for the County of Madison & State of Alabama, the 1st March 1842.

S/ Jno B. Elderidge[?], JP S/ John Spelce, X his mark