

Pension Application for Harmonus Speer or Harmanus Spear

W.201 (Widow: Mary Dow) Married November 27, 1784. Harmonus Speer died January 14, 1836.

Service: New Jersey, New York

Private - New Jersey Line, Infantry. Lieut of Artillery.

Declaration.

State of New Jersey

Essex County SS.

On this twenty seventh day of September AD 1832, personally appeared in open Court, before the Judges of the Inferior court of Common Pleas in and for the said County of Essex, now sitting Harmanus Speer, a resident of Bloomfield in the County of Essex and State of New Jersey, aged eighty 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.

In the spring of the year seventeen hundred and seventy five he volunteered as a private under Capt. Abraham Speer, for one month—cannot specify the month—he went to Elizabeth Town Point from the place at which he volunteered, to wit at Bloomfield, land from the Point he crossed to Staten Island, and returned home at the expiration of the month.

In the spring of the succeeding year, he again volunteered under Capt. Henry Squire, in a company of Artificers, for nine months, which he fully served out. During this period he joined the army at Fort Washington and in about two weeks had to retreat to White Plains, a fortnight after which, crossed the north river near the Little Lake at Rockland—the army then retreated through New Jersey halting at Bound Brook, where it separated, and that part of it in which deponent was, moved to Pluckamin, thence to Morristown, thence to Chatham where he remained until the said period of nine months expired. He did military duty thro' the whole of this term.

In the spring of seventeen hundred and seventy eight, thinks in April, he volunteered for the third time for a period of nine months under Capt. James Brown and Major Quackenboss—he served part of this time at Newburg in the State of New York, and part at the “Continental Village”—does not remember what particular services were done in this period.—

In the year 1779 again volunteered in the artillery under Lieutenant Benjamin Brown, who shortly after received a commission in the Standing Army, where deponent was chose Lieutenant in his room, and served as such under a warrant from Col. Philip VanCourtlandt which warrant is mislaid or destroyed. This term continued for twenty four months, the whole of which time, he was in actual service—was in several skirmishes, to wit, at Springfield on the same day of the battle, in June seventeen hundred & eighty he believes; when the next day towards Elizabeth town and overtook the continental regiment, commanded by Col. Wilkinson, went with them towards the Point where a battle ensued—deponent commanded the only gun that was used, recollects that an intimate friends of his, Peter VanWinkle was wounded in the knee—left Elizabeth Point, where one of the guns remained, and were ordered to the Heights before occupied by the enemy—took possession of them the battle at the same time having been continued—retreated to Elizabeth town, after which they returned home—was out at Acquackanonk and Hackensack in the fall or winter of seventeen hundred & eighty in skirmishes and on guard—and under Gen. Wines in the following year—was out on every night of the cold winter of seventeen hundred & eighty, (when not engaged in other military operations) patrolling the Passaic River and keeping guard.

Towards the close of the war, deponent received a letter from Governor Wi8lliam Livingston requesting him to break up the Smuggling and traffic with the enemy. He and several men went to the old ferry and after some exertions, took a boat carrying a swivel and three or four other small boats whose cargoes consisted principally of beef, afterwards seized several barrels of flour, and flax seed—

after making a breast work and doing what was necessary to defend themselves from an attack of the enemy. Near the end of the war, he was one of the twelve men commanded by Capt. Henry Joralemon who took two prisoners, Captain McMichael & Harding on the York bay shore, where it was supposed they were guarded by sixty men—On the eighth day of January 1781 he received a Lieutenants commission, signed by William Livingston, then Governor of the State under which he acted until the close of the war, in keeping guard guard [sic] on the Jersey lines, and performing various other military operations incidental to the service, guarding against the enemy, and the crossing of Americans to traffic with the enemy as before stated in this declaration.

Deponent cannot say with any precision what his whole term of service amounted to but can state, that it exceeded the sum of five years, and that the period of service in which he was a lieutenant exceeds two years, and he thinks three. In addition to the time he was in the service, he was a prisoner of war in the sugar house in the City of New York in the year 1777, in the fall, from two to three months.

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 of the United States. (Signed) Harmonus Speer.

Sworn to, and subscribed, in open court, the day and year first aforesaid. A. Reynolds, Judge.