

5.00 sent 3/31/50

NOTE: KINDLY USE TYPEWRITER IN FILLING OUT THIS APPLICATION

National Number 72419

State Number 219

Applications are to be made in duplicate and sent to the Secretary of the State Society, who will forward one copy, when approved, to the Registrar General of the National Society.

THE ALABAMA SOCIETY  
OF THE  
NATIONAL SOCIETY  
SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

-OF-

**ROBERT ELLIS WHEELER**

DESCENDANT OF

**WILLIAM SPERR**

Who served with North Carolina Troops during the Revolutionary War.

Do not encroach on this margin, which is needed for binding.

Application examined and approved  
April 25, 1950  
*Wm. T. Carpenter*  
Wm. T. Carpenter State Registrar.

Accepted by the State Board of Management  
April 25, 1950  
*Wm. T. Carpenter*  
Wm. T. Carpenter State Secretary.

DATES

Application filed with State Secretary ..... April 25, 1950 .....  
Notification of election .....  
Fees paid ..... March 28, 1950 .....  
Duplicate sent to Registrar General ..... April 26, 1950 .....  
Approved and registered by Registrar General ..... *May 31/50* .....  
Certificate of Membership delivered ..... *MAY 11, 1950* .....  
Badge delivered .....  
Resigned ..... Transferred .....  
Deceased .....

MAY 10 1950

National Number 72419 ✓

State Number 219 ✓

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP  
ISSUED BY AUTHORITY OF THE NATIONAL BOARD OF TRUSTEES

TO THE BOARD OF MANAGERS OF  
THE ALABAMA SOCIETY  
OF THE  
NATIONAL SOCIETY  
SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

I, ROBERT ELLIS WHEELER being of the age of 64 years  
hereby apply for membership in this Society by right of lineal descent in the following line from

WILLIAM SPEER

who was born in Maryland on the day of 1758  
and died in Jefferson Co., Ala., near / "worm weather" on the day of 1859  
Gardendale  
and who assisted in establishing American Independence.

I was born in Blossburg County of Jefferson  
State of Alabama on the 7th day of December 1885

(1) I am the son of Albert Jefferson Wheeler born 3/13/1937, and  
his wife Margaret Frances Young born 8/16/1858 died 4/1/1942, married

(2) grandson of Willis Young born, died, and  
his wife Martha Doss born, died, married

(3) great-grandson of Martin Young born 1810 died 4/27/1880, and  
his wife Lucinda Speer born 7/12/1812 died 4/7/1880 married 8/9/1832

(4) great-grandson of William Speer, Jr. born 1788 died ca. 1812, and  
his wife Patience Speer (his cousin) died, married ca. 1810

(5) great-grandson of William Speer born 1758 died 1859, and  
his wife Millie Rastep born 1764 died 1850 married 1781

(6) great-grandson of Rev. Joshua Kennerly Speer I. born, died, and  
his wife ? (she was a quakeress) born, died, married

(7) great-grandson of Aaron speer born, died, and  
his wife Sarah Kennerly born, died, married

(8) great-grandson of Moses Speer, II born 1680, died, and  
his wife Anna Voris born, died, married

and he, the said William Speer (No. 5) is the ancestor who assisted in  
establishing American Independence, while acting in the capacity of Private and Ensign of  
North Carolina Militia Troops

(9) great-grandson of Moses Speer, I

Do not enclose on this margin, which is needed for binding.

Applicant affirms his adherence to the principles set forth in the Declaration of Independence and his unqualified support of the Constitution of the United States of America, to the end that the inalienable rights of the citizen may be preserved and our ideal representative government perpetuated.

## ANCESTOR'S SERVICE

"Section 1. Any man shall be eligible to membership in the Society who, being of the age of eighteen years or over, and a citizen of good repute in the community, is the lineal descendant of an ancestor who was at all times unfailing in his loyalty to, and rendered active service in, the cause of American Independence, either as an officer, soldier, seaman, marine, militiaman, or minute man, in the armed forces of the Continental Congress, or of any one of the several Colonies or States, or as a signer of the Declaration of Independence; or as a member of a Committee of Safety or Correspondence; or as a member of any Continental, Provincial, or Colonial Congress or Legislature; or as a recognized patriot who performed actual service by overt acts of resistance to the authority of Great Britain."—Constitution of National Society S. A. R., Article III, Section 1, adopted June 3, 1807, and as amended.

Membership is based upon one original claim; when the applicant derives eligibility by descent from more than one ancestor, and it is desired to take advantage thereof, separate applications, to be marked "Supplemental Application," should be made in each case and filed with the original.

State fully such documentary or traditional authority as you found the following record upon, and also the residence of ancestors, with dates of birth and death, if known.

By order of the Board of Trustees, May 3, 1911, the recipient of a certificate granted on this application agrees to surrender his certificate upon failure to pay his membership dues, unless his membership shall cease by reason of death or actual disability, to be determined by the Society of which he is a member.

My ancestor's services in assisting in the establishment of American Independence during the War of the Revolution were as follows:

WILLIAM SPEER was born on the Eastern Shore of Maryland in 1756, son of Reverend Joshua Kennerly Speer, I., and his wife, who was a Quakeress. He had two brothers who served with North Carolina Troops, during the Revolution, Captain Henry Speer and Colonel Samuel Speer.

His home was in Surry Co., N.C., during the Revolutionary War. When he first volunteered and was accepted for service, he was so young that his Captain proposed to his father that he furnish a pack horse for the service and that William remain at home. This was done. Later he served a tour of three months in Capt. Samuel Maschy's Company, Col. Joseph Williams Regiment or Battalion of N. C. Militia.

In 1780 he enlisted and served three months as Ensign in the Company of his brother, Capt. Henry, Col. Joseph Phillips' N. C. Regiment or Battalion. He enlisted in the fall of 1781 and served three months as Private in Captain David Humphries' Company of Col. James Martin's N. C. Regiment.

He removed to Kentucky in 1801 and lived there until 1824, when he removed to Alabama where he lived until his death in Jefferson County in 1859, at the age of 101 years, 6 months and 20 days. He is buried in the Bivens Chapel Cemetery, on the old Jasper Road and in sight of the Southern Railway tracks between Republic and Brookside, Ala. The D.A.R. has placed a marker on his tomb. His name is inscribed on a boulder erected at Five Points in Birmingham, Ala., by the General Sumter Chapter, D.A.R. The William Speer Chapter, D.A.R. of Birmingham, Ala., was so named in his honor.

He was allowed a pension for his services on his Application executed February 13, 1856, Certificate No. 33361, issued August 12, 1856, at \$25.00 per annum from March 4, 1831.

### REFERENCES

Vol. 20, File No. S. 11446 Pension Record.  
Revolutionary and 1812 Section U.S. Dept. of Interior, Bureau of Pension Claims 11446. Information by Winfield Scott, Commes.  
History of Birmingham (Alabama) and its Environs, a Narrative Account of their Principal Interests, by George Cruikshanks, Vol. I. Chapter XVII, page 325.  
The Alabama Historical quarterly, by State Department of Archives and History, Vol. 6, No. 4, Winter Issue 1944, pp. 649-650.  
Land Records of Surry Co., N.C., and Jefferson Co., Ala.  
Records in Family Bible of William and Millie Speer.  
Tombstone inscriptions, Bivens Chapel Cemetery, and the Cranley Chapel Cemetery; and the Edwards Cemetery, all in Jefferson Co., Ala.  
S. A. R. Nationals 71482, 71497 and 71500.  
D. A. R. Lineage 249054 of Mrs. Gertrude W. Jeffries and 389847 of Miss Minnie S. Edwards, cousin of the applicant.

Full maiden name of applicant's wife. **Elizabeth Harriett Allison, born 6/5/1917**  
**married 6/15/1940**

NAMES OF CHILDREN AND GRANDCHILDREN OF APPLICANT.  
 (Added to blank by order of Trustees July, 1915.)

Name	Date of Birth	Residence
Elizabeth Allison Comer	11/16/1942	1612 Cahaba Road Birmingham, Alabama
Catharine Innes Comer	2/16/1946	" "
Robert Thornton Comer, III.	7/7/1949	" "

Statement of applicant of services, if any, in the Military or Naval forces of the United States of America.

Lieut. (J.G.) U.S.M.R. - File No. 235 - 479.  
 Active service from Dec. 15, 1943 to March 15, 1946.

Do not encroach on this margin. It is reserved for binding.

The following are references to the authorities for the record of my ancestor's service and for the genealogical data contained in this application:

"Colonial Families of America", by MacKensie, Vol. VII, p. 9, for  
 Generation (5); pp. 9-10, of same for (4); p. 11 for (3) and (2).  
 Family Tree of Braxton Bragg Comer, by Anne Kendrick Walker, 1947  
 gives genealogy of the entire Comer family in America.  
 D.A.R. Lineage No. 29689, mother of applicant.

Nominated and recommended by the undersigned members of the Society:

*W. T. Carpenter*  
*J. D. Hildfield Moore*

Signature of applicant (Name in full)

*Robert Thornton Comer, Jr.*  
 Address, Robert Thornton Comer, Jr.  
 1612 Cahaba Road, Birmingham, Ala.  
 Occupation,  
 T. C. I. and R. R. Co.

The following form of acknowledgment is required

STATE OF Alabama at March 31, 1950  
 COUNTY OF Marshall

Personally appeared Mr. Robert Thornton Comer, Jr.

of Birmingham, Alabama  
 signer of the above and foregoing application and statement, and made oath before me that the statements therein contained are true to the best of his knowledge and belief.

Official Signature,

*J. A. Corbin*

Notary Public

[L. 8.]

## U.S., Sons of the American Revolution Membership Applications, 1889-1970 for William Speer

### Record Index

**Name:** William Speer Jr  
**Birth Date:** 1788  
**Birth Place:**  
**Death Date:** 1812  
**Death Place:**  
**SAR Membership:** 72419  
**Role:** Ancestor  
**Application Date:** 25 Apr 1950  
**Father:** William Speer  
**Mother:** Millie Eastep  
**Spouse:** Patience Speer  
**Children:** Lucinda Speer

### Source Information

**Record Url:** <https://search.ancestry.com/cgi-bin/sse.dll?indiv=1&db=SARMemberApps&h=734272>

**Source Information:** Ancestry.com. *U.S., Sons of the American Revolution Membership Applications, 1889-1970* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2011.  
Original data: *Sons of the American Revolution Membership Applications, 1889-1970*. Louisville, Kentucky: National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution. Microfilm, 508 rolls.