

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters

Pension Application of John Steele (Steel) R10072.5 PA
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. Revised 27 Nov 2016.

Harmony Lanc'r [Lancaster] County Penns'a. Feb'y 28th 1844
Col. J. L. Edwards }
Pension Office Wash't. }

Sir,/ I have been urged & requested by the Heirs to the Estate of the late Gen'l. John Steele of Philade'a Dec'd, as the Acting Executor to said Estate, to present to you for consideration and allowance a Claim for any remuneration of servises rendered by him during the Revolutionary War; for any compensation or allowance of half pay or Commutation provided for by Acts of Congress: and particularly such compensation as he would have been entitled to (if any) under the Acts of Congress passed on the 15th day of May 1828, granting to Officers who served during the war and to the close thereof, certain compensations for revolutionary servises, from the 4th day of March 1826.

My Father, the late Gen'l John Steele entered the Army at the commencement of the War as a Lieutenant. I have in my possession a Commission, issued by Congress & Signed by Sam'l Huntington, Pres't. dated at Phil'd'a the 22^d March 1781 appointing him a Captain in the first Penns'a Regiment; to rank from the 23^d of March 1779.

He continued actively employed & participated in many a well contested Field, At the Battle of Brandewine [sic: Brandywine, 11 Sep 1777] he received a very severe wound, for which he never claimed any pension. After the Surrender of Cornwallis at Yorktown Va [19 Oct 1781] where he was engaged during the Siege in 1781, he went with the Army to the South, where he remained under Gen'l Green [sic: Nathanael Greene], until the month of April 1783. That he continued during the whole period of the war in active service in the Line of the Army. Much of the time with Gen'l Washington and a portion of the time he commanded the Life Guards; and while in the South he was engaged in the Inspector Generals Department.

Many of these facts have been derived from my Father in his personal statement of the events of the Revolution, and much is supported, and corroborated by Old Men & documents now in my possession; all or any of them will be laid before you at any time, if you desire.

My Father died at Philad'a on the 27th of Feb'y 1827 and as I have every reason to believe, without ever having availed himself, or any of the provisions made by Congress for Compensating those who served during the Revolutionary War; or his receiving any compensation or remuneration for the losses sustained during, and at the close of the war.

The Heirs to his Estate, consist of Four Daughters, and of two sons, of which I am one, & the sole Acting Executor to his Estate. I am very respectfully/ Your Obt. Servt./ John Steele
Acting Executor of the Estate of Gen'l John Steele deceased.

NOTES:

John "Steele" apparently spelled his name "John Steel," as shown by his signature below, from a roll transcribed at <http://revwarapps.org/b52.pdf>:

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "John Steele" or "John Steel", written in a cursive style.

The file contains a document certifying the John Steele was survived by a wife, who died a few weeks after him, and by the following children: Harriet Maxwell, Rachael Morrison, John Steele, Margaret Mildollar, Abian Steele, and Robert Steele.