

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of John Reiley (Riely, Riley)¹ S36871

f33VA[&PA]

Transcribed by Will Graves

6/17/12

[Methodology: Spelling, punctuation and/or grammar have been corrected in some instances for ease of reading and to facilitate searches of the database. Where the meaning is not compromised by adhering to the spelling, punctuation or grammar, no change has been made. Corrections or additional notes have been inserted within brackets or footnotes. Blanks appearing in the transcripts reflect blanks in the original. A bracketed question mark indicates that the word or words preceding it represent(s) a guess by me. Only materials pertinent to the military service of the veteran and to contemporary events have been transcribed. Affidavits that provide additional information on these events are included and genealogical information is abstracted, while standard, 'boilerplate' affidavits and attestations related solely to the application, and later nineteenth and twentieth century research requests for information have been omitted. I use speech recognition software to make all my transcriptions. Such software misinterprets my southern accent with unfortunate regularity and my poor proofreading fails to catch all misinterpretations. Also, dates or numbers which the software treats as numerals rather than words are not corrected: for example, the software transcribes "the eighth of June one thousand eighty six" as "the 8th of June 1786." Please call errors or omissions to my attention.]

John Reiley states that he is a native of the Town of Carlisle State of Pennsylvania and at the time a Citizen of Clark County State of Kentucky. That he was seven years and one day a soldier in the service of the United States during the War of the revolution. During the whole of which time he was either a private or musician in the Pennsylvania line.

That on the second day of November 1776 in Carlisle his native place he enlisted in Captain Henry McKinley's Company of the 12th Pennsylvania Regiment that in virtue of this enlistment, he served until January 1781 when he was discharged. That on the ___ day of the same month (January) and February in the same year 1781 he is not positive which (as he speaks from memory only) he again enlisted during the War in the 3rd Pennsylvania Regiment – That in virtue of this enlistment he served until the end of the war when on the 3rd day of November 1783 he was regularly and honorably discharged in the City of Philadelphia, which discharge, he retained in his possession until by time or accident the same has been destroyed. He further states that he knows of no person in this state by whom he can prove the above facts and therefore gives the following detail of facts which will be verified by the records of the war office, and the annexed certificate signed Nat. Cutting.

That in the year 1813 he applied through the Honorable Jos DeSha² to the proper Department of the war office for a warrant for his military bounty land and received in the place of a warrant the above mentioned certificate. He therefore infers that the records of the War Department will show his enlistment, service & discharge. He however avers most solemnly that he never a sign his claim to the warrant to the said Alexander Power or any other person, nor did he ever authorize the said Power or any other person except Major E. Denny of Pittsburgh or the aforesaid*³ to draw the same, nor does he think he ever bounded [?] over to the said Power or

¹ BLWt993-100

² DESHA, Joseph, (brother of Robert Desha), a Representative from Kentucky; born in Monroe County, Pa., December 9, 1768; pursued preparatory studies; moved to Kentucky with his parents, who settled in Fayette County in 1779, and later in 1782, they moved to Tennessee and settled near Gallatin, Sumner County; returned to Kentucky in 1792 and settled in Mason County; served in the Indian wars under Gen. Anthony Wayne and Gen. William H. Harrison in 1794; returned to Kentucky and engaged in agricultural pursuits; member of the State house of representatives in 1797 and 1799-1802; served in the State senate 1803-1807; elected as a Republican to the Tenth and to the five succeeding Congresses (March 4, 1807-March 3, 1819); chairman, Committee on Public Expenditures (Fifteenth Congress); was not a candidate for renomination in 1818; unsuccessful candidate for Governor of Kentucky in 1820; served as major general of Volunteers under Gen. William H. Harrison at the Battle of the Thames; on his return to civil life he was elected Governor of Kentucky and served from 1824 to 1828; lived on his farm in Harrison County until his death near Georgetown, Ky., October 11, 1842; interment in Georgetown Cemetery. <http://bioguide.congress.gov/scripts/biodisplay.pl?index=D000271> (viewed 6/17/12).

³ marginal note: "Jos. DeSha."

any other person his discharge aforesaid.

The said John Reiley further states that he has a wife and 11 children now living, 6 of whom are living with [him?]. That from his age and reduced circumstances he is in real need of the assistance of his Country for his support

[James Clark one of the Circuit Judges of the state of Kentucky certified that John Reiley swore to the above statement May 22, 1818.]

State of Kentucky Clarke County Sct.

On the 28th day of August 1820 – personally appeared in Court being a Court of record for the County of Clark (which is expressly made so by the laws of this state) John Rieley, aged 61 years, resident in the said County of Clark, who being 1st duly sworn according to law, doth on his oath declare that he served in the revolutionary war as follows – In the 12th Pennsylvania Regiment commanded by Colonel Cook, and in Captain Henry McKinley's Company in which he was enlisted on the 2nd day of November 1776 – that he continued in service 7 years and one day, having been discharged on the 3rd day of November 1783, from the 12th Regiment he was transferred to the 3rd Pennsylvania Regiment; that he also served in the 2nd and 3rd regiments and was honorably discharged – and that said John Rieley has a pension certificate signed by JC Calhoun (Secretary of War) on the 5th day of March 1819, number 7251.

And I do solemnly swear that I was a resident Citizen of the United States on the 18th day of March 1818 and that I have not since that time by gift, sale or in any manner whatever disposed of my property or any part thereof with intent thereby so to diminish it as to bring myself within the provision of an act of Congress entitled “an act to provide for certain persons engaged in the land and naval service of the United States in the revolutionary war” passed on the 18th day of March 1818, and that I have not nor has any person in trust for me any property, or securities, contracts or debts due to me nor have I any income other than what is contained in the schedule hereto annexed and by me subscribed

Schedule

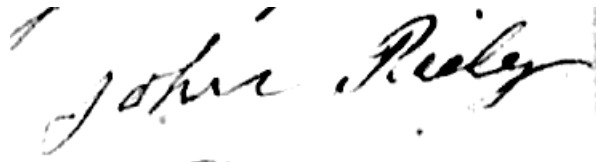
Three work horses worth about \$100 – 2 Colts worth \$35	\$135.00
3 cows and calves worth about \$30 – 5 head young cattle \$20	50.00
21 head of sales and shoats worth about \$20	20.00
one barshare plow and to shovel plows worth \$8	8.00
2 old hoes \$1.25 – gear 42 horses worth \$10	<u>11.25</u>
	\$224.25

[page break in original]

Amount brought forward	\$224.25
Household furniture, with the exception of bedding & clothing	23.00
Kitchen furniture worth about \$8	8.00
Total amount	\$255.25

And said John Rieley further saith that he has generally heretofore worked at the tailoring trade, but at this time (unaccountably loss of his eyesight) he does but little at his trade – he further saith that his family consists of a wife and 4 children his wife aged between 54 & 55 years, his son David Rieley aged between 17 & 18 years, his son Thomas Riley [sic] aged between 15 & 16 years, his son Robert Rieley aged between 12 & 13 years and his son Charles Rieley aged 10 years the oldest of the boys assist in cultivating a small farm that is rented and the 3 youngest at this time of going to school, but occasionally assist tending the crops.

S/ John Riely



[f p. 10: On March 31st 1821 in Fayette County Kentucky, John Riely describing himself as 62 years of age and formerly in the company commanded by Captain Henry McKinley of the 12th Pennsylvania Regiment commanded by Colonel Cooke and having been regularly discharged from the 1st Virginia Regiment, executed a power of attorney authorizing his attorney to obtain from the Secretary of War the land warrant due him as a former soldier in the revolution.]

[f p. 11]

Virginia line

State of Kentucky Fayette County Sct.

This day John Riley [sic] personally appeared before me a Justice of the peace for said County and made oath that in the year 1776 in the town of Carlisle Cumberland County in the State of Pennsylvania he enlisted for "during the war" in Captain Henry McKinley's Company and the 12th Regiment commanded by Colonel Cooke. That he was in the Battle of Monmouth [?] [June 28, 1778] when the him and was cut off, that he was then attached to a Virginia Regiment & went to Virginia and was in the Battle of James Town in Virginia that he was at the Siege of York and after the war was over, he was sent to Philadelphia & then "Honorably Discharged." That he served during the [indecipherable word] war, that from lapse of time & old age he has forgotten very much of his services. That he has lost his Discharge that he is now a pensioner of the United States for the District of Kentucky, that the number of his original Certificate is 7251. That he has received his land warrant from Virginia for 200 acres – warrant No. 1101 & that Josiah Meigs Esquire Commissioner of the General Land office Washington City has sent him his Patent for his 200 acres of land for his services in the Virginia Continental line that his Patent bears date the 29th day of April 1820 – That he has never received his land from the United States, for the services in the Revolutionary War & hopes the Proof of his Pension Certificate & Patent together with his affidavit well be received as evidence conclusive to prove his claim to land from the United States & hopes they will issue his warrant to his [one or more indecipherable words] M. S. Pogue at Lexington [Kentucky] [several indecipherable words] it in the War Office that he resides in Clarke County Kentucky

S/ John Riely

Given under my hand this 31st day of March 1821

S/ Mattw Elder, JP FC

[f p. 19: The veteran filed a request for a transfer of his pension benefits to the Indiana agency indicating that he had moved to Orange County Indiana. This petition is dated October 13, 1825.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$8 per month commencing Made 22, 1818 for service as a private in the Virginia Continental line for 7 years.]

The [Library of Virginia](#) online digital collection relating to rejected pension claims contains the

following documents that might relate to this veteran. I base this upon the fact that in one of the documents below, reference is made to a warrant number 1101 having been issued for 200 acres to the veteran in question and this corresponds with the statement of the veteran in one of his certificates transcribed above.

Land Office Virginia

I certify that it appears by the records of this office, that John Riley enlisted in January 1777 as a private in Captain Biggs Company of the Virginia Continental line; that he enlisted for the war; and for his services received from the State of Virginia on the 24th of June 1783 a Military Land Bounty Warrant No. 1101, for 200 acres and I certify that it does not appear by the records of this Office, that any other Military Warrant has ever been issued by the State of Virginia to a person named John Riley – as witness my hand this 21st January 1831
S/ Wm Silden R. L. Off.

I do certify that John Riley served as a Soldier in my Company in the 3rd Virginia Regiment on Continental establishment in the northern department two years and with some other Captain in the southern Department for some years, he was a brave soldier and is now about eighty years old and incapable of maintaining himself, he certainly deserves to be supported the remainder of the short period he has to live in this world by Government for his services in the war of the Revolution.

Given under my hand in the County of Fauquier in the State of Virginia the 21st day of January 1818

S/ John Blackwell, late Captain
[balance of entry illegible]

I am well acquainted with the handwriting of Captain Blackwell and am satisfied that the within certificate was written by him. I also knew John Riley very well in the northern Army as a soldier of Captain Blackwell's Company.

S/ J. Marshall

I John Murphy do hereby certify that I was well acquainted with John Riley [several indecipherable words] and saw the said John Riley while in the service of the revolutionary war at Fredericksburg and also I saw him afterward in Richmond I think as well as memory serves me that he was under Major John White and under Captain John Blackwell of Fauquier County I have personal knowledge of his enlisting under Captain Blackwell. After the war I was about to go to Philadelphia for the said Riley's Pay which he had assigned to me for a horse which I sold him and was to be paid in that way & when I returned from Philadelphia the said John Riley told me that he neglected to furnish me with a certificate from Captain John Blackwell under whom he said he was under and never understood that he was at Fort Pitt during the War but before the service under Blackwell he entered for 3 years & went to the northward – given under my hand this 25th day of February 1831

S/ John Murphy

I John Murphy further state that I was well acquainted with all the children of John Riley he had ten children namely William, John, Miles, Philip, James, Catharine, Nancy, Beddy, Betsy & Margaret, William, Beddy & Betsy is understood to be dead the rest except Catharine who lives

with her mother – John has not been known by many for seven years past. Given under my hand
this 27th day of February 1831

S/ John Murphy

[Based on Murphy's testimony concerning the names of the veteran's children –which doesn't
match the name of the 4 children the veteran named in his 1821 application—I am strongly of
the opinion that the above documents do not relate to the same John Riley as the one who filed
for a federal pension under file S36871. I believe these documents relate to John Reiley whose
widow applied for a pension. See FPA W18789 transcribed and posted in this database 6/17/12.]