

## Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of James Riely (Reiley) S5981

f15VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

6/30/12

[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 8<sup>th</sup> of June 1786." Please call errors or omissions to my attention.]

[State of Virginia, Winchester, Frederick County]

On this 3rd day of August 1832 personally appeared in Open Court before the Court of the Corporation of Winchester now sitting James Riely a resident of Winchester in the County of Frederick and State of Virginia aged seventy-four 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 7th 1832: That in the month of August 1777, he was detailed in a company of Militia in that part of Berkeley County which is now in Jefferson County, under Captain Benjamin Beeler, Lieutenant Andrew McCormick and Ensign George Cloak – the Regiment was commanded by Colonel Philip Pendleton; Robert Willis was the Lieutenant Colonel, and George Scott the Major, and after some time spent in procuring arms and accoutrements, rendezvoused at Shepherdstown in the same County about the first of September from Shepherdstown they marched to Fredericktown in the State of Maryland and stayed there a few days – while there they heard the news of the Battle of Brandywine [September 11, 1777] – from thence they marched to Woodberry and Taneytown to Littlestown where they stayed a day or 2, then through Hanover and York to Anderson's ferry on the Susquehanna [River], and thence to Lancaster where they lay about a week, and from thence they marched to Reading, where they arrived a day or 2 after the battle of Germantown [October 4, 1777], and there stayed some days, they then moved on through Pottsgrove to General Washington's headquarters, about 20 miles above Pennsylvania after laying there a few days they removed with the same Army to the edge of Bucks County a little further from Philadelphia, while there intelligence of the Surrender of General Burgoyne's Army – from thence he went with a detachment under General Putnam across the Schuylkill [River] to drive away some British troops that were plundering the inhabitants, and returned to the camp the day that the attack was made on Mud Island – they continued with the main Army until sometime in November where they were discharged, and returned as far as Hartford County Maryland where he lay sick for some time, and then returned home where he arrived the week before Christmas 1777, having been a little more than 4 months.

Early in the month of June 1781, orders were received by the County Lieutenant of Berkeley County from the Governor of Virginia to raise a troop of volunteer Cavalry Francis Willis was appointed Captain, Doctor James Armstrong Lieutenant and Robert Throckmorton Cornet – deponent volunteered himself and horse in said Company – he was appointed by Captain Willis orderly Sargeant and Quarter Master for the troop – some few of the volunteers brought horses with them but it was found necessary to impress a good many horses – the troop was completed sometime the last of July or 1st of August following – they rendezvoused at the head of Bullskin then in the said County of Berkeley (now Jefferson) and were occupied in training the horses until about 2 or 3 weeks before the surrender of Lord Cornwallis, when orders

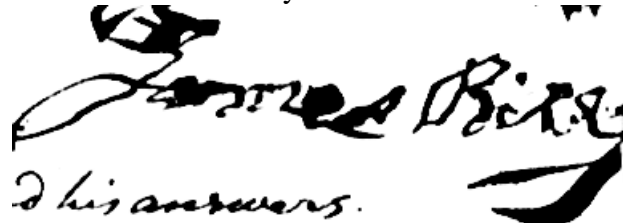
came from the Army for Captain William Hickman who had raised a troop of horse in Frederick County to take the horses belonging to Captain Willis' Company to the Army – the horses were accordingly taken and the men discharged – deponent had equipped himself with a horse, saddle, bridle, boots, holsters and pistols, and he was engaged in this service about 4 months. He knows of no surviving witness to his service.

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatsoever 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.

Sworn and subscribed the day and year aforesaid

S/ Lem'l Brent, Clk

S/ James Riely



Questions put by the Court to James Riely and his answers

1. Where and in what year were you born?

Answer. I was born in that part of Baltimore County (now Hartford) on the 23rd of December 1758.

2. Have you any record of your age; and if so, where is it?

Answer. I have a record of my age, it is in my father's handwriting in Jefferson County, and I have a copy of it in my Bible.

3. Where were you living when called into service, where have you lived since the revolutionary War, and where do you now live?

Answer. I was living in Berkeley County Virginia, when called into service and continued to live there until April 1801 when I removed to Winchester, and have lived there ever since.

4. How were you called into service, were you drafted, did you volunteer, or were you a substitute? And if a substitute for whom?

Answer. I was drafted the 1st time, and the last time volunteered.

5. State the names of the regular officers who were with the troops where you served, such Continental and militia Regiments as you can recollect, and the general circumstances of your service?

Answer. General Putnam, General Sullivan, General Woodford and other generals – Colonel Crawford's Regiment of regulars – there were of the militia Colonel Clapham's Regiment, a Regiment from Prince William & one from Frederick as to the general circumstances of my Service, I don't know that I can state more than I have done.

6. Did you ever receive a discharge from the service, and if so by whom was it given, and what has become of it?

Answer. It appears to me that I received a discharge from my 1st service from Captain Bealor, but I don't know what has become of it.

7. State the names of persons to whom you are known in your present neighborhood, and who can testify to your character for veracity and their belief in your services as a soldier of the revolution?

Answer. As to my character for veracity I can refer to Mister John Irwin, John Sperry, Reverend William Hill DD and Daniel Gold Esquire of Winchester and for their belief of my services as a soldier of the revolution I can refer to Thomas Griggs, [text obliterated] James Glenn, George Riely, Alexander Riely and Captain Christian Allemong of Jefferson County.

Sworn to in open Court

S/ James Riely

[William Hill, a clergyman, and Daniel Gold gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

Questions put to George Riely by James Wigginton a Justice of the peace for Frederick County Virginia

Question 1st what is your age

Answer. I am in my 80th year

Question 2nd are you certain that James Riely served 3 months in the Camp exclusive of his traveling home in the year 1777? [Last digit written over and illegible]

Answer. I am

Question 3rd Do you know anything relative to his serving in the Light-horse in 1781

Answer I do – He served 3 months as orderly Sergeant & Quarter Master in Captain Willis' company.

Question 4th. How did [you] know of his term of service

Answer. We both lived in the same house before and after both tours and I was frequently in the camp while he was in service

The above Questions and answers taken before me a Justice of the peace for the aforesaid County and believe the above named George Riely to be a man of strict truth and veracity. Given under my hand this 27th day of February 1833.

S/ James Wigginton

We the undersigned do certify that James Riely was drafted in 1777 and served under the command of Captain Benjamin Beeler and marched to Germantown. That the said Riely marched early in August and return home a little before Christmas, and in the year 1781 the said James Riely volunteered himself and horse under the command of Captain Willis in pursuance of orders received by Colonel Van Swearingen from the Governor of Virginia and continued in camp 4 months and acted as orderly Sergeant and quarter master to the troops.

Given under our hands and seals this 27th day of November 1832

S/ G. Riely

S/ Alexander Riely

The image shows two handwritten signatures in cursive. The top signature is 'G. Riely' and the bottom signature is 'Alexander Riely'. Both signatures are written in dark ink and are somewhat stylized.

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$29.99 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for service as a private for 8 months in the infantry & cavalry in the Virginia service.]