

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of Samuel Finley W10026 Mary Finley VA
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. 4 Feb 2014.

For the purpose of obtaining the benefits of an Act, entitled, "An Act for the relief of certain surviving Officers and Soldiers of the Army of the Revolution" Approved on the 15th May 1828. I Samuel Finley of Chillicothe, in the County of Ross, in the State of Ohio, do hereby declare, That I was an Officer in the continental Line of the Army of the Revolution, and served as such to the end of the War, at which period I was a Major, attached to a detachment of the Virginia Line, which marched to the South (State of Georgia) under the command of Lieut. Colo Thomas Posey.
Witness my hand this 9th day of June 1828 Sam Finley

Chillicothe June 9th 1828

Sir [Richard Rush, Secretary of the Treasury] At the time of my last promotion the Battle of Eutaw [Eutaw Springs SC, 8 Sep 1781], shortly before, taken place, which, by the fall of Lieut Colo. Richard Campbell, administered to my advancement, and to that of Major Thos Posey [Thomas Posey]; and our march to the South taking place, before commissions could be obtained, we had no other evidence of our promotion than certificates granted by Colonel [Christian] Febiger, who commanded at the general rendezvous, at Cumberland Old Courthouse. After the termination of the War I returned very unwell, and, indeed, never enquired about my Commission; of course never obtained it. I understand it is on the records of the War Office. As to the commutation I never applied for it until very lately, where a derangement in my concerns, owing to the imprudent conduct of my Clerk, urged me to petition Congress for it, with the view to satisfy for the delinquency of my Clerk; but, by Mr. Hagners report, my petition proved abortive I can, with a clear conscience, swear I never received it. I am, Sir, no Pensioner. I suppose there will be no risk in transmitting the money by mail. If a draught, on the Bank of Chillicothe, could be obtained, it would be safer and more convenient for me.

I remain, Sir, with respect, your very humble and obedient Servant
Sam Finley

[The following are from [Revolutionary bounty-warrant records in the Library of Virginia.](#)]

I do certify, upon honor, that I was appointed an Officer in December 1775 in a Rifle Company raised by the State, the Officers of which Company were taken into the Line at the Arrangement at White Plains [14 Sep 1778] and have been in Actual Service successively ever since

Given at Richmond in Virginia this 30th day of July 1783
Sam Finley Major



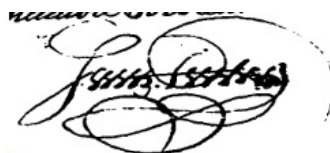
[To Col. Robert Gamble] Chillicothe June 27th 1807

I avail myself of your friendly proposal and trouble you now to make some enquiry into a business, which, if report says true, I am interested in. It has been stated to me that Warrants are granted, by the State of Virg'a, to her former Continental Officers, for additional Land, to those that have been heretofore granted. That is to say to Officers who served six years a certain quantity, proportional to their grade. To those who serve seven years an additional sixth, in like proportion. Now Sir, it is said that warrants are granted to such as served more or longer period than seven years in proportion to the said additional sixth for the time their service exceeded. I commenced my military career in June 1775 as you know, I was in service at the conclusion of the War in 1783 which will make better than eight years. If

then the time of my service should conclude at the time I left Charlestown, which was the 6th July 1783 there will be, from the 1st June 1775, the time I entered with Capt Hugh Stephenson of Berkeley County, who marched a Rifle Company to Boston, 13 months still due me: but should it not conclude until the period limited by Act of Congress for disbanding the troops which, I think, was either to the 1st or 30th of November 1803 [sic: 3 Nov 1783] it will extend the period of service five or six months longer. The business which I wish to trouble you about, is to enquire into the truth of the report and give me information; or, should it be correct, obtain a warrant in my name for whatever the additional quantity may be found to be. I suppose the State of Virginia is in possession of the Returns and Muster rolls of Captain Stephensons Company; if so, they will shew the time of my commencement, and be considered a sufficient voucher. Captain Stephenson's and Captain [Daniel] Morgan's were the first companies that were imbodyed in Virginia. They both marched to Boston.

I hope you enjoy good health, and every think comfortable

I am Sir/ With esteem & Respect/ Your very humble Servant



I do Certify that the late Colonel Hugh Stephenson, was appointed a Captain of a Rifle Company in the Spring or Summer of the year 1775, and that he marched his Company and Joined the Army in the Vicinity of Boston the same year. I further Certify that Samuel Finley Esq'r. (who rose by different promotions during the Revolutionary war to the rank of Major) Joined the said Company and marched with it from this State and I have good reason to believe Continued in the Army to the end of the War.

Given under my hand this 1st day of August 1807.

[signed] James Wood formerly
B. Gen'l. Cont'l. Army.

I certify that Major Samuel Finley served under Gen'l Green [sic: Nathanael Greene] in a detachment of the Virginia line in the years 1781 & 1782 and that he continued in service – when I obtained a furlough in the Spring of the year 1783 at Charlestown (with directions if called on again to join the Rendezvous then established at Winchester) I have therefore the most satisfactory reason to believe he continued in service until the final Dissolution of the army took place in the fall of the same year 1783

Given under my hand this 1st day of August 1807
former Capt. in the Va. Contentel Line



NOTES: On 12 Nov 1838 Mary Finley, 71, of South Bend IN, applied for a pension stating that she married Samuel Finley on 5 May 1789, and he died 2 April 1829. She appointed her son, Clement A. Finley, Surgeon in the US Army, her attorney to obtain the pension. The file includes the family record from the blank side of the title page of a 1782 New Testament, transcribed below. James B. Finley stated that the record must have been written before the birth of a child who was born in 1792, and that Mary Finley had lived in his family since midsummer 1829. A note on Mary Finley's pension certificate states that she died on 23 Dec 1838.

Tuesday 5th May 1789 about 4 OClock P.M. Samuel Finley & Polly Brown were Married
Tuesday 30th March 1790 About 6 OClock P.M. John son of Sam'l & Polly Finley was born
Wednesday 13th July 1791 John Finley was by the Grace of God in Jesus Christ, admitted to his everlasting Rest about 11 OClock PM. aged 1 Year 3 Months and 13 days

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Finley Samuel

VA

W10026

f20VA

BLWt761-400

Transcription by FA Weyler

10Jul2013

[Ed. Note: the file folder states Margaret as the name for the widow, though Margaret is not found elsewhere. The name Mary is used elsewhere except in the note of page 3. It uses Polly, apparently a nickname for Mary.]

[p2] Indiana certificate 1347

Mary Finley, widow of Samuel Finley, deceased

Died 02Apr1824

A Captain and Major under Col Posey of Virginia

Issued 08Dec1858 @ \$585/annum

[p3]

Tuesday 5th May 1789

about 4:00 P.M.

Samuel Finley & Polly Brown

Were married

Tuesday 30th March 1790

About 6 o'clock P.M.

John, son of

Sam^l & Polly Finley was born

Wednesday 13th July 1790

John Finley was by the

Grace of God

In Jesus Christ

Donated to his everlasting Rest

About 11 O'clock P.M.

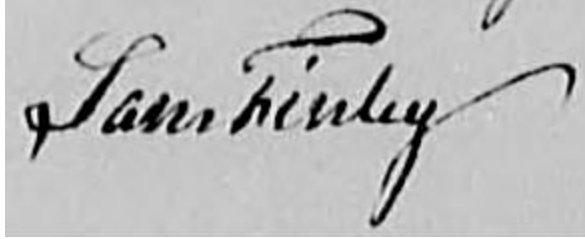
Aged near three months and 13 days

[p6]

For the purpose of obtaining the benefits of an act entitled "An act for the relief of certain surviving officers and soldiers of the Army of the Revolution" approved on the 15th May 1828. I Samuel Finley of Chillicothe in the County of Ross in the State of Ohio, do hereby declare:

Thaat I was an officer in the continental Line of the Army of the Revolution and served as such in the end of the War, at which period I was a Major attached to a detachment of the Virginia Line which marched to the South (State of Georgia) under the command of Lieut Col Thomas Posey. Witness my hand this 9th day of June 1828.

Sam Finley

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sam Finley". The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored background.

[routine county certification
James Miller JP
John McCoy, neighbor
Humphrey Fullerton, clerk

[p7]

Chillicothe, June 9th 1828

Sir,

At the time of my last promotion, the Battle of Eutaw had shortly before taken place, which, by the fall of Lieu^t Col^o Richard Campbell, administered to my advancement, and to that of Major Tho^s Posey. And our march to the South taking place, before commissions could be obtained, we had no other evidence of our promotion than certificates granted by Col Febiger, who commanded at the general rendezvous at Cumberland Old Courthouse. After the termination of the war, I returned very unwell, and indeed never inquired about my commission, of course never obtained it. I understand it is on the records of the War Office. As to the commutation, I never applied for it until very lately, when a derangement in my course owing to the imprudent conduct of my clerk, urged me to petition Congress for it, with the vision to satisfy from the delinquency of my clerk: but by Wm Haynes report, my petition proved abortive. I can, with a clear conscience, swear I never received it. I am, Sir, no pensioner. I suppose there will be no risk in transmitting the money by mail. If a draught on the Bank of Chillicothe could be obtained, it would be safer and more convenient for me.

I remain, Sir, with respect, your very humble and obedient servant.

s/Sam Finley

The Honorable Richard Rush
Secretary of the Treasury

[various other papers from St. Joseph County, Indiana in 1838 re/the widow's pension provide no additional military information.]