

[Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters](#)

Pension application of William Riley W1083

Nancy

fn78NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

1/8/10

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[fn p. 12]

State of North Carolina Guilford County: Court of Pleas & Quarter Sessions November Term A.D. 1832

On this 21st day of November 1832, Personally appeared in open Court before the Justices of the Court of pleas & quarter sessions now sitting William Riley a resident of Guilford County & State of North Carolina aged seventy-three 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 the 7th 1832. -- That he entered the service of the United States in the War of the Revolution in the year 1779 in the month of March. That he then was living with his father John Riley in Orange County North Carolina that he joined Captain John Griffees [sic, Griffey or Grffin's] Company Colonel Archibald Lytle's Regiment that he was appointed orderly Sergeant in Griffees Company, and did duty as such he being a volunteer for nine months that the collours [colors] belonging to said Company were given up to him by order of the Colonel, that Lytle's Regiment marched into the State of Virginia to Peytonsborg where they encamped for a while and was daily put through the manual exercise by Major Dixon and while there, the Great total Eclipse was on the Sun that they then turned and came back through North Carolina and went on and Encamped at Purrysburg in South Carolina, where Generals Sumpter [sic, Thomas Sumter] & Huger [Isaac Huger] had the command that there was an engagement took place over the Savannah River at Brier Creek<sup>1</sup> with part of the Army but the company this deponent belonged to could not get over the River but after some time he was taken sick and finally got a permit from General Huger and was carried home to his father's in Orange County (he states that the permit is lost) by the time he got well the time of his nine months tour was expired: --

This Deponent further saith that in the beginning of the year 1780 (February) the same Colonel Lytle wanted volunteers for 5 months, that he became a volunteer in Captain William Lytle's Company and was orderly Sergeant in said Company, that Colonel Lytle marched his Regiment on to Charleston South Carolina that General Lincoln was commander in chief of our Army that the British under General Clinton laid siege to the City that it lasted twenty days & nights the whole of which time we were receiving from the Enemy hot balls, shells, carcasses &c Houses were not on fire and many of our men killed and wounded at length we all became prisoners to the British. He states that he got a parole Signed by Mr. Stuart, a British officer the contents of which were that he had liberty to go peaceably and quietly home to North Carolina Orange County and that he must not take up arms against nor do nor suffer to be done anything prejudicial to his Majesty's Arms (this deponent states that this parole is lost) that he went to his

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<sup>1</sup> March 3, 1779

father's and remained a prisoner of war until sometime in the latter part of the summer or fall he was then informed by Major Absalom Tatum of Hillsboro that he was Exchanged --

On receiving this intelligence he equipped himself in a Horsemanship manner and joined Colonel Guilford Dudley's troops of Horse from Halifax that Dudley was much engaged in chasing the Tories Colonels Fanning & O'Neal and took several of their men prisoners that Deponent and 2 other men took a Captain Scarlet or Gilleland and the next day there were several more taken that the Colonel of the prisoners into his care with orders to take them to Halifax Jail which he did and delivered them to the Jailor.

In the year 1781 he states that Colonel Jesse Benton then a member of the Legislature said he would procure this Deponent a Capt[ain's] Commission in the volunteer troop of Horse that he immediately raised a small company of Horse that he and his company ranged through the Counties Orange, Chatham, Cumberland on Cape Fear River etc. in order to check the Murderous Tories who were doing much mischief in those parts that he took several Tories at different times at the time he was Captain and had the command as such was about 6 months that he frequently received orders from Colonel Tenning [sic, Col. Hugh Tinnen] and Major Tatum that he drew rations regularly for himself and men but never received a commission --

This Deponent further states that in the year 1782, he volunteered for 18 months in Captain Elijah Moore's Company Colonel Lytle's Regiment who rendezvoused at Salisbury North Carolina that Lytle marched his Regiment on to head quarters on James Island 3 miles South West of the City of Charleston that General Gess [sic, probably Genl. Mordecai Gist] of the regular Army was Commander on the island that they are he was transferred from Captain Moore's company to Captain Rhodes company and was orderly Sergeant in said company to the end of the war. That the Pennsylvania & Maryland troops were on the Island at the same time that he was acquainted with Major Blount & Wiggins of the regular Army that he was on the Island (at the time the British Evacuated Charleston in consequence of which the Island was greatly aluminated [sic, illuminated?] by our troops. That the whole of the time from the time he entered the service in 1779 to the evacuation of Charleston in 1783 was devoted as above stated that he has never received any pay or remuneration in any manner that he had many papers that would have showed clearly the services above described but they are all lost or destroyed that he knows of no person in these parts that he can prove the above services by. And this deponent further states that according to the return of his father John Riley gave him of his age he was born September the 29th A.D. 1759 in the State [of] Pennsylvania Delaware County that his father emigrated from thence to North Carolina Orange County and this deponent was 9 years old. That he has resided since the revolutionary war in Orange where he married, and also in Person and Guilford Counties in which last he now resides and that for the last 10 years in the neighborhood of James Town --

And further this deponent sayeth not --

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year above written.

Sworn to and subscribed in open Court,

Test: S/ A. E. Hanner, CCC

S/ William Riley

[Nathan Mendenhall, and George C. Mendenhall gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[fn p. 58]

State of North Carolina Guilford County: On the 11th day of January 1833 personally appeared before me the subscriber one of the acting Justices of the peace in and for the County and State aforesaid William Riley of said County and State aforesaid who being duly sworn according to

law deposeth and saith that by reason of old age and the consequent loss of memory he cannot swear positively as to the length of time he was in the service of the war of the Revolution but according to the best of his Recollection he served not less than 2 years and 6 months as an orderly Sergeant at different times of service and that he served 2 months as a Horseman in Colonel Dudley's troops --

And he further states that he served 6 months as a volunteer Captain of Light Horse under the above Colonel Dudley that for all the above periods and times he claims a pension. And if the 2 months he was a prisoner on parole as orderly Sergeant be taken in he claims for that also --

And he further states that he was a volunteer in all the above services -- And he further saith that his name is not on the pension Roll of any State or of the United States -- And he further saith that he has used all endeavors to obtain a clergyman's certificate but has failed as there is none in the neighborhood. And further this Deponent saith not.

Sworn and subscribed to the day and year above written before me  
S/ P. Honey, JP

S/ William Riliy [sic]

[fn p. 5: on April 21, 1855 and Jefferson County Tennessee Nancy Riley, 75, filed for her bounty land entitlement as the widow of William Riley; she states that she married him December 5 \_\_; that they were married by Anthony Brown; that her name prior to her marriage was Nancy Davis; that her husband died in Guilford County North Carolina on March 25, 1835.]

[fn p. 6: oh in July one, 1839 in Jefferson County Tennessee, Nancy Riley, 64, filed for a widow's pension under the 1836 act stating she is the widow of William Riley; that she married him sometime in December 1792; that her husband died March 25, 1835; that she remains his widow; that she has no record evidence of her marriage war of the births of her children but that she had the following children by her husband, to wit: Parthena, Archibald Little, Pleasant Campbell, Nelson Blount, Samuel, Polly, William, Nancy, Jane and Emily Riley, the youngest of whom she estimates to be now about 21 years of age and that they were from 2 to 3 years between the births of each of her children.]

[Nancy Riley survived the Civil War and applied for the reinstatement of her pension benefits following the conclusion of that war.]