

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Joseph Reany (Reiney) W11127

Mary

fn51NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

12/19/09

[Methodology: Spelling, punctuation and/or grammar have been corrected in some instances for ease of reading and to facilitate searches of the database. Also, the handwriting of the original scribes often lends itself to varying interpretations. Users of this database are urged to view the original and to make their own decision as to how to decipher what the original scribe actually wrote. Blanks appearing in the transcripts reflect blanks in the original. Folks are free to make non-commercial use this transcript in any manner they may see fit, but please extend the courtesy of acknowledging the transcriber—besides, if it turns out the transcript contains mistakes, the resulting embarrassment will fall on the transcriber.]

State of Indiana County of Daviess

On this 12th day of August A.D. 1833 personally appeared in open court before the Daviss Probate Court now sitting, Joseph Reaney a resident of Wallace Township in the County and State aforesaid aged seventy-nine [? last digit unclear] 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 7, 1832. That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated:

In the year 1779 (he resided in the County of Guilford in the State of North Carolina, and in the month of October (date not recollected) of that year, he was drafted to serve a 5 months tour in a company of North Carolina Militia raised in said County commanded by Captain John Donald (or Donnell) Lieutenant William Worthy (Ensign's name forgotten). This company belonged to the Regiment commanded by Colonel John Locke. The Regiment rendezvoused at Guilford C. H. N C in October of aforesaid, when and where it was joined by a Regiment of what was called the new levies (9 months men) commanded by Colonel Lytle and the said two regiments under the command of General Rutherford [Griffith Rutherford] was thence marched to Charlotte Court House where we remained 2 or 3 weeks to be joined by additional troops -- We thence marched southward on the Charleston South Carolina Road (object unknown to this declarant) until we reached the 10 Mile house (near Charleston) where we stopped about 3 weeks. From this point General Rutherford moved us to Purrysburg South Carolina on the Savannah River, a little village 50 or 60 miles below Augusta, Georgia, where we took up winter quarters -- immediately after we arrived at this place, I was attacked with the camp fever and was dangerously sick for a long time. In the last of January or first of February this declarant being an invalid, was permitted by his officers to return home, in company with a man by the name of Sampson Prowell [? Braswell, Powell?], to recruit his health. He rejoined his Regiment, on his return home, at Guilford where he was discharged with the same. This declarant did not receive aid written discharge for this term of service.

In July 1780 this declarant volunteered a 3 months tour in a company commanded by Captain Peter O'Neill [sic, Peter O'Neal] & raised by him in Guilford County North Carolina where declarant then resided. Our company was immediately joined by several companies (on months which he well recollects Captain Bashier's [sic, Asa Brashears] The whole commanded by Colonel Paisley who [John Paisley] who was then the Colonel of our County -- Colonel Paisley immediately moved us immediately in the direction of South Carolina and in a few days march, we joined General Gates' Army on the South side of Peedee [sic, Pedee River], about 50 or 60 miles, from Camden, and then moved under General Gates to Rugeley's Mills within 12

miles of Camden. Captain O'Neill's company was stationed, with some French troops 3 miles from the Main Army, at an old farm, on the road to Camden. They were stationed here to watch the movements of the enemy. He well recollects that the Army was ordered to be in readiness to march by 10 o'clock at night the day before the battle -- and also, that in the evening the soldiers drew molasses, and drank freely, and by 10 o'clock the ground was strewn with men, moaning, vomiting and purging. In the night, on the march, there was an engagement, in front and to the left, of the company to which declarant belonged. After this, Declarant thinks, they marched very slow and hardly appeared to get along at all, as they were sometimes thrown as far back, as they had gone forward. The firing was kept up off and on all night. About sun rise, 6 or 7 miles from Camden, the general battle began between the armies of General Gates and Lord Cornwallis. The battle was opened by the firing of a cannon -- twice, on one side, before any of the firing by either of the armies. -- This was succeeded by a general discharge of small arms from the militia, and then they took to their scrapers, and this declarant knows but little more about it, being "pretty bad scared." The North Carolina Militia did not run on until the Virginia Militia on the left had thrown down their guns, and "cut dirt." The declarant came home, as others did, as well as he could. -- He received no written discharge for this tour of service.

After the defeat of Gates the Tories of North Carolina became very troublesome and it became necessary to raise volunteers to keep them under, and protect the neighborhood if possible -- and about the last of October 1780, Colonel John Littrel [sic, John Luttrell] (declarant, thinks of Chatham County) proposed raising by voluntary enrollment in the several neighboring counties a Regiment of mounted men, for said purposes. This Regiment was raised -- Guilford County furnishing one company commanded by Captain James Robinson. -- In this company declarant volunteered for 3 months (the term of time the Regiment volunteered to serve). This Regiment was stationed at Colonel Luttrell's in Chatham County for eight or nine weeks where they erected barracks, and made frequent excursions through the surrounding country, catching Tories, dispersing and driving them, to the swamps near Cross Creek, and effectually protecting the Country in that vicinity, from there infernal robberies, burnings and murders. Colonel Luttrell then got orders to march to the narrows of the Yadkin River, where we met an express. Colonel Luttrell picked out about 50 men from the different companies, (amongst whom was this declarant) and left them under the command of Captain John Hinds with orders to march up on the East side of the Yadkin. Colonel Luttrell, with the balance of the Regiment, crossed the Yadkin and united with some regular troops, and marched up the West side of the Yadkin. We marched that day, encamped at a farm, and the next morning resumed the march according to orders, when, in a short time, news came to Captain Hinds of an engagement and defeat of our men on the other side of the River either the British at the old trading ford -- Captain Hinds immediately gave orders and marched us home. For this term of service he got a discharge, (or written) signed by Captain James Robinson -- which he gave to H L Livingston Esquire of Bedford In [Indiana] after the about 2 years since, for the purpose of having him make out a declaration for a pension under the old Pension wall and which discharge the said Livingston has lost or mislaid so that this declarant cannot get it.

In the summer of 1781 -- month not recollected, but it was in watermelon time, Captain Thomas Dugan of Randolph County North Carolina came into Guilford County for the purpose of raising a volunteer company to suppress the Tories in that County and the adjoining -- Lieutenant Eli Newland, immediately tendered his service and this declarant with 15 others volunteered for a 2 months tour, as mounted men. The company was raised and stationed at Bell's Mill on Deep River in said County of Randolph where they remained 3 or 4 weeks,

operating in the neighborhood successfully against the Tories, and then marched in the direction of Cross Creek to the "Scotch Settlement" the company was halted by the Captain at Drowning Creek, and he [Capt. Dugan] with Ensign Clark and one or two man went out to make discoveries, and did not return. Lieutenant Newland marched the company on until he ascertained that the Captain, Ensign & men had been taken prisoners by the Tories & taken toward Wilmington. Lieutenant Newland marched the company to Cape Fear River, crossed and encamped on a high bluff. In the morning of the Tories had collected in large numbers opposite us, and commenced firing, which was returned by us, (without affect on either side). Lieutenant Newland then marched us up the River, until we halted to feed when the Tories in large numbers fired again upon us, when we saddled up, [2 or more words written over and illegible] down and made a "straight-skirt tail" for Hillsboro -- when & where, our time being up, we returned home.

This Declarant served his country ardently and faithfully in the four tours, thirteen months, as a soldier of the Revolution; five months of which time, he served as a mounted man, furnishing his own horse, for which service he claims of his country that which she has generously and nobly promised to give, a pension.

He has no record of his age, but has been informed and believes that he is seventy-nine years of age -- that he was born near Burlington, New Jersey. His father moved, when he was 4 or 5 years old into Guilford County North Carolina, where he resided until and during the revolutionary war, and until the summer of 1782, when he moved into Wythe County Virginia; and in 1783 to Greene County Tennessee where he married & remained until 1787, when he moved into Sevier County and lived there until 1796 & then settled in Lincoln County Kentucky, where he remained until 1810¹ [3rd digit written over and unclear], & then settled in Pulaski County Kentucky, where he continued until 1814, and then moved to Overton County Tennessee, and there remained till 1817 [last digit written over and unclear] & thence moved into Orange County In [Indiana] & there lived 2 years -- thence moved into Lawrence County Indiana & lived 11 years and thence in 1830 moved to his present residence in Daviess County where he has since resided.

He is not positive that he is correct as to dates but believes that he is -- and knows he is as to the tours. He can't recollect the name of no officer of the US Service except those mentioned.

He has no documentary evidence, and knows of no person whose testimony he can procure who can testify to his services as a soldier of the Revolution but Saunders Mc Howard and Asberry Sims who reside in his present neighborhood can testify as to his character for veracity, and his reputation as a soldier of the revolution.

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present, and declares that his name is not on the pension roll of any State.

Sworn to & subscribed in open Court

S/ Jno Van Trees, Clerk

S/ Joseph Reaney, X his mark

[Asberry Sims and Saunders Mc Howard gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[fn p. 21: On May 23rd, 1853, Mary Reiney [sic], 66, a resident of Greene County Indiana filed for a widow's pension under the 1853 act stating that she is the widow of Joseph Reiney, a pensioner of the United States for his services in the revolution; that she married him [date not stated]; that they were married by William Ragan, JP in Martin County Indiana; that her husband died September 8, 1846 a resident of Greene County Indiana; that she has no record of her marriage to him.]

¹ The War Department interpreted this date as 1800

[fn p. 17: On May 23, 1856 in Greene County Indiana, Mary Reiney [sic] aged 66 and residing in Cass Township in said County and state filed for her bounty land entitlement as the widow of Joseph Reiney; she states that she married him in Martin County Indiana [date of marriage not set forth]; that they were married by William Ragan, JP; that her name prior to her marriage was Mary Ward; that her husband died at the residence of Abner Ward in Cass Township Greene County Indiana September 8, 1846 and that she remains his widow. Her application was supported by affidavit from Abner Ward, John R. Long and Elizabeth Simson who state that Mary Ward and Joseph Reiney lived together as husband and wife for the space of 17 years preceding his death; that he affiant's all of the children of Mrs. Mary Reiney.]

[facts in file: the marriage license for the marriage of Joseph Reaney to Mary Ward was issued April 2, 1829; the widow was also known as "Polly"; Abner Ward was 43 in 1856 and Elizabeth Simson was 36 in 1856, both living in Cass Township, Green County, Indiana.]