

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of John Reiley (Rieley) W18798

Christiana

f30VA

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.]

State of Virginia Fauquier County Sct.

On this 6 day of April 1837 Personally appeared before me Absalom Hickman a Justice of the Peace in and for the County aforesaid, Christiana Reiley a resident of Fauquier County in the State of Virginia, aged eighty-seven years, who being first duly sworn according to law, doth on her oath, make the following declaration, in order to obtain the benefit of the provision made by the act of Congress passed July 4th, 1836. That she is the widow of John Riley who was a private in the Army of the Revolutionary War, that her Husband the said John Riley enlisted in Virginia, and was attached to one of the Virginia Regiment, and that she understood and believes he enlisted for during the War,

She further declares that she was married to the said John Riley on the __ day of __ in the year seventeen hundred and __, that her husband the aforesaid John Riley died on the __ day of __ and that she has remained a widow ever since that period, as will more fully appear by reference to the proof hereto annexed, that her name was Christiana Boden before she was married to the said John Riley and that she was married to the said John Riley previous to the expiration of the last period of service of the said John Riley in the War aforesaid.

S/ Christiana Riely, X her mark

Virginia Fauquier County:

The deposition of Jesse O'Bannon aged seventy-three years the 2nd day of September 1836 – Testifies that he was well acquainted with John Reiley that the said John Reiley was married to Christiana Boden before the commencement of the Revolutionary War, affiant lives in the same neighborhood with John Reiley and said Christiana his wife aforesaid, affiant further declares that the said John Reiley served in the War aforesaid, and that said John Reiley's Service in said War was after he was married to the said Christiana Boden, but how long he served, and in what Corps affiant cannot say, affiant states that the said John Reiley is dead, and that he believes, he has been dead 16 or 18 years, and that said Christiana Reiley has never married since the death of her said husband

S/ Jesse O'Bannon, X his mark

The deposition of William Tomblin¹ aged seventy-nine years, testifies that he was well acquainted with John Reiley before the commencement of the Revolutionary War, that in the year 1776 the said John Reiley perform service as a private in Captain John Chilton's company of the 3rd Virginia Regiment, after which Captain John Blackwell's Company, affiant belonged

¹ Sic, [William Tomlin S6261](#)

to the same company, at the same time, and knows of his own knowledge, that the said John Reiley perform service in said company and Regiment from the year 1776 aforesaid till the 23rd day of December 1779, at which time affiant enlisted in a Troop of Cavalry commanded by Colonel Milan [perhaps a reference to Colonel Stephen Moylan of the Pennsylvania fourth Light Horse] on the 23rd December 1779. This affiant left said John Reiley in the service aforesaid and affiant believes said Reiley served till the end of said War – This affiant knows that the said John Reiley immediately on his return from the Army aforesaid lived with Christiana Boden, they were housekeepers and lived together as man and wife, and from the number and size of their children at the close of the War the said John Reiley and Christiana Boden most certainly have been married before the said John Reiley enlisted as aforesaid in the War aforesaid if were married, affiant knew the said John Reiley from the time aforesaid till the day of his death, that the said John Reiley and Christiana Boden lived together as man and wife, till the death of the said John Reiley, affiant never heard the fact of the said John and Christiana being man and wife questioned or disputed, the only reason why affiant cannot say positively that they were legally man and wife is that he was not an eyewitness to their marriage. Affiant believes that they were legally man and wife from the facts aforesaid.

S/ William Tomlin, X his mark

The deposition of George Reiley aged 80 years, Testifies that he was well acquainted with John Reiley and Christina Boden of Fauquier County Virginia, before the commencement of the Revolutionary War, that he lived in the immediate neighborhood of the said John Reiley and Christiana Boden, that the said John and Christiana were married several years before the commencement of the Revolutionary War, the Father of this deponent claimed the said John Reiley, as his kinsman, and deponent will here state, that his Father did contribute a large turkey towards the wedding dinner, of the said John Reiley and Christiana Boden, after said marriage said John and Christiana lived together & were respected as man & wife

S/ George Riley, X his mark

[f p. 17]

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 a Captain
in the 3d Virga Regt. Cont'l Estb.

[the above certified as a true copy]

[f p. 22: Rachel Shaffer of Fauquier County Virginia gave testimony that she was present in the house when John Riley husband of Christiana Riley died some 19 years ago last spring. She can place the date because she was nursing her son Thomas at the time; that she weaned him the next fall following the death of John Riley; that her son was then between 2 and 3 years old and is now 21 last spring. She also distinctly remembers that her mother died 22 years ago and that she

believes John Riley died after her mother. Her affidavit is dated November 31, 1837 and she signed with her mark.]

[Veteran's widow was pensioned at the rate of \$80 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for the service of her husband as a private for 2 years in the Virginia service.]

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