

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements

Pension Application of William Reily W26377

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

Personally appeared, William Reily before me, one of the Judges of thee district of Columbia, and declared upon his honor, that he served his Country as an Officer of the Revolutionary War for near nine years faithfully and truly — in the year 1775 as a Lieut. and Adjutant to a Malitia Regt. in Baltimore County, in 1776 as Lieut. in the Maryland flying Camp, in 1777 as a Captain in the 4<sup>th</sup> Maryland Regt. of Regulars which Rank he held to the close of the War in the Northern and Southern Army. The latter Commanded by General [Horatio] Gates until his misfortunes [defeat at the Battle of Camden SC, 16 Aug 1780], afterwards by that great and good man General Green [sic: Nathanael Greene] until the close of the War. When he returned from the city of Charleston by sea triumphant to Annapolis with the only Regt. left out of eight which the State of Md. furnished for the Southern Army. that he never lost a tour of duty by Idle furloughs or sickness, that he was blessed with a Constitution suitable to any climate, that he never received any compensation from the United States except a final settlement certificate, which he retained some time and at last, from necessity, had to dispose of it for one eighth its nominal value, upon the general supposition that the Government would never be able to redeem them. That I am now in reduced circumstances & need the assistance of my Country for support.

[signed] Wm. Reily

City of Washington Mar 23<sup>rd</sup> 1818.

City of Washington 2 Feb'y 1820

Sir I received Mr. Edwards [Commissioner of Pensions] letter from the Pension Office requesting an explanatory statement showing that from my reduced circumstances in life I require the assistance of Government for my support & that of my family, in answer to which I respectfully submit the following brief remarks to your consideration. That from a series of years of the most laborious and unremitting exertions, which was continued as long as health & strength would permit with the utmost assiduity in a business that of all others requires most the Strength & vigor of youth, combined with a perfect knowledge of mankind in order to make it profitable, that with the blessings of that Providence which so eminently protected the Patriot soldier of the Revolution I have until late years enjoyed the former, that I do not possess the latter is most evident from the many losses I have sustained & which now compels me in my old age to call on my native country in whose service I spent the Prime of life and endured with cheerfulness the many deprivations and hardships so inseparable from that Glorious Contest, that from the unfeeling, unrelenting disposition of an Individual Landlord callous to all the tender feelings of human nature, and to prevent a recurrence of a like similar treatment I resolved to become the Tenant of the Bank, in other words to obtain a Loan which has enabled me to rear a House only nominally my own that now rents for 650. dollars depending upon contingency for its continuance at that rent, in addition to which I receive a pension from the State of Maryland of 240. making with that of the U States 1130. dollars, out of which I pay Bank Curtails, BK [bank?] discount, Taxes, insurance, & repairs leaving me a balance wherewith I just subsist as I hope it will so appear to you. the House I now reside in belongs to my Son in the BK. of Washington who is also indebted to the Bank so that it takes all that he can save & that of his Brother to comply with the unceasing importunities of the BK which increase with the depressure of the times, all which facts are respectfully submitted, the result of which I hope may be that I am fairly entitled to receive the pension from the U States.

I have the honor to be very Respectfully yr. ob. Serv't. Wm Reily

District of Columbia } SS  
County of Washington }

On this twenty third day of July, one thousand eight hundred and thirty eight, personally appeared before the subscriber one of the assistant Judges of the Circuit Court of the United States for the said District, Mrs. Barbara Reily a resident of the City of Washington in said



given me, will satisfy them of the general tenor of my conduct, and I reserve myself to a proper time, to lay open to the world the whole proceedings of the several Courts which have led to my dismissal, where, I am sorry to say, such a system of despotism will appear to be springing up in our army, that an officer who does his duty ever so exactly, and has neglected to pay a servile court to a haughty superior, holds his commission by a very precarious tenure. I am, Sir, yours and the public's most humble servant,  
Edward Norwood.  
Dec. 28th, 1778.'

'The officers of the 2d Maryland brigade do testify that Captain Norwood, (who is discharged the service by the sentence of a court-martial on a disagreement with Gen. Smallwood) during the campaigns in which he served with us, has ever conducted himself in such a manner as to command our warmest friendship and esteem, as an officer and a man of honor; and that notwithstanding his dismissal, is and ought to be, esteemed as a gentleman, and valued as a warm friend and advocate for the liberties of his country.

Second Regiment: Thomas Price, Col.; Lilbourn Williams, Capt.; James McCalmont, Surgeon; Hezekiah Ford, Ensign; Edward Edgely, Adjutant; John Gassaway, Lieut.; Edward Dyer, Lieut. and B. Q. M.; Benjamin Price, Lieut.; John Read, Ensign; James Ewing, Lieut.

Fourth Regiment: Josias Carvel Hall, Col.; Samuel Smith, Lieut.-Col.; John E. Howard, Major; Alexander L. Smith, Capt.; Thomas Lansdale, Capt.; Joseph Burgess, Capt.; Edward Oldham, Capt.; James Smith, Lieut.; John S. Belt, Lieut.; Edward Spurrier, Lieut.; Thomas Cromwell, Lieut.; Adam Hoops, Lieut.; Stephen Shelmedine, Lieut.; John Hamilton, Ensign; Nathaniel Twining, Ensign; John Bowen, Ensign; Parker H. Lee, Ensign; John Hartshorn, Adjutant; Richard Pindell, Surgeon; William Riley, Lieut.

Sixth Regiment: Otho H. Williams, Col.; Benjamin Ford, Lieut.-Col.; Andrew Hynes, Capt.; Henry Dobson, Capt.; James Bruff, Lieut.; Joshua Miles, Capt.; Jacob Norris, Lieut.; Richard Donovan, Adjutant; George Jacobs, Lieut.; Benjamin Wright, Lieut.; Charles Beaver, Lieut.; Thomas Parran, Surgeon.

German Regiment: Ludwick Weltner, Lieut.-Col.; Daniel Buchores, Major; George Hubley, Capt.; Peter Boyer, Capt.; Charles Baltzel, Capt.; Bernard Hubley, Capt.; Michael Boyer, Capt.; Martin Shughart, Lieut.; Christian Myers, Capt.; James F. Armstrong, Chaplain."

'Camp, March 1st, 1780.

To William Smallwood, Esq., Brigadier-General:

Sir:-We have no doubt but the joint assertion of a small number of inferior officers will be as much credited, by that part of mankind who have spirit to think for themselves, as the mere ipse dixit of a brigadier; therefore, choose only to remark, that your scurrilous observations on the testimony we gave of our favorable opinion of Capt. Norwood, discovers the malevolence and presumption, more than the probity and liberality of your mind.

'With due respect, we are yours, Otho H. Williams, Benjamin Price, Benjamin Ford, Edward Edgerly, John E. Howard, Hezekiah Foard, Harry Dobson, William Reily, James Bruff, Adam Hoops, Thomas Parran, John Hamilton, R. Donovan, John Hartshorn, Lil Williams, Richard Pendleton, John Gassaway.

N. B.--The other gentlemen, whom you took occasion to abuse in your ungentlemanly performance of 105 pages, are out of camp."

Reily's will dated 13 July 1821 in Washington, DC, left to "wife Barbara Reily, lot situated at northwest corner of Pennsylvania Ave., and 12th St., touching line of Robert King, together with dwelling house and kitchen standing on the ground; to maintain 'our beloved daughter Susan' whom I hereby thankfully commit to her protection."

The paper referred to in the widow's application states that the marriage occurred "at Bloomsbury near Baltimore the seat of her Father, Thomas Brooke Hodgkin Esq," and it lists three children born in Augusta GA, Philadelphia, and Jamaica.

On 21 Feb 1831 Thos. B. Reily wrote to the pension office stating that his father had continued receiving a pension until 4 Sep 1819, "when by some unaccountable error, or inimical

design, he was stricken from the Rolls." He applied on behalf of his mother for the final payment up to 4 Mar 1820. A Treasury document dated 20 Apr 1853 indicates that such payment was made to "the three children of William Reily dec'd."