

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of John Reily (Riley)¹ W7137

Nancy

f45VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

6/18/12

[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.]

The State of Ohio Butler County: SS

On this 28th day of March in the term of March, 1839, personally appeared in open Court Before the Honorable Benjamin Hinkson Esquire President and Daniel Milliken, Squire Littell and Fergus Anderson Esquire, Associate Judges of the Court of Common Pleas of the County of Butler, in the State of Ohio, John Reily of Hamilton, in the said County of Butler, aged nearly seventy-six years, who being 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 in the year 1780 for increasing the Army of the United States during the American Revolution, a draft was made in the State of Virginia of the Militia over the age of eighteen years, commanded the raised to serve for the term of eighteen months. Deponent being then a resident of the County of Rockbridge in the State of Virginia having the Spring previous passed the age of seventeen years only was not subject to the draft but being willing to serve was accepted as a substitute for some of the Militia residing in Lexington in the said County of Rockbridge who were obliged to furnish a Soldier by draft or otherwise. The Soldier who should serve the eighteen months was to be entitled to a bounty from the State of Virginia of a Hogshead of Tobacco. The Soldiers who were thus raised in the County of Rockbridge were mustered by Colonel Wallace of the Rockbridge Militia at Lexington in the month of September he thinks early in the month, and marched by him to Staunton in Augusta County, and there with the Soldiers raised in Augusta County him put under Officers, he thinks there Captain's name was Anderson and the name of their Ensign Robert Evans. They remained at Staunton but a few days and were then marched from Staunton through Charlottesville and having joined other eighteen months men were marched through Salisbury and Hillsboro to Charlotte Court House in North Carolina when they found the remnant of the Army which had been under the command of General Gates [Horatio Gates] consisting in part of two Regiments of Continental Troops one from Maryland, the other from Delaware at Charlotte Court House. General Green [Nathanael Greene] took the command of the Army [the transferor of command from Gates to Green occurred at Charlotte on December 2, 1780]. We remained here but a short time and were then marched to the Cheraw Hills on the Pedee [River] in South Carolina, here we encamped and remained until in the month of February 1781 when the Army marched from the Cheraw Hills through North Carolina crossed Dan River into the State of Virginia, here other troops joined the Army of Green, amongst whom was a Regiment of Continental Troops from the State of Virginia under the command of Colonel Campbell.

We remained but a few days in Virginia, and then returned into North Carolina and

¹ BLWt31575-160-55

shortly afterwards met the British Army under the command of Lord Cornwallis near to Guilford Court House, when the two armies had an engagement [March 15, 1781], which terminated in favor of the British. The Army of General Green retreated to "the Iron Works" 10 or 15 miles from the Battleground which was in the month of March. – We remained here but a few days when we pursued the British Army towards Wilmington but not having overtaken them, General Green, went next to Camden in South Carolina, after lying before the town for some days, the British under the command of Lord Rawdon sallied out of the Garrison and defeated the Army under General Green this was in the month of April [Battle of Hobkirk Hill, April 25, 1781]. After the defeat the Army of General Green fell back to Rugeley's Mills a few miles from Camden, soon after this the British Army having evacuated Camden General Green marched to Ninety Six in which was a Garrison of British Troops, and after having closely besieged the Garrison for some 3 or 4 weeks [May 22 – June 19, 1781], was obliged to raise the Siege and fall back towards the Congaree [River], and either in the latter part of June, or early in July, General Green crossed the Congaree and Wateree Rivers in encamped on the High Hills of Santee, where the Army remained until the latter part of August, when General Green marched from his encampment, passing through Camden, crossing the Wateree and Congaree rivers, and marching down the Santee to the Eutaw Springs when the American Army under the command of General Green and the British Army under the Command of Colonel Stuart had the Battle of the Eutaw Springs. This was in the month of September [September 8, 1781], soon after the battle at the Eutaw Springs, General Green returned to his former encampment at the High Hills of Santee, he remained until about the month of November, when he again marched further South and at the close of the year 1781, being the time the term of eighteen months men expired, the Army of General Green was then encamped at a place called "Round O" West of the River Edisto when early in January 1782 those who remained of the eighteen months men were marched in a body to Salisbury North Carolina, where they were discharged. I do not recollect the name of the Officer who brought us here, but I received from him a written discharge and returned to my Father's house in Rockbridge County in Virginia where I arrived I think in the same month of January.

I have no memorandum of the names of our Officers and may not therefore have given the names of our Captain and Ensign correctly but I think the Captain's name was Anderson and the name of our Ensign Evans – our Captain was not much with us but our Ensign was with us all the time. Previous to the battle of Guilford Court House we had two Majors, the name of one of them was "Hill" the name of the other I do not recollect nor do I recollect that either of them was with us after the battle of Guilford Court House. We had no regular Colonel for our Regiment during the early part of the Campaign, but Colonel Huger of South Carolina used occasionally to discharge the duties of Colonel until after the Battle before Camden, when we were joined with the Continental Regiment from Virginia, under the command of Colonel Campbell under whose command we remained until after the battle of the Eutaw Springs. Colonel Campbell was killed.

After my return to my Father's, I remained there until the close of the year 1783 and I came to Kentucky.

Soon after I returned home I received a Certificate for my Hogshead of Tobacco the bounty which had been promised to be paid by the State of Virginia, this Certificate I sold and transferred to a Mr. Philips in the Summer of 1782 and my discharge I placed in the hands of Judge McDowell who resided near to Danville in Kentucky who was then a member of the General Assembly of the State of Virginia from the County of Kentucky, and by the hands of

Judge McDowell I received the interest which was then due to me on my pay for the 18 months service as we had never received any part of our pay. This payment of the interest is endorsed on my discharge stated I believe 1785.

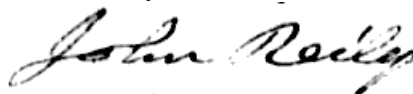
Afterwards in the summer of 1786 being then in Virginia I sold my pay then due to me to some Merchants of Lexington in Virginia by the name or names of Carothers and transferred the same to them with my discharge. I do therefore expect that my discharge from the service with the assignment thereof of my pay to the House or firm of Carothers, and also my Certificate for the bounty of the Hogshead of Tobacco will both be found in some of the public Offices either in Richmond in Virginia or in Washington City. In the month of December 1789 I left Kentucky and came to North Western Territory. I resided in Columbia a few miles from Cincinnati a few years. I then came to Cincinnati and resided there until the Summer of 1803 at which time I came to Hamilton in the County of Butler to reside where I have continued to reside ever since.

I was in the Battles of Guilford Court House and before Camden at the siege of Ninety Six and in the Battle of the Eutaw Springs.

I hereby relinquish every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present and declare that my name is not on the Pension Roll of the Agency of any state.

The reason why I did not sooner applied for a pension is that I did not need it for my support or for any immediate pecuniary necessity.

S/ John Reily



[f p. 40]

The State of Ohio Butler County: SS

Before me Richard Easton a Justice of the Peace in and for the County aforesaid came personally William Caldwell² of said County of Butler who being duly sworn deposeth and saith that he was a resident of the state of South Carolina during the war of the revolution and that he was in the service of the United States with the troops of the State of South Carolina during the year seventeen hundred and eighty-one while the American Army was under the Command of General Green and that he came from the State of South Carolina to the State of Ohio and settled in the County of Butler in the year 1806 – And the said William Caldwell further saith that soon after he came to the County of Butler he became acquainted with John Reily of Hamilton, and in conversing with Mr. Reily he was informed by him that he had been a soldier in the Army of General green while in the state of South Carolina in the year 1781, and that he has frequently conversed with Mr. Reily respecting the marching of the Army under the command of General Green from the time of the battle before Camden, the siege of Ninety Six, the encampment of the Army at the High Hills of Santee – The battle at the Eutaw Springs, the returning of the Army to their former encampment and there marching to the West side of the Edisto during the year 1781 and this deponent states that he verily believes that said John Reily was a soldier in the Army of General Green as no person who had not been actually present and personally acquainted with the facts could have known and stated all the occurrences with the accuracy and precision that Mr. Reily stated them in the frequent conversations held with him on the subject. Deponent is therefore confident that said John Reily was in the Army of General Green during the year 1781 and that he was personally acquainted with and knew many of the facts & circumstances which

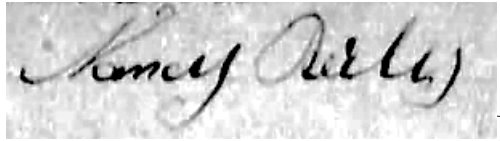
² [William Caldwell S2116](#)

he frequently brought to the recollection of this deponent and the conversations which he had with said John Reily.

S/ William Caldwell

William Caldwell

[f p. 9: On October 20, 1854 in Butler County Ohio, Nancy Reily, 64, filed for a widow's pension under the 1853 act stating that she is the widow of John Reily, a pensioner of the United States at the rate of \$60 per annum for his service in the revolution; that she married him February 23, 1809; that they were married by the Reverend Matthew G Wallace in Butler County Ohio; that her husband died in Butler County Ohio June 8, 1850 in his 87th year.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Nancy Reily", enclosed in a rectangular box. The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored background.

[f p. 15: On May 28, 1855 in Butler County Ohio, Nancy Riley [sic], widow of John Riley, 65, filed for her bounty land entitlement; in this document she is ads the information that her name prior to her marriage was Nancy Hunten.]

[f p. 45: On September 28, 1868 in Butler County Ohio, Nancy Riley, 77, filed for an increase in her pension from \$60 per annum.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$60 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for service as a private for 18 months in the Virginia service. His widow was initially pensioned at the rate of \$60 per annum which was subsequently increased to \$96 per annum commencing July 27, 1861.]