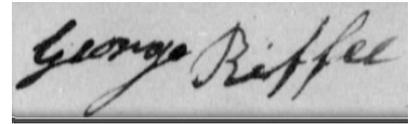


Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of George Riffey (Riffey) W18813                      Catharine Riffey                      VA  
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. Revised 22 Aug 2014.

For the purpose of obtaining the benefits of the Act, entitled “an act for the relief of certain Surviving Officers and Soldiers of the Army of the Revolution,” approved on the 15<sup>th</sup> of May 1828, I George Riffey, of the County of Botetourt and of the State of Virginia do hereby declare, that I enlisted in the Continental Line of the Army of the Revolution, for and during the war and continued in its Service until its termination; at which period, I was a Private in Captain James Purvis Company in the tenth Regiment of Virginia Line [see endnote]. And I also declare that I afterwards received certificates for the reward of [illegible, but should be “eighty”] dollars to which I was entitled, under a resolve of Congress passed the 15<sup>th</sup> of May 1778.

And I further declare, that I was not, on the 15<sup>th</sup> day of May 1828, on the pension list of the United States. Witness my hand, this 29<sup>th</sup> day of September in the year 1828.



[The above claim was denied, because George Riffey’s name was not found on a list of those entitled to depreciation.]

Virginia                      At a Court held at the Court house for the County of Botetourt on Monday the 11<sup>th</sup> day of November 1833

On this 11<sup>th</sup> day of November 1833 personally appeared in open Court before the Justices of the Court of Botetourt County now sitting George Riffey a resident of Botetourt County near the Town of Salem aged eighty one years six months and twenty four days 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 7<sup>th</sup> 1832 – that he was drafted in the month of October in the year 1778 in Culpepper [sic: Culpeper] County Va. where he then resided and served in the Militia under Capt. John Roberts the Colo. name was [blank] Taylor [see endnote] the length of time he served in the militia was 3 Months the term of his enlistment which was spent in the manner following From Culpepper he marched under the aforesaid officers to Richmond and from there to the Marben Hills [sic: Malvern Hill 15 mi SE of Richmond] between Richmond and Williamsburg He there received a regular discharge from the Militia which he has lost. He was in no action during the Tour of 3 months– Immediately after his discharge at the Marben Hills as stated above he was enlisted in the army of the United States by James Purvis a recruiting officer. This was in the month of January 1779 He served in the 10<sup>th</sup> Regiment of the line under the following named officers James Purvis was his Captain Reed the Colo. & Green the General [sic: see endnote] from the Marben Hills where he enlisted he marched to Hampton where he remained some time from Hampton he marched to Norfolk or rather was conveyed there across the river in Boats and Brigs after remaining at Norfolk a considerable time he was marched to Baltimore in the State of Maryland From Baltimore he marched to Guilford where he was in the Battle that was fought there [Battle of Guilford Courthouse NC, 15 Mar 1781], a few days after the retreat from that place he marched to Williamsburg and from there to York where he remained until the Surrender of Cornwallis [19 Oct 1781] when he received a regular discharge which he took home with him to Culpepper and laid away together with some Continental money which at that time was so much depreciated as to be worth almost nothing. This money his Father used frequently to light his pipe with (saying he was tired of seeing it that it was of no value) and he believes his discharge shared the same fate for neither his Father or himself considered it of much more value than the Continental money during the whole of the time mentioned above from his enlistment at the Marben Hill in January 1779

untill the Surrender of Cornwallis at York in the month of October 1781 he served as a private soldier under the same officers that he enlisted with and was engaged in no occupation or business except as a Soldier during the time. From the time of his enlistment to that of his discharge was two years and nine months which added to his Term of 3 Months in the Militia make the whole term of his service amount to three years. He lived in Culpepper about 4 years after the War and then moved to Shenandoah County where he lived one year and then moved to Botetourt where he resides now in a mile of the Town of Salem He is unable to prove his service by the positive testimony of any living witness He has written to Culpepper and sent a list of the names of those by whom he might have proved it but he has received answer that there is not one living to be found. He hereby relinquishes all claim or claims to any other pension & declares that his name is not on the agency of any State or Territory. He states that the reason why he has not obtained the Certificate of a Clergyman as the law requires that he applied before he started to Court to the one residing in the neighbourhood, who told him that he would willingly give the Certificate but he had no horse to ride and living at the distance of about 20 miles from the C. House he was too old to walk

Sworn to and subscribed in open Court the day and year aforesaid

George Riffey

#### NOTES:

I could find no record of Capt. James Purvis in the 10<sup>th</sup> Virginia Continental Regiment, which was never commanded by a Col. Reed or a Gen. Green. It is possible that Riffey meant to say that he served in the 10<sup>th</sup> Virginia Regiment under Capt. Nathan Reid and Col. John Green. Alternatively, "Green the General" might refer to Gen. Nathanael Greene, who commanded at the Battle of Guilford Courthouse. James Purvis (pension application R17246) was a Lieutenant in the Convention Army Guard Regiment beginning in Jan 1779, and on 8 Oct 1779 he was promoted to Captain. The Convention Army were the troops of Gen. Burgoyne captured at Saratoga on 17 Oct 1777 and kept at Albemarle Barracks 4 mi NNE of Charlottesville from Jan 1779 through Feb 1781. Col. Francis Taylor (R19418) commanded the Convention Army Guard Regiment, and John Roberts (W2347) was Captain then Major. The confusion in Riffey's declaration might be resolved if he first served a tour as a militiaman at Albemarle Barracks, then enlisted in the 10<sup>th</sup> Virginia Regiment.

On 20 Dec 1838 Catharine Riffey, 74, applied for a pension stating that in Culpeper County in February 1782 she married George Riffey, who died 19 Feb 1834. On 10 June 1842 Catharine Riffey was said to be 78. On 13 May 1843 Catharine Riffey was said to be 80, and her maiden name was said to be Catharine Stewart. This statement was certified by Judy Riffey and Mary Riffey.

Nimrod Hammit of Botetourt County, aged 68 on 22 March 1839, certified as follows: "The parents of George Riffey lived within one mile of the residence of the affiant's parents and were opposed to the marriage of George Riffey to Katy Riffey now the widow of said George Riffey, and after the marriage took place George Riffey took his wife to the house of this affiant's father who gave what is called an in-fair [infare] to the newly married couple. This in-fair made such an impression upon this affiant who was then eleven years old that he remembers it as well as if it had taken place yesterday. It was a very merry joyous party and many of the neighbors of Daniel Hammit were present as invited guests.... Some few days after the infair George Riffey took his bride to his own house in the immediate neighborhood of the residence of affiant's father.... There was always a very close intimacy between the affiant's father's family and George Riffey's family and they continued to be near neighbors & intimate friends during the three years after George Riffey's marriage.... After the affiant's father had lived about two years in the County of Shenandoah he determined to remove to the State of South Carolina and George Riffey having heard in some way, the affiant cannot distinctly state how, of such determination brought his family with all his moveable property to the house of the affiant's father in Shenandoah and said that he would go along with him to South Carolina. They accordingly started together bound for that State but having gotten as far as the County of Botetourt, were pleased with the country and determined to go no farther. Daniel Hammit settled near Pattonsburg [present Buchanan] and George Riffey on the Catawba beyond Fincastle, both being in the County of Botetourt."