

## **Pension Application for John Reilay**

S.23386

State of New York

County of Rensselaer SS.

On this twenty first day of April 1837, personally appeared before Henry Koon one of the Judges of the Court of Common Pleas of the County of Rensselaer aforesaid, John Reilay a resident of the City of Troy in the County of Rensselaer and State of New York aged one hundred and three 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.

That in the year 1777 as he now thinks he was appointed Captain of a Company of Rangers. That he resigned his Commission from George Clinton then Governor of the State of New York, and was under the direction of a Committee of Conspiracy of the City and County of Albany, that the duty of the Company was to protect the neighborhood of Greenbush, and Albany against the Tories and the Enemy, and that they had to go at all times night or day when there was any disturbance, that he raised his Company himself and had eighteen or nineteen Indians in it (the best men for service in his company.) and used to find them board huts to live in during the winter season near to his own dwelling house in Greenbush and used to provide for them and take care of them.

That he has had a good many hard struggles with the enemy who were principally composed of Tories, during his Ranger service. He supposes he must have held his Captain's Commission of the Rangers two years or over. Though they were not all the time engaged in actual service, but was ready to go whenever it was necessary.

That he advanced eight hundred dollars and over out of his own funds for other expenses for himself and for rations for his Company that he never got from the Committee whose direction he was under, nor has ever received a cent towards it from any source whatever to this day, he has made some effort to get it from the Legislature of this State but never succeeded. That his papers were left with a man by the name of peter T. Canteins Esqr., who was that the time the papers were left with him, State Auditor, that he has never seen said papers since and cannot tell now where they are. That all his other papers in relation to his services in the Revolutionary War his commissions &c have all been to lost a great many years ago. That he thinks he commenced his services at about the Commencement of the War, was out considerable before he was appointed Captain of the Rangers, that he went at one time up North to Fort Edward to help build a log bridge there, don't recollect whose Company he was In but he acted as Lieutenant and thinks it was under Capt Sharpe, thinks he must have been gone six weeks or two months in that tour.

That one or two years after Burgoyne was taken he went to Stone Rabby from Greenbush and took the place of Capt. George Sharpe, and Capt. Sharpe returned

home, and he this declarant took command of the Company until they returned home, thinks they were out two months, that he is so old it is almost impossible for him to remember every time he was out in the militia, but he never went as a private was either Ensign, Lieutenant or Captain, thinks at the time he went North he was under Col. Schuyler. That he was engaged in service until the close of the war.

1<sup>st</sup> the he was born in the State of New Jersey in the year 1734, as near as he can tell.

2<sup>nd</sup> That he has no record of his age to his knowledge.

3<sup>rd</sup> That he lived when called into service about six miles East of Albany in the town of Greenbush, then Albany County but now Rensselaer County. That he has resided since the Revolutionary War in the said town of Hadley, Saratoga, County—State of New York and in Troy where he now resides.

4<sup>th</sup> That he don't recollect the manner particularly of his entering the Militia Service when he went only he received his Commission and went with his Company when they were ordered to go and his Ranger Service he received his Commission as above mentioned.

5<sup>th</sup> That he knew General Washington, Col VanRensselaer, Col. Schuyler, Col. A. Burr, and many more, that he don't recollect many Regiments where he has served except the one he was in, and in regard to the general circumstances of his service he has related above as much as he can remember.

6<sup>th</sup> That he don't recollect whether he ever received a written discharge from service or not if he has it has been a number of years lost. That he has received Commissions. That his Captains Commission was signed by George Clinton, but don't recollect who the other commissions were signed by that they have all been lost a number of years.

7<sup>th</sup> That he knows George R. Davis Esqr, Gilbert Reiley, Nathan Howard, Junr. Colo Albert Pawling, Philip Heartt and many others who can testify to his character for veracity and their belief of his services as a soldier or rather an officer of the Revolution.

That he has never made application before for a Pension upon the same that his son Gilbert Reilay with whom he has lived and by whom he has been supported for a great number of years, and with whom he still lives, objected to his getting a Pension while he this declarant was able to go about from one place to another fearing that he would be anxious to go from one place to another and get to be uneasy and unsteady, but that he now is principally confined to the House and don't go out at all, and consequently the objection of his son to his having a pension is removed.

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 the agency of any state. (Signed with his mark) John Reilay

Sworn to and subscribed the day & year aforesaid. Henry Koon Judge of Rensselaer Common Pleas.

In a letter dated December 20, 1837, the Captain is referred to as being almost 104 years of age.