

Patriot John Rees

John Rees was born about 1750 in Chester County, Pennsylvania, to Welsh immigrant parents whose names are yet unknown. He was married to Margaret Jones on 19 Apr 1773, at St. James Episcopal Church in Lancaster, Lancaster County, Pennsylvania. Their children were Elizabeth (1782-1845), Jonathan (-1845), Jane and David (1774-1835).

Captain John Rees commanded a company in the 2nd Pennsylvania Battalion, 3rd Pennsylvania Regiment, under Col. Arthur St. Clair, which took part in the ill-fated expedition against General Burgoyne's English troops at Québec in the spring of 1776. He spent the following winter at Fort Ticonderoga, which was then under the command of General "Mad Anthony" Wayne. John Linn and William Egle of Pennsylvania provided the roll of John Rees's company as it stood at Fort Ticonderoga. Rees was a witness to Col. Jonathan Jones' will, signed at Fort Ticonderoga on October 17, 1776.

On March 24, 1778, John Rees rented the Blue Ball Tavern in Earl Township, Lancaster County, Pennsylvania which became noted as a recruiting station during the Revolutionary War. John died in August 1787 and was buried in the Bangor Episcopal Church Cemetery in Lancaster, Lancaster County, Pennsylvania. Margaret remarried about 1788 to David Morgan (1748-). She died on December 30, 1830 in Morgantown, Berks County, Pennsylvania.

John Rees was at one time a vestryman in the Bangor Church, but he, his wife Margaret and daughter Elizabeth were all buried in the St. Thomas Episcopal churchyard at Morgantown, Pennsylvania. Tombstones mark the graves of Margaret and Elizabeth.