

## Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of William Miles VAS666

vsl 5VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

6/1/13

[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 8<sup>th</sup> of June 1786." Please call errors or omissions to my attention.]

[From [rejected pension records in the Library of Virginia](#)]

This is to Certify, That it appears from a List in this Office of such Officers and Soldiers of the Virginia State Line, during the Revolutionary War, as settled their Accounts, and received Certificates for the balance of their Full Pay, according to an Act of Assembly, passed the November Session 1781, that a Certificate issued on the 27 day of April 1785, in the name of William Miles, as a Seaman for £87.5.0, which Certificate appears to have been delivered to Col. Cropper and was given for services prior to the 1<sup>st</sup> January 1782.

Given under my hand, at the Auditor's Office, Richmond, this  
27 day of December, 1832.

S/ Jas E. Heath, AUDITOR

Synopsis of the Acts of Assembly in reference to the Galleys "Accomack" & "diligence" Bill in Accomack County for the special defense of the Eastern Shore

1776 May	}	The Board of Naval Commissioners directed "forthwith
Hennings	}	to provide for the building of the 2 row galleys directed
Statures	}	to be built for the defense of the Counties Accomack and
V. 9 p. 151	}	Northampton"

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1776 Oct:	}	It was enacted "And for manning the said galleys
Hennings	}	(new ones ordered) as well the others now building, 1300
Statutes &c	}	men to be raised, to serve for the term of 3 years
V. 9, P. 196	}	from the 1 <sup>st</sup> March next" (1777)

By the words "others now building" the "2 row galleys" were no doubt meant, as they had been directed to be built "forthwith" at the May Session of the Assembly immediately preceding this act, of course, the men enlisted for these 2 galleys must by law have been enlisted for 3 years. There was no law authorizing an enlistment for a shorter term. It is also evident that these galleys must have been ready for service by 1<sup>st</sup> March 1777 as they were ordered to be built "forthwith" in May 1776. It will be also seen by reference to the Ledger of accounts in the Auditor's Office, that Southey Simpson who superintended the expenditures in building these galleys drew £500 from the treasury in 1776 --

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1779 Oct:	}	"Accomack" & "Diligence" directed to be 'retained'
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V. 10 p. 217 } in service & to be refitted &c.

It is evident from the passing of this act in October 1779 that the terms of service of the crew of these galleys would expire before the closing Session of May 1780. This confirms the position that they entered the service 1<sup>st</sup> March 1777 for three years. If the crew were enlisted for three years from 1<sup>st</sup> March 1777 there terms of service expired 1<sup>st</sup> March 1780 – & but for the act of October 1779 the galleys would have been [one or more indecipherable words,] & left without a man on board before [image cut off at the bottom and several words missing] in May 1780 – hence this [new page]  
3 years----

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May 1780— } The Executive were authorized to employ  
Henings } the "Accomack" & "Diligence" wherever they  
Statutes &c } thought best. Before this act that he had been  
V. 10 p 298 } Stationary, or cruised only in the Eastern Shore Waters –

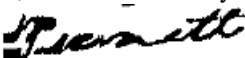
This is the last act upon the subject of the galleys *Accomack & Diligence* – and arguing from those several acts above, independent of other evidence, it is thought to be very clear that they were in service more than 3 years – at least from 1<sup>st</sup> March 1777 to May 1780 – The testimony of living witnesses is, that the galleys were manned early in the Spring of 1777 & laid up during the winter of 1780 – 81 after a service of nearly four years. The testimony is concerning also, that the Officers & men served till the galleys were laid up. Scarcely an instance is heard of, where an officer resigned or a Seaman left the service. In fact not one is known excepting that of Robert Milliner Lieutenant which was on account of a quarrel. The reason is obvious – The Officers & men in the Navy had much better pay than on land – and the Eastern Shore galleys were until May 1780 confined to this shore, where they could visit their families every week upon parole; & they had neither fighting nor work to do. When the galleys were dismantled, it is said that a few whose terms had not expired (as they enlisted to supply various occasions by death &c) were transferred to Captain Britton through the orders of Com: Barron [probably James or Richard Barron], which orders were filed in some claim heretofore allowed by the executive. This proves that either they completed the terms for which they enlisted, notwithstanding the galley in which they enlisted was dismantled. By reference to the claims of Moses Saulsberry,<sup>1</sup> Armorer, William Burnett [?]<sup>2</sup>, Master, Covington Broadwater,<sup>3</sup> Midshipmen, & Jacob Phillips,<sup>4</sup> Boatswain, allowed in the Winter of 1830-31 the Executive will see that the evidence is "that they served during the whole time" the galleys *Accomack* or *Diligence* was in service." Of course the Executive was satisfied, that those galleys served upwards of three [image of this page cut off at the bottom at this point]

[next page]

I John F Riley a Justice of the peace in & for the County of Accomack do hereby certify that this

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<sup>1</sup> Sic, Moses Saulesberry VAS667 transcribed and filed 6/1/13

<sup>2</sup>  I could not find a file in the VSL records for a man of this (or any similar) name I could think of

<sup>3</sup> Sic, Covington Broadwater VAS668 transcribed and filed 6/1/13

<sup>4</sup> [Jacob Phillips VAS177](#)

day Eleany Andrews,<sup>5</sup> who is a credible Witness & of sound mind & memory, came before me & made oath that he served on board the galley "*Accomack*" in the Revolutionary War, and that William Miles enlisted on board said galley when she was manned & went into service, & that he remained on board & in service until said Galley was laid up & her crew discharged, which the Witness thinks was from 3 to 4 years = that he the witness is of the opinion that said galley (as well as the *Diligence*) was manned early in the spring of 1777 & was laid up in or about the Winter of 1780 – 81, having been in service nearly or quite 4 years. Witness my hand & seal this 30<sup>th</sup> day of July 1832 at Accomack County.

S/ Jn. F. Riley, JP

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<sup>5</sup> Probably the same man as [Elkanah Andrews S6507](#)