

## Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Bounty Land Warrant information relating to Robert Milliner VAS689

[vsl 2VA](#)

Transcribed by Will Graves

6/11/13

[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 [bounty land records in the Library of Virginia](#)] 2-p file

I Thomas Cropper aged 68 years of Accomack County do hereby certify that I was well acquainted with the officers in command of the armed vessel called the "*Accomack*"<sup>1</sup> which was attached to the Virginia State Navy during the war of the Revolution, she being often in the immediate neighborhood where I resided: I also certify that I have a distinct recollection that Robert Milliner deceased was first Lieutenant on board of said vessel during the Revolutionary War and that he served all the time he continued in service, a period more than three years – In the absence of William Underhill, who was Captain of the said vessel, Milliner commanded until Underhill returned to the command. In testimony of the foregoing I hereto set my hand & seal this 29<sup>th</sup> of September 1830.

S/ Thomas Cropper



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[From [rejected pension records in the Library of Virginia](#)] 36-p file

[p 6]

Petition for bounty land

Ro. Milliner, Lieutenant – S. Navy

This claim has once been allowed by the Executive, for a service during the war. The order for the allowance has been countermanded; and the claim is again prosecuted, on the old & additional evidence.

It is unnecessary to report the whole of the evidence in this case he calls the Journals of the Navy Board furnish conclusive proof, that this is not a good claim. They show that on the 20<sup>th</sup> of August 1778 Ro. Milliner resigned his Commission of 1<sup>st</sup> Lieutenant in the Navy. He would not have served 3 years before, nor 3 years after the 20<sup>th</sup> of August 1778. He served, only in the Accomack. She was not built 3 years before that time; and she was dismantled & laid up in last 3 of those years after it.

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<sup>1</sup> For an excellent article on this vessel, see Ken Kellow's website:

<http://www.awiatsea.com/sn/VA/Accomac%20Virginia%20Navy%20Galley%20%5BUnderhill%20Andrews%20Harris%5D.html>

This entry in the Journals of the Navy Board was to decide the facts of this claim.

Ro. Milliner was Commissioned first Lieutenant in the Navy October 16<sup>th</sup> 1777 & was never recommissioned after his resignation in 1778.

Respectfully submitted

S/ John H Smith, Commissioner &c

To his Excellency Governor Tazewell

[p 13]

Accomack Court House January 4<sup>th</sup>, 1851

To his Excellency Governor Floyd

We would most respectfully represent to the consideration of your Excellency, the following claim; The claim of Lieutenant Robert Milener[sic], for bounty land promised by the State of Virginia to her Officers, was allowed in 183\_, and a warrant issued for the quantity of land to which he was entitled as a Lieutenant in the Virginia State Navy. After the warrant was actually issue, it was represented to the Governor by designing speculators, that Lieutenant Milener had resigned his commission before the Galley Accomack ever laid up, and that consequently he had not served a sufficient length of time to entitle him to this land bounty. On this representation the warrant was withdrawn. We have no doubt, that the respectable testimony we have now produced as well as other evidence now of record in Richmond will satisfy your Excellency, as it did every member of the executive Counsel, at that time. That the report of Lieutenant Milener's having resigned was based on the facts, so clearly and satisfactorily explained in the deposition of Mr. Ball [Bull?], here with submitted – The fact of his referring to service under Lieutenant [the image of this document as posted is cut off at the bottom thereof at this point]

[next page]

the Navy, as far from operating to his injury should as it did, at the time, cause him in the estimation of all good citizens. We are indebted to Mr. Thomas R Joynes, who is favorably known throughout the State, for this information in regard to the Council's unanimously recommending that a warrant should be issued in favor of Lieutenant Miliner [sic] after the report of his having resigned was made known to them. Mr. Joynes was the agent to prosecute this claim, and cannot thereupon be mistaken in the information he has given us. In view of these facts, we are confident your Excellency will have no hesitation in issuing the warrant for the land to which Lieutenant Milener is so justly entitled.

Most respectfully

S/ Thomas T Cropper, Attorney &

S/ Peter F Brown, Agent

[p 17]

Thursday the 20<sup>th</sup> of August 1778

"Lt. Ro. Milliner appeared before the Board & resigned his commission to be filed."

[Certified as a true copy from the journals of the Navy by James E Heath Auditor of public accounts June 13, 1831.]

[p 20]

At a Court held for Accomack County on the 27<sup>th</sup> day of September 1830

It is ordered to be certified that it appears to the Court by Satisfactory proof that Smith, John, Southey, Thomas, Tabitha and Ann Maria Millinner [sic] & Susanna Hurst, wife of Thomas Hurst Polly Carey the wife of Samuel S Carey, Nancy Millinner devisee of James Millinner, Richard, William, James, Henry, Catharine, & Tabitha Drummond, William Dunton and John Dunton are heirs at law of Robert Milliner deceased formerly a Lieutenant in the Navy of the State of Virginia in the Revolutionary War; the said Smith, John, Southey, Thomas, Tabitha, & Ann Maria Millinner, James Millinner, Polly Carey & Susannah being children of Smith who Milliner and who died before the first day of January 1778, and the said Richard, William, James, Henry, Catharine, & Tabitha Drummond being children of Catharine Drummond deceased a daughter of said Smith Milliner deceased, and the said William Dunton and John Dunton being children of Elizabeth Dunton deceased who was a daughter of the said Smith Milliner deceased.

[Attested by the clerk of court August 30, 1849]

[p 21]

I John Bull of Accomack County being first duly sworn saith and make known that from my own knowledge that Robert Milliner deceased served as a Lieutenant in the Virginia State Navy at least three years in succession: the said Milliner and myself lived within ½ mile of each other & it is impossible for any person to be better acquainted than we were.

S/ John Bull

*John Bull*

[Attested January 30, 1832 in Accomack County Virginia]

[p 23]

Curtis Bull,<sup>2</sup> of the County of Accomack in the State of Virginia aged 90 years being first duly sworn on the Holy Evangelist of Almighty God deposeth and saith;

That he was well acquainted with Robert Miliner [sic] of said State and County, who was a 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant on board the armed Galley *Accomack* of the State Navy of Virginia in the war of the Revolution. That he resided in the immediate neighborhood of said Miliner and that he knows he Miliner never resigned his commission as 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant in the State Navy, and that the report that he had done so, arose from the following circumstances, viz.: That during the time the said Galley *Accomack* was laying in Chingoteauguas [Chincoteague] under the command of first Lieutenant Ishmel Andrews [Ishmael Andrews]<sup>3</sup>, a British vessel was taken by said Galley and the Captain of the said British Galley was board the Galley *Accomack* and after holding a private conversation with the then Commander, Lieutenant Ishmel Andrews but, he, the said Captain of the British Vessel was permitted to return to his vessel, and furnished with ammunition from the Galley *Accomack* against this strange and traitorous conduct on the part of Lieutenant Andrews, Lieutenant Miliner protested and remonstrated, and declared that he would not serve under such an officer. He left the Galley for about three weeks, but after Lieutenant Andrews was dismissed from service 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant Miliner returned on board the *Accomack*, and performed duty [image of the document is cut off at the bottom thereof at this point]

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then three years, and I know that he, Miliner, served as second Lieutenant on said Galley

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<sup>2</sup> [Custis \(Curtis\) Bull S18338](#)

<sup>3</sup> [Ishmail \[Ishmael\] Andrews VAS491](#)

*Accomack* more than three years. For this traitorous conduct Lieutenant Andrews was dismissed from the Navy, tried and condemned by a Court-Martial and ordered to be shot.<sup>4</sup> The circumstances are now fresh in my recollection and am impressed on my memory because this same British vessel, in a short time, left Chingoteague and came down to Metompkin Bay about 25 miles south of Chingoteague, went on shore at Colonel Custis's where General Bayly now lives, committed many depredations, in consequence of which the Militia was called out, and others and myself under the command of Captain Levin Walker and Captain George Oldham pursued them in boats down to Hog Island inlet where they escaped and went to see under cover of night.

S/ Custis Bull, X his mark

[p 25]

Accomack County to wit –

I Elkahna Andrews,<sup>5</sup> aged 69 years do hereby certify and make known that I was in service on board the armed vessel called the "*Accomac*" during the war of the revolution and I continued in service on board of her from the time she was launched till she was laid up. I further certify that Robert Milliner deceased was first Lieutenant on board of her & my brother Ishmael Andrews was second Lieutenant on the same vessel – I further certify that in consequence of a misunderstanding between my brother & said William, the said William was for a few weeks absent from duty as Lieutenant – but in consequence of my brother's removal from the service the said Ro. Milliner again entered into service as first Lieutenant on the same vessel & I do further state that from my distinct recollection of the service of Robert Milliner he was in constant and uninterrupted service as a Lieutenant in the Navy of Virginia at least three years – as I before stated above he and I served on the same vessel. Given under my hand [image of the document cut off at this point at the bottom thereof]

[next page]

Accomack County to wit

This day the within Elkahna Andrews personally appeared before me and made oath to the within affidavit – March 6, 1833

S/ Henry Fletcher, JP

[p 29]

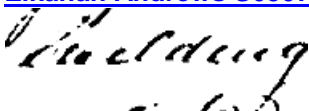
Accomack County SS

Elhanah Andrews aged 66 years being first duly sworn before me William R. Custis a Justice of the Peace for the said County, deposes and saith, That in the Revolutionary War he was a Seaman on board the Galley called the "*Accomack*" belonging to the Navy of Virginia. That Robert Milliner was first Lieutenant of the said Galley and was engaged in enlisting men and in superintending the [indecipherable word]<sup>6</sup> of the said Galley, before this deponent was enlisted. The deponent was enlisted for and served three years on said Galley. Sometime after the said Galley was launched, Robert Milliner in a disagreement with some of

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<sup>4</sup> Ken Kellow states that Andrews' sentence was reversed by the Navy Board, but Andrews was 'discharged with ignominy and disgrace from the service.' See note 1 above.

<sup>5</sup> [Elkanah Andrews S6507](#)

<sup>6</sup> 

the Officers of said Galley, left the said Vessel but whether he resigned or not is unknown to the deponent. In a few weeks after the said Milliner left the said Galley, he returned on board and resume his duties of first Lieutenant, and continued to act in that Capacity until the said Galley was finally laid up near the end of the War. The said Milliner was considered an active & vigilant officer and this Deponent knows that he served as Lieutenant of said Galley three years at least.

S/ Elhanah Andrews, X his mark

Sworn to and subscribed before me the 24<sup>th</sup> of October 1831

S/ Wm R. Custis

[pp 30-31 is a split image document which appears to be a deposition given by Bowden Snead<sup>7</sup> of Accomack County VA, but the image of the document is both split and of very poor quality, so I was unable to transcribe it. If anyone has a transcript of this document which they are willing to share with us, please let us post it in this database. Will Graves]

[pp 32-33 is a split image document which appears to be a deposition given by Thomas Cropper & John Bull.]

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<sup>7</sup> [Bowdoin \(Bowden\) Snead W7196](#)