

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters

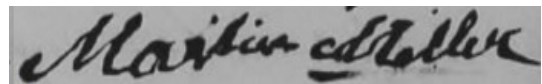
Pension Application of Martin Miller R7214

PA

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris.

State of Illinois, Greene County, Ss.

Be it remembered that on this Seventh day of September AD 1835 in open Court, before the County Commissioners' Court of Greene County, Illinois, being a Court of record, Martin Miller, a resident of the same County, aged seventy-six years, some time in the latter part of this year, and the said Martin Miller being duly sworn according to law, doth on his oath make the following declaration: in order to obtain the benefit of the provision made by the act of Congress of the 7<sup>th</sup> of June 1832: – That he was born in the month of December 1759, in Lancaster County, State of Pennsylvania and lived in Lancaster County until he was about twenty four years of age. In the year 1777, he entered into the service of the United States, as a private in Captain Joseph McClure's [Joseph McClure's] Company of the Pennsylvania militia, commanded by Colonel John Rogers – General [William] Irvine – he marched with his company from Lancaster County to Valley Forge, where he joined the army, and was engaged in the service about Philadelphia this tour for the space of two months – In the winter of the year 1781, he entered into the service of the United States in Lancaster County, under Captain B. Hart, he took charge of, drove and guarded a Waggon, which with others was loaded in Lancaster, with clothing and other supplies for the use of Gen'l. [Nathanael] Greene's army – he went from thence to South Carolina with the waggons to General Greene's head quarters and was engaged in the service on this tour some little over four months. – Some time in the fall of the year 1781, about the month of October, there was another call on the militia, and he volunteered under Captain Wm Allen [William Allen], Colonel Ross of Lancaster and served five weeks when information was received of the taking of Cornwallis [at Yorktown, 19 Oct 1781] and we were discharged – making his whole service full seven months, for which he claims compensation. This applicant does not recollect to have served with or been acquainted with any of the regular officers. He saw general Greene at his quarters in South Carolina at a place called Ninety-Six [during the siege of Ninety Six, 22 May - 19 Jun 1781]. After his service and the close of the war, he removed from Lancaster County to Centre County, Pennsylvania, and lived there until the year 1807, at which time he removed to Clermont County and State of Ohio, and from Clermont County he removed in March 1835 to his present residence in Greene County, Illinois. He received a written discharge with two others on the same paper of the Waggon master in the State of South Carolina – which paper has been lost or retained by one of the other two who had an interest – for his services in Pennsylvania he received no written discharge – the troops were there discharged by Companies. This applicant, by a series of misfortunes, has in his old age, become poor, which has induced him at this late period, to throw himself and his claim on his country. He would most respectfully refer the department to Peter Hastings, a minister of the Gospel in Clearmont County Ohio – John Rankin, a minister of the Gospel of Felicity, same County and State – Henry Camerer, and John Abrams of the same County To Peter Dodson, a minister of the Gospel, in Greene County Illinois and to Abraham Cells, John Lakins, and John Murphy citizens of the same County, who are well acquainted with this applicant and can testify, in reference to the character of this applicant for veracity, and of his reputation as a soldier of the Revolution. The Applicant hereby relinquishes all claim to a pension or annuity except the present and declares his name is not on the pension roll of the Agency of any State.



War Dep./ Pen. Off/ Aug 8 37

Sir [J. R. Poinsett, Secretary of War] I have the honor to enclose herewith the letter of Mr. Martin Miller to the President [not found in file] and in reply to report that his claim was rejected in Oct'r. 1835 upon the ground that he had not rendered as much as 6 mo service as a Soldier in the field or garrison

during the revoly. war which is the minimum service for which the act of 7 June 1832 provides. The statement in his letter does not correspond with his declaration on file in this office. He asserted a claim for seven months service four of which consisted in his employment as Teamster under the circumstances stated, which clearly is not embraced by the provisions of the act.

[Unsigned copy, probably by James L. Edwards, Commissioner of Pensions. See endnote.]

NOTE: The statement that service as a teamster was not covered by the pension act of 1832 is clearly false. The law as well as the regulations approved by James L. Edwards himself excluded Teamsters only if they were "occasionally employed with the army upon civil contracts." Miller was one of many who were wrongfully deprived of pensions by this erroneous interpretation of the law.