

## Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of R7227 Valentine Miller R7227

f21VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

6/10/13

[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.]

### Of Virginia Monroe County

On this 21<sup>st</sup> day of November 1842 Valentine Miller a resident of said County of Monroe aged eighty years the 12<sup>th</sup> of January 1842 who being first duly sworn according to law, doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the provisions made by the act of Congress passed June 7<sup>th</sup> 1832. That sometime in the month of December 1776 he enlisted as a Revolutionary Soldier under Captain William George for the term of three years in the County of Loudon [Loudoun] where he was born and raised. He cannot now remember the day of the month on which he enlisted but he recollects that he was enlisted about ten months before General Burgoyne was defeated [Battle of Saratoga, October 7, 1777] and his Army taken by the Americans he lacked about one month of being fourteen years old when he enlisted, but being unusually large strong and healthy &c for his age he was received and fully served the said Term of three years in said War and received his discharge in the State of Pennsylvania signed by General Casey. He states that he had received his said discharge and had returned home – he was drafted for six months as a militia man, and was in service as such at little York in Virginia, at the time Cornwallis surrendered [October 19, 1781]. That shortly after that surrender, he with others of the militia were discharged & having served the full six months. He was never wounded whilst in said war. And has never received his bounty in land or any pension and is on no Pension list. He further states that during the term of his enlistment he was at Mud Island Fort [Siege of Fort Mifflin, September 26-November 16, 1777], eight miles from Philadelphia which was commanded by Colonel Samuel Smith in the place was attacked by the British and was eventually taken – that at that place his Captain (George) was wounded, taken prisoner and he understood died, that his company were all killed or taken prisoner except eight with himself and they were afterwards attached to other companies, he was also at the taking of General Burgoyne and his Army in October 1777. The Officers under whom he principally served during his enlistment as far as he can recollect their names were General Casey, Colonel Samuel Smith, Colonel Clappen, Captain William George, Lieutenant Stairs, Ensign D. Harens. That he was in no general or principal engagement during said war except at Mud Island, the taking of General Burgoyne and the Siege of little York when Cornwallis was taken in October 1781. He further states that some years after the War aforesaid was ended and when he with his family resided in the County of Rockbridge in Virginia his dwelling house with nearly the whole of its contents was destroyed by fire in which he had a chest which contained all his money, papers, Books &c and amongst which papers he had his discharge, all of which were entirely destroyed and lost, he states that the laws of the discharge he much regretted as he supposed it would prevent he is obtaining the bounty in land which he is entitled to, he further states that on the 20<sup>th</sup> day of May 1833 he made a declaration on oath in the County Court of Monroe County for the purpose of

obtaining a certificate of Pension which was certified & sent on to the City of Washington but was afterwards returned for the want of proof of service, and not having it in his power at that time to furnish such proof he made no further attempt in the business until about three years since when he had that declaration again sent with the affidavits of Mary Vance & Isaac Hutchinson (whose Testimony of accompanies this) those papers certified were given to Colonel Andrew Baine [?] who promised to make all fair exertions to procure a pension, but it appears from a certificate of J L Edwards that those papers in support of the claim were never presented or filed by said Burne [?] or any papers in support of said claim. He further states that after his first application in 1833 he heard of a man by the name of John Noland residing in Gallia County State of Ohio who had been born and raised in Loudoun County Virginia in the neighborhood with him had enlisted & served with him in the said War was discharged and returned home with him & by whom he knew he could prove his service, but owing to the death of the said Noland shortly afterwards he failed in procuring his evidence, he knows of no person now living with whom he served in said war or by whom he could positively prove his service, he thinks there is Christopher Sheffer yet living if he can find where he lives and get his evidence by whom he can perhaps prove his enlistment & his leaving home to go into service as an older brother of Christopher (Jacob Sheffer) was enlisted about the time he was, started with, & served with him until he lost his life at Mud Island.

S/ Valentine Miller, X his mark

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or an annuity, except the present and he declares that his name is not on the Pension Roll of any agency of any State.

Sworn in open Court this 21<sup>st</sup> day of November 1842

S/ Valentine Miller, X his mark

[p 5: : October 29, 1842 in Monroe County Virginia, Mary Vance of lawful age gave testimony that upwards of 40 years ago while she was single and lived with her father Philip Ensminger in Rockbridge County Virginia and in the neighborhood where Valentine Miller resided, she remembers that Miller's house was consumed by fire along with its contents and that she heard said Miller and her sister, Miller's wife, lamenting that they had lost nearly everything when their house was burned.]

[p 9]

Virginia Monroe County to wit

This day Christopher Sheffer of lawful age personally appeared before me the subscriber a Justice of the peace in and for said County of Monroe and made oath that he was born and raised in the County of Loudoun in the State of Virginia and in the neighborhood where Valentine Miller (who is said to have made application for a pension as a revolutionary Soldier) was raised, that he well recollects of Captain William George enlisting a Company to serve in the revolutionary war, that an older brother that himself was one of the men thus enlisted – Peter France, Lewis France, Alexander Grove, Martin Wayland, Peter McMahan several by the name of Emery as well as his said Valentine Miller with a number of others were enlisted in the Company of said George – the affiant further says that he the said Valentine Miller rum what he always understood & verily believes it actually serve his term of enlistment in the said revolutionary War and afterwards returned home his this affiant's brother and a number of others of said company never returned he understood that the company were principally taken prisoners or killed. This affiant at the time of the enlistment of the company had not got his growth & had

to stay much at home with his father, he did not see the Company start into service or actually return this affiant was never himself in that war – this affiant further says upon oath that he has been well acquainted with the said Valentine Miller since they were boys, and that he has always considered him a man of truth and has not the smallest doubt of his service in the war aforesaid. Sworn to and subscribed before me on this 29<sup>th</sup> day of November 1842

S/ Hugh Carpenter, JP

[William Adair, a clergyman, and John Hutchinson Junior gave the standard supporting affidavit.]