

## Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of William Miller R7229

Transcribed by Will Graves

f20NC[sic VA]

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[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. The word 'illegible' or 'indecipherable' appearing in brackets indicates that at the time I made the transcription, I was unable to decipher the word or phrase in question. 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 skills fail 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 material errors or omissions to my attention.]

State of Missouri, County of Ray

On this third day of May in the year of our Lord 1836, personally Appeared in Open court before the Justices of the said County Court now here sitting, William Miller who is a resident of Richmond Township County of Ray and State of Missouri aged Seventy nine years who being first 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 passed 7<sup>th</sup> June 1832. I entered the Army of the United States as a volunteer during the Campaign as a Militia man in the year 1776 and served as a Captain under the Command of General McIntosh [Lachlan McIntosh of Georgia] in a campaign against Detroit. I was at this time a resident of Amherst County in the then Colony of Virginia. I joined the Army under the said General McIntosh at the mouth of Beaver Creek on the Ohio River before Fort Pitt, then called (Fort Duquesne) the Other Officers in the Expedition above mentioned as well as I recollect was Colonel Crawford and Lieutenant Colonel Laughlin McIntosh [sic, Lachlan McIntosh] who I believe was son of the General from Beaver Creek we marched to Detroit under the aforesaid Officers under the Guidance of an Indian Pilot called Big Daniel when we reached Coshocton within about 50 miles of Detroit (as I was Informed) we received information that the British and Indians had evacuated Detroit leaving some women Children and a few prisoners after remaining some time at Coshocton we returned home into Virginia and was discharged being gone on this tour for five months that I would be willing to swear positively and know and believe I was gone a greater length of time. I received no discharge although I applied for one and the reason assigned [I] was told the Officer whose duty it was to write my discharge was continually drunk. Soon after my return home to Virginia as aforesaid I removed to the State of North Carolina and settled on the Watauga [River] then in Wilkes County now I think in Carter County some time after my settling here and as I think about the year 1781 [sic, 1780] news reached the County that the British and Tories under Colonel Ferguson [sic, Major Patrick Ferguson] (a British Officer) was making their way to the upper Country. Some troops were immediately raised to meet the enemy among which I again volunteered and was appointed an Ensign by Colonel John Sevier – who acted as our Colonel and I acted as Ensign in Captain Valentine Sevier's Company of Infantry. We marched from Watauga in quest of the enemy said to be near Kings Mountain,<sup>1</sup> we passed the Yellow Mountain, and Linville's Ridge, to Twitty's (say Twitty's Ford) on Broad River: at this place the Officers were as well as my recollection serves General (or Colonel) William Campbell, Colonel

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<sup>1</sup> [http://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution\\_battle\\_of\\_kings\\_mountain.html](http://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_battle_of_kings_mountain.html)

Sevier, Colonel Candler [sic, Major William Candler]. Here our Officers selected our choicest mounted men (leaving the Infantry of whom I was one under the command of Major Hern<sup>2</sup>) to follow more leisurely the mounted men Overtook the British at Kings Mountain the result of which battle is well known. In the mean time the Infantry followed on the mounted men with all expedition when within 15 or 16 miles of the Battle Ground we received the Gratifying Intelligence of our troops' success and their having routed the British forces after the usual congratulations passed between the different detachments of the Army on this occasion, and our sorrow and regret at not being able to reach the battle Ground in time to aid our Comrades in arms, the whole Army returned to fordlin's old field where we hung Colonel Miles [sic, Ambrose Mills] John & George McFalls with six others (Tories)<sup>3</sup> we then returned home and arrived at the Quaker Meadows on the head waters of the Yadkin [River] where the troops were discharged having served I am certain in this tour two months but believe it was more I will say this much, as it is my desire to keep within the bounds of truth in this narrative.

I was born on the 15<sup>th</sup> day of September 1756 in Amherst County Colony of Virginia as I was informed having no record of my age it was left with the Parson in Virginia: about the End of the revolutionary war I removed to the State of Georgia and resided in Wilkes County as well as I can recollect about 12 or 13 years. I then removed to Madison County in the State of Kentucky where I lived four or five years then removed to Davidson County in the State of Tennessee and in the year 1820 I removed from thence to Ray County in the State of Missouri which is my present place of residence. I served many other tours of duty at various times during the Existence of the revolutionary war in pursuit of the Tories and Indians and If all my military Services were put together it would amount to the full term of five years but by reason of the loss of memory, and of old age, I cannot state precisely how long I served and do make the following affidavit.

State of Missouri, County of Ray: Personally appeared before me the undersigned, a Justice of the peace within and for the County aforesaid William Miller who being duly sworn Deposeth and saith that by reason of Old age and consequent loss of memory, he cannot swear positively as to the precise length of his service: but according to the best of his recollection he served not less than the periods mentioned below and in the following grades, as Captain the space of five months as Ensign for two months (say two months) and for such Services I claim a pension and that I served in an embodied corps called into service by Competent authority and that I was either in the field or in Garrison, and for the time during which the service was performed, I was not employed in any civil pursuit.

S/ William Miller

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "William Miller". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the typed name "S/ William Miller".

Sworn to & subscribed the second day of May 1836 before me.

S/ James Dickie, J. Peace

I hereby relinquish every claim whatever to a pension except the present one and declare that my name is not on the pension Roll of any State, Sworn to and Subscribed the day and Year

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<sup>2</sup> Possibly Major Joseph Herndon of Wilkes County, NC, militia

<sup>3</sup> Lyman Draper lists the men hanged after being captured at King's Mountain as Col. Ambrose Mills, Capt. James Chitwood, Capt. Wilson, Capt. Walter Gilkey, Capt. Grimes, Lt. Lafferty, John McFall, John Bibby and Augustine Hobbs. Lyman C. Draper, *King's Mountain and its Heroes: History of the Battle of King's Mountain October 7th, 1780, and the Events Which Led to It* (1881; reprint, Johnson City, Tenn., The Overmountain Press, 1996) 340. A brief biographical sketch of Col. Mills is included on pages 481-482 of Draper's book

aforesaid, and I do not know of any living witness by which I can prove my services.

S/ William Miller

Ray County Court: May Term 1836

Now at this day before the undersigned Justices of our said Court here appeared personally William Miller who is personally Known to the court and being first duly Sworn according to Law the following interrogatories were then propounded to him as follows by the Court

1<sup>st</sup>: Where and in what year were you born[?]

Answer: In Amherst County in the then Colony of Virginia on the 15<sup>th</sup> day of September 1756.

2<sup>nd</sup> Have you any record of you age and if so, where is it[?]

Answer: I have none, left it with the Clergyman in Virginia who kept a register of births.

3<sup>rd</sup> Where were you living when called into service? Where have you lived since the Revolutionary War and where do you now live[?]

Answer: In Virginia In Georgia N. Carolina Kentucky Tennessee and now live in Missouri all of which will appear more fully by a reference to my declaration.

4<sup>th</sup> How were you called into service; were you drafted; did you volunteer, or were you a substitute and if so for whom did you substitute[?]

Answer: I volunteered at [word obliterated] of my Commanding officer do not Know If the call was by Order of the Executive of the State but thinks it probable it was[.]

5<sup>th</sup> State the names of some of the Regular Officers who were with the troops where you served, such Continental and Militia Regiments as you can recollect and the general circumstances of your service[.]

Answer: In addition to the names of the Officers already mentioned of whom I do not now recollect by reason of Old age whether they belonged to the regular or to the Militia service or Continental their names were General McIntosh, Col. Crawford and Lieutenant Colonel Laughlin McIntosh. It may be that the first mentioned did not rank so high but by that rank he was called and Known by the troops in the Campaign against Detroit. I believe it is common for the Commanding officer to bear a higher rank than his real one. In addition to the facts already mentioned I will here state that I received some Continental paper (as it was called) in pay for my Services some two or three Years after the services mentioned were rendered and at the time when the same was worth nothing. I offered the whole of my pay which amounted to between seven & \$800 in Continental Paper to one of my neighbors for one half pint of Apple Brandy which he refused. Indignant at my treatment and in a violent Passion I threw the whole of the money into the fire then burning close by together with my commission as Captain vowing never more to take up arms in defense of a Country which had treated me so ungratefully.

6<sup>th</sup> Did you ever receive a discharge from the service; and if so by whom was it given; and what has become of it[?]

Answer: I received a commission as Captain in the campaign under General McIntosh but by whom it was signed I have no recollection it shared the fate mentioned in my last answer above named (I burned it). In the King's Mountain Campaign I do not recollect having any commission as Ensign under the command of Captain Sevier although I discharged the duties. In this Campaign I was under the Command of Colonel John Sevier, Colonel Candler, David Hickey adjutant and the detachment was under the Command of Colonel Campbell. I served as Ensign in Captain Valentine Sevier's Company of Infantry and we acted under the Orders Part of the time of Major Hern or Herron.

7<sup>th</sup> State the names of persons to whom you are known in your present neighborhood, and who can testify to your character for veracity and good behavior and your services as a Soldier of the Revolution.

Answer: Daniel Patton and George Woodward both know me.

[Daniel Patton, a clergyman, and George Woodward gave the standard supporting affidavit.]