

[Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters](#)

Pension Application of John Milligan S13939

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

State of Virginia Ohio County SS

On this 4<sup>th</sup> day of February 1833 personally appeared before the County Court of Ohio County in the State of Virginia, John Milligan a resident of said County & state of Virginia aged eighttwo [eighty-two] 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 June 7 1832. That he enlisted in the army of the United States in the year 1775 in Captain Hugh Stevensons [Hugh Stephenson's] (or Stinson as it was sometimes called) Company for one year. This company was a riffle [rifle] Company and was made up or raised in the then County of Berkley [sic: Berkeley] in the State of Virginia. he marched with his company to Boston. We rendevouzed at Shepherstown [sic: Shepherdstown] in Berkley County aforesaid & marched to Cambridge which was called the head quarters. From this Cambridge near Boston we were stationed at Roxbury on Boston neck, and there remained nine months blockading the British in Boston [Siege of Boston, 17 Jun 1775 – 17 Mar 1776]. From this we were marched to New York & there placed on Staten Island & there we remained till the year for which this declarant enlisted expired. Shortly after we marched from Shepherdstown as aforesaid Captain [Daniel] Morgan followed with his riffle company. Captain Morgan & his men marched from Frederick County Virginia and reached as he thinks Cambridge before we were stationed on Boston neck. Said Morgan & his Company were with us on Boston Neck – and not long after came two other Companies from the same quarters of the Country; namely a Captain [Thomas] Price from Hagerstown with his Company & a Captain [Michael] Cresap from Old Town [Oldtown] on the Potomac with his Company. These were also rifle companies. These companies were also with our Company on Boston neck. This applicant served out the said year in the said Company. a Mr. [William] Henshaw (who had been a Captain of Militia at home) was first lieuftenant of our Company, and a George Scott was 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant, and Abraham Shepherd was ensign was ensign. He also recollects, that the late Judge Robert White [pension application S7893] of Winchester Virginia & a Joseph Swearengen [sic: Joseph Swearingen], with many others whose names he recollects, but thinks it not necessary to mention, were privates in the said Company Commanded by said Capt. Stevenson. At the time he so enlisted he lived in s'd County of Berkly in the State of Virginia. During the year he so served, he was in no battle, but was in some skirmishes on Staten Island, with the British as they would come from the vesels to get water. He recollects at this time that a Wm. McCue lost his hand by the bursting of his own gun.

He further says that when his said year was so served out he returned to Shepherdstown and shortly after he & one other person (Wm. Charters) went on to Long Island to get the place of sutlers [traveling merchants] to the army. We had not been there more than two days when the American Army had to retreat [27 Aug 1776] & we lost our stores. He then left New York & crossed at Pawls Hook [sic: Paulus Hook], and there was raising a company called the Pennsylvania Flying Camp to serve for five months, and there & in said Company he again enlisted to serve for said five months, which five months he did serve out, under a Captain Smizer [sic: Michael Smyser] a dutchman [i.e. German], who lived near little york in Pennsylvania & kept a Tavern. During this five months he was at Trentown at the taking of the Hessians [sic: Battle of Trenton, 26 Dec 1776]. In a day or two after this he was discharged, and went on to Philadelphia, where he heard of the heard of the Battle at Princeton [3 Jan 1777]. From four to six months had elapsed after the said first years service before he enlisted for said 2<sup>nd</sup> Term of service of five months which he served out as aforesaid. At the time he so served under Smizer he was, as he recollects commanded or under a Colonel Swoop [sic: Michael Swope] & a General [illegible].

In the year 1781 about the time Cornwallis army was captured [19 Oct], he having again returned

to Berkley & there settled, he was drafted for three months to guard Prisoners at Winchester in Virginia. Being so drafted he served under a Captain Evans (Isaac as he thinks) two months at sd Winchester and was then discharged.

He has no discharges or other documentary evidence [illegible word] his said seVICES. He is aged as aforesaid, but has no written record evidence of the same. After the war aforesaid he lived in the said Berkley County till the year 1793 when he removed to Ohio County in Virginia where he has resided ever since & now resides He does not recollect the names of any other officers, that those he before stated, except he recollects a Colonel [Moses] Rawlings & that the said Captain Stevenson was made a Colonel, but shortly after died from a fall from his horse. He recollects that General Washington was with the troops at Boston. He also recollects that sd Captain Morgan went from Boston with his Company to Quebec. he thinks & is certain he never had any written discharge. He is known in his present neighbourhood to Adam Farris, John Farris, Wm. Stewart & Robert Stewart & Archibald McDonald & others who he is certain can testify as to his character & belief of his services as a soldier of the revolution. He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity, except the present and declares that his name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any state [signed] John Milligan

Answers of John Milligan to the interrogatories required by the rules of the War Department to be propounded by the Court to applicants for Pensions.

1. In answer to the 1<sup>st</sup> Interrogatory, he says that he was born in the county of Down in Ireland, in the year 1751, to the best of his information, knowledge and remembrance.

2. In answer to the 2d D[itt]o, he says that he has no record of his age, but he gives his age from what he recollects to have heard his parents say, and from a Bible which was lost at Sea, and in which was recorded the time of his birth.

3. In answer to the 3d Do. he says he was living in Berkley County Virginia when called into service, where he continued to live till about the year 1793. Since which time he has lived, and now lives in Ohio County Virginia.

4. In answer to the 4th Do. he says that he was called into the service during the Revolutionary War and served as he has stated fully & at large in his Declaration.

5. To the 5th Interrogatory he answers and says, that he recollects the name of some officers who were with the Troops while he served, and who, he supposes, were regular officers: towit, Captains Hugh Stevenson or Stinson, Morgan, Friel[?], and Cresap – also a General [John] Thomas who commanded us at Roxbury. But he does not recollect, nor can he say whether these gentlemen were regular or continental officers. He recollects the names Capt. Smizer, Col. Swoop, & General [James] Ewing, who, according to his recollection, were Militia officers, as also Capt. Evans aforesaid. For general circumstances of his services he begs leave to refer to his Declaration.

6. To the 6th Interrogatory he answers and says, that he received a written discharge from Capt. Stevenson when his year was up, but that he hath lost the same, and knows not where it is or what has become of it. He never had any other written discharge Capt. Smizer was taken a prisoner at Fort Washington before his five months were up.

7. In answer to the seventh Interrogatory, he is known to the following persons being in his neighbourhood, who can testify as to his character for veracity and their belief of his services as a soldier of the Revolution, namely, Adam Farris, John Farris, William Stewart, Robert Stewart, & Archibald McDonald. [signed] John Milligan

[The following report is by US District Attorney Washington G. Singleton, who investigated many pensioners from present West Virginia. For details see my transcription of the pension application of David W. Sleeth, S6111.]

John Milligan – Served one year & seven month.

I the undersigned John Milligan in pursuance of the requisition of the Secretary of War, give the

following statement of my services as a soldier in the war of the Revolution, and statement of my age &c to wit. – I shall be 84 years old in August next – am a native of Ireland, came to the united states in my 20<sup>th</sup> year of age – landed at New Castle. lived in Pennsylvania about ten years then went to the county of Berkeley Va. lived there during the war of the Revo and until within the last forty years when I moved to this country – In August 1775 just after the Battle of Bunker Hill [17 Jun 1775] I enlisted in Berkeley county under Capt Stephenson or Stinson – for one year, Stephenson enlisted a company of Rifle men (about ninety in number) in that county. Henshaw & Scott were Lieuf tenants of the company & Abraham Shepherd Ensign. I was enlisted by Lt. Scott. We rendezvoused at Shepherdstown and were marched from there to Cambridge – was there but a few days when our company with three other rifle companies to wit Capt. Morgans from Winchester – Capt Cresup’s from old town Md. & Capt. Price’s from Frederick town Md were ordered to Rocksbury on Boston neck and from that place to Statten Island. at this latter place we remained for about 3 months. our time haveing there and then expired we were discharged. I had a written discharge from Capt Stephenson which has been lost many years ago.

Shortly after my return to Shepherdstown a Wm Charlter & myself went to long Island intending to establish our selves there as sutlers to the army. a few days after our arrival Genl. Sullivan & Lord Sterling with their brigades were taken prisoners [sic: see endnote]. the balance of the american army under Genl. Washington “made safe” their retreat to New York my self & Charlter went to Polus Hook. I then in the fall of the year enlisted under Capt Smozzer for five months in the Pennsylvania flying camp. Our company was marched to fort Lee and attached to Col. Swopes Reg’t. – a part of our company under Capt Smizer was sent on to the relief of Fort Washington. whilst there the whole force with some few exceptions was taken prisoners [16 Nov 1776] – when the attack was made on the fort I was on guard up the river, and in that way escaped from the [illegible word] – after the capture of Fort Washington Fort Lee was abandoned by the americans – after my Capt. was taken prisoner I was attached to Capt. Swopes company, which with the balance of the army under Genl. Ewen or Evans (I think Ewin) retreated across Jersey to Trenton – crossed the Delaware river & encamped in the woods opposite Trenton. that was in cold weather. we had neither tents nor blankets. on Christmas night we were ordered to cross the Delaware on the ice to cooperate with Genl. Washington army in the capture of the Hessian army at Trenton. this enterprise proved highly successful. the whole Hessian army was taken prisoners. I was discharged at Trenton on new years day my enlistment of five months haveing expired. I got no written discharge because my original captain Smizer was then a prisoner of war. In the fall of the year 1781 I volunteered in Berkeley county for two months to guard Cornwallis prisoners then at Winchester. I served at that place for the two months under Capt. Evans. thus ended my service. Mr. Jacobs wrote my Declaration to whom I gave the same account in substance now given. Mr. Jacob charged me \$17. In witness of all which I hereto subscribe my name – July 2, 1835

Witness

N. Goff

A Copy

John Sullivan

W. G Singleton July 5, 1835

NOTE:

Gen. John Sullivan, was captured at the Battle of Long Island, but not Gen. William Alexander, Lord Stirling.

The deposition of Adam Farris includes the following additional details: “That said Milligan is, and has been for many years, a regular member and communicant of the Presbyterian Church – is a man of truth and good character. The said Milligan was a Shoe Make by trade, and affiant recollects, that at one time during said war, & after, he understood that said Milligan had returned from a tour of duty in the war, he had a strange and singular kit, a set of Shoe-maker’s tools – affiant particularly recollects a singular looking Shoe-maker’s hammer – no such tools had before been seen in the neighbourhood. The said Milligan said that he had lost in the war his own kit of tools, and that when the Hessians were taken, he examined the plunder taken and took or got these tools.”