

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Thomas Miles S15939

f10VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

6/1/13

[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 8th of June 1786." Please call errors or omissions to my attention.]

State of Virginia County of Amherst Sc.

On the 18th day of November 1833 personally appeared in open Court before the Justices of Amherst County now sitting Thomas Miles a resident of the said County and State of Virginia aged 73 years in the month of February next who being first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the Act of Congress passed the 7th of June 1832.

That he entered the service of the United States under the following named Officers and served as herein stated. That in the year 1781 he was residing in the County of Albemarle Virginia when he was ordered out as a private of the Militia to perform a Tour of three months service and placed under the command of Captain Mass or Mark Leak [also spelled Mark Leake] of the said County. That the company to which he was attached as aforesaid was marched to the lower part of the State of Virginia and formed a part of the command of General Lafayette. That under his orders they were marched and counter marched in various directions, but without any incident of note until the expiration of the Tour of three months as aforesaid when being discharged and returned to the County of Albemarle. That very soon after his return to Albemarle as aforesaid he was again called out in the same character as a private Soldier to perform another Tour of three months and was marched from the said County under the command of Captain Benjamin Harriss [also spelled Benjamin Harris] and he thinks Lieutenant George Martin under whose command the company with him marched again to the lower part of Virginia and joined the same Army of Lafayette. That the company to which he was attached formed a part of the besieging Army at Yorktown and he was present at the surrender of the place [October 19, 1781]. That he recollects storming the redoubts and the driving the British within their lines. That after the said surrender the company to which he was attached former part of the guard of the British prisoners, Hessians who were marched across Nowlins Ferry [Noland's Ferry] on the Potomac [River] on their way as it was said to be guarded at Fredericktown. That after this service was performed the Company of Captain Harris [sic] and he with them were marched to Leesburg where they surrendered their arms and returned home. That he was engaged engaged this latter Tour not less than 3 months and that in both Tours he served not less than 6 months. That he was quite a young man when this service was performed and did not observe closely men or things and has no distinct idea of dates and therefore recollects but few of the incidents. That he has no documentary evidence to support his said claim and that after diligent inquiry he knows of no person whose testimony he can procure who can testify to his service. I hereby relinquish every claim whatever to a pension or an annuity except the present and declare that my name is not on the Pension Roll of the Agency of any state.

Interrogatories propounded by the Court:

1st Where and in what year were you born?

Answer. I have been told by my Parents that I was born in some County of Maryland but which I cannot recollect and that I was born in February 1761

2nd Have you any record of your age and if so where is it? Answer. I have no record of my age and no it only from my parents whilst alive

3rd Where were you living when called into service: where have you lived since the Revolutionary War and where do you now live?

Answer. I was living in the County of Albemarle Virginia when called into service and the next year after the capture of Cornwallis I removed from my Parents to the County of Amherst where I have lived ever since –

4th How were you called into service; were you drafted; did you volunteer or were you a substitute, and if in substitute, for whom?

Answer. I was called or ordered out by the Colonel of the County through my Captain and presume it was by draft. This was the case as to both of my Tours.

5th 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. So great is the lapse of time that I cannot name any of the Regular Officers that I saw except General Lafayette whom I saw frequently nor can I name in any particular Continental or Militia Regiment nor more of the general circumstances of my service than is detailed in the body of my declaration

6th Did you ever receive a discharge from the service, and if so, by whom was it given and what has become of it?

Answer. To the best of my recollection I never received any written discharge from service but if I did I have now no knowledge of it.

7th State the names of persons to whom you are known in your present neighborhood and who can testify as to your character for veracity and their belief in your services as a soldier in the revolution.

Answer. I am known to ___ I expect will certify for me favorably on these points.

S/ Thomas Miles, X his mark

[Daniel Day, a clergyman, and Richard Wilson gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$20 per annum missing March 4th, 1831 for service as a private for 6 months in the Virginia militia.]