

## Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of William Miltear S16966

f19VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

6/13/13

[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.]

Virginia, County of Nansemond Sc.

On this 10<sup>th</sup> day of April 1833, personally appeared before me a Justice of the peace in and for the County of Nansemond William Miltear a resident of Nansemond County and State aforesaid aged one hundred years (and who is now perfectly blind and very infirm) 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 June 7, 1832. He says that he entered the service of the United States under the following named office [sic] and served as herein stated. That he entered as a militia man on his own account on the \_\_ day of \_\_ (time not recollected) under Captain John Cole in Nansemond County Virginia on one general muster – say, and was then marched away and that he served during the whole of the Revolutionary war (though not without intervals) and that when peace came he was under one Abraham Cole as a Captain; that said Abraham Coles [sic] was about to march away for Canada or elsewhere, and peace came and that said Coles then soon thereafter died that he, Miltear served in the whole more than two years in all in the said war, that he cannot now recollect the particulars, he was though in or about Norfolk Virginia when peace came that he recollects none of the officers of the regular Army or troops, that he has no documentary evidence, that he knows of no one by whom he can prove this, that he has no discharge now having lost or mislaid them all (if any were ever given) that he has no record of his age, it having been lost, that he was born in Nansemond County, that he has always lived in Nansemond, that he was as stated a drafted militia man, that he has stated all he knows, further he cannot recollect. 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. Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid.

(Signed)

S/ William Miltear, X his mark

[John Harrell, a clergyman, and John Goodman gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

Amended Declaration of William Miltear

State of Virginia County of Nansemond

I William Miltear of the aforesaid County and State, being duly sworn according to law, doth on my oath make the following amended declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the provision made by the Act of Congress passed June 7<sup>th</sup> 1832. That by reason of old age, being now the rise of one hundred years of age, was a married man and had five children at the time I first entered the service under Captain John Cole, and the consequent loss of memory, I cannot swear positively as to the precise length of my service, nor do I believe that I can now recollect the names of all the captains under whom I served during the Revolution; but according to the

best of my recollection at this time, I served as a private in the militia, during the Revolutionary War, a period not less than sixteen months and twenty-four days, and for which service I claim a pension.

That I performed this service in the year 1777, 1778, 1779, 1780 and 1781 in short tours of 6 weeks each, and under the following named officers: I first entered the service on a general muster day in this County in the year 1777 under Captain John Cole and performed a tour of six weeks under that officer in this County – in a month or two after I was discharged, I again entered the service under Captain Henry Riddick and served two tours of six weeks each under that officer on Nansemond River and in the neighborhood of Suffolk – I next entered the service under Captain Foster and served one tour of six weeks under him in the neighborhood of Portsmouth in Norfolk County – I think the next officer that I served under was Captain Abram Holland, under whom I served one tour of six weeks, mostly in the County of Isle of Wight – Soon after Suffolk was burnt, which I think was in the year 1779, I again entered the service under Captain Riddick Hunter and served two tours of six weeks each under that officer in the counties of Nansemond and Norfolk – I also served one tour of six weeks under Captain Mills Riddick, one tour of six weeks under Captain Christopher Riddick, and one tour of six weeks under Captain Kidar Duke – these three tours were performed principally in this County. – The last Officer that I recollect to have served under during the Revolutionary War, was Captain Abram Cole, under whom I served two tours of six weeks each – this last service was performed in the same year that Cornwallis was taken at Little York [October 19, 1781] – during those two last term of my engagement, we crossed the Black Water and were in the County of Southampton for a short time; the balance of these tours I performed in the Counties of Nansemond in Norfolk. – I cannot recollect the precise month and year that I served under each of the above mentioned Officers, (excepting probably three or four of them) nor can I swear positively that I served under them in rotation as their names are here mentioned; but that I served under each and every one of those officers, at least the length of time here stated, during that period of the Revolution from 1777 to 1781, I am very confident. Colonel Willis Riddick, Colonel Book Wills, Colonel Lemuel Riddick and Major Daniel Pugh were the field officers who commanded during the different times of my engagement. I was called into service by competent authority (by the Colonel Commandant of the County) – my service was performed in the field (excepting a part of two tours at Portsmouth) in the counties of Nansemond, Southampton, Isle of Wight and Norfolk and in the town of Portsmouth; and with that portion of the embodied militia of those Counties which was generally kept in service during that period of the war that the lower part of Virginia was so much harassed by the British and the Tories; and I was not engaged in any civil pursuit during the performance of this service. – Sworn to and subscribed this 18<sup>th</sup> day of September 1834.

S/ William Miltear, X his mark

[Dempsey D Jones & John Baker gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

Further amended declaration of William Miltear  
State of Virginia County of Nansemond

I William Miltear of the aforesaid County and State do declare and testified that by reason of my advanced age (being one hundred and two years old if I live to see the 9<sup>th</sup> day of next April) and loss of memory, I am unable to give a detailed statement of my services during the Revolutionary War – but that I did perform at least the length of service as set forth in my amended Declaration of the 18<sup>th</sup> September 1834 and under the Officers there named in the

embodied militia of this and the adjoining Counties, I am willing to testify even before the Altar of Heaven – I was nearly one [indecipherable word]<sup>1</sup> of my time in service with a large proportion of the Militia of this and the adjoining Counties, for at least 4 or 5 years during the Revolutionary War – I have reason to recollect something about the length of time that I was in service; for I had a wife and five small children at home upon a small field of land, who were almost entirely dependent upon my personal exertions for their support, and who often suffered for bread and meat to eat in consequence of my absence in the service of my Country. I was in several skirmishes with the enemy on Nansemond River and in Norfolk County – One of these skirmishes I recollect took place in the lower [?] part of this County at Pinner's old field Colonel Willis Riddick commanded the whole militia at the time and Captain Foster commanded the Company to which I was attached. This I think was in the spring of 1779 and not long before the town of Suffolk was burnt. We were compelled however to retreat before the enemy in consequence of their superior numbers and disciplined – most of our fighting was done in the woods and under cover of fences.

I was always drafted into service and generally to perform a tour of 6 weeks; but owing sometimes to the absolute necessity of the case, the particular situation of the enemy &c we were called upon to perform to of these tours before we were discharged and in that event we were not compelled to stand the next draft that would be made upon our division. The service which I performed during the Revolutionary War, was of that nature which the militia of this particular part of the State was called upon to perform during that period of the Revolution when the British and Tories had possession of Norfolk and Portsmouth and afterwards, when Cornwallis came through the Country, and whilst his headquarters were at Jericho in this County. We were marched about from one point to another according to the situation and movement of the enemy – sometimes we would be in Norfolk County sometimes in this, and sometimes in Isle of Wight and Southampton – and sometimes it would become necessary to divide our strength into Companies or divisions with a view of annoying the enemy as much as we could –

Sworn to and subscribed this 31<sup>st</sup> day of October 1834

S/ William Miltear, X his mark

[Veteran was at the rate of \$50.77 per annum commencing March 4<sup>th</sup>, 1831, for service as a private for 15 months and 7 days in the Virginia militia.]