

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Mordecai Millar (Miller) S16972

f33SC

Transcribed by Will Graves

rev'd 4/18/17

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

State of Indiana, Morgan County

On this 13 [?] day of November in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and thirty two personally appeared before the Honorable John Matthews, Probate Judge of said county of Morgan, Mordecai Miller, aged Seventy Seven years the 22nd of December 1832, resident of said county of Morgan, who being 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 of June the Seventh 1832.

To wit: That he was fifteen years old when he entered the service of his ~~the United States~~ Country. That he entered the Army as a Substitute for one David Henderson in or about the year 1770 [sic, 1777?]. The object of this expedition was to guard [the] frontier against the Cherokee Indians for the term of thirty days. The officers' ^{to the best of his recollection} names was Capt. William Baskins [sic, William Baskin], Lieutenant's name, James Baskins [sic, James Baskin] and ensign, Alexander Ramsey ~~if he recollects right~~. That he was drafted in the year 1777 for the term of three months but continued in the service four months. The General's name was Andrew Williamson. Andrew Pekins [sic, Andrew Pickens] was either Colonel or Major. The Captain and Lieutenant [were] the same as before. The army marched westward to the Savannah River; from thence to the River Altamaha; from thence the army went to St. Mary's [River] into ^{north line} of East Florida. [He went] to St. Mary's River ^{to a fort the name of which he does not recollect} which we found vacated and stayed not exceeding four days and then returned home immediately. We came back the same route we went out. Afterwards he says he was drafted again for the term of thirty days and he went to McGounds [McGowan's?] [?] Blockhouse ^{on Savannah River}. While he was at the said Blockhouse we were surrounded by seven hundred men who was commanded by two men by the name of Boyd & Moore who were Tories out of Lincoln County, North Carolina and they demanded of us the Blockhouse and the Ferry and we refused to give it up to them and we had a man in the blockhouse by the name of Alexander McCopin who had a Blunderbuss. We made up a load out of our own shot bags and horns and he loaded it and fired on the enemy in consequence of which they retreated and crossed the river four miles above the ferry at the mouth of Brass Creek and the next morning Col. Anderson [Robert Anderson, then a captain] and Capt. Baskin came with forty men to assist and we crossed over the river at the ferry and went up the river for the purpose of preventing the enemy ^{from crossing} the river as aforesaid and we fought them all day and they took Captain Baskin and fourteen men with him and the horsemen crossed the River & came ^{in on} our backs and we were compelled to retreat in disorder and we returned on our ^{route} home and met General Pickens with three hundred men and we crossed the

Savannah River at the Cherokee ford and pursued after the Tories to Kettle Creek¹ in the State of Georgia and surprised them there. We killed the before mentioned Boyd and then went home. And afterwards he says in a short time he was drafted to go to the Siege of Savannah² under the command of General Andrew Williamson and when we got to a place called the Two Sisters, he enlisted under Count Pulaski for the term of Seven years or during the revolutionary war. And he got a furlough to go home for three or four months until he should be equipped as follows to wit: He was to have a horse, Saddle, bridle, and regimentals and Sword and Pistols and a carabine [sic, carbine] and a spear but before his furlough was out Pulaski was wounded in the Battle of Savannah and died on his way or at Charleston so that he never got to him. And afterward he says he went out under General Andrew Pickens who went on to join the northern troops for the purpose of driving the British from Charleston. At this time he volunteered and they marched on to Wateree River below Camden where we were encamped when the news came to us that the British had taken Charleston [Charleston South Carolina fell to the British on May 12, 1780] and all the men recalled but myself and went from Pickens and went home and we followed after and went home too. He thinks he was home about one month. And afterwards he volunteered under Thomas McCall [more likely James McCall] after he revolted and went to North Carolina and General Pickens, McCall & ^{Liddle} [Moses Liddell] also came to North Carolina. I then joined General Morgan and went into South Carolina and we defeated Dunlap at ~~Hogskin~~^{Matthews Mill at Hogskins} Mill³ and in the 96 District took nearly all his men prisoner and went back to North Carolina and took the prisoners with us and left Dunlap at Gilberttown and there he died or was murdered and then we went on with the prisoners a short distance beyond Gilberttown. And then we were sent back to South Carolina under the command of Captain Moses Liddle [sic, Moses Liddell] to guard the frontier of said State. And shortly after we were driven back into North Carolina and fell in under General Pickens again under the command of Morgan and Howard and then marched into South Carolina again to a place called the Cowpens⁴ under the command of said officers and while there we were attacked by Tarlton's [sic, Banastre Tarleton's] army and we had a severe battle with said army which he thinks lasted about two hours and the Americans defeated the said British army and took some prisoners and he thinks two pieces of artillery, and then we went back to North Carolina to a place called Salisbury or near thereto under the direction of Morgan and left the prisoners and returned to South Carolina to guard the frontier again under Liddell and there remained until General Green [sic, Nathanael Greene] besieged 96 and then we went to 96⁵ and joined General Greene when the same was besieged and continued there until Lord Rawdon came and drove the Americans away. The Siege lasted about six weeks as he believes and then we returned back to the frontier again and continued there a short time until we heard that General Greene had come back into South Carolina again and then we went and joined him again four days before the Eutaw ^{Springs} Battle at the Eutaw Springs. The said battle lasted about six hours. We were commanded by General Greene in said battle under General Pickens and from thence we went to a place called Bacon's bridge near Dorchester and

¹ Kettle Creek February 14, 1779 <https://www.myrevolutionarywar.com/battles/790214-kettle-creek/>

² Siege of Savannah September 16-October 9, 1779 <http://www.myrevolutionarywar.com/battles/790916-savannah/>

³ James Dunlap was defeated at the skirmish at Beattie's Mill on March 21, 1781 by forces under the command of Elijah Clarke and James McCall. Perhaps it is this engagement to which the declarant makes reference.

⁴ http://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_battle_of_cowpens.html

⁵ http://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_battle_of_ninety_six.html

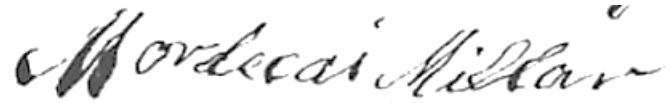
there remained some time and from thence to Slemsbridge [?]⁶ and from thence to the Quarter House seven miles from Charlestown and from thence we returned home. During said campaign this declarant says he was almost naked and General Pickens prevailed on a waggoner by the name of John Calhoun to give him and three others his wagon cover and they made themselves a shirt and pair of pantaloons of the same as they returned home and after he returned home he says he enlisted under Captain John Norwood for the term of six months and served some time out and during said time the Tories and Indians killed and took prisoner 22 of our men whose names are as follows, to wit: George Stringer, who was said declarant's uncle, Jared Liddle [Jared Liddell?], ___ Crawford, James Liddle [James Liddell?] was killed on the ground, Robert Adair, uncle by marriage, Barnett Coyel [sic, probably Coyle], uncle by marriage, and Hezekiah Posey, uncle by marriage was wounded and made his escape. They took James Morrow prisoner & c this declarant says he was at a battle called the Flagreed Battle which he had forgotten to mention. He says at that battle the British and Tories killed and took about 60 of our men, at that time a Captain Lindsey lost his hand and Robert Black was killed and Rainey Lockard also both Lieutenants at which time they were commanded by Captain Liddell. This declarant says it has been so long since he rendered the foregoing services that he cannot recollect of the particulars. He is very frail in mind and body and is poor and unable to work. That he received a written discharge from Moses Liddell which was burned in his house when it was burned about 26 or 27 years ago. And the said declarant in answer to the questions propounded by the war department says that to the best of his knowledge and belief he was born in the State of North Carolina (but does not know what county) on the 22nd day of December 1755. He has no record of his age. That he lived in the 96th [sic] district as it was then called but he believes it is now Abbeville in the State of South Carolina when he entered the service of his country and remained there until peace was concluded between Great Britain and the United States and some time afterwards perhaps about three years he moved into the State of Kentucky into Mercer County and stayed there about three years and then moved back to South Carolina where he lived about 7 or 8 years and from there he moved into the State of Georgia in the county of Franklin and there stayed about 2 years and from there he moved into the State of North Carolina in the county of Rutherford where he lived 14 years and from there he moved to Tennessee Green county in said state and from there he moved into West Tennessee in the County of Jackson where he staid 7 or 8 years and from there he moved into the State of Indiana Washington County and Monroe County where he lived about 13 years and from there he moved into Putnam Hendricks and Morgan counties and lived with his children ever since where he now lives

This declaration above details the manner in which he was called into the service. The answer to the fifth and sixth enquiries are contained in his declaration above so far as this declarant can recollect. That he is known to John Smart, John Treat, Solomon Dainigan, John Eflinger, Thomas Barker and Joseph Pierson who can testify as to his character for veracity and their belief of his services as a soldier in the revolution.

That he knows of no person whose testimony he can procure who can testify to his services and that he has no documentary evidence thereof. This declarant says that he verily believes that all the forgoing expeditions added together will make the term of about two years and ten months.

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 or territory
Sworn to and subscribed to the day and year aforesaid

S/ Mordecai Millar



[John Smith, a clergyman, and John Treat gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

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State of Indiana, Morgan County

Personally appeared before me, the undersigned, one of the Justices of the peace in and for the County of Morgan aforesaid Mordecai Miller [sic] who being duly sworn, deposeth and saith, that by reason of old age, and the 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, To Wit:

In his first tour he served for one month as a Private

In his Second tour he served for four months as a private

In his Third tour he served for one month as a private

In his Fourth tour he was out not exceeding 30 days as a private

In his Fifth tour he served one month as a private

In his Sixth tour he served not less than two years and two months as a private

In his Seventh tour he served six months as a private

Making in all he term of service amounting to three years & four months and during all which time he served as a private Soldier; And for such Service he claims a pension.

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 10th day of June 1833.

S/ Charles B. Butler, JP

S/ Mordecai Millar

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$80 per annum commencing March 4, 1831, for service as a private for 2 years in the South Carolina militia.]