

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of John Miller S1702

f17SC

Transcribed by Will Graves

6/23/09: rev'd 4/16/17

[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.]

[p 3]

Tennessee Gibson County} SS: County Court December Term 1832

On this 19th day of December A.D. 1832: personally appeared in the Court of Pleas & Quarter Sessions now holding for said County, John Miller a resident of said County aged about Sixty-five or six years (he having no record of his age,) on the 21st of January next, who being first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of an act of Congress passed June 7th 1832.

This declarant was born in Abbeville County South Carolina on the 21st of January A.D. 1766 = 7, where he continued to reside until the close of the Revolutionary War.

This declarant states that sometime in the year 1780, or 1781, he joined a Company of Rangers in Abbeville County South Carolina commanded by Captain John Norwood to goe [sic] out against the Cherokee Indians who were then very hostile on the frontiers. He states that they were marched out towards Georgia and were absent about a month, after the expiration of which time he states they returned home. Sometime after this declarant's states the Indians became very troublesome, and this declarant then enlisted under the same Captain, John Norwood, to serve for nine months, in the protection of the State of Georgia and South Carolina. This declarant states that they were marched out of Abbeville County (SC) to the line, and were employed in ranging against the Cherokees. This declarant states they were out on this service six months, and during this time they were stationed at a place called Pratt's Mills,¹ where they were attacked by a party of Cherokees and a Tory by the name of William Cunningham [William "Bloody Bill" Cunningham], leading a body of Tories; they were attacked in the night, and were compelled to retreat, this declarant states that his Captain was grazed by a ball, & was knocked down, but, soon recovered: = Declarant states that after this he was again engaged in the same service on the line, until the close of the war. This declarant then returned home. He remained in Abbeville County (SC) for some time and then removed to Pendleton County South Carolina, -- where he remained 10 years, when he removed to the State of Kentucky & lived there to years, from thence to the State of Indiana, where he lived three years and removed back to the State of Kentucky and staid two years. From this State he removed to Alabama & remained there two years and from thence removed to the State of Tennessee, Henry County, and remained two years, and came into this County last March and has continued to reside there ever since. He has no documentary evidence by which he can prove his service, nor does he know of any person by

¹ Skirmish at Pratt's Mill occurred on October 3, 1781.

http://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_pratts_mill.html

whom he can prove his service. He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity that his name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any State.

Sworn to and subscribed in open court.

Test: S/ Thos. File, Clk

S/ John Miller, X his mark

[Samuel Baker & Abraham Forest gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

State of Tennessee Gibson County: September Term 1833 September 21st 1833

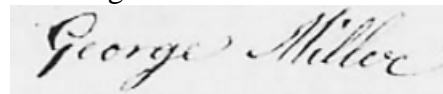
This day in open Court came George Miller Cousin of John Miller this said Applicant and saith that said John Miller was born in Abbeville District South Carolina in the year of our Lord 1766 or 7 of Religious parents and carefully brought up by them until the first day of July 1776 that the Cherokee Indians broke out along our frontier and killed all that they could amongst those that were killed was Captain Smith and his family and destroyed all that he had, then the said Captain's commission fell to my Uncle Andrew Miller this John's father. And he had to camp and be but little more at home but be in constant service until the 17th day of January 1781 at Tarleton's defeat [Battle of Cowpens] there amongst the few that fell he was one, then the Captain's commission fell to John Norwood, this John Miller being a boy well grown and active he could not get leave to stay at home in safety but had often to be in camp for man nor boy could get leave to stay at home if they ventured to stay if they were caught they were either killed or chopped with sword. I had a sword drawn over my own head before I was Nine years old but he staid about home until about the first of July 1781 there was a heavy draft made for men to go to General Green [sic, Nathanael Greene] before the Battle of the Eutaw [Eutaw Springs, September 8, 1781] then our frontier was to guard and this Captain John Norwood was ordered to stay along the line with his Company, gather all the men and boys that was able to bear arms that could carry a gun, amongst the rest I remember well of seeing the said John Miller passed and repassed our house was a frontier House and they often passed us they rode the line from Saluda River on the East to Savannah River on the west the breadth of Abbeville District a distance of about 40 miles and sometimes over both rivers I remember to hear of them being over both, but the first thing that happened to them was that memorable night at Pratts Mill that he mentions in his writing that report said 500 Indians and Tories headed by William Cunningham broke them up and they lost all their horses and saddles & bridles.

They have burned the Mill and went about one mile and burn a house but the people were out of it, then the next they came to was our old uncle John Johnston's there they caught Seven girls for of them young women and three that were not grown the Tories would not let the Indians kill them but they stripped them naked as they were born and turned them loose amongst them five of them came to my father's naked and two of them was driven out the other course, the Indians set fire to the house and burned it. My uncle in it they burnt every house & barn on the place and destroyed all his living. Then we were moved about one mile off my father's house was taken for a station then this John Miller was at the station with the rest of the company. I was there almost every day he being raised on the frontier and used to the woods and a James Lindsey was taken for spies and rode spies (I think in January the Tories attacked the station one night but could not take it). In the spring this John Miller at the request of his Mother moved her off about Eight miles. And quit the station and raised her a little corn and he continued to live with his mother until he got married in the year 178[last digit torn off] then he lived in Abbeville and Pendleton until his wife died there he was left with three children, in the year 1791, he married the second wife and in the year 1801 [last digit very unclear] he removed to the Western

Country and I never seen him again until about the year 1811, that he was living in Madison Alabama he came to me again but we lived about 60 miles apart. Sometime after that he moved to the South side of Tennessee River where his second wife died and two of his children then he broke up house and brought me three of his children and stayed two years with me until one of them got married then they went to Lawrence County Alabama and he lived with them until he moved down to Henry County in Tennessee. And now he lives with his son Isaac in Gibson County. And to prove his services by any one that was with him in the service he cannot as there is none that I know of alive only James Lindsey that used to ride spy with him and lives in Georgia and draws his pension there, if he was here he could prove this statement in this paper correct -- two of his sisters was stripped naked that night by the Indians at old uncle John Johnston's.

This George Miller was born in Abbeville District two miles from where this John Miller was born on the 11th day of October 1772 against the 11th day of October I will be 61 years of age. And this John Miller being Born on the 21st day of January 1766 or 7 I cannot make out which year makes him 5 or 6 years older than myself I do not pretend to tell the day that he entered into the Service neither the time he came out of the service but this I know and can well remember to see him in the Station as a Soldier and the Almanac tells me that the Eutaw battle was on the 9th of September and he was in service before that and he remained in service until Spring of 1782. Our General was Andrew Pickens, Colonel Robert Anderson, Major Alexander Noble, Captain John Norwood, Lieutenant Hugh Reid and Thomas Coil [Coile or Coyle?] Ensign. All these officers I was personally acquainted with both [at the] time of the Revolutionary war and since until I left that Country in the year 1806 Captain Norwood had died before I left there he had risen to the Office of Brigadier General before he died when I left that Country I was Thirty-four years of age then I left the settlement where all these officers lived in the old war and where this Service was performed. He hereby says the clergyman certified to which he intended to have to John Miller's declaration is absent cannot be now had, which was J. A. Miller son of George Miller the only one here acquainted with the declarant.
Sworn to & subscribed in open Court

S/ George Miller

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "George Miller". The ink is dark and the handwriting is fluid and characteristic of the late 18th or early 19th century.

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$23.33 per annum commencing March 4, 1831, for service as a private for 7 months in the North Carolina militia.]