

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of John Miles S21376

f13NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

rev'd 2/26/17

[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 South Carolina, Marlboro District]

Declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the Act of Congress passed June 7, 1832

On this the tenth day of October A.D. 1834 personally in the Court of Common Pleas and General Sessions for Marlborough [sic, Marlboro] District and State of South Carolina, in open Court now in Session, John Miles, a resident of the District and State aforesaid aged Eighty four years, who after having been Sworn according to law did upon his oath, make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the Act of Congress passed June 7, 1832. That he was born in Dobbs County North Carolina on the 13th day of February A.D. 1750 and that his age is recorded in a Prayer Book now in his hands. That he was living in Dobbs County when he entered the service which he did as a volunteer in the Militia for a tour of three months which he served under Captain George Miller. He recollects that in this tour, he was at the Battle of Moore's Creek Bridge [February 27, 1776], by reference to which the precise period of this part of his service may be ascertained. From Moore's Creek Bridge he went to Wilmington North Carolina; at which place he stayed a few days & marched from thence to Newbern [sic, New Bern] North Carolina where he spent twenty days & where his term of three months expired & his discharge was given him by Col. Richard Caswell; but previous to discharging his Soldiers, at the request of the citizens of New Bern, carried them all out about one mile from the town & giving them their discharges he unheaded a barrel of rum & told them to help themselves. From this place he went back to Dobbs County and enlisted in the Army of the United States for the term of three years under Captain Samuel Caswell at Kingston [Kinston]. Shortly after his enlistment, he was marched under the direction of Colonel Benjamin Axom [Benjamin Exum] (in place of Captain Samuel Caswell who was taken sick) to Eutaw Springs [September 8, 1781]; during the engagement at this place, deponent was confined in one of the baggage wagons in consequence of an injury he had received previous to that time. He thinks that the battle at Eutaw was shortly after the commencement of his service as a regular & therefore by referring to the period when that Battle was fought it may be nearly ascertained at what time this term of his service began. From Eutaw he was marched to the Sea-board between Wilmington N. C. and Charleston S. C. to guard against the British, from thence he was carried to Savannah in Georgia which he was compelled to leave hastily and was hotly pursued by the British into Charleston; from which place he started for New Bern North Carolina: but whilst they were at the mouth of White Oak River in N. C. he was caught in company with four or five others in endeavoring to appropriate some disaffected watermelons on a neighboring plantation to the American Service. He was carried by the British to their ships which were lying off the coast & confined on board of one for sixty days, during which time he actually lived on a dumpling a day & even this was furnished him chiefly by his friends who stole to the ships in the night or contrived other expedients to supply him with the necessities of life. At the expiration of 60 days he was exchanged & followed on after the balance of the U. S. forces to New Bern. At Kinston his term of service expired & he received his discharge from Captain Samuel Caswell (who had rejoined his men upon the recovery of his health) & returned home.

Shortly after this, deponent moved to Wake County North Carolina & was drafted and served as

a private in the militia three months under Captain John Trent [of Wake County] and was in the Battle at Guilford Court House [March 15, 1781] during this tour, after which he moved into Wake, Johnson and Duplin Counties & thereabouts for the purpose of suppressing the Tories & protecting the lives & property of the well disposed citizens: in which manner was the balance of the three months employed, at the expiration of which time he received his discharge at Wake Court House (now Raleigh) and soon afterwards turned out again under Colonel Saunders & Colonel Tom Wooton – in pursuit of Colonel Fanning [David Fanning] who was at that time the terror of the whole country & spent three months in this business in Guilford, Columbus & Chatham Counties. Solomon Woods [Solomon Wood], was his Captain from whom he received his discharge, which is the only one that he has saved from the wreck of time & neglect. He has no other documentary evidence of his Services & knows of no one now alive who can testify to his services. Should the Department be of opinion that the deponent can not draw anything as a regular, without further evidence, he then dispenses with his claims in that character, as death & distance have long since robbed him of every witness who could be serviceable to him, he has thus stated the quality and quantity of his Services as a revolutionary Soldier which amount in the aggregate to three years (as a regular) and nine months as a private in the Militia for which he claims a pension. He further Swore that for the whole of that time he served with an embodied corps, called into Service as he believes by competent authority, that he was a citizen in the field or in garrison & for the time during which the service was performed, he was not employed in any civil pursuit. Also that he relinquished all claims whatever to any other pension except the present and declares that his name is not on the Pension Roll of the Agency of any State.

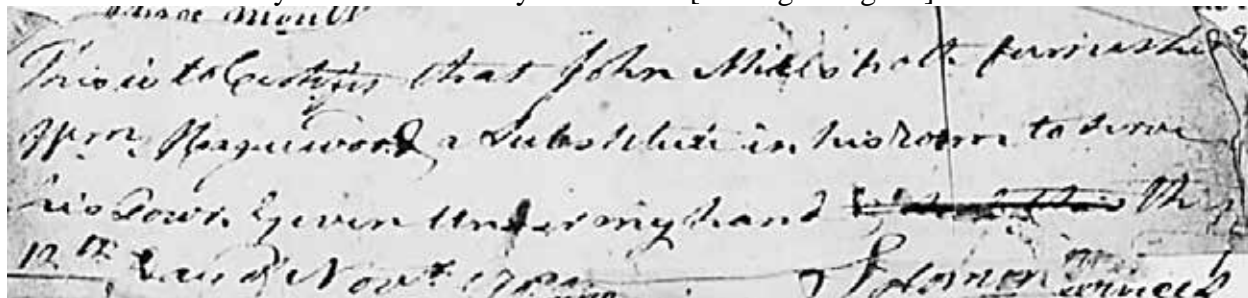
Sworn & subscribed the day & year aforesaid.

S/ John Miles, X his mark

S/ Geo. Bristow, C. C. C. P. S. U. Q.

[p 5]

This is to Certify that John Mills hath furnished Wm Hagenwood a Substitute in his room to serve his Tour. Given under my hand this 12th Day of Nov^r 178[last digit illegible]. S/ Solomon Woods



This is to Certify that John Mills hath furnished Wm Hagenwood a Substitute in his room to serve his Tour. Given under my hand this 12th Day of Nov^r 1781. S/ Solomon Woods

[p 7: Nicholas Ware, a clergyman, and George Bristow gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[p 10]

State of North Carolina

Secretary of State's Office

I William Hill Secretary of State in and for the State aforesaid, do certify that it appears from a list of settlements of the accounts of the Officers and Soldiers of the Continental line of this State in the revolutionary war that John Miles a private in said line was allowed for his services the sum of one hundred and eighty five pounds five shillings and eight pence (£185.5.8).

Given under my hand this 24th January 1835

S/ Wm Hill

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