

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of William Miller S25689

f28NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

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[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 Georgia Ware County

On this the thirty first day of October in the year our Lord 1833, personally appeared in open Court, before the Honorable Lott Warren, Judge of the Superior Court for the Southern District in said State, and for the County aforesaid, now sitting, William Miller, a resident of the County of Ware in said State, aged Seventy-four years, 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 seventh 1832.

That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated.

In or about the year 1779, the said William Miller volunteered under Capt. Frederick Hargett (afterwards Colonel) in the County of Craven (after Jones) in the State of North Carolina, the Senior General Caswell [Richard Caswell] being chief in command of the Militia in which he served: That he marched to the Town of Wilmington, North Carolina, was stationed there about a month under the officers aforesaid, when he received a verbal discharge and returned home to the County of Craven aforesaid.

That within a few months thereafter he was drafted in the North Carolina Militia for a four month tour, in the said County of Craven, for the purpose of marching to the defense of Charleston, South Carolina, in the company under Capt. Blanks [William Blanks] in the 2nd Regiment of Brig. General Caswell's Brigade. He marched through Fayetteville, North Carolina, Camden, South Carolina and arrived on the River Santee in South Carolina, advancing to the relief of Charleston, when the Regiment aforesaid while at said River heard of the capture of Charleston, South Carolina, by the British [Charleston South Carolina fell to the British on May 12, 1780], whereupon the said Regiment instantly retreated to Cross Creek, near the River Cape Fear, North Carolina, where he was stationed about three weeks, when the term expired for which he was drafted, whereupon he received a written discharge which is hereto attached.

After the British had taken Wilmington, North Carolina, General Craig [Major James Craig] of the enemy and his Army, joined and aided by the Tories, marched to Newbern [New Bern] in the State of North Carolina, on a plundering expedition, passed, and going to and from New Bern, through the said County of Craven in the neighborhood in which the said William Miller was born, committing outrages and depredations upon the persons and property of the citizens of North Carolina. He served as a drafted soldier four months, as required by law, as will be seen by his written discharge; and he also served three months as a volunteer, one month as first stated, and two months after his written discharge, under Capt. William George (Col.

Hargett in command) in skirmishing and scouting parties against the Tories: the Tories almost daily killed some of the Whigs and citizens: for so doing the Tories were often and severely punished by the Whigs, many of them put to death. The said William Miller was present as one of the company under Capt. George when a party of seven or eight Tories surrendered to Capt. George, and complied with the law. He was never in any regular battle.

The said William Miller has the Record of his age as he received it from his parents, from which it appears (and he has no doubt of the fact) that he was born on the eighth day of April 1759, in the County of Craven (since Jones) in the State of North Carolina. From the time of his birth he resided in said County until he removed to the State of Georgia between or about the years 1785 and 1790, in company with David Blackshear, a native of the same County with the said William Miller. Coming directly from North Carolina as aforesaid the said William Miller first settled in Burke County, State of Georgia, and resided 10 or 15 years in Burke County of aforesaid, about 20 or 25 years in the County of Bullock in the State last aforesaid, and upwards of four years in the County of Ware in the State of Georgia where he now resides. The said William Miller was known from his youth by the said David Blackshear (at present General Blackshear of Laurens District, Georgia) by whom alone has any person living so far as he knows or believes, he could prove any of his revolutionary services. The said William Miller served all the while as a Private.

He states that to the best of his knowledge and recollection a law was passed by the Legislature or General Assembly of North Carolina ordering a draft of Militia for the revolutionary Service, in pursuance of which the said William Miller was drafted to serve a tour of four months, which he completed as before mentioned, and that he was not engaged at any time of his service aforesaid in any civil pursuit. The other three months service was exclusively as a volunteer. He is known in his neighborhood, who can certify to his truth and veracity, to Mack Addison [could be Mark Addison], a clergyman and James Jones and others.

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or an annuity except the present, and he declares his name is not on the pension roll of any agency in any State. Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid in open court.

S/ Lott Warren, Judge Superior Court

S/ Wm Miller

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Wm Miller".

[Mack Addison, a clergyman, and James Jones gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[Facts in file: In 1837, veteran was living in Macon, Mississippi.]

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Camp Near Cross Creek June 1780

This Certifies that William Miller a Soldier in the
2nd Regiment of Brig. General Caswells Brigade has
Performed his Tour of Duty agreeable to Law & is Therefore
Discharged by Order of Major General Caswell.

S/ John Lillington, Aid DC

Camp Near Croft Creek June 1780
This certifies that William Miller — a Soldier in the
2^d Regiment of Brigades General Caswell's Brigade has
performed his Town of Duty & is therefore
Discharged by Order of Major General Caswell
John Liddington Aid Q^r

[I didn't find in this file the other discharge the veteran refers to in his declaration.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$26.66 per annum commencing March 4, 1831, for service as a private for 8 months in the North Carolina militia.]