

## Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of James Miller S2828

f42SC

Transcribed by Will Graves

6/22/09: rev'd 4/16/17 & 10/28/20

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

[p 3]

State of Tennessee [Bedford County]: SS

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

On this 8th day of November in the year while Lord 1832 Personally appeared in open Court before the worshipful Samuel Phillips, John L. Null, & John B. Armstrong Gentlemen justices of the peace appointed to hold the court of pleas and Quarter Sessions for Bedford County in the State aforesaid; Now Sitting James Miller a resident of Bedford County in the State of Tennessee aged Seventy Nine years and Sixteen days, who being first sworn according to law, doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the act of Congress passed 7th of June 1832. That he entered the Service of the United States of America under the following named Officers and served as herein Stated. --

That he entered the Service of the United States as a volunteer in Captain Jacob Barnett's company in what was then called York County in the State of South Carolina about the first of May in the year 1779. And was marched to Stono under the Command of Colonel Samuel Watson, and was in the battle [Stono Ferry, June 20, 1779] at that place he says that General Henderson [William Henderson] commanded the Militia, and General Lincoln [Benjamin Lincoln] the regulars on that day, and from there to a place called Sheldon Bulls where he says he remained there some time, and was then discharged and returned home; after Serving a tour of four months and fifteen days; He further states that afterwards he volunteered again with the same Captain in a company of mounted Gunmen, which was in a few days after he returned from the first expedition. And was marched down to Congaree River and crossed over to a place called Blackstocks where he says he was in the battle [Battle of Blackstocks, November 20, 1780] at that place, and that General Sumpter [sic, Thomas Sumter] was wounded there by a Ball in the Shoulder and was marched back and recrossed the Congaree River and down on Lynches Creek, and from that to Black River; he states he was along when 3 or 4 wagons loaded with clothing &c belonging to the British was taken on their way from Charlestown to Camden; he says they took also, about forty or fifty prisoners, and put the prisoners and clothing on board of some boats on the Congaree and attempted to convey them to Fluds Ford on said River up was prevented from doing so by an attack made upon the Americans from the banks by the British, and the Americans landed on the opposite bank leaving the clothing and prisoners to the enemy. -- He states that shortly after that, an attempt was made by the Americans under the command of General Sumpter to defeat the same British troops that retook the clothing and prisoners, and to remove them from their small Fort which they erected on the bank of the Congaree River; but

before the Americans reached that place they came in contact with a reinforcement of the British and that an engagement between the two armies took place, and that the Americans was defeated. He says he was then marched up to fishing Creek [Battle of Fishing Creek, August 18, 1780] in Fairfield or Chester district South Carolina, and he says that at that place General Sumpter was again defeated by the British under the command of Colonel Tarleton. He states that afterwards his Captain enlisted in the ten months Service and was placed under Captain James Thompson and remained in the American Army until the close of the Revolutionary War. He further states that John Moffitt [sic, John Moffett] was his Lieutenant Colonel during the whole time he was in Service except the first tour he performed, and the same John Moffitt who wrote the accompanying recommendation when he was about starting on business into Montgomery County and State of Virginia in the year 1780 for which he says was a very essential paper for a man to carry with him when traveling among strangers [during] them times -- and that he served in the last mentioned tour of duty about two years, making in all a tour of Service of about two years four months and fifteen days. Deponent further states that he has no documentary evidence except the papers which a company this declaration, and that he knows of no person who can testify as to his Service. --

And that he hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present, and that his name is not on the pension roll of any agency in the United States. --

Interrogatories by the Court

Int. 1<sup>st</sup> Where and in what year were you born?

Ans: I was born in Cumberland County in the State of Pennsylvania on the 22nd of October in the year 1753 agreeable to my father's family record

Int. 2<sup>nd</sup> Have you any record of your age and if so where is it?

Ans: I have a record of my age at my house in this County (which is my father's original record) in a book called the Confession of faith

Int. 3<sup>rd</sup> Where were you living when called into service: where have you lived since the Revolutionary War and where do you now live?

Ans: I was a Citizen of what was called York County in the State of South Carolina, when I entered the service, and continued to be so, until the close of the Revolution, and until the year 1808 when I moved to Bedford County Tennessee where I now live and where I have lived ever since. --

Int. 4<sup>th</sup> How were you called into service; were you drafted; did you volunteer or were you a substitute, and if in substitute, for whom?

Ans: I was a volunteer the whole time I was in the Army of the Revolution. --

Int. 5<sup>th</sup> Did you ever receive a discharge from the service, and if so, by whom was it given and what has become of it?

Ans: I never received a discharge in writing or any writing whatever except what accompanies this declaration. --

Int. 6<sup>th</sup> State the names of some of the regular officers who were with the troops when you served, such Continental and militia regiments as you can recollect and the general circumstances of your service.

Ans: I recollect Colonel Roberts [Owen Roberts] who was killed at Stono and General Lincoln, and I think the Lieutenant Colonel's name was Jackson but I am not certain. I do not recollect No.s of any Regiment whatever at this time and I knew of no prominent circumstance in my Service except what I have given you in my declaration. --

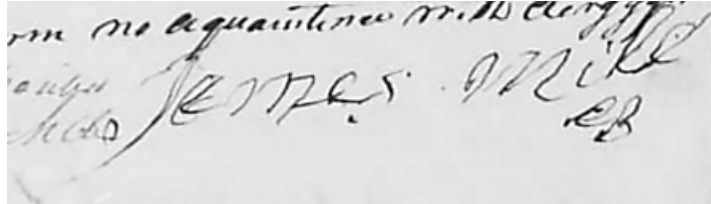
Int. 7<sup>th</sup> State the names of persons to whom you are known in your present neighborhood and

who can testify as to your character for veracity and their belief in your services as a soldier in the revolution.

Ans: David Weaver Esquire, Matthew Moss, Esquire and William Kerr but have formed no acquaintance with a clergyman

Sworn to in open court Subscribed 7th of Nov. 1832

S/ James Miller

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "James Miller". The ink is dark and the paper is aged and slightly yellowed. The signature is written in a fluid, connected style typical of the early 19th century.

S/ Jas McKisick

[David Weaver and William Kerr gave the standard supporting affidavit. In addition they state that the applicant is nearly blind; "And the said William Kerr further states that he was present when said James Miller the said applicant first entered the Service of the United States in the year 1779 in Captain Jacob Barnett's Company in South Carolina, and present when he was marched off."]

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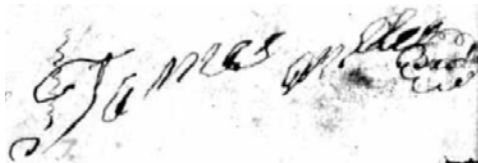
An Amendment to the declaration of James Miller made at November term 1832 of Bedford County Court in order to obtain the benefit of the Act of Congress passed 7 June 1832.

State of Tennessee Bedford County

On this 13th day of June 1833 Personally appeared before me the undersigned a Justice of the peace in and for the County aforesaid; James Miller Senior who subscribed and was qualified to the declaration above alluded to, who after being sworn according to law, deposeth and saith that by reason of old age and the consequent loss of memory he cannot swear positively to the precise time when he left the Service, nor to the precise length of his service, but according to the best of his recollection he served not less than the periods below and in the following grades to wit: That he served not less than four months and fifteen days in Captain Barnett's company as mentioned in his former declaration as a private Soldier; and that he entered upon the Second tour of duty the first of November 1779 to the best of his recollection he was dismissed from service about the first of November 1781 -- that to the best of his recollection he served not less than two years on his last tour mentioned in his former declaration, as a mounted gunman and private Soldier, making in all a term of actual service of not less than two years four months and fifteen days for which he claims a pension agreeable to the act of Congress. Sworn to and Subscribed before me the day and year above written.

S/ James Stevens, JP

S/ James Miller

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "James Miller". The ink is dark and the paper is aged and slightly yellowed. The signature is written in a fluid, connected style typical of the early 19th century.

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Shelbyville June 2, 1835

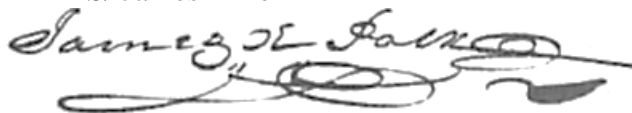
James L Edwards Esquire  
Commissioner of Pensions

Sir

Enclosed I send the amended declaration of James Miller for a Pension. The original declaration is on file in your office. From what I have learned of the applicant, – I can have no doubt, but that he served as he has stated, – and is entitled to a pension. He is blind and very poor.

If he is found to be entitled to a pension; – forward his certificate addressed to himself at “Thompson’s Creek P. O., Bedford County Tennessee.”

I have the Honor to be  
Very Respectfully  
Your Obedient Servant  
S/ James K Polk

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "James K. Polk", with a decorative flourish at the end.

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State of Tennessee Bedford County: On this 23rd day of May 1835 personally appeared before us James Stevens and George Hufman to acting Justices of the peace for said County -- James Miller aged Eighty-two years October next the 22nd who being first duly sworn according to law doth state on his oath and made the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the act of Congress passed June 7th 1832, that he entered the service of the United States under Col. Samuel Watson and Lieutenant Daniel Smith and served as herein stated under General Henderson and under the immediate command of Captain Jacob Barnett and entered the service the 2nd day of May 1779 and was in the engagement at Stono point under General Lincoln and General Henderson and left as near as can be recollected the 15th day of August 1779 -- and resided in the State of South Carolina in the District of York on Bullocks Creek, was a volunteer. After said Battle -- returned home, through the State aforesaid, and after my arrival at home -- 2nd Tour under William Bratton Colonel & John Manfit [sic, John Moffett] Colonel & Major Adam Meek, and was in the Engagement at Blackstock's in the year 1780. Tour of three months, After said Battle dispatched and returned home through the State aforesaid. 3rd Tour under Colonel Bratton, Colonel John Moffett & Major Meek, as aforesaid -- officers in the 2nd Tour, returned & was surprised by the British on the 20th of August 1780 Tour of for months, then returned to York and Chester until after Tarleton's Defeat. 4th tour under the command of the officers aforesaid and through the Country between Camden & Charleston surprised and taken three or for British wagons and forty or fifty men taken of the British which was brought and put on board of the boats on the River below Camden to be delivered at Captain Fludds as we were going, was fell on the British Fort on the Bank of the River which surprised us, we were compelled to leave our boats and prisoners and gone [?] to meet our Company as prescribed at Captain Fludds. We returned from thence in July or August to the best of my recollection I was one of the guard -- under Captain John McCool he lived in Union District South Carolina said tour of six months.

5th Tour under Captain James Thompson Lieutenant John Bird & 2nd Lieutenant John Moore the field officers as aforesaid we went down to Goose Creek Bridge we took two British officers but of what rank I misremember now. We joined Colonel Wade Hampton at Goose Creek Bridge in

South Carolina -- we marched from thence to the Quarter house to surprise and take some British that were there but they were fled we caught some eight or ten British officers which were yet at & in the Quarter house. We return from thence to York again. In October 1781 -- making a tour of six months. I also state that I never received any discharge or commission in the Army during the service. I remained in the State of South Carolina fifty-six years & in Tennessee, Bedford County twenty-six years. 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 only on that of the agency of the State of Tennessee.

Sworn to and subscribed to the 23rd day of May 1835.

S/ James Miller, X his mark

[Ira B. Barrett, David Weaver and Moses Ayres gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

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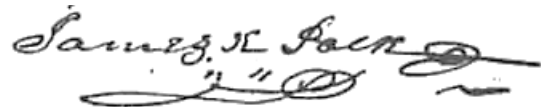
Columbia Tennessee July 8, 1835

Sir

The communication from your office in relation to the application of James Miller for a pension, has been received, and happening to be in his neighborhood a few days ago, I visited him, and at his request, prepared the enclosed explanatory or amended Declaration. I hope it will be satisfactory, -- for he is not only blind, but miserably poor, and I cannot doubt from communication with him, and the reputation for truth & honesty which he bears where he is known, but that he served as he has represented, in the Revolution. I have known David Weaver who made the affidavit -- enclosed, for several years, and know him, to be a man of good character, and of truth. -- Be pleased to give the case a re-examination, and if a pension be granted, enclose the certificate to me, for him.

James L. Edwards, Esqr.  
Commissioner of Pensions  
War Dept.  
Washington City }

I have the honor to be  
Very Respectfully  
Your Obedient Servant  
S/ James K Polk



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State of Tennessee Bedford County

The additional and amended Declaration of James Miller, in order to obtain the benefit of the act of Congress of the 7th of June 1832. -- The said James Miller being first duly sworn according to law, doth on his oath make the following additional declaration -- to wit, That in his former Declaration now on file in the pension office, his services in the Revolutionary war is truly set forth, and with as much particularity and has his advanced age and impaired memory will enable him to state the same. In declaring in his former Declaration that he served as therein set forth, -- two tours of duty of six months each, -- besides the other tours of shorter duration, -- he stated the same according to the best of his memory. He further states -- that in all the tours he performed he was a volunteer, and was never drafted, and that -- though he volunteered to serve a tour of three months, -- at each engagement yet in consequence of the danger from the Tories who were numerous in his country it happened upon several occasions, when his tour

expired, -- that there was still need for men and it was [indecipherable word]<sup>1</sup> safer to remain in service than to return home, and he for these reasons continued in the Army over his time, -- and in the two tours of six months -- set forth in his former declaration -- it was put down as a single tour of six months -- whereas it would perhaps have been more proper -- to have stated each tour of six months, as two tours of three months each, the one immediately following the other, but making in fact one continuous tour of six months. -- These are the only explanations which his memory enables him to make, and he reaffirming the truth of the Statements contained in his former Declaration --

S/ James Miller, X his mark

Sworn to and subscribed before made this 2nd day of July 1835

S/ Richard Warner, JP

[p 24: On July 2, 1835, David Weaver gave testimony that he has heard James Miller and Zachariah Roberts [?], a Revolutionary soldier, converse about their services in the Revolution for the last 25 years. Roberts is now dead.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$40 per annum commencing March 4, 1831, for service as a private for one year in the South Carolina militia.]

South Carolina Audited Accounts<sup>2</sup> relating to James Miller AA26  
Audited Account Microfilm file No. 5249  
Transcribed by Will Graves 10/28/20

[p 2]

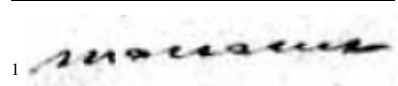
[Top of the form is illegible]

James Miller his Account of 245 days Militia Duty Amounting to £245.17.6  
deduct less 1  
[old SC] Currency £244.17.6  
Stg. [Sterling] £34.19.7 1/2

Ex<sup>d</sup>. W. G. [Examined by William Galvan]  
J. M<sup>c</sup>. A. G. [approved by] John McCall, Adjutant General]

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State of South Carolina Dr.  
James Miller for personal Service £ S d  
under Captain Barnet [Jacob Barnett] 210.0.0  
31 days under Captain Thompson 35.17.6  
less 20/  
Total 245.17.6  
36.11.0 3\$



<sup>1</sup> [‘measure’? Short for ‘measurably’?]

<sup>2</sup> The South Carolina Audited Accounts (AA) are now available online at <http://www.archivesindex.sc.gov/>. To find the AA for a specific person, click on the [Just take me to the search page](#) link, then enter the person’s surname first in the “Full name” box followed by a comma and the person’s Christian name.

South Carolina Camden District }

Edward Blake  
Peter Bocquet Esquires

Commissioners of the Treasury for the State aforesaid

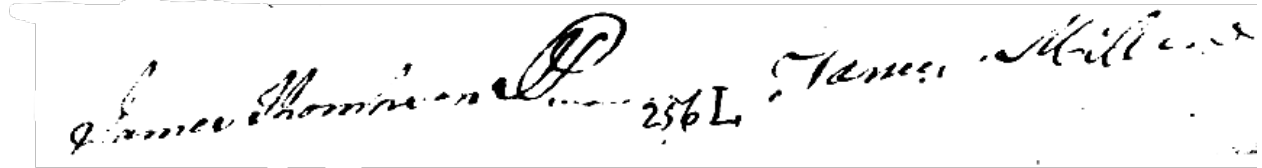
Gentlemen please to pay to the bearer William Cox [?] the Indent due me from the Public and  
you will greatly oblige your friend and Humble Servant

Certified by me this 9 March 1785

S/ James Thompson, JP

256 L

S/ James Miller

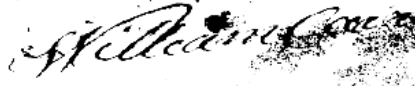


James Thompson 256 L James Miller

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Received the 9 October 1785 full Satisfaction for the within Account in Indent No. 256 Book L4  
£34.19.7 ½

S/ William Cox [?]



William Cox