

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of John Miller S9026

f13VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

6/7/13

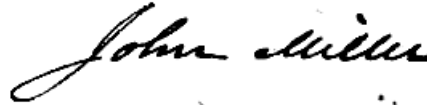
[Methodology: Spelling, punctuation and/or grammar have been corrected in some instances for ease of reading and to facilitate searches of the database. Where the meaning is not compromised by adhering to the spelling, punctuation or grammar, no change has been made. Corrections or additional notes have 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. 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 fails 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 errors or omissions to my attention.]

State of Virginia Morgan County: to wit,

On this 22nd day of July 1833, personally, before the Court of this County of Morgan, in the State of Virginia, John Miller, 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 provisions made by the act of Congress, passed June 7th 1832. – That he entered the militia service of the United States, the year he does not recollect, but it was about three years previous to the surrender of Cornwallis [October 19, 1781], as a volunteer, from the hanging Rock, in Hampshire County, Virginia, and marched under Captain Foreman [possibly William Forman of Hampshire County Virginia], and Lieutenant Miller, and rendezvoused at Fort Pitt, and from thence marched to Wheeling, from the latter place a number of troops marched to a place called "the narrows" near it, and had a battle with the Indians, in which his Captain (Foreman) was killed, he was then commanded by his Lieutenant Miller, he was detached to convey a wounded soldier, named John Collins to Fort Pitt, and served in all during this Campaign for three months, at the latter place he was discharged, at the time his Captain was killed, there were about twenty of his company killed. He was not in the battle only a portion of his company was called out on that expedition that morning he was scouting with a party in another direction on the day of the disaster above mentioned. He marched from the hanging Rock, to Romney in Hampshire County, from thence to a road called Braddock's Road & through a wild Country to Pittsburgh and went by water from Pittsburgh to Wheeling, when he got to Wheeling he found many of the troops that had been stationed in that neighborhood killed and the cabins burnt. He has no recollection of the names of any of the field officers with whom he served. There was a Colonel at Pittsburgh whose name he does not recollect but it was said and believed at the time that he had a squaw for a wife and strong prejudices existed against him for it. The company to which he was attached went on to Wheeling without any field officer with it – and he recollects of none at Wheeling. The scene of confusion was great and the troops never were in any regular State of organization there. After he was discharged he returned and settled in Berkeley County Virginia on the banks of Shenandoah [River] and remained there until the fall previous to the surrender of Cornwallis he was then drafted and marched under Captain John McCormick to Williamsburg & from thence to York Town and was at the taking of Cornwallis and in this Service he was engaged in served three months was with General Washington & saw a great many officers of the line and field officers but does not so distinctly recollect their names as to venture to state them. After the surrender of Cornwallis he was engaged in guarding some of the prisoners who were marched to Nolan's ferry in Loudoun County Virginia and from thence some of them were marched to Winchester in Frederick County Virginia. He remained at Noland's ferry until discharged. His mind is very infirm he has been nearly deprived of his hearing for the last 14 or

fifteen years and of course deprived of that kind of intercourse calculated to refresh his recollection he knows of no person whose testimony he can procure as to the fact of his service except that of Mathias Riser who from circumstances is convinced of that he did serve. 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.
Sworn to and subscribed the day & year aforesaid

S/ John Miller



[Mathias Riser, a clergyman, and Michael Widmeyer gave the standard supporting affidavit.

Question by the Court, where and in what year were you born?

Answer. I was born near Key's ferry on the Shenandoah in Berkeley County Virginia first February 1759

Have you any Record of your age, and if so where is it?

Answer I have a piece of paper in my possession left me by my father on which the names of all of his children are written in which is here produced

Where were you living when called into service where have you lived since the Revolutionary War and where do you now live?

Answer. I resided on the Shenandoah River near Key's ferry and in consequence of the smallpox breaking out I removed to the neighborhood of the hanging Rock in Hampshire County Virginia and marched from thence to Fort Pitt and Wheeling as above stated and served 3 months then was discharged and returned to my former residence on the Shenandoah and remained there until I was drafted to March to the lower part of Virginia on its invasion by the enemy. I then remained at York until the surrender of Cornwallis was then detailed to guard prisoners to the Loudoun County Virginia at Nolan's ferry and remained there until discharged which made 3 months in this campaign – then returned to the place I mentioned from. Resided there for about 12 years and then removed to my present place of residence Morgan County Virginia & still reside there.

How were you called into service were you drafted did you volunteer or were you a substitute and if a substitute for whom?

Answer. When I first marched from the hanging Rock marched as a volunteer for 3 months the next tour marched from Key's ferry I was drafted for 3 months and served for that period.

State the names of some of the Regular officers who were with the troops where you served such Continental and militia Regiments as you can recollect and the general circumstances of your service.

Answer. I do not know that there were any Regular officers with whom I served on my Weston expedition to Fort Pitt & Wheeling. In the expedition against Cornwallis in a company until we got near York Town and I saw a great many, many French officers whose names I cannot pronounce or recollect. I saw General Washington I have been deaf for about 14 years past thought little about the service could hear no conversation about it and cannot venture to name any least I might be mistaken.

Did you ever receive a discharge from the service and if so by whom was it given and what has become of it?

Answer. I got a discharge at Fort Pitt the first term of my service and got a receipt for my gun and camp equipage kettle &c. I don't know who signed it. I gave the discharge to ___ Keyes to

enable him to collect my pay and he never returned it. I got no pay & lost the discharge. After my 2nd term of service returning from capturing Cornwallis I received a discharge at Nolan's ferry in Loudoun County Virginia near Leesburg where I was guarding prisoners. I know not what has become of it.

State the names of persons to whom you are known in your present neighborhood who can testify as to your character for veracity and their belief of your service as a soldier of the Revolution.

Answer. Ever since I have lived at my present place of residence upwards of 30 years I have been in communication with the Methodist Church and am known to the Reverend Mathias Riser, Reverend John Shockey Reverend William Vanorsdoll local Preachers to all the circuit riders of my neighborhood to Jonathan Jones, Colonel Robert Gustus Colonel Neely into all the justices of the peace in this County and to a very large proportion of its citizens. Sworn to and subscribed the day & year aforesaid

S/ John Miller

Virginia Morgan County to wit

Personally appeared in open Court Mathias Rizer a clergyman of this County aged about 71 years and made oath in due form of law that he has had a personal acquaintance with John Miller who now applies for a pension for about 36 years knows him to be a man of truth and good character that deponent was in the War of the Revolution and served at the taking of Cornwallis at York Town Virginia he marched down from Berkeley County Virginia to York under Captain Hart – was there transferred to Captain McCormick's Company the same company to which said Miller states he belong. This deponent has no distinct recollection of Miller in said Company but from many circumstances which took place at York and in guarding the prisoners which Miller is very familiar and which Miller related to him at least 30 years ago and when there was no prospect of his having any interest in the detail given and from a variety of other circumstances he is as well convinced that said Miller did serve as he states as if he had seen him there, to the expedition to the West spoken of by Miller this deponent had a brother that in the Company commanded by Captain Foreman in which Miller was his brother was a fifer and was killed at the time spoken of by Miller at the narrows near Wheeling this deponent is entirely convinced that the said Miller did serve in that expedition as he states he well recollects the disaster spoken of by Miller in which 20 or 21 persons were killed the Indians the story of the affair of the wounded man taken care of by Miller at Pittsburgh was familiar to this deponent as far back as the days of the Revolution. He is entirely satisfied and has reason to believe the statement made by Miller is true.

Sworn to the day and year aforesaid

S/ J Richard C.M.C.

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$20 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for service as a private for 6 months in the Virginia militia.]