

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of John Miller S9415

f34NC

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.]

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State of North Carolina Ashe County: Court of Pleas & Quarter Sessions November Term 1832

On this the 12th day of November A.D. 1832 personally appeared in open court before the Justices of the courts of Pleas & quarter Sessions for Ashe County now sitting John Miller a resident of the County of Ashe and State of North Carolina aged 70 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 7th, 1832.

I was born on Muddy Creek in what is now Davidson County in this State & as I have always understood on the 7th day of March A.D. 1763 -- I continued to live at the same place until I was 15 years old when as well as I can recollect during the spring of the year, I went as a substitute for one Hardy Jones to Charlotte in Mecklenburg County, where I was attached to a body of Light Infantry who marched into South Carolina where we were placed under the command of a Frenchman called Col. Malvary or Malvanaur [Francis de Malmedy, Marquis of Bretagne] I will operations were between Charleston in the Savannah River but chiefly about the savanna. The British were lying at Stono River and the body of men to which I belonged were always moving to prevent their landing to plunder and obtain provisions. At this same time a large body of Americans under the command of General Butler [John Butler] were stationed near the Savannah River and when we were not in motion I was stationed was with his Army. During the same summer the British entrenched themselves on Stono River and General Butler attacked them in their entrenchments but after a fight of about 2 hours & half the Americans retreated & retired to their former station with the loss of about 40 killed & a number wounded.¹ The British however abandoned their entrenchments the next night. This Tour I served 3 months & returned home. I was afterwards drafted and in the beginning of the year 1780 I went to Charlotte and from thence marched with several hundred men to Charleston. This Tour served also three months. I recollect it was A.D. 1780 because my father died while I was at Charleston. During my service there, about a month I labored at the breast works about a month & half I had no other services than to stand Sentry every 3rd day & for about 3 weeks I was on board I was on board of a ship between John's Island & Sullivan's Island where we were stationed to watch the motions of the British. Within a few weeks after I arrived at home, the news came that Charleston was taken [Charleston South Carolina fell to the British on May 12, 1780] -- I some time afterwards the length of time not now recollected, I went as substitute for one Henry Hauser

¹ Battle of Stono Ferry, June 20, 1779

under a Dutchman Capt. Lopt [sic, John Lopp] we were all mounted men & were continually in motion through the Counties of Rowan, Guilford, Randolph & the surrounding Country to repress the Tories and particularly to check the depredations of Fanning [David Fanning]. This Tour was also three months. We had no fighting -- we caught many Tories, whipped them & turned them loose. Our body of men amounted to about 60 and were generally drafted. Again immediately afterwards, the time I cannot otherwise recollect than that it was after Guilford battle [March 15, 1781), I went as a substitute for Henry Miller under the same Capt. Lopt who commanded as before a company of mounted men, we accompanied an expedition to Wilmington under the command of General Rutherford [Griffith Rutherford] but during the expedition we were rarely immediately along with the Main Army but generally scouring the country in our progress, when we arrived near Wilmington we had a slight skirmish with a small party of the British [Brick House, November 15, 1781] -- about 2 miles from the town at a place called the Brick house. As soon as we arrived at Wilmington, news arrived that the Tories had broke out & were doing great mischief in Rowan [County] & the adjoining Counties. And our company was sent back & on our return we encountered Fanning and his body of Tories -- a few fires passed between us and we retired. It being about night we built our fires & moved from them a small distance to spend the night expecting the Tories might be upon us. Another term of 5 or 6 weeks I served about Charlotte in North Carolina under Capt. Bungarner [Bumgardner?]. The year is not now recollected, but we were called out on account of an apprehension that the British were approaching that place & it was before the Guilford battle. I had regular discharges but not appreciating their value, no attention was ever given towards their preservation & I do not now recollect by whom they were signed.

I hereby relinquish every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present, and declare that my name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any state.

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year above written.

S John Miller, X his mark

S/ T. Callaway, Clk

by S/ R. Gentry, D Clk

[Jacob Faw, a clergyman, and Isaac Taylor gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

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State of North Carolina Ashe County: Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions Made Term 1833

On this the 22nd day of May 1833 personally appeared in open Court before the Justices of said Court John Miller he being the same John Miller whose name is subscribed to the foregoing declaration and a resident of said County and make statement in amendment to his said declaration.

That his memory has faded more even than is common with those of his age, that he is quite illiterate and never was able to read the English language, that his situation & habits of life have not been favorable to the recollection of the events of the revolutionary war as is the case with those who have correspondence in life and taste for reading frequently refresh their memory of past events. He believes upon further reflection that he was 16 years of age when he was in the Army about Stono River between Charlestown and savanna [Savannah Georgia], that he returned home from this tour about the last of July 1779 & that a battle was fought on Stono River about a month before his return home. This Tour he served as a private & as a substitute for Hardy Jones and for 3 months -- Jones had been drafted -- I joined a considerable body of men at Charlotte NC with whom I marched to the South -- I had a discharge for this term signed

by Col. Malvary or Malvanaur and which not considering it, as of any value, I suffered to be lost by neglect. In the month of January 1780 I went as a private, drafted in the militia to Charleston and served there in the Army of the Americans there. I received a regular discharge for this tour of service, but from weakness of memory cannot now recollect by whom it was signed. It was lost through neglect. About the last of June 1780, I entered into the service under Capt. Lopt & served 3 months. This tour was performed as a private & a substitute for Henry Hauser who had been drafted for the service. Our company was called out to keep the Tories in subjection through the Counties of Rowan, Randolph &c. A discharge was granted to me by Capt. Lopt but is lost. In the winter of 1781-82 as well as I can now recollect I performed a Tour under the same Capt. Lopt with the Army under General Rutherford on an expedition to Wilmington. This term was 3 months, as a private & substitute for Henry Miller who had been drafted. For this Term I got a discharge from Capt. Lopt which has been lost. The [indecipherable word] of the service of six weeks performed under Capt. [name obliterated] I cannot recollect more distinctly than I have already stated -- Philip Workman is the only person that I know of who can prove any part of the services performed by me in the revolutionary war -- And I have not offered his affidavit because he is a feeble old man without a horse, living 9 or 10 miles from this place & does not know of his own knowledge of but 3 weeks of my service. He was drafted for 3 months under Capt. Lopt & was sent off after being with us a short time, as a guard for some distinguished persons & he never returned to us anymore. I could procure were these circumstantial testimony of several persons living in Rowan & Davidson Counties but of the same [one or more indecipherable words] what has been stated by Isaac Taylor & Jacob Faw.

S/ John Miller, X his mark

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$34.66 per annum commencing March 4, 1831, for service as a private for 10 months and 12 days in the North Carolina Light Dragoons.]