

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Christian Miller W18515 Catharine Miller f54VA
Transcribed by Will Graves 6/4/13

[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.]

[p 10]

State of Virginia County of Shenandoah: SS

On this 10th day of September in the year 1832, personally appeared in open Court, before the County Court of Shenandoah now sitting, Christian Miller Senior a resident of the County and State aforesaid, aged eighty-eight years to the best of his knowledge & belief, the record of his birth having been lost, who having been 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. That he entered the Service of the United States under the following named officers, and served as herein stated.

Captain Jacob Rinker, Lieutenant George Rinker, and Ensign __ Kellar were the Company officers. General Edward Stephens [Edward Stevens], Major James Williams, Philip Clayton aid, and Major General Green [Nathanael Greene], the Field Officers. That he entered the service either in the month of August or September in the year 1780 and was appointed second Sergeant, by the Captain & company, that he resided in Woodstock Shenandoah County Virginia when he entered the service. That he was drafted in the militia, that he was in no engagement. That he marched from Woodstock Virginia to Hillsboro North Carolina and joined the troops at that place, at that time Head quarters, under the command of General Green – from there to Salisbury North Carolina – from there to Charlotte from there down the Pedee River to Hicks Creek, and arrived there the 26th day of December, which was the winter quarters for the Army that winter. In the spring we marched up the River again to Salisbury then to Salone's Ferry on the Yadkin River a short distance from Salisbury. There I was among the number detailed to guard the prisoners taken by General Green on Cross Creek – on to Pittsylvania Court House, commanded by Major Subblefield [Stubblefield?]. That General Stephens & Staff returned from there to General Greene's Army, and that the company in which I was first drafted came on with the prisoners to the Albemarle barracks, where we were discharged in the month of May or June 1781. And that shortly after my discharge and a few days after my return home, the same Prisoners or some of them, came by my house on their way to the Frederick barracks at Winchester. That he has no documentary evidence in relation to his service or discharge.

The following questions were propounded to the said Christian Miller Senior and answered in the following manner by him.

Question 1st Where, and in what year were you born?

Answer. I was born in sight of the town of Woodstock Virginia but owing to the record of my birth been lost, I cannot say in what year I was born.

Question 2nd Have you any record of your age; and if so, where is it?

Ans. I have none, it was lost or mislaid as stated above.

Question 3rd. Where were you living when called into service, where have you lived since the revolutionary war and where do you now live?

Ans. I lived when called into service in the Town of Woodstock Virginia and have lived in and adjoining said town ever since.

Question 4th. How were you called into service, were you drafted did you volunteer or were you a substitute, and if a Substitute for whom?

Ans. I was drafted in the Militia.

Question 5th 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?

Ans. I do not recollect the name of any regular officer except General Greene, nor the name of any of the Continental or militia regiments and the general circumstances of my service are given above.

Question. 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 received a discharge signed by Captain Jacob Rinker by order of the commanding officer, but this has been lost or mislaid.

Question 7th 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 of your services as a soldier of the revolution?

Ans. Jacob Ott & Philip Williams

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 & subscribed the day and year aforesaid.



[p 17: Jacob Ott & Philip Williams gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[p 18]

Virginia Shenandoah County SS

Personally appeared before me the undersigned a Justice of the Peace in and for said County Christian Miller who being duly sworn deposeth and saith, that by reason of old age and the consequent loss of memory, he cannot swear positively as to the precise length of his service, but according to the best of his recollection he served not less than the periods mentioned below, and in the following grades: For nine months I served as a Second Sergeant he believes he served at least nine months and thinks a few days over but the precise number is unable to state and therefore puts his term of Service down at nine months, and for such service I claim a pension.

Sworn to and subscribed this 14th day of December 1832

S/ Christian Miller

[p 5: On July 28, 1837 in Shenandoah County Virginia, Catharine Miller, 83, filed for a widow's pension under the 1836 act stating that she is the widow of Christian Miller, a revolutionary war pensioner; that she married him to the best of her recollection in the year 1770 she having no record of the date of her marriage; that her husband died April 28, 1836. She signed her application with her mark.]

[p 9: Certificate dated December 14, 1837 from Philip Williams, clerk of the Shenandoah County court indicating that he has no record in his office of the marriage of Christian Miller with Catharine Wisman.]

[p 6: Jacob W Miller gave testimony that he had a perfect recollection of the time that Christian Miller the husband of Catharine Miller marched from the town of Woodstock under the command of Captain Jacob Rinker to join the Army in the South. His relationship if any, to the family is not stated.

Jacob W. Miller
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[p 7: On August 12, 1837 in Shenandoah County Virginia, George Wisman, 85, gave testimony that he was well acquainted with Christian Miller and that he recollects that Miller was drafted and served in the revolutionary war; that Miller died in the latter part of April 1836 leaving Catharine Miller his widow; that he the affiant was present at the marriage of Christian Miller with Catharine his wife sometime in the year 1770. He signed his affidavit with his mark. There is no statement as to his relationship, if any, with the veteran and/or his widow.]

[p 8: copy of the family register showing the births of the children of the veteran and his wife as follows:

1772 September 29th a son born named Philip Miller
1775 April 8th a son born named Jacob Miller
1778 August 2nd a daughter born named Catharine Miller
1781 May 31 a son born named John Miller
1783 August the 19th 18 daughter born named Mary Miller
1786 February the 5th a son born named Joseph Miller
1788 March the 27th a son born named Henry Miller
1790 December the 11th a daughter born named Barbary Miller
1794 January the 25th a daughter born named Alisebeth Miller

[p 8]

The deposition of Christian Miller aged 78 years testifies that the above register is a true copy from the family Bible of Christian Miller and Catharine Miller his wife now in the possession of Catharine Miller; and that he was well acquainted with all of the above named children of Christian Miller and Catharine Miller his wife; and believes that their births to be correctly recorded, and he further testifies that the date of the Bible in which their names are registered is 1770.

Given under my hand this 14th day of December 1837,

Christian Miller
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[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$45 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for service as a Sergeant for 9 months in the Virginia militia. His widow was pensioned in a like amount.]