

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Francis Miller W19951

Averilla Owens¹

f22VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

6/5/13

[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.]

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State of Virginia County of Mathews: SS

On this __ day of __ personally appeared before the Court Averilla Owins [sic] a resident of Mathews County and in the County of Mathews State of Virginia aged seventy-nine years who being first duly sworn according to law doth on her oath make the following Declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the Provision made by the Act of Congress passed July 4th 1836 and the Act explanatory of said act passed March 3rd 1837, that she was married to Francis Miller who was a soldier in the Revolution War he Entered Service in 1776 (and was in service the time Lord Dunmore [John Murray, Lord Dunmore, last Royal Governor of Virginia] came to Guyns Isld) [Gwynn Island, July 8-10, 1776] under the command of Captain Josiah Foster who commanded the militia company in Kingston Parish Gloucester County, now (Mathews County) that the said Miller so continued in the Militia Company under different captains all the time of the Revolutionary War up to the time of his death the last Captain that he was under was Captain Philip Tabb who he marched to Williamsburg with, where he took cold, and died directly after he returned home, Leaving me a widow & three small children, that her husband Guard regularly at New Point at which Place they was a constant guard kept all the war (that his bands was cried in [several words interlined and indecipherable]. That she was afterwards married to Thomas Owens [sic] in September 1796 who was well being at his table and died in ten or fifteen minutes afterwards. That she lived in Kingston Parish Gloucester County now (Mathews County) at the time she was married to the said Francis Miller, and where she married the said Thomas Owins [sic] & where she has resided all the days of her life and does still reside.

She further declares that she was married to the said Francis Miller on the 6th day of October in the year 1776. That her husband the aforesaid Francis Miller died on the 8th day of March 1781, that she was afterwards married to Thomas Owen's who died on the 24th day of December 1821 and that she was a widow on the 4th July 1836 and still remains a widow, as will more fully appear by reference to the Proof hereto annexed.

S/ Averilla Owens



[p 7: A certified copy of the marriage bond issued to Thomas Owen & Gabriel Miller on September 3rd, 1796 in Mathews County Virginia conditioned upon the marriage of Thomas Owen and Averilla Miller.]

¹ Former widow

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I Isaac Smith aged 77 years do upon oath testify & declare that I was born & raised in the Parish of Kingston Gloucester County now (Mathews County) that I knew and was well acquainted with Francis Miller from my infancy to the time of his death, that the said Francis Miller was born & raised in the same Parish – That the said Miller married in October 1776 to a Miss Averilla Diggs of the same Parish and resided there until his death which was in March 1781 leaving the said Averilla a widow & several children that there Bands was cried in church three times, agreeable to the Neighborhood report, that the said Francis Miller & his wife Averilla were both born & raised in Kingston Parish (now Mathews County) and resided there in all their lifetimes that the said Miller entered the service of the United States as a private under command of Captain Josiah Foster in the Early part of 1776 the time Lord Dunmore came to Guyns Isld and served as follows viz.: In 1776 under the said Captain two towers [tours] of Duty the first two months the second one month at New Point. In 1777 he was called out, and served two towers of Duty the first one and a half months the second two months under the said officer at New Point – In 1778 he was called out and served two towers of Duty the first one and a half months, the second two months at New Point under the said officer. In 1779 he was called out and served three towers of Duty the first one month the second one month at New Point and Gloucester Court-House the third one month at New Point under Captain Robert Gayle. In 1780 he served under one Captain Smith or Barnett two towers of Duty the first one month at New Point the 2nd one and a half months at New Point, then the Company marched to Gloucester Court-House where the said Miller joined Captain Philip Tabs [Philip Tabb's] Company. In December 1780 and the company marched to Gloucester town where a battle was fought, from there the company marched to Williamsburg from there the company returned to this Parish, making 2 months in all this time it was the last of February or the first of March the said Miller having taken great coal [sic] and was sick and that the said Miller died in March 1781 leaving the said Averilla a widow, that afterwards she intermarried with Thomas Owen of this Parish and county that the said Owen died in December 1821 leaving the said Averilla a widow that she has remained a widow ever since.

That I served a greater part of the time with the said Francis Miller and say him in service for we both lived in the same Parish near New Point where a constant guard was kept during the Revolutionary War. That the towers of Duty is to the best of Recollection and belief the company would the called out for 2 weeks and sometimes less which time I do not state above.

Given under my hand & seal this 20th day of December 1837

S/ Isaac Smith²



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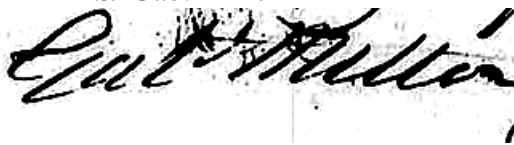
I Gabriel Miller aged 72 years, do upon oath testify and declare that I was born and raised in the Parish of Kingston, Gloucester County now Mathews County that I knew and was well acquainted with my brother Francis Miller up to the time of his death which I believe was in the year 1781, that my brother the said Francis Miller married Averilla Diggs in the year 1776, that my said Brother entered the service of the United States as a private in Militia in 1776 under different Officers and served from 2 to 3 towers [tours] of duty in each year up to 1781 at New Point where a constant guard was kept during the revolutionary war, that the said Miller marched

² [Isaac Smith S11427](#)

to Williamsburg in 1781 from which tower of duty he took cold and returned home and in a few days after reaching home died leaving the said Averilla Miller his widow, that the said Averilla Miller remained a widow for many years and that entered married with Thomas Owens who died about 1821 and I further testify and declare that I was at my brothers marriage.

Given under my hand & seal this 21st day of December 1837

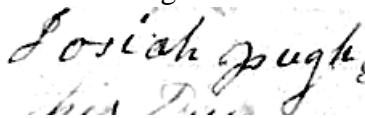
S/ Gab. Miller



[p 16]

I Josiah Pugh³ aged 76 years do upon oath testify & declare that I was born & raised in the Parish of Kingston Gloucester County now Mathews County that I knew and was well acquainted with Francis Miller a good many years before the Revolutionary War until the time of his death which was in March 1781. That the said Francis Miller was born & raised in the said Parish that the said Miller married in October 1776 to a Miss Averilla Diggs in the said Parish and County by which marriage they had several children, – I was not at the wedding but they were married agreeable to the neighborhood report, that they resided in the same Parish where I did & I see him & her together as man and wife – that the said Francis Miller entered the service of the United States in the year of 1776 that he was in service the time Lord Dunmore came to Guyns Island as a private under Captain Josiah Foster as a private and served as follows viz. In the year of 1776 he served two towers of duty at New Point the first two months the second one month under the said officer, In 1777 he served two towers of duty the first one month the second two months at New Point under the same Captain. In 1778 he was called out and served two towers of duty the first one and a half months the second two months at the same place under the said officer. In 1779 he served three towers of Duty the first one month at New Point the second one month at New Point and at Gloucester Court House, the third one month at New Point under command of Captain Robert Gayle, In 1780 he was called out under one Captain Smith or Barnett and served two towers of duty the first one month the second one and a half months at New Point, then the company was marched to Gloucester Court House. In December where the said Miller joined Captain Phillip Tabs Company from which Place they marched to Gloucester town where a battle was fought from thence the company crossed the River and marched to Williamsburg from thence the company returned home. In the last of February or the first of March 1781 making in all this tower, In 1781 2 months the said Miller having taken great Coal [sic] came home sick and died in March 1781 leaving the said Averilla a widow, that she so continued his widow to say 15 or 16 years, then she married Thomas Owens of this County who died in December 1821 leaving the said Averilla his widow and that she has resided his widow ever since that Period the towers of service are to the best of my recollection and belief, the reason that I know he served is because I served a part of the time with him, and see him serve for they was a constant guard At New Point. Given from under my hand & seal this 13th day of December 1837.

S/ Josiah Pugh



³ [Josiah Pugh W5586](#)

[Veteran's former widow was pensioned at the rate of \$50 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for her former husband's service as a private for 15 months in the Virginia service.]