

## Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Francis Miller W23984

Jane Miller

f48NC

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

[p 14]

State of Illinois Greene County:

On this fifth day of March in the year of our Lord 1834, personally [appeared] in Open Court, before the County Commissioners Court for the County of Greene and State of Illinois Francis Miller Senior a resident of the County of Greene and State of Illinois aged eighty years the 16th of October last, who first being duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following amended declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the provision made by the Act of Congress passed June the 7th 1832.

That he was born October the 16th in the year of our Lord 1753, on a voyage from Philadelphia to Charleston South Carolina, that he was bred in the State of Pennsylvania, that he was living in Mecklenburg [County] North Carolina on the 16th day of October in the year while Lord 1775; when he volunteered and entered the Service of the United States a private commanded by Capt. Charles Polk 1st Lieut. Thomas Ray 2nd Lieut. James McCalop [James McCaleb] General Thomas Polk, Col. James McCall and marched to Cross Creek to subdue the Scotch Tories [Moore's Creek Bridge, February 27, 1776] and served three months and five days.

That in the spring of the year of all Lord 1776, he was appointed Capt. by General William Davidson [William Lee Davidson] over 100 men who were called Rifle men Rangers, and that he marched against the Cherokee Indians, laid waste their towns and corn fields and that he served three months and sixteen days as a Capt.<sup>1</sup> That he was under the Command of Col. Robert Erwin and General Pickens [Andrew Pickens] during the Expedition against the Indians.

That in the autumn of (he thinks) 1780 he marched the company which he was Captain of at home from Mecklenburg to Ruggles Stockade Fort [sic, Rugeley's Mill, December 4, 1780]<sup>2</sup> that they are met Col. Lee [Henry "Light Horse Harry" Lee] and Col. Washington [William Washington] and that at the request of Col. Washington he (the said Miller) made a wooden cannon about the size of a 6 pounder; that this Cannon was drawn up in sight of the Fort in which were a British officer seven privates and a number of Tories, who being terrified at the sight of a wooden Cannon, threw open the gates, and surrendered without firing a gun.

That after that he marched to Hanging Rock and was in the battle there [August 6, 1780]; that he served at this time two months and five days, as Captain.

That in the month of January or February 1781 he marched from Mecklenburg to Guilford Courthouse with his Company under the Command of Col. Robert Erwin Major James

<sup>1</sup> [http://www.carolana.com/NC/Revolution/revolution\\_cherokee\\_expedition\\_1776.html](http://www.carolana.com/NC/Revolution/revolution_cherokee_expedition_1776.html)

<sup>2</sup> [http://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution\\_rugeley\\_mills\\_2.html](http://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_rugeley_mills_2.html)

White and Major James Harris; when he arrived at Guilford Courthouse he was placed under Command of General Green [sic, Nathanael Greene] and was in the battle there on the 8th of March [sic, March 15, 1781]; that he served at this time three months and fourteen days as Captain.

That this Affiant Claims a pension for three months and five days service as a private and for nine months and five days as Capt. That he always served as a volunteer, -- That he received a discharge from Capt. Charles Polk, also that he received a discharge from General Greene and that he does not recollect of receiving any other written discharge. That his discharges were consumed in his house which was burnt, -- That he has no record of his age only one that he wrote in his Bible which is at his home, about 30 years ago, and that he only knows his age by what his parents told him.

That he recollects to have seen many officers while in the service but at present cannot mention their names. That he cannot recollect the names or Numbers of any Continental or Militia Regiments.

That General Davidson signed his the said (Miller's) commission when he was appointed Capt., and that the said commission was burnt at the same time his discharges were. That after the Revolutionary war, he lived about 17 years in North Carolina, then moved to South Carolina, lived there about 13 years, and then moved to Greene County Illinois, where he has lived for the last 10 years. That he is known to many persons in his present neighborhood who can testify concerning him among whom he should mention Abner Hill, clergyman, and Calvin Tunnell, Jesse V. Mounts & others. That 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 or Territory.

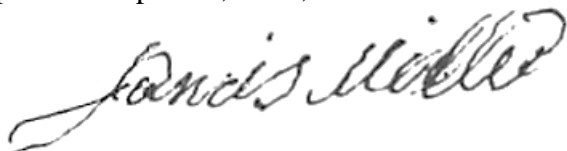
This applicant has stated distinctly that his commissions have been lost by fire, and at this remote period he is not able to procure any testimony, or proof of their Existence -- that he knows he served the periods hereto set forth in the capacity stated.

Subscribed and sworn to in open Court on the 5th day of March A.D. 1834  
S/ Moses O. Bledsoe, Clerk

S/ Francis Miller, X his mark

[Abner Hill, a clergyman and Calvin Tunnell gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[p 33: On April 24, 1834, the veteran surrendered his claim to be paid as an officer.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Francis Miller". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above a closing bracket.

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[p 4: On June 8, 1843 in Greene County Illinois, Jane Miller, 89, filed for a widow's pension under the 1836 act stating that she is the widow of Francis Miller, a revolutionary war pensioner; that she married him September 26, 1774; that he died February 19, 1843; and that she remains his widow. She signed her application with her mark.]

[p 6: David Miller, 56, gave testimony in support of the application made by his mother and authenticated the family record kept of the marriage of his parents and the births of their children. He signed his affidavit with his mark.]

[Facts in file: veteran died February 19, 1843; he married in Mecklenburg County, North Carolina, on September 19, 1775, Jane or Jean, her maiden name not given. The widow filed for her pension on June 8, 1843 at age 89 while living in Greene County Illinois. The following children of the veteran and his wife are listed:

John born August 26, 1776

James born June 10, 1778, living in Greene County in 1843

Jemima born August 17, 1780

Agnes born March 14, 1782

William Slone born July 8, 1784

Sarah born February 14, 1787

David born September 2, 1789, living in Greene County in 1843.

Jean M, (?) Illegible born August \_\_, 1790.

Veteran had a brother named John Adam Miller.]<sup>3</sup>

[p 20: On June 8, 1843 in Greene County Illinois James Miller and David Miller gave testimony in support of their mother's application for a pension.

*James Miller*  
*David Miller*

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[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$41.11 per annum commencing March 4<sup>th</sup>, 1831, for service as a private in the North Carolina militia for one year and 10 days. His widow was pensioned in a like amount.]

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<sup>3</sup> The Bible record appears on p 9 of this file but the image is so faint as to be mostly illegible.