

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Henry Miller ¹ W5377

Martha Miller f71NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

10/7/15

[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.]

[p 10]

State of Tennessee Roane County

On this 7 day of November 1844 personally appeared before the undersigned one of the Justices of the peace for Roane County Court it being a court of Record Martha Miller a Resident of the County of Roane in the State of Tennessee aged Eighty Five 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 provisions of the Act of Congress passed July 4th 1836. That she is the wife of Henry Miller who was a private under Captain Wm Dobson [William Dobson] in the __ N. C. Militia __ Regiment commanded by Colonel Alexander² as she believes in the fall of 1776^{or 1777} in Guilford County NC as a volunteer. That he was in the battle at the Shallow Ford [October 14, 1780]³ and at the Battle at Kings Mountain [October 7, 1780]⁴ which she believes was in the same fall that he entered the service say '77 in October. That he continued in the service without intermission as she believes until after the Battle at Guilford Court House [March 15, 1781],⁵ where he was & in the engagement which she believes took place in the year 1781 after which Battle he was discharged & came home having been absent in the service of the United States from the fall of 1777 until the summer of 1781, a Portion of which time he served under Captain Henry Francis but at what period she cannot state with certainty, She has often heard him speak of General Marion, Colonel Horry & others whose name she cannot recollect, but she recollects distinctly of his absence in the service of his country from '77 until '81 from the fact of her having to stay with her step Father David Miller all the time her Husband was absent with her three eldest Children the youngest of whom was born a short time after he entered into the Service, who resided on Cripple Creek in Virginia as she thinks and this circumstance satisfies her that her Husband was in service from the time he left home in 1777 until the spring or Summer of '81 between which periods she believes he was engaged in actual service and did not return to his family until the last period, She hearing from him frequently during this time. That she was married to the said Henry Miller on the __ day of February 1774 in __ County NC by Esq. Neale and that the aforesaid Henry Miller died on the 6th day of August 1820 and she has remained a widow ever since that period as will appear more fully by reference to the proof

¹ BLWt2469-100

² Captain William Dobson is known to have served under Colonel Joseph Williams.

³ http://www.carolana.com/NC/Revolution/revolution_shallow_ford.html

⁴ http://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_battle_of_kings_mountain.html

⁵ http://www.carolana.com/NC/Revolution/revolution_battle_of_guilford_courthouse.html

herein annexed. She further swears that after the War her & her husband removed to Chucky [Nolichucky] in what is now Tennessee where they remained until 1800 when they [they] moved to what is now Roane County Tennessee where she has remained ever since. She further swears that she never knew that she was entitled to a Pension until recently.

Sworn to & subscribed before me 7th of November 1844

S/ John A Patton, JP

S/ Martha Miller, X her mark

[p 36]

State of North Carolina

Office of Secretary of State

I William Hill Secretary of State in and for the State of North Carolina, do certify, that it appears from a Book of Settlements of the Accounts of the Officers ^{and Soldiers} of the Continental line of this State in the Revolutionary War, that Henry Miller was allowed in 1783, as one of the privates enlisted in the war the sum of sixty-five Dollars and Gratuity the sum of eighty Dollars, and that a final Settlement certificate was issued to him for two hundred sixty-five Dollars.

Given under my hand this 29th day of October 1845

S/ Wm Hill, Secretary of State

[p 57]

State of Tennessee Blount County: SS

On this tenth day of December 1845, personally appeared before the Subscriber, a Justice of the Peace in and for said County Martha Miller a resident of the County and State aforesaid aged 87 years who being first duly sworn, 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 7th 1838 entitled an "Act granting half pay and pensions to certain widows." That she is the widow of Henry Miller who was a soldier in the Continental line in the State of North Carolina of the Revolutionary War, and that she does not now recollect the services performed in the Army by the said Henry Miller, nor the names of the Officers under whom he served, but that she has often heard him say that he served then three years in all during the War of the Revolution as an enlisted private. She further declares that at the time he entered the service he resided in Mecklenburg North Carolina and that she was married to the said Henry Miller in Rutherford County North Carolina in the year 1774, and that she has no family record nor any documentary evidence by which she can establish her marriage, nor does she know of any person now living who was present at her marriage, except her near neighbor (Mr. James Wyley) who was present when the marriage took place – And she further States that her husband the aforesaid Henry Miller died in the year 1820 and at the time of his death, his place of residence was in Roane County Tennessee and that she has remained a widow ever since that period, as will more fully appear by reference to the proof hereto annexed.

Sworn to and subscribed on the day and year 1st above written before me a Justice of the Peace for said County. And I further certify that the said Martha Miller is from bodily infirmity and old age unable to attend Court.

S/ Wesley Earnest, JP

S/ Martha Miller, X her mark

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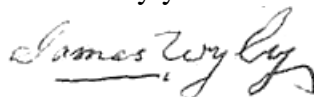
State of Tennessee Blount County: Personally appeared before me Wesley Earnest a Justice of

the Peace for said County James Wyley and made oath in due form of law, that he has been well acquainted with Henry Miller and Martha Miller mentioned in the foregoing declaration and recollects well to have been present and saw them lawfully married in the year 1774 in Rutherford County North Carolina, and he further states that he knows the marriage took place before the last term of service of her husband expired, for the reason that the said Miller was absent from his wife and family about three years during the revolutionary War, and that they lived with me during nearly all that time, and previous thereto the said Henry Miller served a Campaign under Captain Christian [William Christian of Virginia] against the Cherokee Indians.

He further states that the said Miller came to the State of Tennessee in the year 1780, and settled himself and family in Roane County, where they lived together until his death, which took place in the year 1820, and that she still remains his widow.

Sworn to and Subscribed this 10th day of December 1845 before me
S/ Wesley Earnest, JP

S/ James Wyly



[p 28]

State of Tennessee Blount County:

Personally appeared before me Wesley Earnest a Justice of the Peace in and for the said County James Wyly and made oath in due form of law that he was well acquainted with Henry Miller and Martha Miller in Rutherford County North Carolina where they were married, sometime in the Winter Season of 1774, and I see from an Old family Register that their Eldest Child (John Wyly Miller) was born the 8th of November 1775; the Old Bible containing the family Register as aforesaid has been found among other of my Books since Mrs. Miller sent on her claim asserted under the Act of 4th July 1836 – and as to the handwriting of said family Record, I cannot say, but I know that Henry Miller could write, and that said Record has been in my possession for more than twenty years as I had it before the death of said Henry Miller. – I further state that Martha Miller, aforesaid, is the widow of the aforesaid Henry Miller who served in the Revolutionary war in Rutherford County North Carolina and elsewhere and that I was well acquainted with said Miller and that there was no other of the same name in the said County to my knowledge, and that he was the son of Patrick Miller. As to the death of Henry Miller, I know it took place in the year 1820, from the fact that some of my papers bearing date with that of his death, the papers alluded to pertaining to land claims which I hold in my possession –

Sworn to and subscribed before me the 2nd day of September 1846

S/ Wesley Earnest

S/ James Wyly

[p 9: family record:

John Wyly Miller Was born the 8 day of november 1775

Mery dobson Miller Was born in the 8 day of April in the year 1780

Jams Staracs Miller Was born the 22 day of August 178_ [no last digit]

Martha Miller Was born ye 15 fabeury 1786 [?]

John Miller
 Was born the 8
 day of November
 1775

Mary Johnson
 Miller
 born in the 4th
 day of April
 1777

James Miller
 Was born the 22
 day of August 1778

Martha Miller
 born the 15th day of
 1776

[p 55: Power of attorney dated January 28, 1852 in Knox County Tennessee given by Dobson Miller to Taze A. Newman of Knoxville the power to pursue claims against the United States for the services of his late father who was a corporal and Sergeant in the Revolution and arrears of pension due his mother Martha Miller.

Dobson Miller

[p 6: Power of attorney acknowledged on May 8th, 1852 in Knox County Tennessee given by Dobson Miller, a resident of Roane County Tennessee to Taze W. Newman of Knoxville on behalf of himself and the other heirs of Henry Miller to pursue a bounty land claim due the heirs of Henry Miller as a corporal and Sergeant in the Continental line in the state of North Carolina.]

[p 3]

State of Tennessee

At a Court held for Roane County in the State aforesaid on Monday the 7th day of June A.D. 1852 Satisfactory evidence was adduced in Court to show that Dobson Miller, James

Miller, Elizabeth Davis and Isabella Hankins [could be Isabella Hawkins]⁶ are the only surviving Children of Henry Miller late a Sergeant in the North Carolina line in the war of the American Revolution.

I Austin L Greene clerk of the County Court of the county and State aforesaid do Certify that the above evidence is taken from the records in my office.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto subscribe my name and affix the seal of said court of office in Kingston this 8th day of June A.D. 1852

S/ Austin L. Greene, Clk

[p 19: Affidavit dated January 28, 1852 given in Rowan County Tennessee by James Preston, 60, in which the affiant states that he was well acquainted with Henry Miller and his wife Martha; that Martha died December 22, 1858; that he, affiant, was also well acquainted with their oldest children; that John Miller, their son was a grown man by the time the affiant was a very small boy; that Martha Miller was at least 75 years of age at the time she died; that Dobson Miller is a brother of John Miller, son of Henry and Martha Miller.]

[Note: This file contains a number of other affidavits given by acquaintances of the veteran testifying as to what they heard him say regarding his services; his character for veracity; and his reputation in the community as a Revolutionary war soldier. See p. 31 for affidavit of Jesse Eldridge; p. 33 for affidavit of Willis Breazeale; p. 61 for affidavit of Mary Pritchett (largely illegible as posted online; p. 67 for affidavit of John Prichett.)

[Veteran's widow was rate of \$104 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831 for her husband service for one year as a corporal and one year as a Sergeant in the North Carolina militia.]

⁶ *Isabella Hankins*