

[Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters](#)

Pension Application of John Miller W5380 Lucy Miller VA
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. Revised 22 Oct 2014.

[Because the penmanship is so bad, transcription of the first document should be used with more than usual caution.]

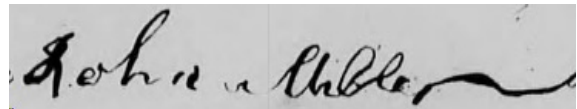
State of Tennessee } S.S.
Sumner County }

On this 21st day of August AD 1832 personally appeared in open Court before Thomas Anderson – Wm Edwards & John L Swaney Esq's the Court of pleas and quarter Sessions of said County of Sumner now setting – John Miller a resident of Sumner County aged seventy one years old upon the 8th day of last March having now a register at his residence of his birth given him by his father when he was younger 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. that he entered the service of the united states under the following named officers and served as herein stated. I was born in Caroline County State of Virginia my father moved with him & family from that County to the County of Bedford State of Virginia where he lived during the revolutionary war. I volunteered in the County of Bedford State of Virginia I think in the year 1778 under Captain Thomas Leftwich in a corps of horse. I know this was about harvest time in the year as I and others shot at a tory in the harvest field when reeping. I was attached to Colo Charles Linches [sic: Charles Lynch's] Regiment. I volunteered for no particular period but as long as I should be wanting. This service was devoted chiefly against the Tories who had become numerous and was about to embody on Lille river in Virginia [probably Little River in present Pendleton County WV]. We marched from New London [now in Campbell County VA] across the Blue ridge and the Allegany [sic: Allegheny Mountains] to Lille river their we took four Tory Captains one was named Terry [or could be Florey] of them was one a son in law of a man by the name of Oglesby who was likewise a Tory I recollect we robed his bees and eat a great deal of Oglesby beef. we found the commissions and a list of their companies in their possession which enabled us to find the respective tories in that part of the country. we went upon their pursuit and was some considerable time engaged we captured about three hundred – and carried them and placed them in the New London Jail then in Bedford. twelve of the principals were condemned to be hung were sent to Richmond and lay in jail about twelve months and were pardoned. I can not recollect the precise time I was engaged in the taking of tories but would suppose two or three months and afterwards held myself in readiness to be called out at any moment that the service might require. – Some time afterwards when the British landed at Norfolk and Gen'l. [Robert] Lawson came on and called for men I still being a volunteer in the horse and now attached Capt. John Callaway's Company who was a colonel at home I found my own horse and equipments. we marched from Bedford to Petersburg to meet the British near their met the Americans retreating and we were station there till the British remarked[?] for the South. after this we were marched back to Bedford and kept ourselves ready for any service and rendevoused every week or two. after Gen'l. [Horatio] Gates was defeated at Camden [in South Carolina on 16 Aug 1780] and Cornwallis making an invasion of Virginia [April 1781] volunteers of riflemen were called for. I then volunteered under Captain Bowen Price who commanded a company of volunteer riflemen attached to Colo Charles Linches regiment in Bedford County. we marched from Bedford and crossed Dan river at Dicks Ferry [sic: Dix's Ferry 1 mi W of present Delila in Halifax County VA] and then joined the main army then commanded by Gen'l [Nathanael] Greene and were attached to Colo William Washingtons Dragons [sic: William Washington's Continental Dragoons] with three companies of regulars which composed Colo Washingtons infantry. we then marched to Gilford [sic: Guilford] Courthouse and there met Corn Wallis army and fought that battle [on 15 Mar 1781]. I fought upon the right wing where Colo Washington commanded. we were marched that day to what was then called the [Troublesome] iron works we were there joined by three other regments. we here waited till our dead were buried. We were then ordered

with Colo. Washington to march to deep river [at Ramsey's Mill] where Wallis lay to bring on another engagement as he could not cross the water. just as we arrived we found Wallis had just left his camp [19 Mar] his [two illegible words] some shoed[?] some not – and had escaped over the river across a bridge of rails he had made on the river upon an island & there he had set fire to a house and waggon which were burning when we arrived we crossed the river and pursued him till dark came on and could not overtake him the main army was about eight miles in the rear. Gen'l. Greene finding next morning that Wallis could not be overtaken declined the pursuit. Gen'l. Greene then sent us Commanded by Colo Washington in to North Carolina to keep the Tories down who had become troublesome. we done service and was stationed in that state untill Wallis was marching through Virginia to Little York. having quieted the Tories and provisions being very scarce we were marched back to Bedford and was discharged by Gen'l. Green through Colo Linch [illegible word] no paper individually discharging me but the discharge was given to my Regiment–

In the fall of the year 1781 the American Magazine being at New London and four Captains to wit. Nathan Read [sic: Nathan Reid] Capt Moody Capt Graham & Capt Runolds [sic: Reynolds] with their companies being stationed there by Maj Thomas Holt to guard the Magazine and repair their arms I received the appointment of purchasing commissary to supply those troops with provisions from Captain Christopher Irwin who was the chief commissary. I there continued in the faithful discharge of my duties of purchasing commissary till peace was made which was in the year 1782 [sic: 1783]. I was then discharged by Captain Irwin who gave me a certificate of my service and discharge which many years ago perhaps forty or forty five or fifty years and I sent it to Richmond Virginia and obtained a land warrant from Virginia of three thousand acres which I was cheated out of and never yielded me but forty five dollars. He further states that he has but little doubt his name will be found upon the roll of the Virginia levee and upon the record at Richmond of the land office as well as said certificate. He knows of no person he can procure who could testify to his service. my name is not upon the pension roll of any state – except what he has detailed above – and relinquishes all claim to a pension except the present. Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid.

I lived in Virginia till I was thirty two years then moved to Kentucky and there lived thirty two years – and has since resided in Tennessee Sumner County.

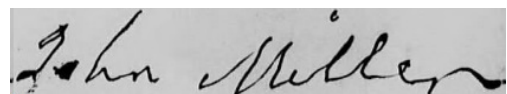


State of Tennessee Sumner County – Sect.

John Miller by way of amendment to his former Declaration to which this is attached. He states that he served as a private volunteer in the revolutionary war at least twelve months. And served in the revolution as a purchasing commissary in the regular service from August 1781 to Nov 1782 at least fourteen months. In drawing land from Virginia which I was defrauded out of granted and drew as much as a Captain of the revolution and was so called in the revolution since I received the s'd. appointment of purchasing commissary. It is for the s'd. twelve and fourteen months that I served as a volunteer private & purchasing commissary that I claim a pension agreeable to my grade – for the particular circumstances of my services reference is made to my original Declaration.

In answer to the seventh interrogatory I would state that I am known in my present neighbourhood by Hudson Tompson Humphrey Mires and Archabald B. Duval whose statements are attached to my Declaration who can speak of my Character for veracity and their belief & belief of my neighbourhood of my services as a soldier of the revolution.

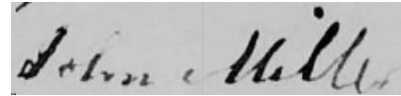
Sworn to and subscribed before us



State of Tennessee } On this 13th day of November 1833, personally appeared in open Court before
Sumner County } the Justices of the County Court of Sumner County, being a Court of Record,
now sitting, Capt. John Miller, a resident of the County and State aforesaid, about 73 years of age, who
being first duly sworn according to law, doth on his oath make the following Amended Declaration (he
having heretofore made his Declaration & sent the same to the War Department, and the same as he is
informed was returned through mistake to Trenton, so that he has not got it) in order to obtain the benefit
of the Act of Congress passed June 7th 1832. That he was born in the County of Caroline & State of
Virginia on the 8th March 1761, when about nine or ten years old, his father moved & settled in Bedford
County of said State and there lived until the close of the Revolutionary War. In the year 1778 or 9,
before the Battle of Kings Mountain [7 Oct 1780], it was understood by the Col. of the County, James
Callaway, that the Tories were about to embody, on Little River on the West Side of the Allegany
Mountain he ordered out Col. Charles Lynch, with a body of Troops against them – he then volunteered
under Lynch, and was commanded by Capt. Thomas Leftwich; started in pursuit of the Tories on Little
River in the Spring & returned about Harvest, having served this time about 3 months; in a short time
went again through the same Country or nearly so under the same officers, having served during these
two Tours about 4 months. During these two Tours, we took three or four Tory Captains, got their List of
men, & besides the Captains took about three hundred of their men, put them in Jail and Court House at
New London – 12 of the principal men were tried for their lives, condemned to be hung, sent to
Richmond by Capt Alexander Cummings [sic: Alexander Cummins] for further trial. After this in the
Spring 1780 Genl. Lawson, came up to Bedford County, Va. and organised a Company of horse under
the command of Capt. John Callaway, in which Company applicant volunteered, and the Company
rendesvoused at New London until the latter part of the Summer or early part of the fall, when we were
called out by Genl Lawson against the British and we were stationed at Petersburg in the Regular Troops
which we met there were stationed at the long Ordinary three miles above Petersburg. We remained in
Petersburg until the Brittish reembarked and went around to Charlestown, at this time we were
discharged at Petersburg having served six months The British Troops above alluded to were a part of
the Troops that had an engagement with Genl Gates in Carolina & defeated him. About the beginning of
the year 1781, volunteer Riflemen were called for from Bedford County (Va.) when applicant again
volunteered under Col. Charles Lynch, Boyen Price Captain, we were marched into N. Carolina, joined
Genl Green's army, after having crossed Dan River shortly after which, we met the Brittish under
Cornwallis & fought the Battle at Guildford Court House. Second or third day after the Battle, Col.
Lynch was ordered with his rifle company to join Col. Wm. Washington to attack the Brittish under
Cornwallis at that time on Deep River, when we arrived at Cornwallis's Encampment, he had just left, we
pursued until night, we were then obliged to halt for the night, next morning we were informed
Cornwallis had marched all night and was at least 20 miles on the Road leading to Wilmington – in the
meantime Genl Green and army was 8 miles in our rear. Genl. Green gave up the pursuit & ordered Col
Lynch & Col. Washington up the Country some 30 or 40 miles to watch the movements of the Tories we
remained there stationed some time, provisions became scarce, and Cornwallis having left this section of
the Country passed to Little York, Va. we were discharged, having served as a private two months – this
was about the last of April or first of May

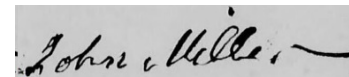
Some time in the year of 1781 [June], I went a short Tour under Col. James Callaway, & was sent by
Callaway to reconnitre & ascertain whether or not Tarlton [sic: Lt. Col. Banastre Tarleton] intended
coming up to New London, where the magazine was; some three or four weeks in this service. Some time
in the year of 1781, applicant was appointed Purchasing Commissary with the Rank of Capt by the
Commissary Gen'l. Christopher Ervin for a part of the regular army guarding the Magazine in New
London, Majr. Thomas Holt, Capts. Nathan Read, Greer, Moody & Reynolds and their companies, these
composed that part of the Regular Army, which I supplied as purchasing Commissary until peace was
concluded The Term of my service as Commissary was fourteen months, and the Tours which I served
as a private Soldier made a little over twelve months. After my Term of service as Commissary expired,
Applicant received a Certificate from the Commissary Genl in regard to my services, and sent it to

Richmond and drew a three thousand acre land warrant, the same with the Captains in the Regular Service drew – The above completes applicants services in the Revolutionary War He continued to reside in Bedford County until 1792, he then moved to Kentucky where he resided until 1825, he then moved to Davidson County, Tennessee, there resided one year, then moved to Sumner County where he has resided ever since. Applicant never received any written discharge except the certificate of the Commissary Gen'l. heretofore spoken of which he received in Nov. 1782, & which was deposited at Richmond, when Applicant received the Land warrant aforesaid
 Applicant has no Documentary evidence of his service – nor does he know of any person living whose testimony he can procure, by whom he can prove his services except Ann Dishman of Simpson County Kentucky, whose certificate or affidavit is hereto appended – He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a Pension or annuity except the present, and declares his name is not on the Pension Roll of the agency of any State or Territory Sworn to & subscribed the year & day aforesaid in open Court



State of Tennessee } My Term 1835 of the Sumner County Court
 Sumner County }

This day [14 May 1835] John Miller aged seventy four years last March appeared in open court being a court of record established by act of Assembly of the state of Tennessee and after being duly qualified, states that he is the same identical John Miller mentioned in the warrant hereto attached No. 10629 dated the 5th January 1782 signed by John Harvey Reg'r. of Land office That he received the above land warrant through a Certificate he received from Christopher Erwen Superindendant or Commissary Gen'l. at New London Bedford County Virginia This was for his services as a Commissary in te army of the Revolution of the United States for a particular detail of his services refference is made to his original declaration on file in the war Department. The reason why he did not then furnish this documentary evidence of his service is that he has tried but failed in procuring a copy of the Warrant. The object of this application is to lay before the Department this evidence so as to enable them to give him such pension as his services in the revolution under the act of Congress of 1832 he is entiled All which is respectfully submitted



[Part of the following is missing at the places marked *.]

Land office Treasury Warrant No. 10629

To the principal Surveyor of any County within the Commonwealth of Virginia.

This shall be your warrant to survey and lay off [*] one or more surveys for John Miller his heirs or assigns, the [*]tity of Two thousand nine hundred & six acres of land due unto said John Miller. In consideration of the sum of four tho[*] six hundred & fifty current money of Virginia paid into public treasury. The payment whereof to the treasury hath been d[*] Certified by the auditors of public accounts, & their Certificate received into the land office. given un[*] my hand & seal of the said office this 5th day of January in [*] year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred & 82.

John Harvey Reg L off

I Assign the within warrant for Sam'l Walker for vallue Rec'd.

Teste Jas King/ Jas Gray

John Miller

I assign over 70 acres of the within warrant to Mrs Hannah Smith

Sam'l Walker Jun'r/ February 20th 1783

[In the certification of the above on 14 May 1835 it was stated that “Capt. Miller is sprightly, able to ride through the country & in possession of his memory & his mental & phisical capacity, in a degree that is very unusual for one of his age.”]

NOTE: On 23 July 1853 in Davidson County TN Lucy Miller, 67, applied for a pension stating that she married John Miller in that county on 29 Aug 1841, and he died 16 June 1848. Supporting her claim was Sarah S. Ewing who stated that she was present at the marriage of John Miller to her sister, Lucy Hickman. On an application for bounty land dated 12 April 1855 Lucy Miller was said to be 70.