

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of William Heath Miller W7451

Joanna Miller

f45VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

6/10/13

[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 Goochland County SS

On this the 25th day of August A.D. 1838 personally appeared before me the subscriber, a justice of the peace in and for the County aforesaid Joanna Miller a resident of the County aforesaid aged eighty-nine years, who being first duly sworn according to law, doth on his oath make the following declaration, in order to obtain the benefit of the provision made by the act of Congress passed July 4th, 1836.

That she is the widow of Captain William Heath Miller who was a Captain in the Revolution, in the service of the United States – That she lived with Captain Miller aforesaid in Goochland County aforesaid where she now lives, both before, during and after the Revolution – That he never enlisted for a length of time at once; and was drafted into the militia, and always acted as Captain, and many different times and places during the war; many tours of which she has possibly forgotten; the following are the tours which she particularly remembers; for the particulars of which she would refer to his old fellow soldiers and friends John Salmon,¹ John Richards,² John Martin,³ and others all of this County and all she believes revolutionary pensioners.

That Captain William H Miller aforesaid was drafted into the militia the "cold winter" 1778 and marched from Goochland County aforesaid his residence up to the Barracks in Albemarle County, State aforesaid 4th day of January, where he was placed under Colonel Frank Taylor [Francis Taylor], and served, as Captain, for one month – when he was discharged and returned home – That Captain William H Miller aforesaid, was drafted into the militia the same date 1778 and marched from Goochland County aforesaid up to the Barracks aforesaid the middle of November, where he was placed under Colonel Frank Taylor and served as Captain for one month, when he was discharged regularly and returned home –

That Captain William H Miller aforesaid was drafted into the militia in the year 1780, and on the 28th day of April (a very destructive frost occurred that morning and destroyed all the fruit, which was very early: & the winter very mild) marched his men from Goochland aforesaid, up to the Barracks aforesaid, where he was placed under Colonel Taylor, and served one month, as Captain, when he was discharged and returned home –

That she cannot remember now, any of his tours about Richmond, for which she must

¹ [John Salmon W5980](#)

² [John Richards S15967](#)

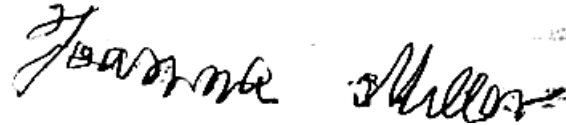
³ [John Martin S18104](#)

referred to men who were with him John Salmon, John Richards, Henry Isbel⁴---

She further testifies that Lord Cornwallis' Army encamped for a week or so 7th day of June 1781 at Elk Hill three miles from her house: that they took a boy "Ned" from Captain Miller aforesaid; but came home as the enemy left for the lower counties; that he "Ned" was taken with smallpox soon after, caught in camp; that Captain Miller aforesaid, scarcely had time to deliver the boy "Ned" aforesaid in the care of a neighbor, when he was called out: (drafted she believes). That he left about the 28th of June 1781 and marched down after the enemy to Yorktown; that he stayed in Gloucester County State aforesaid. That he returned home a short time before Cornwallis surrendered [October 19, 1781]. That she cannot tell any of the Divisions, or Regiment; and knows of no documentary evidence relating to his, Captain Miller's services, and refers to the aforementioned men for proof.

That she was married to the aforesaid Captain William H Miller 19th March 1772 when her husband, Miller, aforesaid died the 23rd day of May 1815; and that she has remained a widow ever since them. All of which will more fully appear by reference to proof annexed.

S/ Joanna Miller



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State of Virginia Goochland County

This day personally appeared before me a justice of the peace in & for the County of Goochland, David Royster who being duly sworn according to law, deposeth & saith that he was intimately acquainted with Captain William H Miller who died some years past in the County of Goochland aforesaid, and was also intimately acquainted with Joanna Miller the wife of the said Captain William H Miller & now a widow, and was acquainted with her before her marriage, She before her marriage to the said Captain William H Miller being Joanna Laprade: this deponent was at the Barracks in the County of Albemarle in January 1778 and served a tour of one month as one of the Virginia Militia under the command of the said Captain William H Miller, Colonel Taylor was at that time in command of said Barracks: this the deponent was only one month with Captain William H Miller, but has no doubt from his recollection of the occurrences of that day that the said Captain William H Miller was a considerable time in service as a Captain. This deponent is now in his 78th year.

Subscribed and sworn to before me Benjamin Anderson, JP, 13th day of October 1838
S/ Benjamin Anderson JP

S/ David Royster⁵



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State of Virginia Goochland County: SS

On this the 11th day of October 1838 personally appeared before me John Ware a justice of the peace in and for said Goochland County State aforesaid Major Archelaus Perkins a

⁴ FPA S35461

⁵ [David Royster S11327](#)

resident of said County aged seventy-eight years who being first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following statements – That he was as well acquainted with Captain William Heath Miller before and after the Revolution, that he belonged to the company of said Captain Miller and mustered under him before the Revolution. That he did not serve under him in the revolution but was to the South: that he was intimate with Captain Miller after the Revolution until his death, and always understood and still believes that Captain William H Miller aforesaid did months service as Captain of the militia in the Revolution.

That he is well acquainted with Joanna Miller widow of the said William H Miller and knows she is yet living. That he has seen a certificate from James H Terrell in which is the following "1772 March 19 William Miller and Joanna Leprade, both of Goochland" that he has every reason to believe that Joanna Miller above mentioned is the identical Joanna Leprade now Joanna Miller, widow of Captain William H Miller above mentioned.

That he is now a revolutionary Pensioner of the United States.

S/ Arch. Perkins⁶



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State of Virginia Goochland County SS

On this the 28th day of August 1838 personally appeared before me Henry Massie a justice of the peace in and for said County John Richards a resident of said Goochland County State aforesaid, aged eighty-five years, who being first duly sworn according to law, doth on his oath make the following depositions – That he was well acquainted with Captain William Heath Miller before, during and after the Revolutionary War: Captain Miller aforesaid was a Captain in the militia before, during and after the war; that he did not belong to Captain Miller's company but frequently attended his musters – That they lived before and since the War about ten miles apart that he was in the habit of doing a good deal of work for Captain Miller aforesaid at his house, and was well acquainted with him and his family and has every reason to believe that Joanna Miller his widow is still living. That he always understood and still believes that he, Captain Miller, did months service in the revolutionary war in the service of his country –

That the Goochland Militia were drafted into service the first of the year 1780 and that they rendezvoused at Manchester in Chesterfield County State aforesaid 15th of January 1780, – That the Captain under whom he, Richards, served and Captain Miller aforesaid united in Manchester aforesaid, under Mulenburg [General Peter Muhlenberg] (he thinks) of the 3rd division, that they marched to various places both sides of James River viz. to Osborn's, Burnt Chimneys, Charles City Court House, New Kent Court House, Holt's forge, Sandy Point, cabin Point, Petersburg – That they saw no enemy, and does not believe there were any British about their then. That they were discharged and returned home about the 15th March 1780. That he may be mistaken as to the year for he cannot say whether it was one or 2 winters before Arnold [Benedict Arnold] & Phillips [William Phillips] came on James River – This tour 2 months –

That he was at Richmond in service from the first of April 1781 to the first of June 1781, that he did not serve under Captain Miller aforesaid but thinks he certainly served a tour of two months at that time as Captain. That he, Richards, was attached to Lafayette's main body and did not go further down the River than Ferrins [sic?], where hearing that the enemy were in

⁶ [Archelaus Perkins S15570](#)

Manchester and threaten crossing the River to Richmond they returned to the last mentioned place where they remained to the end of the tour.

That at that time all the militia of Goochland were called out and from the idea he has of seeing him there and the active zealous character of Captain Miller aforesaid, he is confident he was there. For he was an active man in the service of his country.

S/ John Richards, X his mark

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State of Virginia Goochland County SS

On this the 29th day of August A.D. 1838 personally appeared before me the subscriber a justice of the peace in and for said County of Goochland and State aforesaid John Martin a resident of the County aforesaid aged eighty-five years, who being first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following Depositions –

That he was well acquainted with Captain William Heath Miller; that they both lived in Goochland County aforesaid all their lives; that he was acquainted with Captain Miller aforesaid before, during and after the Revolution: That Captain Miller aforesaid was a Captain of the militia before the war, but he, John Martin, did not belong to his company. That he always understood that Captain Miller aforesaid did much service in the Revolution, but he John Martin does not recollect serving under him but two months: That he knew Miller aforesaid to be a good officer: and a warm and Silas man in the cause of America –

That he John Martin aforesaid about the first of August 1781 was on furlough at home, sick: that sometime before that the Goochland draft with Captain Miller had left to join the Army's in the lower country; that they started soon after Cornwallis left the County aforesaid 15th June 1781, but he was left behind, sick: that as soon as he got well he went on down privately 10th of August year last aforesaid: that he went down and joined the company under Captain William H Miller aforesaid, that they went through York but was stationed nearly all the time in Gloucester County opposite York, where the British were stationed: that he served under Captain Miller aforesaid this whole tour, there General's name was Weden [George Weedon], there division Regiment, Battalion & he forgets – that about twelve days before Cornwallis surrendered his tour of two months expired, as also did Captain Miller's tour but they were not discharged until relief came from Goochland County aforesaid, which was the very day before Cornwallis surrendered; that they crossed the River to York and Washington discharged them – That Captain Miller aforesaid was on horseback and came quickly but he was on foot and lame, and was overtaken the day after Wallis surrendered by discharged soldiers. That his (John Martin's) tour to Gloucester was two months and ten days, but Captain Miller aforesaid was there some time before he was. That he was acquainted with said Captain Miller's family but has not been in that part of the County for many years; but he has every reason to believe (but personal knowledge) that Joanna Miller his widow is still living.

S/ John Martin, X his mark

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State of Virginia Goochland County: SS

On this the 28th day of August A.D. 1838 personally appeared before me the subscriber a justice of the peace in and for said County of Goochland state aforesaid Henry Isbel a resident of the County aforesaid aged 78 years who being first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following depositions – That he was well acquainted with Captain William Heath

Miller both before, during and after the revolution; that he always understood and still believes that he did much service as Captain in the Revolutionary War: that he was in active man and a zealous advocate for the cause of America –

That the militia were drafted in service in the year 1781, that he, Isbel, was there in service below Richmond for two months that winter (of 1781) that he remembers seeing Captain Miller there from this circumstance: They were at a place called Cabin Point and saw Captains Miller and Hatcher who were very anxious to return home to their families as their tour had expired some time before that and there were not much need of their services longer. That he recollects Captain Miller addressed his company in very warm terms about leaving, and some disturbance was apprehended, and they were discharged the next day a slight snow being on the ground.

That he left Goochland County aforesaid under Captain Miller aforesaid with the above mention Captain Hatcher of this County, that they crossed James River at Jades Ferry in the County aforesaid: then went to Chesterfield County, crossed the River again at Shirley hundred into Charles City, then they crossed again at Cabin Wharf to Cabin Point where they were principally stationed: That he belonged to the 3rd division; under Major Merberry; That he served under Captain Miller all that time and it was at Cabin Point that the above recited circumstance occurred; that he was discharged with Captain Miller aforesaid at the above mentioned place. That they were discharged about the first of March 1781. This tour was 2 months. –

That he has been living in the neighborhood of Captain Miller aforesaid and always understood that he did much service in the Revolutionary War – that he did not serve under Captain Miller any other tour as he remembers but is confident he did months service in the war.

S/ Henry Isbel, X his mark

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State of Virginia Goochland County: SS

On this the 25th day of August 1838 personally appeared before me the subscriber a justice of the peace for the County aforesaid John Salmon a resident of the County aforesaid a Revolutionary pensioner aged 85 years, who, being first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following Deposition –

That he was well acquainted with Captain William H Miller from a boy that they were neighbors all their lives; that Captain Miller was a Captain before the revolution – That he, Salmon, belonged to his company: that he served under Captain Miller aforesaid all the service he (the said Salmon) did in the war, except one tour. That they Captain Miller and Salmon aforesaid, were never drafted, that they did not serve [sic????] – that he was drafted into the militia, under Captain Miller aforesaid & they marched from Goochland County, aforesaid their residence to the Barracks in Albemarle County State aforesaid on the 4th day of January 1778 and served there under Captain Miller aforesaid for the space of one month; when they were discharged and returned home.

That they were drafted again in the Militia and marched up to the barracks aforesaid from Goochland aforesaid on the 28th April 1780 where he served one month under Captain Miller aforesaid; that they belonged, he thinks to the 7th division Virginia Militia; that they were placed under Captain Frank Taylor the 2 tours above mentioned after about one month they were discharged and returned home –

That they were drafted into the Militia again, when he set off from Colonel Woodson's (he thinks) in this County the first of April 1781, marched to Richmond under the command of

Captain Miller as aforesaid and joined to Colonel Nat. Morrice of this County that they remained about Richmond until Lafayette came, that he was under Miller aforesaid, all the tour, that they marched below Richmond to a place called Ferrins [?]⁷, thence on the Chickahominy to various places on James River; that Captain Miller was placed as a scouring party off Lafayette's main body, that they United sometime for an action at Four Mile Creek that Captain Miller made the officers cut the bushes with their brass handled swords; but they did not engage. That they saw the enemy firing on a vessel in the River; the vessel went off and the enemy then commence firing on them, but being so far they did not exchange shots. That they marched into Richmond and saw the British burn some of the store houses in Manchester (over the River) – That they were under Colonel Morrice, when they were under any Colonel; the division he cannot remember. That they were discharged and returned home he thinks a few days before Whit Sunday (3rd of June 1781); Captain Miller with him.

S/ John Salmon, X his mark

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State of Virginia Goochland County SS

On this 7th day of September 1838 personally appeared before me the Subscriber a Justice of the peace in and for the said Goochland County State aforesaid John Clements a resident of said County a revolutionary pensioner aged eighty-one years who being first duly sworn according to law deposeth and saith –

That he was well acquainted with Captain William Heath Miller of Goochland County aforesaid before, during and after the War of the Revolution: That he knew his Wife Joanna Miller from their first marriage, before the Revolution and ever since: and knows certainly that she Joanna Miller aforesaid widow of William H Miller aforesaid is still living.

That Miller aforesaid was Captain of a militia company before the Revolution and he, Clements, mustered under him before he Clements entered the service of the Revolution.

That he, Clements, never did any actual service under Miller aforesaid. But well remembers that in the spring of 1781 while on a tour of duty about Richmond Virginia he, Clements, saw said Captain, somewhere between Richmond and Williamsburg Virginia in actual service having a militia company under his command; that he was not with him, Captain Miller aforesaid long, but is certain that said Miller performed a tour of actual service during the months of April and May in the year 1781 as Captain of militia.

That he, Clements, had a near relation and also being a near neighbor, now deceased, with whom he, Clements, was very intimate, that he, Clements, frequently heard his relation aforesaid speak of being a Lieutenant under Captain Miller at the siege of Yorktown 1781, that he does not doubt that he Miller aforesaid was in service as a militia Captain at Yorktown 1781. That his relation aforesaid always had the reputation of being a Lieutenant in the war under Miller aforesaid and he confidently believes it.

That these are the only tours he, Clements, can specify, but always understood and still believes that said Captain did much actual service in the Revolution as Captain of militia.

S/ John Clements,⁸ X his mark

[p 4: certificate from James H. Terrell who possesses the Parish Register of Goochland County

⁷ *Jerimo,*

⁸ [John Clements S12511](#)

By William Douglas, minister in which is recorded the following entry

"1772 March 19, Will Miller & Joana Leprade both in Goochland County and in the Register of births & christenings for Goochland the 3 following entries:

1773 June 6, William Miller & Joana Leprade, a son named John, born May 1st 1773

1775 April 18 Will Heath Miller & Joana Leprade a son named John Heath born March 10, 1775.

1776 September 7 William Miller & Joana Leprade a daughter named Betsey born July 8, 1776."]

[Facts in file: the widow left no children surviving her but was survived by six grandchildren and one great grandchild the only name given was that of a grandson, William H Ford who was living in Goochland County Virginia in 1852 and was the administrator of the estate of his grandmother.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$120 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831 for service as a Captain for 6 months in the Virginia militia. His widow was pensioned in a like amount.]