

## Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Thomas Miles W8457

Ann Miles

f34NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

rev'd 4/9/11 & 6/8/15

[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 'indcipherable' 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 5]

State of Tennessee, Wilson County

Sept. Term County Court 1832

On this day, viz, Sept. 27<sup>th</sup> 1832, personally appeared in open court, before James M. Martin, David C. Hibbits & Benjm. H. Billings Esquires, now holding said Court & presiding therein as Quorum Justices thereof, Thomas Miles, Sr., a resident of said County, aged about 80 years or upwards, who being first duly sworn according to law, doth on his oath make the following declaration, in order to obtain the benefit of the provisions made by the Act of Congress passed June 7<sup>th</sup> 1832.

He was born in Charles City County in the State of Virginia. In what year he was born he cannot tell, as there was no record kept of his age, but from the best information he has been able to obtain, & from the ages of his children, he has no doubt but that he is something upwards of 80 years of age at this time.

When he was a boy, his step father moved with him into Cumberland County on James River in the same state. About the commencement of the Revolutionary War, he moved to Caswell County, North Carolina. He married before he left Cumberland County. He remained in Caswell after the war till 1798 when he moved to Davidson County Tennessee where he continued till 1804 when he moved to Williamson & staid there ten years, & then came to Wilson County in the same state where he has remained ever since & where he still resides.

His first service against the enemy of his country was as a volunteer in Georgia. Green was his Capt. There were no field officers, it was a company of Rangers. We had several skirmishes with the British & Tories, but no regular engagement. He was out three months the time for which he engaged & was then regularly discharged, but received no written evidence thereof. He then returned home to Caswell [County].

In 1780, he again volunteered for three months, but was kept out in the service six months. He was an Ensign this campaign & received a commission as such from General Rutherford [Griffith Rutherford]. Danl. McFarland was our Capt. He does not remember his Major, but Col. Wm. Moore [William Moore], who died [in] 1823 in Carthage Tennessee was his Colonel. We were in the Brigade commanded by Genl. Butler [John Butler]. We started from Caswell [County] on the 20<sup>th</sup> day of July in the year 1780, & marched to Hillsborough town, & from thence to Rougsley's [sic, Rugeley's] Mills in South Carolina, & from there to the battle ground where the American Army under General Gates [Horatio Gates] met the enemy [Battle of Camden, August 15-16, 1780], & after a short conflict retreated in mortification, disgrace &

defeat. The army being so torn to pieces & dispirited, dispersed & each man made the best of his way home; where we staid a few days & as soon as we could make a little hasty preparation, we returned to the service under the same officers, & marched to Salisbury in N. Carolina, & from Salisbury we went as a detachment to the Waxsaw [sic, Waxhaw] settlement where our regiment under Col. Moore was placed under General Smallwood [William Smallwood]. From there our Company was detached to guard a mill about eight miles off while it was grinding for the army. Here our time of six months expired & we returned to head quarters, where we were discharged, & received written evidences thereof, which has been long since lost or mislaid as we set no value upon them. So he served on that tour six months as an Ensign.

In Feby. 1781 when General Green [sic, Nathanael Greene] was retreating before Cornwallis, he came to his house, & he volunteered & went on with him under Col. Moore; we passed on across Dan River a few miles, & then being reinforced by the Virginia Militia, General Greene considered himself able to meet the enemy, & returned the same way we came recrossed Dan River at the same place. We were then detached with Colonel Lee [Henry "Light Horse Harry" Lee], & scouted under him about the British, Tories & rested but little day or night. At Whitesell's [sic, Wetzel's or Weitzel's] Mills on Ready fork of Haw River, we had a pretty severe conflict [March 6, 1781] with the enemy, but being greatly out numbered we could only delay the enemy till our baggage got clear, indeed that was our only object in fighting them there, we retreated. They came upon us several miles before we got to the mills, but we made no stand till we got there. There were several killed in the action on both sides. We then ranged about to watch & annoy the enemy till the general engagement at Guilford, but being engaged in these other duties he was not immediately in the action but was near it. After the battle [March 15, 1781] he was dismissed & went home. He was out two months.

The same year the Tories gathered together & took Governor Burk [sic, Thomas Burke] & several others prisoners at Hillsborough [September 12, 1781]. He then, together with Capt. Foley [Mason Foley], made up a volunteer company [of] 48 men & marched after the Tories to Hillsborough, & went on in pursuit, & overhauled them at Lindley's Mill, where we had a very severe fight [September 13, 1781] with them. Col. Literal [John Luttrell] was killed, together with many others. There were most of the Tories killed. The Tories still kept the Governor & pressed on to Brown Marsh [September 1781] where we camped, & during the night, the Tories came upon & took us by surprise & after some fighting & losing most all our horses, we retreated & got together again seventy miles from there at Cross Creek in N. Carolina, where we made a stand & were joined by General Rutherford who took command. We then followed on after the Tories to Wilmington where they joined the British. After staying there some time we returned home, being all dismissed. We were out this time for six [months] he being Lieutenant all the tour.

So this declarant served five months as a private soldier, six months as an Ensign, six months as a lieutenant.

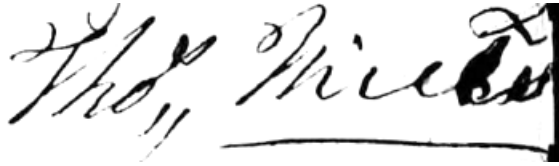
He has no documentary evidence of his services.

The following are some of the persons to whom this declarant is known in his present neighborhood, & who will testify to his character for veracity & their belief of his services as a soldier of the revolution, Lee Harrold, Hugh Filford, James Dunnan, Esqr., James Gray, Esqr., Major Thomas Kirkpatrick, Ranson Gunn, Esqr., John Roach, John Curry, Ship S. Puckett, Peter Leath, Wm. Leath, Robert Bell & others.

In consideration of the foregoing services, this declarant prays to be placed on the Pension Roll.

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity, except the present & declares that his name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any state or Territory.

S/ Thos. Miles

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Thos. Miles". The signature is written in black ink on a white background and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Sworn to & subscribed in open court this day & date above written.

S/ Josiah I. McClain, Clerk of Wilson County Court

[p 8: William Maury, a clergyman, and Lea Haralson gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[p 8]

State of Tennessee, Wilson County

James Turner,<sup>1</sup> a citizen of Williamson County, makes oath that he was acquainted with Thomas Miles Senior, who is an applicant for a pension under the act of Congress of June 7<sup>th</sup> 1832 in the Revolutionary War, that he served with him in a part of one campaign, viz., when Gates was defeated, & they afterwards went to Salisbury. This was a tour of six months. The said Thomas Miles Senior was then an Ensign. Affiant was first out, & when the said Thomas first came but he was in an adjoining Company, & afterwards he was in the same Company. The said Thomas he remembers was called Ensign when he came, & he commanded as Ensign after affiant got into the same Company. Affiant does not doubt but that he served all the tours as stated by himself in his declaration.

Sworn to & Subscribed in open court.

S/ James Turner

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "James Turner". The signature is written in black ink on a white background and is positioned above a horizontal line.

S/ Josiah S. McClain, Clerk of Wilson County Court

[William Maury, a clergyman, and Lea Haralson gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[p 33]

Amended declaration of Thomas Miles, Senior

On this third day of Day A. D. 1833 personally appeared in open Court before the Honorable James C. Mitchell Judge of the Courts of law, law & Equity in the State of Tennessee now presiding in the 11<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit for Wilson County, Thomas Miles Senior, a resident Citizen of the County of Wilson and made Oath – that the first tour of three months, mentioned in his Original Declaration was performed in the year 1776 or 1777 as a private Soldier. He further States that he was commissioned when in the Service of the United States as Ensign & Lieutenant, during the periods set forth in his Declaration – but he has lost his commissions – never expecting any benefit from them he did not take care of them.

He knows of no other person in this Country now living who can prove any of his services except the witness James Turner, whose affidavit is a part of his Original declaration.

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<sup>1</sup> [James Turner S1881](#)

He received his commission as Ensign from General Butler & was commissioned by Colonel William Moore when he was appointed Lieutenant.

He cannot say whether his first tour was in 1776 or 1777 but his impression is that it was in 1776.

Sworn to and subscribed in open Court the day & year first above written.

S/ Thos. Miles

S/ Wm Martin, Clerk

[p 15: On February 1, 1839, Ann Miles, widow of Thomas Miles, filed for her pension in Rutherford County, Tenn.: she alleges she married Thomas in February 1773; that her husband died September 15, 1838. Patterson Miles, son of Ann and Thomas Miles, filed an affidavit in support of his mother's application. Patterson states he is about 49 years of age; that the annexed record is in the handwriting of his father, Thomas Miles; that Hartwell Miles, eldest child of Ann and Thomas Miles was born on April 17, 1774. Lea Haralson also gives a supporting affidavit in which he states that he is 73 years of age; knew Thomas and Ann Miles as husband and wife in Caswell County, NC; that Thomas and Ann had two children.

p 17: Patterson Miles' signature:

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "P. Miles", enclosed in a rectangular box with a closing bracket on the right side.

[The original of the Bible record is virtually illegible—the following was taken from a typed transcription made by the War Dept. in answer to an inquiry.]

Bible record:

Children of Thomas Miles and his wife, Ann:

Heartwell or Hartwell born April 17, 1774

John born (illegible)

Ann born June 4, 1778

Thomas born July 20, 1780

Betsy born September 9, 1782

Byrd (?) born April 4, 1785

Thanny or Phanny born January 28, 1788

Patterson born March 11 or 14, 1790

[13: family record image: scoll down]

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|--|--|--|
| <p>Thomas Miles<br/>         The Son of Thomas<br/>         Miles and Ann his<br/>         wife was born the<br/>         22<sup>nd</sup> of August 1764</p> | <p>Thomas Miles<br/>         The Son of Thomas<br/>         Miles and Ann his<br/>         wife was born the<br/>         22<sup>nd</sup> of August 1764</p> | <p>Thomas Miles<br/>         The Son of Thomas<br/>         Miles and Ann his<br/>         wife was born the<br/>         22<sup>nd</sup> of August 1764</p> |
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[p 14]

Thomas Miles  
 The Daughter  
 of Thomas Miles  
 and Ann his  
 wife was born  
 the 22<sup>nd</sup> of August  
 1764  
 Thomas Miles  
 The Son of Thomas  
 Miles and Ann  
 his wife was born  
 the 22<sup>nd</sup> of August  
 1764  
 Thomas Miles

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$166.66 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for 5 months service as a private, 6 months service as an Ensign and 6 months service as a Lieutenant in the North Carolina militia.]