

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Benjamin Miles R7164

f39NC

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

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State of South Carolina, Marlborough District: Court of Common Pleas Fall Term 1832

On this the 1st day of October A.D. 1832 Benjamin Miles personally appeared in Open Court before the Judge of the Court of Common Pleas now Sitting, 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. That he enlisted at the first of the War under Captain George Miller whose first Lieutenant was Benjamin Axom [Benjamin Exum]: in 15 days afterwards he marched on to Newbern [sic, New Bern] North Carolina where he was stationed for six or eight weeks. He met other Companies there Commanded by General Richard Caswell with which he marched down to Wilmington North Carolina. They were all stationed about 3 miles below Wilmington. They marched from thence to Moore's Creek Bridge about 15 miles above Wilmington to meet the Tories under General McDaniel [sic, Donald MacDonald], William Bryan was Colonel of the 2nd Regiment in which he Served. The Tories were defeated [Battle of Moore's Creek Bridge, February 27, 1776] with great loss whilst the Americans suffered but a trifling loss. He then went back to Wilmington where he stayed two weeks, then got his discharge & went back to Dobbs County North Carolina. In about two weeks afterwards he volunteered under Captain William Dickson & went down to Wilmington with other Companies under the Command of General Richard Caswell to the Camp below Wilmington, staid there three months & then went home to Dobbs County. About that time Cornwallis entered Wilmington & left Major Craig [James Craig] to hold possession of the town. He volunteered again under Captain Jesse Ward went down to Rockfish [Rockfish Creek, August 2, 1781], Hanover [sic, New Hanover] County North Carolina under General James Kinmon [James Kenan]. The Americans were attacked at that place by Major Craig at the head of the British & were defeated by him, the Americans sustaining a heavy loss, having about 100 men killed besides wounded and prisoners. The men were ordered to rendezvous at Island Creek about 10 miles off where they got furloughs & went home. Three weeks after this, under the Command of Captain Axum (General or Colonel Gillespie being the head officer) he started to join Washington at Yorktown. The Companies had proceeded 40 or 50 miles on the way when orders reached them to halt – they were there disbanded & he returned home & received his discharge. He was engaged afterwards frequently in skirmishes with the Tories but recollects no incidents worth mentioning here.

To the first Interrogatory propounded by the Court he answers that he was born in Dobbs County North Carolina on the Neuse River 11th of September 1756.

2nd His age was recorded in a Family Bible which was burnt together with a house in which it was kept.

3rd He was living in Dobbs County North Carolina, moved into Marlborough District South Carolina after the War, remained there 12 years, then moved to Williamsburg where he remained 14 years & has lived since then in Marlborough.

4th He was drafted at first & volunteered afterwards.

5th I do not recollect the names of any officers except those which he has already mentioned. Time has effaced [sic, erased?] them from his memory. In addition to this he paid but little attention to any except those who were immediately over him & these he has mentioned as well as he can recollect.

6th I received a discharge but does not recollect from whom & it has been lost.

7th He is known to Dr. Lee, Dr. Hennagan, Colonel Robert B. Campbell, Colonel John Campbell, Colonel Rogers, George Hodges, Light Townsend & many other gentlemen of respectability in the neighborhood where he lives.

He hereby relinquishes all 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. Jesse Miles was with him at the Battle on Rockfish Creek & can testify to his Services.

Sworn to & subscribed the day & year aforesaid.

S/ B. J. Earle, presiding Judge

S/ Benj. Miles, X his mark

Jesse Miles¹ personally appeared & Swores that he was with Benjamin Miles at the Battle on Rockfish Creek above mentioned & that the said Benjamin fought as a Soldier in the Revolutionary war.

Sworn to & subscribed the day & year above written.

S/ B. J. Earle, presiding Judge

S/ Jesse Miles, X his mark

[Robert B. Campbell & James C. Thomas gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

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The State of South Carolina, Marlborough District: Court of Common Pleas Fall Term 1833

On this the first Monday in October A.D. 1833 personally appeared before me in open Court, Benjamin Miles who on oath Swores to the facts as below stated, as constituting an amendment to his Declaration for a pension under the Act of Congress passed June 7, 1832, viz.. That by reason of old age & consequent loss of memory he cannot swear positively as to the precise length of his service; but that according to the best of his recollection he Served not less than the periods mentioned below & at the times and places & under the Officers there stated.

1. In the same year in which the Battle was fought at Moore's Creek Bridge, he served six months as a private as marked in Declaration (A). This was an enlistment.

2nd In the same year he volunteered as a private in the militia under Captain Dickson & served with him three months as marked (B) on Declaration.

3rd In the year in which the Battle was fought at Rockfish Creek Hanover [sic, New Hanover] County North Carolina, he Served three months as a private in the militia as marked (C) on Declaration.

4th In the year 1781 Twelve months as a private in the regular Service under the Command of Captain Axom [Exum] as marched on Declaration (D) making in the aggregate a Service of two years for which Deponent claims a pension.

And the said Miles further Swores that for the times above mentioned he served with an embodied corps called into Service as he believed by competent authority, that he was either in

¹ [Jesse Miles S21886](#)

the field or in garrison & for the time during which the Service was performed he was not employed in any civil pursuit.

Sworn to & subscribed the day & year aforesaid in open Court.

S/ James C. Thomas, CCPIs.

S/ Benjamin Miles, X his mark

[Campbell Stubbs, a clergyman, and James C. Thomas gave of the standard supporting affidavit.]

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South Carolina, Marlborough District

1st Benjamin Miles on oath Says in answer to the first objection made by the Com^r of Pensions in his letter of the 28th of October 1833 & herewith enclose, that the witnesses who could prove his Services as a regular Soldier are either dead or so far removed from him that he cannot avail himself of their testimony. So far then as regards those Services he is compelled to relinquish his claims to a Pension.

2nd As to the 2nd he Swears positively that he Served the whole three months except four days allowed him on furlough to go home & get clothes, as soon as this was done, he went back & rejoined his company which was stationed not more than 40 or 45 miles from deponent's home. He would not be understood as stating that the whole of the men went home but such only whose necessities required it.

3rd As to the third point he makes this explanation. That the term of 12 months had almost expired before he started to join Washington; -- that previous to that time he had been Stationed below Wilmington North Carolina & had made occasional marches into various parts of the Country – once to New Bern North Carolina, where he was stationed three months; -- that in this manner his time was employed until he was ordered off to join Washington as above stated. Other particulars, his crazy memory prevents him from mentioning. He submits his case to the Commissioner of Pensions with the suggestions, that a little artifice might render it less objectionable & with the hope that the absence of all contrivance on his part may satisfy the Department he is honest in his intentions.

Sworn before me on December 2, 1833

S/ James C. David, JP

S/ Benjamin Miles, X his mark

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South Carolina Marlborough District

Personally appeared before me John Miles² & swore that he knew Benjamin Miles in the War of the Revolution – that he served in that war with the said Benjamin in the Battle of Moore's Creek Bridge and also at Rock Fish [Rockfish Creek] – they were also much together during the war – particularly at new Bern, Wilmington – that he knows said Benjamin Miles was in the Light Horse which was commanded by Captain Dodd for he sold the horse to him which he rode. That the said Benjamin is a younger brother of Deponent & that the deponent well knows said Benjamin did Serve as a Soldier in the War of the Revolution for a period of at least 6 months; & deponent from his means of knowing said Benjamin's circumstances, believes that he is authorized to swear positively that the said Benjamin Miles did Serve as a private in the War of the Revolution for a period of 6 months.

Sworn before me this 17 September 1834

S/ C. W. Dudley, N. Pet. U Q ex off.

S/ John Miles, X his mark

² [John Miles S21376](#)

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Alabama, Jefferson County

On this ___ day of November 1835 personally appeared in open Court before the Honorable William D. Pickett Judge of the seventh judicial Circuit in & for the County & State aforesaid now sitting, Benjamin Miles, a resident of the County of Jefferson & State of Alabama, 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 7, 1832: That he was born in Dobbs County on the Neuse River in the State of North Carolina on the 11th day of September 1759 or thereabouts, that he entered by enlistment in the service of his Country for six months, in the latter part of the year 1775 in the Company commanded by Captain George Miller & Lieutenant B. Axom – and marching from the County of his nativity under the Command of Colonel Richard Caswell against Scotch Tories & British at Moore's Creek where they had a pretty severely fought battle, in which the Tories & British had many killed & wounded & the commander ___ McDaniel was taken prisoner & carried to Halifax N. C. where he shortly thereafter died; from the battle of Moore's Creek he was marched to New Bern to intercept the residue of Scotch, who had joined themselves to the then Governor of North Carolina, not far from which place we again came upon them & routed them completely, from thence he was marched to Wilmington, where he remained for some time & was discharged & returned to his house; having been absent six months & a few days in this expedition. Some short time after his return home from the above expedition the precise [time] is not now remembered, he again entered the service [in] 1776 under the command of Captain William Dixon as a volunteer for three months & was marched to a place in North Carolina called the Cross roads, where he with the other troops remained embodied to suppress the depredations of the Tories & British in that neighborhood. He was discharged from this service after having been out three months: after receiving his discharge from the Cross roads & returning home & during the same year as well as he now remembers he volunteered for six months in Captain James Love's company & marched to & was stationed for six months in the Town of Wilmington North Carolina, from which service, he was also discharged as well as he now remembers after having served the term of his engagement as well as he now remembers in the spring of 1777 he volunteered in the Company of Captain Jesse Ward & marched from Dobbs County under the Command of Colonel James Kenyon to a place called then the Rock fish or Rock fish Gap; where they met the Tories & some British, had a severely contested battle with them in which we were defeated, having many killed & wounded. He was out on this tour of six weeks & returned home, & remaining but a very short time; before, he volunteered in the Company of Captain Jesse Ward & marched with three other Captains & their companies to the neighborhood between Fayetteville & Black Creek in North Carolina against the Tories there assembled; who all dispersed upon the approach of our troops and we returned from this expedition after having been out one month. About the last of July 1780, to the best of his memory he again entered the service as a volunteer for three months in the Company of Captain James Love again, the whole detachment commanded by Colonel Ruthof [?] & marched from Dobbs County again to Camden in South Carolina, was left as one of the Guard of the ammunition wagons during the engagement which took place between Lord Cornwallis & General Gates [Horatio Gates] at Clermont [sic, Battle of Camden, August 15-16, 1780]] in which we were defeated, and soon after this as our broken forces could be rallied & collected, we took up the line of march for Halifax in North Carolina, where meeting an express from General Washington, we remained a short time, & many were disbanded, this applicant amongst the number & he returned having been out in this expedition three months. He further states, that whilst in service he knew well Col. Richard Caswell & Captain Daniel Williams many others, whose names he cannot now distinctly remember & served with their respective commands. He states that he was twice regularly discharged from service, the first was signed

by Col. Richard Caswell & the second by Captain William Dixon; both of which have long since been either lost or destroyed; that he has not now any documentary evidence of any time whatever, & that he does not know of any person here whose testimony he can procure who can testify to his service. He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity, except the present & declares that his name is not on the pension roll or Agency of any State whatever.

Sworn to in open court 10th November 1835.

S/ Benjamin Miles, X his mark

S/ H. Morrow, Jr., Clerk

[Thomas D. Armstrong, a clergyman, and John Taylor & John Harper gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

Questions by the Court

1st: Where and in what year were you born?

Ansr: In Dobbs County North Carolina in September 1759.

2nd Have you any record of your age and if so, where is it?

Ansr: I have none that I know of.

3rd Where were you living when called into service? Where have you lived since the Revolutionary War and where do you now live?

Ansr: I was living in Dobbs County N. C. when entered in the service & removed after peace was restored into South Carolina first into Marion District for two years & then into Marlborough District where I have lived until February 1834 when I removed to where I now live.

4th How were you called into service; were you drafted; did you volunteer, or were you a substitute and if so for whom did you substitute?

Ansr: I enlisted first for six months & afterwards volunteered.

5th State the names of some of the Regular Officers who were with the troops where you served, such Continental and Militia Regiments as you can recollect and the general circumstances of your service.

Ansr: I cannot state more than I have heretofore stated with any precision.

6th Did you ever receive a discharge from the service; and if so by whom was it given; and what has become of it?

Ansr: I got to the first given by Col. Richard Caswell & the second by Captain William Dixon, both [of] which has long ago been lost or mislaid.

7th State the names of persons to whom you are known in your present neighborhood, and who can testify to your character for veracity and good behavior and your services as a Soldier of the Revolution.

Ansr: I know the Reverend Thomas D. Armstrong, John Taylor & John Harper who will testify for me.

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State of Alabama, Jefferson Court House: November Term 1835

This is to certify that the within named Benjamin Miles, who applied to me in open court during this Term of the Circuit Court of said County now in Session, and whose Statement I have certified on the attached sheet, has narrated certain facts respecting his having served under one Captain William Dixon of North Carolina in 1776, which Statement conforms in a remarkable manner with what the said Captain William Dixon (who was my grandfather) has narrated while I was a boy. This Statement I have also heard from my mother & aunts the Daughters of said Dixon as to his having commanded a company in the lower part of North Carolina for three

months in 1776 against the Tories – all which is substantially narrated by said Miles. That I further believe that said Miles could not have fabricated the story as he seems an unlettered man & is a Stranger to me, & I to him. These facts strongly impressed my mind with the belief that he is entitled to full credence in his Statement.

S/ Wm D. Pickett
Presiding Judge of the 7th Judicial Circuit of

Alabama

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Raleigh 25 September 1834

Dear Sir

Your letter of the 18th instant was received yesterday. I have carefully searched the musterrolls of the Continental line of this State in the revolutionary war for the names of Benjamin Miles and John Miles, but do not find either of them there, and am therefore induced to believe that if they served at all it must have been with the Militia of which I have no rolls, neither am I able to direct you where any rolls of the Militia of this State who served in the revolutionary war are to be found. I have no rolls of the Light Horse who served in the revolution.

Yours respectfully,
S/ Wm Hill [NC Secretary of State]

C.W. Dudley, Esqr.
Marlborough Ct. House