

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements

Pension Application of Threesivolus Miner (Minor): S16968
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

State of Virginia County of Bedford SS.

On this 25th day of March 1834 personally appeared in open Court before the Court of Bedford County now sitting the same being a Court of record Threesivoluss Miner a resident of said County in the State of Virginia aged 75 years on the 28th day of February 1834 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 the 7th 1832. That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated. In the year 1777 or 1778 in the Spring of the year [see note below] he believes but the day or month he cannot now remember by reason of old age and the consequent loss of memory either in this case or any of his subsequent services, he volunteered to defend his Country and marched from the County of King and Queen in Virginia where he then resided in a company of volunteer state militia which was raised on the occasion into the service of the United States. The Lieutenant was James Richards or Richard Coleman he believes and thinks it possible each of them were officers in the Company; the names of the other officers he has now forgotten. The regiment to which he was attached after getting into service was commanded he thinks by Colo Matthews, but the number of the regiment he has forgotten if he ever knew it. The Company at the time aforesaid marched from the County of King & Queen to a place called West point on York River in Virginia at the junction of the Pamunky [sic: Pamunkey] and Mattapony [sic: Mattaponi] Rivers where he remained awhile. the troops were intended as a guard at this place it being expected the British would land at this place as from its situation it was favorable to such a purpose. From West point the Company marched to a place called Kemps ordinary after crossing there to Williamsburg and from there to York Town, at each of these places he remained a short time and at each of them it was expected at the time that the British would attempt to effect a landing. He remembers the name of Colonel Matthews at Williamsburg at Williamsburg he was finally discharged after having served a tour of three months and not less. His discharge was not a written one, nor did he receive a written discharge that he recollects from any subsequent service. The men he thinks were merely verbally discharged from further services after their time had expired, by their officers & such was the kind of discharge which he received in this and in other instances. If he did receive a written discharge in this or in any other instance it is now lost or mislaid. In the fall of the same year that the last mentioned tour was served, but the month or day he cannot now remember as before stated and for the same reasons, he was drafted as militia man from the same County and marched from there under the command of Captain John Pollard and he thinks the name of the Lieutenant was Samuel, the names of the other officers he cannot remember. The Company marched through the County of King & Queen, crossed the river, marched through the County of New Kent, and then down to Williamsburg, remained at New Kent Courthouse but a short time but at Williamsburg a considerable length of time, at each of these places it was expected at that time the British would attempt to come. He thinks Colo. Matthews again had command of the Troops or of the Regiment. He recollects him at this place again in this tour. He remembers that a General or Colonel [Thomas] Nelson was here at that time. He served during this tour Three months and not less when he was discharged in the same manner as before stated he believes. The number of the regiment to which he was attached he does not remember in this or any other instance of his services during the war. In the fall of the year 1778 or 1779 [see note below] he believes at least in the fall of the year following the last mentioned tour but the day or month he cannot now remember for the reasons before stated he marched from the same County as a drafted militia man under Captain Whit Campbell and John Hoskins Lieutenant, the other officers he cannot now name. The Company marched through Gloucester County and down to Gloucester Town crossed the river to York Town, he remained but a few weeks at Gloucester Town. The balance of the tour remained stationed at York Town where it was constantly expected the British would attempt a

landing. The troops he was with were stationed there to protect the place from the enemy. The British however did not attempt a landing while he remained at this station. He remembers at this place Colo. [Mann] Page and Major Bay Toss he also recollects one Meredith who was an officer at this place. After having served a tour of three months and not less he was discharged in the manner before stated. In the spring of the next year after this tour early in the spring [of 1781] but the day or month he cannot now remember for the reasons before stated, he marched as a drafted militiaman from the same County under the command of Captain Harwood and Lieutenant Harwood the brother of the Captain. The other officers he cannot now remember, and joined the army under the command of General Stuben [sic: Baron von Steuben] and Colo. [Sampson] Matthews (who he supposes had command of the regiment) at a place called Bottoms Bridge [on Chickahominy River 10 miles east of Richmond], they then marched to a place called Savages fields, where he recollects was also General Muhlenburg [sic: Peter Muhlenberg] and a Major [Thomas] Towles, at that place one of the American Soldiers was shot for some disorderly or unsol[page torn] like conduct towards his officers. From the place last mentioned they marched to another called Mobbin Hills [sic: Malvern Hill in Charles City County] at Randolphs on James River and four mile creek [in Henrico County] not far from Richmond. The time during this tour was much divided between the places above named, he remained however the greater part of the time at Mobbin Hills, where it was expected the British would land after ascending James River in flat bottomed boats; they however did not and he was finally discharged at Mobbin Hills in the manner before stated after having served a tour of Five months and not less; the reason why the tour was longer than usual or longer than three months, was that after the expiration of the tour of three months for which he was first drafted, men being scarce and the danger then great he was prevailed on to continue with others in the service as a kind of volunteer with the infantry till fresh supplies of troops arrived. He then in the latter part of the summer or first of the fall of the same year that the last tour was served [1781] (but the month or day he cannot now remember for the reasons before stated) was again drafted as a militia man from the same County and marched from there under the command of Captain Philip Pendleton and one Richards who was an officer but of what rank he cannot now remember, the other officers he cannot recollect. They marched to a place called Holts Forge in New Kent County which the British had previously burned and there joined the army, General Wayne [sic: Anthony Wayne, who joined Lafayette in Virginia 10 June 1781] and other officers not recollected were there at the time. remained at Holts Forge a month or more. From there they marched to Williamsburg where he was stationed the greater part of the tour. It was expected the British would land at Williamsburg as they had already done and the troops were kept there as a guard and to watch the movements of the enemy. They however did not attempt a landing while he remained there, he served under Captain Pendleton during this draft as a militia man three months and not less when he was discharged from that tour of service at Williamsburg in the manner before stated. But at that place and without returning home he volunteered his service as long as required by him to Major Thomas Armistead a continental officer & marched with him down to York Town, the said Armistead was considered the principle officer, but John Tibb[?] was the Captain. He remembers also officers Woodson and Bradford. From York Town they went to Hampton on the line of the British, and there this declarant was stationed until he was discharged, whilst there the services of the troops consisted principally in watching protecting the place and surrounding country and in keeping an eye to the movements of the enemy who previous thereto had committed many depredation in that part of the Country. he served during this tour Seven months and not less. He believes in this instance he was discharged in July of the same year that he volunteered [sic; see note]. In a short time after he was discharged from the last service mentioned in the year of 1781 he thinks but the month or day he cannot now recollect he was again drafted as a militia man from the same County and marched from there under the command of Captain Henry Lumpkin and joined the army near West point then marched on towards James Town and they were joined by General Wayne about the time the engagement took place when the British were crossing the River not far from James Town [6 July 1781]; they then returned and went again to West point where they were joined by Colo John Taylor of Caroline [County], then they marched through Gloucester County and towards a

place called Abanna [sic: probably Urbanna] on Rappahannock River, then returned to Gloucester Courthouse, there was placed with the light infantry under Colo Campbell with orders to proceed with the greatest dispatch to Gloucester Town to prevent the British from plundering the Country, which was anticipated; then in a short time joined the army under General Wedon [sic: George Weedon] and marched to place called Sowell's ordinary in a few miles of Gloucester Town where the British were then fortifying themselves, at this place he remained until the Surrender at York Town [19 Oct 1781] when this declarant went as one of the guards under Colo. Campbell to the British fortifications near Gloucester Town and brought the prisoners up to the head quarters at Sowell's ordinary where he then remained until [several words illegible] relieved by another guard. He was discharged as in the other instances in a week or two after Cornwallis's Surrender. he served this tour not less than five months because his services were needed after the expiration of the tour of three months which was the usual length of tours at that time, the balance of the 5 months viz. 2 months was served by him as a volunteer or because he was requested to remain. This declarant was also called on and acted as a guard to carry the prisoners from Todds[?] up to Fredericksburg which required two weeks, in which he was employed and was compelled during the performance of this duty to pay his own expenses for which he never received one cent. The whole of his services will amount to two years and five months [sic] and not less. He does not remember in any instance the exact time when he left the service for the same reasons that he cannot now recollect when he entered it. He was in no civil employment during the continuance of his services, was in no engagement in either of the tours mentioned above and throughout the whole acted as a private soldier. He was born in the County of Essex in the State of Virginia on the 28th day of February 1759. as the Register of his father which he has seen stated, that register is now lost or mislaid. He resided sometime in the County of Essex and then moved into King and Queen County where he remained till the war was over then moved to King William County, not far from Elliotts ware house on Mattapony River, he then moved in 1785 to Bedford Count where he now resides, and has ever resided since. He has no documentary evidence by which he can prove his services or any part thereof nor does he know of any person now living by whom he can prove the same or any part thereof except his brother William Miner whom he met with in several different tours and who was a soldier at the same time though they were under different officers and marched from different Counties. Having lived in the County of King and Queen during the war, and then afterwards coming to the County of Bedford where he was an entire Stranger renders it the more difficult to establish his services by any direct proof. Owing to this mere circumstance he finds it difficult to procure if he can at all the certificate of a clergyman as required Having removed into the County of Bedford a total Stranger after the war from a very distant and remote County away from all his fellow Soldiers, hopes will be a sufficient reason for his not being readily enabled to furnish that particular kind of presumptive evidence which the law requires where to be had. He refers however to James Otey, John Vest and John P. Gray and Charles C. Patterson respectable individuals of his neighbourhood who can testify as to his character for veracity and their belief of his services as a Soldier of the Revolution.

He makes the following answers to the Several interrogatories prescribed by the war department Viz.

To the first Interrogatory he answers- In the County of Essex in the state of Virginia in the year 1759 on the 28th day of February.

To the second he answers- I had in my fathers register a record of my age but it is now lost or mislaid.

To the third he answers- [When called into service I lived] In the County of King & Queen in Va. & have lived since the Revolutionary War in the County of Bedford mostly, I reside there now and have since the year 1785.

To the 4th he answers- See the body of the Declaration for an answer.

To the 5th he answers- See the body of the Declaration for an answer.

To the 6th he answers- See the body of the Declaration for an answer.

To the 7th he answers- I refer to the names of James Otey, John Vest John P. Gray and Charles C. Patterson as persons to whom I am known in my present neighbourhood and who can

testify to my character for veracity and their belief of my services as a soldier of the revolution. He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present and declares that his name is not on the pension Roll of any agency in any State.

Threesiveluss Minor

Bedford County to wit

This day [24 Feb 1834] William Miner came before me a Justice of the peace for the County aforesaid and made oath that during the War of the Revolution whilst he was himself a Soldier in the american army he remembers to have seen Threesivolus Miner also in the service as a Soldier, he saw him at Middlesex where he was under the command of one Hoskins. He also saw the said Threesivolus Miner at Sowell's ordinary in Gloucester County where were the head quarters of that part of the army. The said Threesivolus Miner was there discharging the duties of a Soldier, awhile before Cornwallis's surrender. He accidentally met with the said Threesivolus Miner on one or two other occasions in the service when they were both performing duties as Soldiers. They were however in different companies under different commands and resided in different Counties. How long the said Threesivolus Miner served he does not know. [signed] Wm Miner

Bedford County to wit.

This day [22 Feb 1834] Ephraim Miner aged Fifty four years came before me Frederick Annspaugh justice of the peace in and for the County aforesaid and made oath that during the lifetime of his father John Miner of King and Queen County in Virginia he has frequently heard him the said John Miner say that he served in the War of the Revolution and that Threesivolus Miner (who is now an applicant for a pension under the act of Congress of June the 7th 1832) served with him as a soldier and that they were together in the war, and that he believes from these circumstances and others that the said Threesivolus Miner was a soldier of the Revolution

Ephraim Miner

NOTE: Baron von Steuben's arrival in Virginia in March 1781 dates the start of Miner's fourth tour. Working backward from this tour suggests the following dates for the start of the previous tours: first, spring 1779; second, fall 1779; third, fall 1780. Miner recalled starting a fifth tour in late summer or early fall of 1781 and serving seven months until July of the same year[!?!], and then being drafted for a sixth tour soon afterwards and serving another five months. What Miner recalled as the three last tours appear to have been one or two tours.