

## Transcribed and Donated by Larry Foley

Declaration of Thomas Miles in order to obtain the benefit  
of an act of Congress passed June 4<sup>th</sup>, 1832

State of Indiana

Blackford County

In the Blackford

Circuit Court

Fall Term AD 1845

Be it remembered that on this 4<sup>th</sup> day of November 1845, the same being the 2<sup>nd</sup> judicial day of the Fall Term 1845 of said court personally appeared in open court before the Judges of said Blackford Circuit Thomas Miles, a resident of said county and State of Indiana, aged eighty-three years last 22<sup>nd</sup> day of March, 1845, who being first duly sworn according to law on his oath, makes the following declaration, to wit:

That he entered the service of the United States at the following named time and served under the following named officers. That he volunteered at Bennington, Massachusetts [probably Vermont] in the year 1777 and served thirty days under General **Schyler**, Colonel **Reed** and Captain **Belnap** and that he remained with them until the last of January then next following. And that he was out of service six months and that he was then called on to guard the prisoners of Burgoyne's Amery at old Rutten Wooster County, Massachusetts and that he served at that time guarding prisoners six months under Colonel **Davis** and does not recollect his given name but recollects that he had but one arm, Captain Hartness Lent --- Dervint after the above service he was drafted for six weeks at Princeton to go to Rhode Island to an armery served at that time six weeks under Captain Ephraim Taylor after that served at West Point six months under Colonel Michael Jackson, Captain Ephraim Taylor, after that served three months a part of the time at Springfield and the balance at Fishiel, does not remember the names of any of the officers except Colonel Jackson after. The aforesaid service that he entered in the year 1781 at Gilden, Massachusetts for three years and that he served at that time nine months under Major **Burnum**, Colonel Michael Jackson and that he was discharged at West Point by Colonel Jackson in the year 1783. And that he was in the Battles of Bennington and Saratoga and that he knows of no living witness by which he can prove his services in the army and that in the year 1787 he lost his discharge by the burning of his boarding house in his absence and that the time that he served as in this declaration set forth he served as a common soldier and that he hereby relinquishes any claim to a pension or annuity except the present and that his name is not on the Pension Roll of the agency of any state.

Signed: Thomas Miles

Sworn to in open court this 4<sup>th</sup> day of November, 1845. Jacob Bough, clerk of the Blackford Circuit Court.

We Elijah Simms, Franklin Baldwin, clergymen residing in the county of Blackford and State of Indiana, do hereby certify that we are well acquainted with Thomas Miles who has subscribed and sworn to the above declaration. That we believe him to be eighty-three years old and that he is reputed and believed in the neighborhoods where he resides to have been a soldier of the Revolution and that we concur in that opinion. Swor and inscribed to the day and year aforesaid.

Signed: Elijah Sims

Franklin Baldwin

Jacob Bough, Clerk of Blackford Circuit Court, and the said Thomas Miles being forth sworn on his oath answers the following questions by the court:

Question: Where and in what year were you born?

Answer: I was born in the year 1762, Worster County, Massachusetts.

Question: Have you any record of your age and if so where is it?

Answer: I have none in this Country but suppose there is a record of it in Massachusetts.

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

Answer: I lived at Skeensborough, Vermont when first called into the service. I lived after the close of the War in Massachusetts until the year A D 1813. After which time I lived in New Jersey eleven years, when I removed to New York, Sussex County. I resided there almost eleven years, then I removed to this state where I have ever since resided, being about seven years in this state.

Question: Were you called into service or drafted, did you volunteer or were you a substitute; and if a substitute for whom?

Answer: I first volunteered and was subsequently drafted after the expiration of Volunteer service.

Question: State the names of some of the Regular Officers who were with the Troops where you served, such Continental and Milita Regiments as you can recollect, and the general circumstances of your service.

Answer: I first served under General Schyler, Colonel Reed and Captain Belnap. I remained under Schyler until General Gettes came and superceded Schuyler. I remained with him in the army at Wincerhill until discharged. I was acquainted with Colonel Tipper and Colonel Vernan of the Continental army.

Question: Did you ever receive a discharge from the service? If so, by whom was it given and what has become of it?

Answer: I received a discharge from Colonel Jackson at West Point No. 3 at the close of my last service. It was burned at my boarding house in Massachusetts in Sept. 1782.

Question: State the names of persons to whom you are known in your present neighborhood and who can testify as to your character. For veracity and their belief of your service as a soldier of the Revolution?

Answer: John Saxon, John Wicks, Lewis Bailey, John Leave, the Reverend F. G. Baldwin and the Reverend Elijah Symms.

And the said Judges of the said Blackford Circuit Court do declare their opinion after the consideration of the matter and after putting the testimonies forescribed by the department that the above named applicant was a Revolutionary soldier and served as he states. And the court further certifies that it appears to them that Elijah Simms, Franklin Baldwin who have signed the preceeding certificate are clergymen residing in the said county of Blackford and state of Indiana are credible persons in good standing and that their statements are entitled to credit.

Three Seals

I Jacob Bough, Clerk of the said Blackford Circuit Court, do hereby certify that the foregoing contains the original proceedings of said court in the matter of the application of Thomas Miles for a pension.