

Pension Application for Alexander Miller

S.23320

At a Court of Common Pleas held at the Court house in the Village of Elmira in & for the County of Tioga in the State of New York (the same being a Court of Record because it is so declared to be by the Constitution and laws of the said State, and having a Seal and Clerk), commencing on the first Tuesday in September 1832. Present: Hon. G. B. Baldwin First Judge; J.R. Drake, D. Bentley, J.L. Darling, E Shoemaker, Esqr. or Judges.

State of New York

Tioga County SS.

Personally appeared in the said Court before the Judges thereof now sitting as aforesaid on the 4th day of September 1832 Alexander Miller late a resident of Reading in the County of Steuben, adjoining the said County of Tioga, now a resident of the said Town of Elmira aged seventy four years and upwards, who first being 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 entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated.

That about the month of April 1775 as near as he can now recollect the volunteered in the service in the Company of Militia, at Florida in the County of Orange in the State of New York under the command of Capt Nathaniel Elmer in the regiment commanded by Col. John Hathorn; that the said Company was for the greater part of that season kept in a course of drilling & discipline, & occasional encampment: That during the latter part of the Season, as he now believes, he was with many others classed to perform a tour of two weeks each & then to be relieved for the same time, at West Point on the North River, [later called the Hudson River] where they were engaged in building a fort: that he went there some time in June (probably, the latter part of the month), and and [sic] remained two months, having performed four tours of Service, two for himself, and two for David Armstrong and George Luckey, who were then residents of the said County of Orange & liable to perform such service—that this service was performed in the months of June, July, and August, in a company which was detached for that purpose from Hathorn's regiment, and commanded by Capt. Bailey (whose name he thinks was Richard) and occasionally by the Lieutenant John Kennedy.

That in the following winter 1776 he was called out in the company commanded by Capt. Nathaniel Elmer in Hathorn's Regiment aforesaid and marched first to a place on the Hudson called Kakiat, and thence to Cloverster near Ramapo, in the neighbourhood of Tappan where they were engaged two months in guarding the frontier and in scouting in Bergen Woods and occasionally about Hackensack: That he was discharge with the said company at Cloverster afores'd at the expiration time of the said two months: and on his return home a few days of time and was ordered to march in a company detached from Hathorn's regiment under command of Capt

Richard bailey to guard against the Indian Depredations on the “Minisink Indian frontier” as it was then called.

That he marched for Florida aforesaid and continued on the said frontier about two weeks & was then with said Company ordered to march to Peramus [Paramus] in the neighborhood of Ramapo where they were engaged in scouting and guarding the surrounding grounds for about six weeks, when the said company was ordered to return to Florida, and a few days after in the month of September as near as he can now determine, there was an alarm, in consequence of an attack from the Indians on the Minisink frontier, when the said Bailey’s company, & the deponent among the number marched to Major Decker’s near Carpenter’s Ferry on the Delaware, in which neighborhood they remained in active service for more than six weeks, from thence they marched to Peenpack where they remained some time, & thence to Martinus Decker’s fort as it was called where they were dismissed in November 1776 having been engaged more than two months—on his return home he immediately entered in a company detached from the same regiment commanded by Capt. John Sears, to guard the neighborhood where Judge Suffern resided in the County of Rockland, which was much subjected he attacks from the enemy & the Tories—that he continued in that service more than two weeks.

In the following June (1777) another company was detached from Hathorn’s Regiment commanded by Capt. Minthorn, in which the said Alexander Miller entered as a volunteer, for similar service in the County of Rockland: That the said company continued in active employment for a month, when they were relieved & returned to Florida aforesaid.

In August or September an attack on the Minisink in the evening of the Day on which Hathorn was defeated by Brant & Butler. He was engaged in this expedition about a week & returned to his residence in Florida aforesaid.

In the month of June 1781 a class of men, in number eight, was formed in the neighborhood of Florida (and such was often the practice) who were required to furnish a man for four months Service, or submit to a draft of one of their number to perform the same.

The deponent was employed by this class, (whose names are now lost from his recollection) to perform the said four months service.

He was required to repair to the place of rendezvous at Newburgh where he expected to join Capt. Brewster’s Company (of Hathorn’s regiment), but on arriving at Newburgh the company was filled and he with several others was mustered and ordered to march to Fishkill, where he was attached to a company of Continental troops (or “during the war men” as they were then termed) under command of Capt. Godwin’s company in Col. Weisenfelt’s regiment in Genl Stark’s brigade—that he joined the said regiment at Fishkill, where after remaining three or four days they were marched to Westpoint, from whence they proceeded in sloops to Albany, where they remained about a fortnight; thence to Schenectady, and remained about a fortnight; thence to Schenectady, and remained about a fortnight; thence to Schenectady, and remained about ten days, from which place they marched to Johnstown and after

remaining there about two weeks the said regiment marched to Saratoga heights where it remained until his said term of service of four months expired.

While there he recollects that rejoicings were held for the capture of Cornwallis—He was discharged at Saratoga—This discharge together with the several written discharges which he received at the expiration of his various terms of service has long been lost.

And the said Alexander Miller doth further on his oath declare that from the peculiar situation of the county of Orange aforesaid, (in which he resided during the war of the revolution), subjected to attacks from the enemy and the Tories along the North River, (who were sustained and encouraged by the British forces then & during the greater part of the war in possession of the City of New York) on the one side, and the Indians on the other, the inhabitants of the said County were in an almost constant state of alarm, and calls for short expeditions in the public defence were continually made upon them—

That this deponent was called out in such expeditions along the North River about the Sterling and Clove mountains, and the adjoining country, almost every week; but the circumstances of his various engagements of that kind and the officers under whom he marched in every case, in consequence of the lapse of more than fifty years, and the necessary failure of recollection incident to advanced age, have now passed from his memory. That he cannot therefore particularize those engagements in addition to the services above detailed; but can speak with certainty, that all his various services, and while actively engaged in the public service, will considerably exceed two years.

That he has no documentary evidence of his services now in his possession, and does not know of any person now living who served with him except William Miller who now resides in the town of Seneca County of Ontario & State of New York, about six miles southwesterly from the village of Geneva. That the said William Miller is blind & otherwise by bodily infirmity, unable to attend at this court, without great inconvenience & expense to the said applicant.

That he lived in the said County of Orange in the town of Warwick after the close of the Revolutionary War, and until the month of March 1795 when he removed to the County of Tioga, that he continued to reside there until about 1812 or 1813 when he removed to Groton or Locke in the County of Tompkins; that about the year 1829 his wife died, when he broke up housekeeping, & has since that time resided alternately among his relatives in Steuben & Tioga Counties having no permanent place of residence—

That he was born at New Windsor in the County of Orange February 22d 1758, as he is infirm & as appears from the family record in a bible kept by his sister Mrs. Nancy Armstrong who died many years since at Groton in the County of Tompkins N.Y. when the said bible passed into the hands of her daughter Mrs. Polly Hopkins the wife of Stephen Hopkins who now resides in the said town of Groton, in whose possession he now supposes it to remain.

That he would refer to the Rev'd Simeon R. Jones of Southport Tioga County, N.Y., Col Henry Wells of the same town; Col. John Hendy, Genl Matthew Carpenter & Joseph M. Connel of the town of Elmira in said County of Tioga, and Gersham Livesay Esqr Postmaster at Piedmont in the said County for proof of his general reputation & character both as a Revolutionary soldier & otherwise—that many of those gentleman knew him while he lived in the County of Orange and all while he resided in Tioga County.

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 the agency of any state. (Signed) Alexander Miller

Sworn & subscribed the day & year aforesaid. Green M. Tuthill, Clk