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## Pension Application for Giles Miller

S.23,322

State of New York

Montgomery County SS.

On this 21<sup>st</sup> day of September 1832 personally appeared in open court before Aaron Haring, Abraham Morell, Henry J. Dievendorf, Samuel A. Gilbert and John Hand, Esquires, Judges of the Court of Common Pleas now sitting Giles Miller a resident of Ephratah in the County of Montgomery and State of New York aged seventy two years and nine months 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 7<sup>th</sup> June 1832.

That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated viz: That in the month of May 1780 this applicant then living at Caughnawaga was enrolled in a militia company under the command of Captain Volkert Veeder,(1) Col. Frederick Fisher's Regiment and was rendezvous at the Fort or as it was called Block House (2) at Caughnawaga to guard the inhabitants who had taken refuge there to escape the depredations of the enemy. The country then being newly settled and before the war large tribes of Indians inhabited large territories bordering on the Mohawk River, among these were the Mohawks, these having fled to Canada with Sir John Johnson or shortly afterwards & during the whole war made incursions from their retreat murdering or scalping the inhabitants, burning or plundering their property and with their booty again retreating to Canada.

This county then known by Tryon County was the particular object of their vengeance, thus situated the inhabitants erected those temporary Forts or Block Houses whither the defenseless took shelter as above stated and a constant guard was stationed to secure their safety, at one of these Forts the Claimant was stationed during the greater part of the year 1780 after he was called into service in May as above stated, that in the spring of 1781 he marched with the company to Fort Plain from there to Bowman's Creek and Sharon then called Turlock (3) that they arrived there in time to save the lives of many of the inhabitants from Indian massacre they were in such close pursuit of the enemy that they found numbers of their inhabitants scalped and willering in their blood and other killed (whom they buried) of those scalped there is one still living viz, a Mr. Dievendorf whom this company rescued and restored to his friend that they returned to Fort Plain and was there stationed until about the first of October when the news was brought that the enemy was advancing from Canada towards Johnstown when orders was received from Col. Willett for the Militia to repair to that place that applicant with the company accordingly marched and was in the battle at Johnstown aforesaid on the 22<sup>nd</sup> day of Oct'r 1781, (4) after this action the applicant returned with the company to the Forts and continued to serve in the garrison until peace.

He knows of no person whose testimony he can procure relative to his service except William Wallace who was with him during part of the periods mentioned and whose affidavit is hereunto annexed—He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present and declares that his name is not on the Roll of the agency of any State.

To the questions directed to be propounded he answers He was born in the town of Johnstown on the 26<sup>th</sup> day of December 1759. He has a record of his age made by his parents it is now in the City of Schenectady. He lived in the town of Johnstown when he entered the service—after the revolutionary war he has lived where he now resides in the town of Ephratah taken from Palatine, that he entered the service by being enrolled in the Militia and ordered by his officers.

That he served along with Gen. Van Rensselaer, (5) Col. Willet, Col. Veeder, Col. Fisher and the officers on the stations and the regiments also on the stations along the Mohawk River.

That he is acquainted with the reverend Abraham Van Horn and Daniel Edwards who will as he believes certify to his character and veracity and his services as a soldier of the Revolution. (Signed with his mark) Giles Miller

Sworn to and subscribed this 20<sup>th</sup> September 1832. [Date differs from the date at the top of the document.] Isaac S. Ketchum

End Notes—S.23322—Giles or Jellis Miller

1. Volkert Veeder was the lieutenant colonel of Colonel Frederick Visscher's Third Regiment of Tryon County Militia. It was Abraham Veeder who was the captain of the second company in Colonel Visscher's Regiment.
2. Veeder's Blockhouse was built to protect Johannes Veeder's Mill. Caughnawaga was a large area settled along the Mohawk River known today as the Village of Fonda and the Town of Mohawk in Montgomery County, New York.
3. The Battle of New Dorlach or present day Village of Sharon Springs and the Town of Sharon, was fought on July 10, 1781. Young lads Frederick and Jacob Dieffendorf were captured on July 9, 1781 at Currytown. They had been tied to trees along with several other prisoners and when the battle started their Indians captors tomahawked and scalped their prisoners. A few escaped and the Dieffendorf's survived to live to be adults.
4. The Battle of Johnstown was fought on October 25, 1781. Lieutenant Colonel Commandant Marinus Willett commanded the American troops.
5. Brigadier General Robert VanRensselaer commanded the Second Brigade of the Albany County Militia.