

Pension Application for Jeremiah Jacob Miller

S.22907

State of New York

County of Erie

On this seventh day of October in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred & thirty four personally appeared before the Circuit Court and Court of Oyer and Terminer and general Goad Delivery held in and for the County of Erie in the State of New York at the Court House in the City of Buffalo, Jeremiah Jacob Miller, now a resident of Mellihide in London District in the Province of Upper Canada aged seventy seven years in the month of July last, who being first duly sworn according to Law, doth on his oath make the following Declaration, in order to obtain the benefit of the provision made by the Act of Congress passed June 7th 1832.

That he entered the service as one of the Militia of the Town of Claverack where he then resided, in the then County of Albany, now in the County of Columbia in the State of New York.

That he entered the service in the month of September 1776, the company to which he belonged under the command of Captain Jacobus Phillipe in Col. Robert VanRensselaer's Regiment being called out on occasion of an alarm from the Incursions of the Indians and Tories.

They marched first to Albany and remained there a few days waiting for intelligence, and were from thence marched back to Claverack, without meeting the enemy—

He is unable by reason of his advanced age and the consequent loss of memory to state the precise time that he was absent from home at this time, but he believes not less than fifteen days.—

He was again called into the service in the month of April 1777 under the same Captain and Colonel – and were employed in marching from one town to another through the neighboring towns for some distance round to protect the inhabitants from the Tories who were found occasionally organized in small parties, under arms, some of whom were taken prisoners.

He was engaged in this service not less than three weeks. In the latter part of June or early in July he was again called into the service under the same officers and marched to a station on the Hudson River near Stillwater and was stationed a part of the time there and a part of the time at VanSchaack's Island—a little below—were engaged in repelling some night attacks from the Indians—

He was absent from home at this time of service to the best of his recollection not less than thirty days. He was dismissed on account of his sickness before the rest of the company were discharged and went home in company with and under the care of Captain Horton of the Militia who was also ill—

He went into the service again the same year but the exact period he cannot state.—He was one of three men to supply three months service of one man—each taking his turn, and on leaving the service when another came to supply his place—He served one month at this term and was stationed principally at and near Stillwater—

under the command of Captain Abraham Fonda, who was under the command of Major Richard Asseltyn and Col. Van Rensselaer.—

His term expired a little previous to the surrender of Burgoyne—He returned home and was again called into the service in the month of October—He went with other militia under the immediate command of Lieutenant Jeremiah Miller and marched down the Hudson to assist in preventing the British from coming up the River—the southern part of the British forces being supposed about to reinforce Burgoyne—We were also employed in collecting cattle and driving to some place where they would be secure from the enemy, who by means of the Tories were endeavouring to procure them for the British Army. He was dismissed soon after hearing of the capture of Burgoyne's Army—was engaged in this service not less than two weeks.

He was again called into the service in the month of May 1778—every third man in the company was to go into the service for one month till each had performed one month's service. He went under the command of Captain John Ousterhoudt.—He marched first to Albany—and thence up the Mohawk River and to Johnstown in the present County of Montgomery—Col. Abraham VanAlstyne of Kinderhook commanded the Regiment to which his company belonged—The principle station of the Regiment at that time was at Johnstown, though some part of it was detached for service at Caghnewaga [Caughnawaga] when a fort was built around the Stone Meeting house there.

He was employed a part of the time in building the Fort—after one month's service, his place was supplied and he returned home, and he remembers that they were on their way to Claverack at the time the Battle of Monmouth was fought which was the 28th of June 1778—After the expiration of two months he went again on or about the last of August and served under Captain Hawk (the officers taking turns as well as the privates) and marched to German Flatts and was for short periods at different places on the Mohawk River until the expiration of the month's service—when he returned home—

The next time he went into the service was in the Autumn of the year.—he is not certain what year but thinks it was in 1779. He went under the command of Jeremiah Miller in Col. Henry VanRensselaer's Regiment, his brother Robert having received a General's Commission. They marched to Schenectady and there heard that a party of the British and Indians had burnt Schoharie and fled, they went up the Mohawk in pursuit of them. They found a party of the British and Indians about three miles above Fort Plain and had an engagement with them in which some were killed and eighteen Prisoners were taken from the British—He continued the pursuit for two days in the wilderness—but did not again overtake the enemy—after this we returned to our home—he was engaged in this service he believes not less than one month.

He was afterwards and he thinks in the autumn of 1780 but he cannot state the precise time, called into the service under Captain Jacobus Phillips in Col. VanRensselaers Regiment—They marched to Albany and shortly after to Schenectady and soon after to some place near Schoharie but meeting no enemy, marched to the Mohawk near Schenectady and above that—our business was to guard the

Inhabitants against the Indians—He is not certain how long he was absent at this time—He believes not less than three weeks—and possibly a month or more—

At another time and he cannot state in what year but he thinks before the taking of Cornwallis he was called into the service under Captain Fonda and Major Asselstyne and employed in and about the County of Dutchess in capturing Tories— We made prisoners of a considerable number—said to be between two and three hundred, and marched with them to Exeter in New Hampshire, and left them to the care of the militia of that place—He thinks this service was commenced in September and continued he believes not less than one month.

In the autumn of the year 1781 he went into the service as a volunteer under Captain Ousterhout in Col. Waterman's Regiment and marched to Fishkill on the Hudson River where they remained some time, expecting to be ordered further south to join other forces and resist in taking New York from the British—but after remaining some time at Fishkill they were dismissed and returned home—He was absent on this service thirty five days—

He was at different times for short periods and in different years employed as one of the Militia under the command of Lieutenant Vosburgh in guarding the public stores at the place then called "the Landing" where the City of Hudson now stands. He believes he was thus employed not less than one months and he thinks for a longer time—

He was born in Claverack now Columbia County July 17th 1760. There is a record of his age in the Church at that place and he has one in his family Bible—

He removed from Claverack about the year 1800—He removed thence to Canada where he remained about seven years.

He removed from thence to Niagara County in the State of New York in the – Since year 1807 where he resided till June 1828—Since which he has resided in different places with his sons, principally in Canada where he now lives with one of his sons.

He never received a written discharge from the service.

He is acquainted with Joshua Petit and George Rogers Esquire who were neighbors to him when he resided in Niagara County and who now reside about twelve miles from the City of Buffalo.—The court House in Buffalo is nearer to his present Residence than any other Court House in the United States as he believes.

He hereby Relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or an annuity except the present and he declares that his name is not on the Pension Roll of any Agency in any State. He is acquainted with no clergyman in this vicinity. (Signed) Jeremiah Jacob Miller

Sworn to and Subscribed the day and year aforesaid in open Court. Noah P. Sprague Clerk of Erie County Courts

Letter in folder dated March 4, 1931, written in response to an inquiry.

You are advised that it appears from the papers in the Revolutionary War pension claim, S.22907, that Jeremiah Jacob Miller (the name also appears as Jeremiah I. Miller) was born July 17, 1760, in Claverack, New York.

While residing in said Claverack, he enlisted September 1, 1776 and served at various times as private, sergeant and teamster with the New York troops under Captains Jacobus Philip, Abraham Fonda, John Osterhout, Jeremiah Miller, Huyck and Colonels Robert VanRenssalaer, Abraham VanAlstyne, Henry VanRenssalaer and Hay. He was out when Esopus was burned, and in an engagement near Fort Plain, where he was wounded in the hip and thigh; he served until in 1781, in all six months.

In 1834 he was living in London District, Province of Upper Canada, with one of his sons, whose name was not stated.

He was allowed pension on his application executed October 11, 1837, at which time he was living in Calverack, New York.

The name of the soldier's wife is not stated and there are no further data as to family.