

Pension Application for William Millikan

S.17586

Commonwealth of Massachusetts

County of Berkshire

On this (left blank) day of (left blank) personally appeared William Millikan before (left blank) a resident of Washington in the County of Berkshire & Commonwealth aforesaid aged 70 years on the 15th of March 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 provisions of made by the act of Congress passed the 7th of June 1832, that he enlisted in the Army of the United States in the month of July in the year 1779, & served in the regiment of the Massachusetts Line under the following named officers, viz, Capt. Goodrich (1) of Lenox, Lieut. Poter of Lee & Jonas Childs of Buket, Sergeant Nathan Ingham of Washington, Thos. McKnight, Sam^l Ingham, Elisha Mack & many others of the adjoining town also enlisted under the same officers for the term of two months. We marched to New Haven Connecticut. (2)

Before our arrival the British had been to this place with the view of destroy[ing] the Powder mills (as was said) at this place. The militia arrived so fast that they did not succeed though they made considerable destruction in the city we remained at this place until dismissed.

The said deponent further testifies that in the month of July 1780 orders came to draft or enlist a company from this & the adjoining towns under the following officers viz, Capt. Ford (3) of Pittsfield, Lieut. Alphonus Spencer of Washington & Harrison (4) of Richmond. Among the number who enlisted was Sergeant Nathan Ingham, (5) Wm. McKnight, Thos. McKnight, Jesse Laold,(6) & a [sic] sufficient to make a company. We enlisted for the term of three months to go to Schoharie to guard the fort. We marched to Claverack in the State of New York from thence to Albany & Schoharie. Where we were stationed to guard the inhabitants and the fort. We frequently went out considerable distance on scouting parties. During the latter part of the war service the British & Indians marched by one of the forts within a very rods of it toward the Middle Fort (7) where Major Woolsey (8) commanded. Then marched but a short distance before the muzzle of our Cannon. The Maj. Commanded that not a gun should be fired.—but there was a small party out in ambush who fired & killed a number.—The British sent a flag & one was sent from the fort to meet it. Before they met the British flag officer was killed, when they immediately retreated. It was believed by the under officers and soldiers that this was the means of saving the fort & soldiers from being surrendered to the British & Indians.—The Town was burnt & the inhabitants flocked with all speed to the fort before the advance of the enemy—After this we marched to Stone Arabia but did not arrive untill after the attack of the fort & Col. Brown (9) was killed—At this place we were dismissed.

The said deponent further testifies that some [sic, sometime] in summer of the year 1777—a number of soldiers were called for from Washington to march to the northward (10) with all expedition, the said deponent volunteered & Thos. McKnight & Wm McKnight, Sam^l Ingham & two men by the names of Lewis whose given names are forgotten & Sargeant Jonathan Lattimer who took the command untill we arrived at Stillwater when we formed into a company under the command of Capt.—(the said det—was crossed out) but does not now recollect the names of the officers—as he was not acquainted with them then or since & the term of service was short & that he knows of no person who served with him in this tour. He testifies that he was born in East Windsor Connecticut 15th March 1762 as he has heard from his parents but has no record of his age.

The said deponent further testifies that he has no documentary evidence to prove the forgoing facts & that he knows of no person living whow as with him In the service of the year 1777.—his comrads [sic] all being dead or removed to parts unknown & he hereby very claim to a pension except the present & he believes that he is not on the pension [list is crossed out] Roll of any State or agency. [Sworn & subscribed to the day & year aforesaid—was crossed out] The said deponent for further prove [proof of] his services refers to the

depositions of Nathan Snow & Ruben Barlow hereunto annexed & to the deposition of Caleb Knight Clergyman of the Town & Wm. G. Ballatine hereunto annexed & John Kent for proof of his having the reputation of being a revolutionary soldier. (Signed) William Millikan

John Kent Residing testify that I am well acquainted with William Millikan who has subscribed & sworn to the above declaration that we believe him to be 70 years old. That he is reputed & believed in the neighborhood where he now resides & has for many years to have been a soldier of the revolution & that we concur in that opinion having understood so for many years. John Kent

End Notes—S.17586—William Millikan

1. Possibly Captain William Goodrich who served in the Massachusetts Militia.
2. There was an attack on New Haven Connecticut on July 5, 1779.
3. William enlisted on July 21, 1780 as a private in Captain William Foord's Company in Colonel John Brown's Regiment of Massachusetts State Levies. William was discharged on October 27, 1780.
4. Lieutenants Alpheus Spencer and Abel Pearson or Hearson.
5. Corporal Nathan Ingraham, Fifer Thomas McNight or McKnite, and Private William McKnight all served In Captain Foord's Company.
6. A Jesse Laold was not found in Colonel Brown's Regiment but a Joel Ladd serving as a private in Captain Foord's Company was found.
7. Sir John Johnson with at least 700 men arrived at Schoharie on October 17, 1780 with intent to destroy all before them and capture the forts if possible.
8. Major Melancthon Woolsey of Colonel Morris Graham's Regiment of New York State Levies.
9. Colonel Brown was killed in the morning of October 19, 1780 In the Battle of Stone Arabia. Major Woolsey and his detachment from Schoharie did not arrive near Stone Arabia until October 20th.
10. Detachments were called out from the Berkshire County Militia in Massachusetts during the Lieutenant General John Burgoyne's Campaign of 1777. General Burgoyne surrendered the remnants of his invading army on October 17, 1777 to Major General Horatio Gates.