Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters

Virginia documents pertaining to John Miller VAS4023

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris.

[From bounty-land records in the Library of Virginia.]

To his Excellency the Governor of Virginia:

The memorial of Daniel P. Mitchell & Virginia P. his wife, of the County of Lancaster & Thomas Langsdell of the County of Northumberland, humbly represent, that John Miller of the County of Lancaster as they have been informed was a soldier of the Revolutionary war. Your memorialists have not bee able to ascertain at what time, or under whom the said John enlisted, but have been informed he belonged to the Illinois Regiment under the Command of General George R. Clarke [sic: George Rogers Clark VAS269] & served during the war. They can obtain evidence to prove the said John was in service till the close of the Revolutionary war, but presuming there is sufficient documentary evidence to establish that fact, they have deemed it unnecessary, as the evidence would not prove other particulars. The said John had four Children VIZ Thomas, John, Peter H. and Nancy. The said Thomas & John are dead & left no issue. Peter died & left several children, all of whom are dead without issue except our memorialist Virginia P. Nancy died & left two children VIZ John, & Thomas your memorialist. John died without issue. Your memorialists hope their case is fairly made out & may meet with a favourable reception. Given under their hands this 17th day of Febry 1835.

Dan'l P. Mitchell [another signature cut off at bottom]

Report upon the claim of John Millers heirs for bounty land for his services as a soldier of the state line.

To Governor Tazewell

Sir, John Miller was a soldier in Captain Quirks [Thomas Quirk W5958] Company, which I have seen: and I believe none other has been preserv'd. From this payroll it appears, that John Miller was paid for services from Jan'y 19th 1779 to may 28th 1780. The Company, to which he belong'd, was a regular company in the Illinois Regiment; and the men enlisted for three years, or for the war.

The name of this soldier is on the army Register of the State line. A certificate issued, June 30th 1784, for £32.7.10 the bal. of his full pay &c, which was deliver'd to Wm. Sayers (see army Register of the state line.) This payment was made for a service down to the last of December 1781, as appears from "A list of soldiers serving in the Illinois Department, who have receiv'd certificates for the bal. of their pay &c up to the last of Decr. 1784" (page 54 of the document.) This document is now on file in my office.

Thus it appears, that John Miller was in service to the last of December 1781 to which time he receiv'd his pay. From Jan'y 19th 1779 to December 31st 1781 is three years less 19 days. How long after the 31st December 1781, he remain'd in service, the documents on file in the public offices do not shew. The Petitioners say "They can obtain evidence to prove the said John was in service till the close of the war."

The auditors, who settled the accounts of officers & soldiers down to the 31st Decr 1781, were restrain'd by law from settling down to a later period. at this latest period of settlement John Miller seems to have been in service, and may well be presum'd to have serv'd at least the 19 days, which would have completed his three years of service. Besides this presumption, there is another in his favor. He may have enlisted in 1778. Capt. Quirks Payroll does not give the date of his enlistment; but only the commencement of the service for which he was then paid, which was (as before stated) 19th Jan'y 1779. If he serv'd 19 days before & his last date, or remain'd in service 19 days after December 31st 1781, his heirs are entitled to bounty land for his service of three years.

I believe that Capt Quirks men serv'd to the end of the war; but have no conclusive documentary proof of the fact.

I respectfully suggest the propriety of an allowance of this claim, for a service of three years. If the claimants should hereafter obtain the proof of service to the end of the war, they will have it in their power to make application for the additional 100 acres of land, which they may claim.

Respectfully submitted/ John H Smith Com'r &r/ April 10th 1835