

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of Rush Milam S7943

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

Virginia Kanawha County towit

On the 11<sup>th</sup> day of March 1833 personally appeared in open court before the Justices of the county Court of Kanawha County now sitting Rush Millam a resident of the County of Kanawha and state of Virginia aged seventy four years, 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 June 7<sup>th</sup> 1832.

That he was born in the year 1759 in the County of Culpepper [sic: Culpeper] and state of Virginia where his parents resided till this affiant was two years old when they removed to the County of Bedford Virginia. This declarant has no knowledge of any record of his age of any kind, though such may have existed, but knows his age and the year of his birth from information given him by his parents, in his youth. He continued to reside in the County of Bedford until the year 1781 when on the 15<sup>th</sup> of January of that year he entered the service of the Virginia militia as a drafted man. He entered the service under Capt. Alexander Cummins by whose command, this declarant was marched from Bedford County to Petersburg and his company was there attached to the regular troops under the command of Barron Steuben and annexed to the regiment commanded by Col Meriweather [sic: Meriwether] and Major DeCluman [sic: Christian Charles De Klauman].

From Petersburg he was marched to the Town of Suffolk on Suffolk river, on the border of N Carolina. From this place he was marched to a place called Green Sea near Portsmouth. From Green Sea this Declarant was conducted to some fortifications or breast works commanded by Gen. Gregory [probably Isaac Gregory of NC Militia]. From this place he was marched to Prince George Court House Va. where he was regularly discharged by Capt Cummins, having served a term of three months. This discharge was sent to the War department with his declaration made on the 13<sup>th</sup> of August 1832 but was not returned with his declaration sent back for some defects contained therein [not found in the file]. This affiant refers to this discharge as evidence of his first tour of service of three months

Four weeks from the time of this discharge, or between the 15<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> of May 1781 - this affiant was again drafted from Bedford County to serve a second tour and under the same Capt Alex'r Cummins. At this time he was first marched to the Town of New London [now in Campbell County] which was then threatened with an attack by the British. He was thence conducted to James River to a place called Point of Forks [sic: Point of Fork at the confluence with Rivanna River] and from thence to near Charlotte Court House. From this place the troops crossed the James River and were marched to Goochland Court House and from thence to Bottoms Bridge below Richmond [on Chickahominy River]. He was thence conducted to New Kent C H on his way to Williams Burg [sic: Williamsburg] when his time expired. All his officers during this service are not distinctly remembered except his Major whose name was Love, and the Chief in command was General [Robert] Lawson of the Virginia militia. This declarant did not receive a written discharge for this second tour of three months, but instead thereof the receipts heretofore endorsed to the war department, which he received from the Sheriff of Bedford County for the payment of the army tax which he paid in full by a transfer of his wages for this tour. He believes, and was informed at the time, that these receipts were considered and given as evidence of a discharge, as the service money was withheld to pay the army tax.

On the 25<sup>th</sup> of August 1781 and a few days only after he reached his home in Bedford County, this Declarant was again drafted for the purpose of defending his county town from an attack threatened by Col Tarlton [sic: Lt. Col. Banastre Tarleton]. His officers were Capt. Charles Gwatkins and Col James Callaway. He was not kept under arms the whole of this tour but was subject to march at a moments warning, and had this exemption from constant duty from his officers. In this service he spent one other term of three months and until he was regularly discharged by his officers. This discharge has been mislaid and cannot now be produced by the

affiant.

The whole time of this affiant's service was nine months all of which was performed as a private soldier in the Virginia militia and during the war of the revolution. In the year 1786 this affiant moved from Bedford to the County of Botetourt [sic: Botetourt] Virginia where he continued to reside till 1812 when he removed to the County of Kanawha where he has ever since resided. To establish his character for veracity he this affiant refers to James Cisson Esqr, Wm Wilson & Col Andrew Donnally who have been long acquainted with him and will, he believes, cheerfully give testimony to the character he has ever sustained.

This affiant is unable to produce any testimony from living witnesses of his services as above stated except the annexed affidavit of John Dawson which was sent with his former Declaration & returned & is herewith again sent - and the annexed affidavit of Walter Williams. 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] Rush Millam

Virginia Kanawha Cty towit

Personally appeared in open court at the time and in the county and before the justices aforesaid John Dawson of the County & State aforesaid and made oath that he was born in Bedford County Va. and there raised - that he was personally well acquainted with Rush Millam and was knowing to his being called out and serving the three tours as set out in his annexed declaration. He also was acquainted with Capt Cummins and Gwatkins and with Col Callaway under whom the said Millam performed his service. see the facts set forth in the foregoing declaration of Rush Millam so far as known to this affiant are strictly true and such as are not personally known are believed to be true.

[signed] John Dawson

Sworn to and subscribed in open Court this 13<sup>th</sup> August 1832

teste A. W. Quarrier Clk

Personally appeared in open court Walter Williams of Kanawha county sixty nine years of age who being duly sworn deposed & saith that in the summer of 1781 he was a soldier in the Virginia Malitia and was with the troops [one line illegible] New London, that while there he saw Rush Millam a soldier in the Virginia Malitia then serving his second tour as stated in annexed declaration. That he knew of his serving other tours during the war but cannot state the period of time that he was in the service. He knew the said Rush Millam from his youth, having lived in Bedford County a near neighbour to said Millam for a long time both before and after his service in the army. That from his long and intimate acquaintance with Mr Millam he can bear ample testimony to the good character of said Millam for truth and veracity

Sworn to and subscribed in open Court the 11<sup>th</sup> day of [signed] Walter Williams

March 1833 Teste A. W. Quarrier Clk

[The following report is by District Attorney Washington G. Singleton who investigated many pensioners from present West Virginia. For details see pension application S6111 of David W. Sleeth.]

Rush Millam. Serv'd. 3 mo. - draws \$30 p annum.

I the undersigned Rush Millam in pursuance of the requisition of the Secretary of War, give the statement here following of my age and Revolutionary Services to Wit.

I am a native of Culpepper county. resided in Bedford Cty during the war of the Revolution and am now in my 77<sup>th</sup> year of age - in my 22<sup>nd</sup> year of age, I think in the year 1780, I was drafted for a 3 months tour & marched from Bedford County Va. under Capt. Alexander Cummings (cant recollect the names of the Lieut. & Ensign) to Petersburg Va. & thence to Norfolk. on our march between Petersburg & Norfolk we and army under Col. Meryweather & Major D. Cloman. from Norfolk we marched to Genl. Gregaries Camp and thence toward Charlott Court House at Prince George court House my term of 3 mo. expired. I got my discharge & returned home - I gave my discharge for this tour to Ezra Walker who wrote my Declaration -

after being at home four weeks & one day, I wa again drafted for 3 mo. Marched from same county under same Captain to Pointy Fork on James River, thence to Goochland old court

House. we joined a Regt. of Militia at Pointy Fork. dont recollect who commanded it. Joined the Regulars also at same place. they were commanded by Genl. Steuban. we went from Goochlan to Bottoms Bridge below Richmond & thence to Williamsburg. was there discharged after having been in service six or seven weeks. - we were drafted for 3 mo. as before stated, but were permitted to go home after haveing been in service for 6 or 7 weeks to Attend to our crops of corn, which we had planted before leaving - after being at home about a week I was called out to guard the town of Bedford - and was in this service about one week - it was apprehended that the british army would make a demonstration upon that place. there was about 1500 in the guard under the command of Col. Calaway & thus ended my services. - I gave Mr. Walker the same Narrative of service I now give - I agreed to give John Miller one half of my pension - he procured Walker to write my Declaration. In Witness of all which I hereto subscribe my name. Dec 31 1834  
Rush Millam

A Copy. W G Singleton Jany 8, 1835

[Milam told Singleton he had served less than six months, the minimum required to receive a pension. Milam's pension certificate shows that he was initially allowed \$30 per year for nine months service. On Milam's report Singleton wrote "Fraud certificate surrendered & enclosed to Mr. Edwards" (J. L. Edwards, Commissioner of Pensions).]

Kanawha Court House - Virginia June 21<sup>st</sup> 1836

Dear Sir In searching for another paper in the files of my office I found the enclosed discharge and receipts of Rush Milam which should have been sent with his declaration made before the County Court of our County August 1832 -

Milam obtained a pension and has since been deprived of it probably for the want of these very papers - he is still living (as I am credibly informed by a person who has seen him within three days past) about 18 miles from this, poor, old, and infirm

I have addressed this matter directly to yourself and not to our member of Congress, because from the known attention of Mr Edwards to the business of his office, and his immediate replies to applicants, the greatest confidence is placed in his doing justice to all without delay -

By refering to Milam's declaration, the object of the enclosed papers will be explained  
J. L. Edwards Esq respectfully your obt Servant  
Washington City A. W. Quarrier Clerk Kan. County

Rec'd 8<sup>th</sup> May 1781 of Mr Rush Millam Ninty One pounds Ten shillings in full for his Tax 1780, his first Tax 1781. Tob[acc]o Tax County & Baush[?] Levy for 1780 Also his Waggon Tax  
Caleb Tate DS—

Memo The Money paid me by Capt Gwatkins for Mr Rush Milam I will repay to Capt Gwatkins  
Caleb Tate 8<sup>th</sup> May 1781

Rec'd 24<sup>th</sup> april 1782 of Mr Rush Milam fifty nine pounds Ten Shillings in [illegible word] for his Second and third Tax 81  
Caleb Tate DS

War Dept. Pension off July 1836

Sir The discharge & receipts of Rush Milam enclosed in yours of 21 ult have been rec'd The discharge is conclusive of the first term of his alleged service of 3 mo. but agreeably to his deposition taken by Mr. Singleton the balance of his alleged services was less than six months, which is the minimum provision of the act of 7 June 1832. His claim is therefor rejected because his service is insufficient - no imputation is or ought to be cast upon his integrity in consequence of any thing which occurred in the preparation of his papers or the rejection of his claim.

A. W. Quarrier Esq Kanawha C.H. Va.