

State of New Jersey  
County of Morris

Morris Court of Common Pleas, Special Term, April, 1833.

On this 10<sup>th</sup> day of April, 1833, personally appeared in open court now sitting, Luke Miller of Chatham Township in the County & State aforesaid, well known to this Court to be a man of fair character & good standing for veracity & being first duly sworn saith (sic), that he is the same Luke Miller, who on the 31<sup>st</sup> day of July last made his Declaration before this Court to obtain the benefit of the Act of Congress passed June 7<sup>th</sup>, 1832. That at the time of making said Declaration, he was not apprized of the necessity of specifying minutely & in detail, each monthly tour of militia service endured by him in the war of the revolution & that in the great number of applications then making before the Court, the time was too limited to allow that deliberate recollection & minute recital required by the rules of the Pension office, of events which occurred 50 years since. Since making his Declaration, he has reflected more upon his revolutionary services & desires that this, his amended Declaration may be rec'd by the Secretary of War & the Commissioner of Pensions, as detailing more minutely his several tours of monthly militia duty than could be done in the haste which seemed unavoidable in his first application to this Court.

In the month of June, 1776, he entered as a volunteer in the militia company then commanded by Lieutenant Hand – was marched with said company To Elizabeth Town Point, where he was stationed on guard duty & in the making of breast works, to defend the landing places against the incursion of the British, who were then in possession of Staten Island directly opposite. He remained here for the space of two weeks on duty – was then dismissed verbally & went home.

In August of the same year, he again turned out with his chaps, joined the company, then commanded by Capt. Obadiah Kitchell – was again stationed at Elizabeth Town Point, on the lines, performing the same duties as before stated, the Regiment to which he was attached being under command of Col. Ford. This tour of duty continued for one month – he was then dismissed & went home. In October of the same year, he & his chaps again turned out & joined the company Commanded by Capt. Stephen Mumson - marches again to the lines at Elizabeth Town Point, assisted in throwing up breast works & defending the inhabitants. During this tour, Gen'l Washington's army retreated through N. Jersey, in the march commonly distinguished by the name of the mud-rounds – the British being in close pursuit. – Captain Mumson with his company fell into the retreat in rear of Gen'l Washington's army, followed him to the vicinity of New Brunswick. The militia of Morris & the neighboring Counties have filed off toward Bound Brook & Pluckemin & was discharged later in December at Morristown, having served on this tour two months & a half. The first month of this tour, this (deponent?) was commanded by Captain Mumson, & the rest of the time by Captain Day. A large body of this Militia, nearly the whole of this section of the State was in service on this tour, under The command of Colonel Bart V Spencer (sic?) & General Williamson, as this deponent believes.

On the first of January, following, viz: 1777, he engaged to serve three months in Captain Sylvanus Seeley's company, (afterward Colonel Lutz) in the regiment first commanded by Col. Ford & afterward by Col. Spencer, in General Maxwell's Brigade. Was employed on the lines, at Elizabeth Town, Springfield & various other places mostly in Essex County, defending the inhabitants from the enemy then in very con-

siderable force upon Staten Island & New York, & often sending out foraging & plundering in parties of Hessians, Tories & Refugees. During this 3 month service, there were several severe skirmishes with the enemy – one at a place called Ash Swamp – another at Vaux-hall near Springfield – one at Short Hills – in all of which this deponent & his Company participated. – In the affair at Vaux-hall, a party of Hessians, returning from an excursion was attacked, 9 of them left on the ground – 50 taken prisoner & put under guard to Morristown, the deponent & his company being of the capturing party. – He served out his three months & was honorably discharged, verbally, the first of April. –

In September of the same year, he was again in Militia service in Captain Daniel Brown's company, in General Ward's brigade. – was marched to New Windsor in the State of New York – continued in service one month; was then Discharged & returned home. – He served one month in the following winter & was stationed at Elizabeth Town upon guard duty under Col. Seeley. He is not certain whether he served this month under Captain Hale, or Captain Minard (sic?). One of the two, he believes, commanded the company, & the month Most probably included part of both January & February, 1778.

In March following, (1778) he served one month in militia duty in Captain Ward's company, under command of (then) Major Daniel Brown (sic?). Was stationed upon the lines performing guard duty at Elizabeth town & other points in Essex County & along the shore opposite Staten Island.

In June 1778, he performed a tour of militia duty under Captain John Lindy as a substitute for his brother. Was marched with his company to Monmouth, & was personally engaged in the battle with the enemy at that place. He continued in service one month & was discharged.

In September following, he served one month in his brother's stead, in Lieutenant John Caldwell's company – was marched to the Minisink settlement on the Delaware river, under General Wind's order, upon an expedition against The Indians. The Indians had burned the settlement & retired, before Gen'l Wind's reached the place. He served out the month & was discharged at Newton, Sussex County, N. Jersey, & returned home. –

In the year 1779, 1780, & 1781, he recollects distinctly to have served a monthly tour of militia duty under each of the following named Captains, viz: Captain Bates, Captain Ciane, Captain Hanson, Captain Hall, Captain Day, & Captain Ward. The incursions of the enemy came so numerous & so often repeated that the alarms were in general succession & the demand for militia service was almost constant, the chaps & companies going out in alternate monthly tours, as the urgency of the times demanded. His memory will not serve him, to fix with certainty, either the precise month, or the year in which these services were performed – nor can he state with accuracy, the order as to time, in which these events occurred – but he conscientiously believes that he served the full period of one month, as he has stated, under each of the last six Captains, before named. – On every alarm given, he volunteered his services & never waited to be drafted. – On one of these occasions, the enemy landed in considerable force at Elizabeth Town Point – across the County to Newark, Hackensack, (illegible town name) – the militia collecting from every quarter, & skirmishing with them almost daily, harrassing them in their marches, till Finally they returned to New York. – Upon another occasion, the enemy came out in force to Connecticut Farms in Essex County when the militia attached & amazed them – the enemy, after burning the church & some houses in the valley, retreated. – The militia hanging upon their shirts.

Upon another occasion – the enemy after having returned from Connecticut Farms, again Came over to New Jersey with a stronger force, & made their way as far as Springfield, when the militia, with a part of the Continental troops made a stand against them, & a battle ensued, in which considerable blood was shed on both sides. – The enemy burnt Springfield Church, & many of the dwelling houses in the village & retreated. The burning of Connecticut Farms Church & Valley, and of Springfield Church & village Were upon different excursions, but both in the same year, & on this the deponent believes in the year 1780 & in the warm season of the year, probably in summer.

In all the above instances, & others which he cannot distinctly particularize, this Deponent was personally & actually engaged, under one or another of the before named Captains, & generally under the command of Colonel Lutz & General Wind – other officers being sometimes also present with these commands, & among them, he believes, were Major Hazen (sic) & Colonel Frelinghuysen, & others not remembered. – During the monthly tours which he has thus specified, he was often out upon other alarms, for periods less than a month each – sometimes for two weeks, sometimes for one week, or for a few days at a time, of which he makes no account, & cannot particularize thus.

He can specify but 19 months of service – yet he is fully permeated & verily believes, that he faithfully served his Country, the full term of two years, during the war of the Revolution. He claims compensation at least, for the period of nineteen months service, as a private. -

By mistake in his first Declaration, it was stated, that he had No record of his age. – He has a family bible, in which his age is recorded, & from Which it appears that he was born September 8<sup>th</sup> 1759 & is now in the 74<sup>th</sup> year Of his age. – He has no documentary proof of his services, excepting the Deposition of Israel Lum Esq. amended to his original Declaration.

Luke Miller

Which deposition he discusses may be admitted as proof of his services, so far as The deponent has been able to recollect & narrate them.

Sworn & subscribed in open Court, the day & year first mentioned.

The deponent or rather the Declarant, belongs to the Presbyterian Church & Congregation in Bottle Hill, in which the Revered W. Aimes (sic) is Pastor, & is But recently settled there; not having lived in the place more than about six Months - & of course can have no personal knowledge, or traditional knowledge of The Revolutionary services of this deponent. Luke Miller

Sworn and subscribed  
on open Court  
Stephen Vail

I hereby confer to the Secretary of War, & to the Commission of Pensions, that I have been personally acquainted with Major Luke Miller, the above declarant for 30 years past – that his whole life as well as my own, has been spent in this County, & living within 4 miles of each other, his character & standing in society must be well known to me. – It affords me pleasure to state, that to the best of my knowledge & belief, his whole life is as handy & as far from reproach as any man in this County. That for probity (sic), veracity & integrity, he has the confidence of all who know him, & is universally beloved in the neighborhood where he lives, to have been a substantial Whig & firm friend of his County in the trying times of the Revolution. – I have for myself the most utter confidence in the trust of all that he has stated as to his personal service in the war & sincerely hope that his claim will meet with

all that conviction to which it is fairly entitled.

Morristown NJ Apl 10<sup>th</sup>, 1833

Lewis Conduct, (?) & Rep  
From the State of N. Jersey

I, David Day, Clerk of the Court of Common Pleas, do hereby  
Certify, the above deposition, signed by Luke Miller, is the original  
amended declaration of said Miller, taken this day in open Court,  
in the matter of the application of said Luke Miller for a pension

In testimony, whereof, I have hereunto set my hand & seal  
of my office, this 10<sup>th</sup> day of April, AD. 1833

David Day Clk

Transcribed by David Quirk (18<sup>th</sup> owner/custodian of The Luke Miller House) on May 8,  
2008, from a photocopy of the original pension document obtained by David Quirk on  
March 24, 2006, through the National Archives Trust Fund, Washington, DC 20408