

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

South Carolina Audited Accounts¹ relating to John Milligen SC30
Audited Account No.5259

AA22SC

Transcribed by Will Graves

12/24/17

[Methodology: Spelling, punctuation and/or grammar have been corrected in some instances for ease of reading and to facilitate searches of the database. Where the meaning is not compromised by adhering to the spelling, punctuation or grammar, no change has been made. Corrections or additional notes have been inserted within brackets or footnotes. Blanks appearing in the transcripts reflect blanks in the original. A bracketed question mark indicates that the word or words preceding it represent(s) a guess by me. The word 'illegible' or 'indecipherable' appearing in brackets indicates that at the time I made the transcription, I was unable to decipher the word or phrase in question. Only materials pertinent to the military service of the veteran and to contemporary events have been transcribed. Affidavits that provide additional information on these events are included and genealogical information is abstracted, while standard, 'boilerplate' affidavits and attestations related solely to the application, and later nineteenth and twentieth century research requests for information have been omitted. I use speech recognition software to make all my transcriptions. Such software misinterprets my southern accent with unfortunate regularity and my poor proofreading skills fail to catch all misinterpretations. Also, dates or numbers which the software treats as numerals rather than words are not corrected: for example, the software transcribes "the eighth of June one thousand eighty six" as "the 8th of June 1786." Please call material errors or omissions to my attention.]

[p 8]

Gentlemen Charleston

As there are two Vacancies at present And my Situation is very low and likely to be lower if your honors do not make Choice of Me for one of the two following Offices (viz.) Harbor Master or Keeper of the light House the latter would Suit me best if your honors deem me capable of exercising it and will give me that Appointment it, will assist a family from Starving and will lay them under an obligation for Ever to pray for the welfare of your honors. Perhaps some of the Gentlemen are not Acquainted with my Character. I will give a little detail of it which can be proved to their satisfaction. During the late War with Great Britain When Delegates were first sent to Philadelphia in saluting them I was blown up by a keg of powder and both my wrists broken which would have lost me a great deal of Money had not my Father been alive who gave me proper Assistance and cured me.

On the 5th December 1775 I took a Commission as a Lieutenant on board the Ship *Prosper* and remained on board till the 2nd June 1776, then I was ordered to Sullivan's Island where I had the honor to Command a party of seamen against the British Fleet and on the 29th I boarded the *Acteon* Frigate while on [sic, under?] Fire Turned four of the *Acteon's* Guns upon the British Admiral and brought away her Bell, [word written over and indecipherable, starts "Co..."] and Sundry Other Articles to a great Amount of which I delivered for the Use of the Garrison at Fort Moultrie. In 1778 at the Great fire I was honored with a letter of thanks from the House of Assembly for my Activity in blowing up houses &c. After that I went Out a Volunteer with Captain Benjamin Stone we had 5 Men killed and 21 wounded. I brought the Vessel Off Amidst the Excessive firing of the Enemy. In 1779 I was Ordered up to Purysburgh with 300 Sailors under my Command there I fought the British Galley till I was compelled to retreat by force of arms. However I kept my colors flying in my boat, then Captain Anthony and Myself were ordered into Separate boats to take a prisoner if possible to Gain Intelligence of the movement of the British Army. I took an Adjutant not 100 yards from a two gun Fort on Edisto [River] and my Regiment then on the beach all in sight. I conveyed and delivered him to General Lincoln [Benjamin Lincoln] who thanked me for my Good behavior and successful Stratagem. When the French that arrived off Georgia, I was sent to Congress in a Vessel of my

¹ The South Carolina Audited Accounts are available on microfilm at the South Carolina Department of Archives & History in Columbia, SC. They will eventually be available online at <http://www.archivesindex.sc.gov/>. The file number has been assigned by the administrator of this website for indexing purposes only and is not an officially recognized file number.

own with Letters to Colonel Laurens [Henry Laurens] who was then President who sent me back Immediately and I arrived time enough to be at the Siege of Savannah.² After the Siege I returned to Charleston with wounded men. Then carried some dispatches to the Havana. I was at the two last Sieges and was taken at the fall of the town, and went to Philadelphia in a canoe. There Governor Rutledge [John Rutledge] got Captain Anthony and myself exchanged. After that I was taken in St Eustatia [St. Eustatius] and sent to England. After my Release from England I came to George Town [Georgetown South Carolina]. Governor Matthews ordered me to the Command of a Galley. I stayed in the Service till the house of Assembly Discharged us all. Now gentlemen if any one man has served his Country more faithfully than I have done, I will say no more. I was Several Cruises in the *Rutledge* and took a number of Prizes and [the bottom of the page is torn and the text compromised and illegible]

I was in the Service of this State in December [illegible] and on 28 June 1776 I was in the Action on Sullivan's Island and there continued in the Service till there was no Vessel for me to be had & then went in the *Rutledge* and private service till the [indecipherable word] of Savannah. I was then ordered to take the Command of four Independent Companies and went to Purisburgh against the British Galleys which I did and got D_m_nly, Flogged. I continued in different Actions and in the service till the peace at George Town and Charles Town.

S/ Jacob Milligan



[illegible] 16th 1786} N. B. John Milligan my brother was a while in the Service as a Lieutenant with me and [illegible text] the service till discharged By the Legislature [illegible text]. I could say more but I know the Gentlemen knows as much as I could Say my brother was in the Service with me, in every Action at Purisburgh and being where else till the town was taken, and after my Return from England he joined me at George Town. It was appointed a Lieutenant by Orders. And Stayed [balance of affidavit is illegible.]

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A Memorandum to Show his Excellency

John Rutledge Esquire the time I was in Service And to Get a Certificate of the same that I may get my Gratuity as others have done (viz.)

I entered in the service with a Commission signed by Henry Lawrence [Henry Laurens] Esquire dated December 5, 1775 – a Lieutenant on board the *Prosper* till the Action 1776 made a Captain in the service till August 1776 –

Received another Commission from John Rutledge Esquire January 1778, Went to Purysburg continued till August 1778

Received another from John Rutledge, March 1780, took Prisoner and continued till I got it renewed by Governor Matthews on my return from Prison in May 1782 from England and then continued till the House of Assembly discharged us

the 1 st Commission I received was	10 months
the 2 nd ditto	7 ditto
the 3 rd ditto	2 [years] 3 –

² Siege of Savannah September 16-October 9, 1779 <http://www.myrevolutionarywar.com/battles/790916-savannah/>

June to March the 4th after Returned a prisoner

9 -

Upon the whole it appears

Years 4 5 months

I was more than 4 years successfully in hard Labor

Mr. Rutledge I am to [illegible] a Certificate for his Commission and Mr. Matthews [balance of text is illegible]

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I do hereby certify that Mr. Milligan had a Commission of of Captain in the Navy & was a considerable Time in the service of this State but the date of the Commission or the Length of time I don't recollect.

S/ J. Rutledge

May 8 1786

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "J. Rutledge".

To the best of my remembrance the allegations within written that a Commission signed by me as President of the Council of Safety is true. 18 May 1786

S/ Henry Laurens

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Henry Laurens".

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In the House of Representatives October 16, 1788

The Committee to whom was referred the Petition of Captain Jacob Milligan
Report

That they have examined the Allegations contained in the said petition and are of Opinion that though Captain Milligan's claim is not within the Letter, it is within the Spirit, of the Acts of this State, for making compensation to its Servants.

They are fully of the Opinion from [words obliterated] produced to them, and from their personal knowledge of the active zeal and good conduct of this Officer, that he ought to be put on a footing with the Officers of Commodore Gillon, They therefore recommend that the Resolution of the legislature for granting One Years pay as a Gratuity to Commodore Gillon's Officers be extended to Captain Jacob Milligan.

Resolved that this House do agree with the Report

Ordered that the Report and Resolution the sent to the Senate for their concurrence

By order of the House

S/ John Sandford Dart, CHR

Resolved

That this house do concur with the House of Representatives on the said Report & resolution

Resolved: that the Report & Resolution be sent to the House of Representatives by order of the Senate