

**NAME:**MILES, John

**PARISH:**

**ENTERED SERVICE:**1769

**DATES:**

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Appointments & Service

Outfit Year\*:

Position:

Post:

District:

HBCA Reference:

*\*An Outfit year ran from 1 June to 31 May*

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John Miles was engaged by the Hudson's Bay Company in 1769 to serve as Armourer at Moose Fort (Moose Factory). He signed a five year contract for the wage of £ 20. per annum for the first three years and £25. Per annum for the last two years. (HBCA, A.30/1 fos. 4d-5, A.11/43 fo.160d).

When his contract expired in 1774, John Miles indicated that he was willing to continue in his position for another three years if his wage was raised to £30. per annum. Otherwise, he wished to return home. (HBCA, A.30/1 fos. 4d-5, A.11/43 fo.202d). The Hudson's Bay Company rejected Miles proposal and offered him his current wage (£25. per annum) for three years and a gratuity of £15. when this second contract expired in 1777. (HBCA, B.135/c/1 fo.111).

Correspondence from Moose Factory to London dated 20 September 1774 states that "John Miles Armourer...{has} signed...{his}...contract for 3 years". (HBCA, a.11/44 fo.9). There is, however, a postscript added to the letter:

"Since writing the above our Armourer being a Man of a very contumacious disposition refuses to sign his contract on the Words Watch & Ward. Neither will he stay or do any duty for the Factory therefore we hope your Hon's will take recognisance of Such Servants---"

The reply from London, in a letter dated 4 May 1775, was, "We appreciated your sending home Miles the Armourer last year...(HBCA, B.135/c/1 fo.116d) which would indicate that John Miles left Moose Factory in 1774.

