

## Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of James Meriwether (Merewether, Merriwether)<sup>1</sup> R16407 f36VA  
 Transcribed by Will Graves 1/16/12

[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. 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 fails 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 8<sup>th</sup> of June 1786." Please call errors or omissions to my attention.]

[Note: There were two officers named James Meriwether (or some variant thereof) both of whose heirs made claims for half pay and pensions from the Federal government. One died in Jefferson County, Kentucky about 1801 and the other in Georgia in 1802. Whether or not the documents in this file uniformly refer to the officer by that name who died in Georgia is impossible for me to discern. See transcription of [James Meriwether \(Merewether, Merriwether\) R16407 1/2](#). According to documents in [William Meriwether \(Merewether, Merriwether\) S47954](#) the James Meriwether who died in Georgia was his (William's) cousin and served in the Continental Line. The James Meriwether who died in Kentucky in 1801 was his (Williams') brother and served both in the Illinois Regiment and in Charles Dabney's Legion. Based solely on the statements made by William Meriwether in his application, I have attempted to assign some of the documents transcribed below and in R16407 ½ by assigning to the James who died in Georgia the designation "Ga James" and the James who died in Kentucky the designation "Ky James." That designation appears in red preceding each.]

[Ga James]  
 [f p. 26]

Richmond 19th of July 1780

Sundry Officers of the Virginia Line—Dr  
 For part of Allowance of Clothing &c Viz:

| July 15 1780  | Tea? | Cloth | Shirts | Stock | Stockings | Summer Vests & Breeches | Hats | Shoes |
|---|------|-------|--------|-------|-----------|-------------------------|------|-------|
| Colo. Gibson  |      |       | 2      | 2     | 2         | 1                       |      |       |
| Capt. Thos. Hamilton<br>[Thomas Hamilton] Col.<br>Gibson' regt. |      |       | 2      | 2     | 2         | 1                       |      |       |
| Lieut. Chas. Yarbrough<br>[Charles Yarbrough] Ditto             |      |       | 2      | 2     | 2         | 1                       |      |       |
| Lieut. Ep: Rudder<br>[Epaphraditus Rudder]<br>Ditto             |      |       |        | 2     | 2         |                         |      |       |

<sup>1</sup> BLWt 1509-200 Lieut. Drag. Issued July 28, 1790, Certified by Secy of War Feb. 5, 1806, named spelled Merriwether No papers

|   |  |  |   |   |   |   |  |  |
|---|--|--|---|---|---|---|--|--|
| Lieut. Fredk Woodson<br>[Frederick Woodson] Ditto |  |  | 2 | 2 | 2 | 3 |  |  |
| Adj. Jas. Meriwether<br>[James Meriwether] Ditto  |  |  | 2 | 2 | 2 | 1 |  |  |
| Capt. Lieut. Russel Ditto                         |  |  | 2 | 2 | 2 | 3 |  |  |
| Qr M. Harper [Quarter<br>Master Harper] Ditto     |  |  | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 |  |  |
| Ens. Jno. Russell [John<br>Russell] Ditto         |  |  | 2 | 2 | 2 | 3 |  |  |
| Ens. Churchill Gibbs Ditto                        |  |  | 2 | 2 | 2 | 3 |  |  |
| Ens. Wm Slaughter<br>[William slaughter] Ditto    |  |  | 2 | 2 | 2 | 3 |  |  |

Extract from William Armistead's Journal page 17

S/ Jas. E. Heath, Auditor

Auditor's Office April 24 1834

[f p. 27: another extract from William Armistead's Journal page 66 this Captain Thomas Ewell; , Major Meriwether of Colonel Gibson's Regiment and Lieutenant Meriwether of same.]

[f p. 28: another extract from a document identified as Journal B page 24 list warrants issued to officers of the Army for money advanced to Lieutenant John Fleet, Lieutenant Pratt Hughes, Lieutenant & quarter master William Triplett, Lieutenant Churchill Gibbs, Captain Thomas Armistead, Lieutenant William Oliver, Lieutenant Epaphraditus Rudder, Lieutenant James Meriwether.]

[Ky James]

[f p. 30: extract of pay roll for the troop of Light dragoons under the command of Captain John Rogers from January 1782 to February 13 1782 listing Captain John Rogers, Lieutenant James Meriwether, Cornet John Thruston, Sergeant Henry Goodloe and private, Dominick Walch.]

[Ky James?]

[f p. 20]

Land-Office Military Warrant, No. 2468

To the Principal Surveyor of the land set apart for the officers and soldiers of the Commonwealth of Virginia

This shall be your Warrant to survey and lay off in one or more surveys, for James Meriwether his heirs or assigns, the quantity of 2666 2/3 acres of Land due unto the said James Meriwether in consideration of his services for three years as a Lieutenant in the Virginia State line agreeably to a certificate from the Governor and Council, which is received into the Land-Office.

Given under my hand and seal of said office, this 11th day of February in the year of our Lord 1784.

[a copy]

[revise]

"The within mentioned warrant No. 2468 has been surveyed for James Meriwether (son of David)"

attest: Jno. M. Foster, RLO, by E. A. Macurdy, DR

[Ga James ?]

[f p 22]

Land-Office Military Warrant, No. 1382

To the Principal Surveyor of the land set apart for the officers and soldiers of the Commonwealth of Virginia

This shall be your Warrant to survey and lay off in one or more surveys, for James Meriwether his heirs or assigns, the quantity of 2666  $\frac{2}{3}$  acres of Land due unto the said James Meriwether in consideration of his services for three years as a Lieutenant in the Virginia Continental line agreeably to a certificate from the Governor and Council, which is received into the Land-Office.

Given under my hand and seal of said office, this 17<sup>th</sup> day of July in the year of our Lord 1783.

[a copy] attest: Jno. M. Foster, RLO, by E. A. Macurdy, DR

[revise]

"Register's Office 21st of November 1834

I John M Foster Register of the Land Office for the State of Kentucky do hereby certify that I cannot find an Entry made on the within mentioned Warrant in the name of James Meriwether."

attest: Jno. M. Foster, RLO, by E. A. Macurdy, DR

[Ky James]

[f p. 25: pay extract showing £324.7 paid to James Meriwether in the Illinois Regiment for pay up to the last of December 1781 and a list of officers entitled to half pay for service in the Illinois Troop of Light Dragoons, J. Rogers, Capt., J. Meriwether, Lieut., George Thruston, Cornet &c.]

[Ga James?]

[f p. 13]

This is to Certify, That it appears from a List in this Office of such Officers and Soldiers of the Virginia State Line, during the Revolutionary War, as settled their Accounts, and received Certificates for the balance of their Full Pay, according to an Act of Assembly, passed the November Session 1781, that a Certificate issued on the 16th day of July 1783, in the name of James Meriwether as a Lieutenant of Infantry for £241.14.7, which Certificate appears to have been delivered to himself and that no other certificate appears to have been issued to an Officer of that name in the infantry service.

Given under my hand, at the Auditor's Office, Richmond, this  
3rd day of November 1832.

S/ J. E. Heath, AUDITOR

[Ga James]

[f p. 10: power of attorney dated January 31st, 1834 executed by Susannah Meriwether as executrix of James Meriwether deceased of Georgia, authorizing her attorney to demand and receive the commutation pay due James Meriwether. She does not state what blood relationship she may have had with the veteran. She signed with her mark.]

[Ga James]

[f p. 15]

I hereby certify that it appears by the Original Pay Roll of Captain John Nicholas' Company of

Colonel George Gibson's Regiment of the Virginia State line from the 15th to the 30th of September 1777 that James Meriwether was the Lieutenant of said Nicholas' Company & by the Original Pay Abstract of the same Regiment for the month of October 1779 that he was Lieutenant and Adjutant for that month.

Given under my hand and seal this 11th day of February in the year 1834.

S/ R. B. Taney Secretary of the Treasury

[Ga James]

[f p. 29]

I John Nicholas formally of the Revolutionary Army and late a Captain in the Regiment commanded by the late George Gibson Colonel do hereby certify that I was intimately acquainted with the late Lieutenant James Meriwether deceased formerly of Hanover County Virginia who afterwards removed to Georgia. That the said Meriwether entered the service in the Virginia State Line in the year 1776 and was a Lieutenant in the company commanded by May under Colonel George Gibson. That when I left the Northern Army in the fall of 1779 or the spring of 1780, the said Meriwether was then a Lieutenant in said Regiment about which time the Regiment was reduced. The said Meriwether was a brave and meritorious officer and never resigned or abandoned the Army.

S/ John Nicholas

Late Captain Lieutenant Colonel &c  
Revolutry Army

*... the Army. John Nicholas  
late Cap. Lt. Col. of Revolutry Army*

City of Washington viz.. The above named John Nicholas this 13th day of February came before me a magistrate of Washington County District of Columbia & made oath to the truth of the above Certificate.

13th of February 1834

S/ Henry Wertz JP

[Ga James]

[f p. 2: Alexander Meriwether, executor of the estate of James Meriwether deceased "late of Jefferson County State of Georgia who was a Lieutenant & staff officer in the Regiment commanded by Colonel George Gibson in the State line of Virginia in the War of the Revolution," executed a power of attorney dated May 29, 1851 [could be 1857] in hiring his attorney to pursue whatever claims the legal representative or children of said Lieutenant James Meriwether deceased May have for half pay or compensation for his services in the revolution.  
S/ Alex Meriwether

*Alex. Meriwether Seal*

[Ga James]

[f p. 6: copy of the last will and testament of Thomas Meriwether of Jefferson County Georgia,

dated September 8, 1802, in which he names his brother James Meriwether; niece Susanna Patterson; niece Jane Patterson; niece Elizabeth Cason.]

[Ky James]

[f p. 31]

Commissioner Smith's Supplemental report Doc. No. 6, page 100

Extract

James Merriwether, Lieutenant, Continental

He was 2nd Lieutenant Marines, November 28, 1776 (see counsel Journal of that date). He was 2nd Lieutenant State service February 19 1777. He was Lieutenant in Captain John Rogers's Company of Cavalry, until January 1, 1781, after which time he was Lieutenant in the Continental service, and settled his accounts with Commissioner Dunscomb for a service from January 1 1781 to November 15, 1783, and received his commutation of 5 years full pay, etc. He received his bounty land, 2666  $\frac{2}{3}$  acres as a Continental officer. His heirs are probably entitled to bounty land for his services from November 28, 1776 to the end of the war, deducting therefrom the 2266  $\frac{2}{3}$  acres above spoken of.

N. B. There are 2 officers of this name in the Army. One received his bounty land for 3 years as a Continental officer. The other received bounty land for a service of 3 years as a State Officer. It is difficult to distinguish the evidence of applying to each of them."

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of James Meriwether R16407  
 Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

I hereby certify that it appears by the original Pay Roll of Capt. John Nicholas' [pension application S46397] company of Col. George Gibson's Regiment of the Virginia State line, from the 15<sup>th</sup> to the 30 Sept. 1777 that James Meriwether was the lieutenant of said Nicholas' company & by the original Pay Abstract of the same regiment for the month of October 1779 that he was lieutenant and adjutant for that month.

Given under my hand and seal this eleventh day of February in the year one thousand eight hundred and thirty four./ R. B. Taney/ Secretary of the Treasury.

Sundry Officers of the Virg'a Line . . . D'r  
 For part of allowance of Clothing &c Viz

| July 15 <sup>th</sup> 1780                          | Tea | Cloth | Shirts | Stock | Stockings | Summer Vests & Breeches | Hats | Shoes |
|---|-----|-------|--------|-------|-----------|-------------------------|------|-------|
| Colo Gibson   |     |       | 2      | 2     | 2         | 1                       |      |       |
| Capt Tho's [Thomas] Hamilton<br>Colo. Gibsons regt. |     |       | 2      | 2     | 2         |                         |      |       |
| Lieut. Chas. [Charles] Yarbrough Ditto              |     |       | 2      | 2     | 2         | 1                       |      |       |
| Lieut Ep. [Epaphroditus] Rudder Ditto               |     |       |        | 2     | 2         |                         |      |       |
| Lieut Fred'k [Frederick] Woodson Ditto              |     |       | 2      | 2     | 2         | 3                       |      |       |
| Adj. Jas. [James] Meriwether Ditto                  |     |       | 2      | 2     | 2         | 1                       |      |       |
| Capt Lieut Russell Ditto                            |     |       | 2      | 2     | 2         | 3                       |      |       |
| Q'r. M. [James] Harper Ditto                        |     |       | 2      | 2     | 2         | 2                       |      |       |
| Ens. Jno. [John] Russell D'o                        |     |       | 2      | 2     | 2         | 3                       |      |       |
| Ens. Churchill Gibbs D'o                            |     |       | 2      | 2     | 2         | 3                       |      |       |
| Ens. Wm [William] Slaughter D'o                     |     |       | 2      | 2     | 2         | 3                       |      |       |

Extract from William Armisteads Journal page 17

[Certified by Auditor of VA 24 Apr 1834]

Sundry Officers of the Virg'a Line . . . D'r  
 For part of allowance of Clothing &c. Viz;

| September 1 <sup>st</sup> 1780                      | Tea | Cloth | Shirts | Stocks | Stockings | Summer Vest & Breeches | Hats | Shoes |
|---|-----|-------|--------|--------|-----------|------------------------|------|-------|
| Colo. Gibson  |     | 1½    | with   | part   | of        | Trimm                  | ings |       |
| Major [Thomas] Meriwether of<br>Colo. Gibsons Regt. |     | 1½    | Ditto  |        |           |                        |      |       |
| Capt. Thos. [Thomas] Ewell D'o                      |     | 1½    | Ditto  |        |           |                        |      |       |
| Lieut Rudder Do                                     |     | 1½    | Ditto  |        |           |                        |      |       |
| Lieut Meriwether Do                                 |     | 1½    | Ditto  |        |           |                        |      |       |

Extract from William Armistead's Journal page 66

[Certified by Auditor of VA 24 Apr 1834]

Richmond Virginia 13<sup>th</sup> February 1781  
 Sundry Acc's. D'r. To G. B. T  
 Officers of the Army for Monies advanced

|                                   |   |      |
|-----------------------------------|---|------|
| Warr. to L John Fleet             | £ | 3200 |
| Lt. Pratt Hughes                  |   | 3200 |
| Lt. & Quar. Mas. William Triplett |   | 4760 |
| Lt. Churchill Gibbs               |   | 3200 |
| Capt Thomas Armistead             |   | 4800 |
| Lieut. William Oliver             |   | 4000 |
| Lieut. Epaphraditus Rudder        |   | 4800 |
| Lieut. James Meriwether           |   | 4800 |

Extract from Journal B page 24 [Certified by Auditor of VA 25 Apr 1834]

A List of officers serving in the Illinois Department, who have received certificates &c. in full of their pay &c. up to the last of December 1781, viz

320 James Meriwether, X amt acc't for pay &c. 324 7

Extract from a memorandum at the bottom:

"The officers whose names are marked thus, X are reputed by the Board of officers convened in 1782 as belonging to the Illinois Regiment and troop of cavalry commanded by George Rogers Clarke [sic: Gen. George Rogers Clark]."

Pay abstract of a Troop of Light Dragoons in the service of the State of Virginia Commanded by Captain John Rogers commencing the first day of January 1782 and ending the 13<sup>th</sup> day of February 1782.

| Names             | Rank   | for months | service days | Pay pr month | Sub'r Dols | Am ou nt |    |   |                    |
|-------------------|--------|------------|--------------|--------------|------------|----------|----|---|--------------------|
| John Rogers       | Capt   | 1          | 13           | 50 Dolls     | 10         | £25      | 16 | 0 | rec'd himself      |
| James Merriwether | Lieut  | 1          | 13           | 33½          | 5          | 16       | 9  | 8 | Delv'd Capt Rogers |
| John Thruston     | Corn't | 1          | 13           | 26½          | 5          | 13       | 12 | 4 | " Capt Rogers      |
| Henry Goodloe     | Serg't | 1          | 13           | 10           |            | 4        | 6  |   | Del'd D'o          |
| Dominick Walch    | Priv't | 1          | 13           | 8½           |            | 3        | 11 | 8 | Del'd D'o          |

City of Richmond Sworn to by John Rogers, before me this 10<sup>th</sup> day of June 1783/ W Foushee

I hereby certify, that the foregoing is a true extract taken from Volume 1<sup>st</sup>, Division 4, Letter R, of the Illinois Papers, on file in this Office./ Given under my hand at the Auditors Office, Richmond this 17<sup>th</sup> day of August 1852. Ro Johnston/ First Auditor

Names Rank promotions &c of the Illinois Troop of Light Dragoons in the service of the State of Virginia from the time of their entering the service up to this date February 13<sup>th</sup> 1782.

| Names            | First rank for service         | years | Different Promotions                                       | Present Rank | Present date of Commissions  | Present State                              |
|------------------|--------------------------------|-------|--|--------------|--|--|
| Jno Rogers       | Lieutenant in Illinois         | 1778  | Capt of Cavalry in Illinois 22 <sup>d</sup> of August 1779 | Captain      | Lieut 13 <sup>th</sup> Aug't 1778<br>Capt 22 <sup>d</sup> Aug 1779 | Supernumery 13 <sup>th</sup> February 1782 |
| James Meriwether | Lieutenant in Illinois Cavalry | 1780  | Lieut in D'o 25 <sup>th</sup> April 1780                   | Lieutenant   | Lieut 25 <sup>th</sup> April 1780                                  | In Service                                 |
| John Thurston    | Cornet in D'o                  | 1780  | Cornet in D'o May 1780                                     | Cornet       | Cornet May 1780  | Supernumery 13 <sup>th</sup> Feby 1782     |

Strength of the troop when first raised was thirty nine men, Present Strength since the arrangement is Ten for the War – Jno Rogers Capt L D

I hereby certify that the above is a true copy of a per on file in this Office.

Given und my hand this 17<sup>th</sup> day of Aug't 1852 at the Auditors Office. Richmond.

Ro Johnston First Auditor

"List of officers entitled to half pay, returned to the Executive of Virginia by the field officers to sit in February 1782, & April, 1782" page 181.

Illinois Troop of light dragoons – J. Rogers Captain/ J. Meriwether, Lieut/ George Thurston, Cornet, &c."

I John Nicholas formerly of the Revolutionary Army and late a Captain in the Regiment commanded by the late George Gibson Col. do hereby certify that I was intimately acquainted with the late Lieutenant James Meriwether deceased formerly of Hanover County Virginia who afterwards removed to Georgia. That the said Meriwether entered the service in the Virginia State Line in the year 1776 and was a Lieutenant in the company commanded by me under Col. George Gibson. That when I left the norther army in the fall of 1779 or the Spring of 1780 the said Meriwether was then a Lieut. in said Regmt about which time the Regiment was reduced. The said Meriwether was a brave and meritorious officer and never resigned or abandoned the Army.

[signed 13 Feb 1834] John Nicholas/ late Cap. Lt. Col. &c. Revol'try Army

[31 Jan 1834] KNOW ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENTS, That I Susannah Meriwether Executrix of James Meriwether deceased of Georgia do hereby nominate, constitute, and appoint John H. Price of the city of Richmond my true and lawful attorney in fact, with power of substitution, to demand and receive of the Register of the Land Office of Virginia, and from the War Department at Washington City, any warrant or warrants that may be due to me as Executrix on account of the services of James Meriwether an officer in the Virginia State Line during the revolutionary war. [The rest not transcribed.]

[29 May 1851] Know all men by these presents that I, Alexander Meriwether Executor of the Estate of James Meriwether dec'd. late of Jefferson County & State of Georgia who was a Lieutenant & staff officer in the Regiment Commanded by Col George Gibson in the state line of Virginia in the War of the Revolution Do hereby nominate constitute & appoint George W. Meriwether of the City of Louisville Ky (with full power of substitution) my true & Lawfull attorney for me and in my name to prosecute against the government of the United States under the act of Congress of the United States passed the 5 July 1832 or under any other act the claim due the legal representatives or children of the said Lt. James Merewether dec'd. as half pay for life or for the computation with interest in lieu of the halfpay for life or on any other account whatever due in consideration of services rendered as either a soldier or officer in said line & War.... [the rest not transcribed]



Atlanta Ga Aug 17<sup>th</sup> 60

To Commissioner of Pension/ Washington city D.C.

Dear Sir:/ You will please inform me how to proceed to secure "half pay pension claims of old soldiers of the Revolution. My father-in-law Alexdr Meriwether and the heirs of the late Judge Meriwether of Ga are, I understand, entitled to a half pay pension claim, which they have never got. – The claim is in favor of James Meriwether (Son of David) of the revolution. He was, I think an officer. You will find there were two Jas Meriwether of the revolution [the other James Meriwether having made pension application R16407½]. My father-in-law father was distinguished from the other by "the son of David" They both had given them 2666<sup>2</sup>/<sub>3</sub> acres of land in the western part of Kentucky for their services.

My father-in-law is very old and has requested me to look after this matter for him. – A man by the name of Webb in Washington has proposed to secure the claim for 1/3 which the old man thinks is too much.

You will please give me such information about the matter as necessary and you will oblige

Yours Respectfully/ Ja's F Jackson

NOTE:

The file includes a letter from G. H. Monsarratt of Louisville KY dated 10 March 1851 indicating that "James B Meriweather" died in Jan 1831.

The file includes a copy of the last will and testament of Thomas Meriwether (BLWt1920-400) with the following provision: "I give and bequeath to my brother James Merriwether a copy of my mothers picture, to be taken as soon as a good artist can be gotten to execute it."