

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Stephen Merritt R7140
Transcribed by Will Graves

Margaret(Peggy) Merritt f87NC
4/29/09: rev'd 4/7/17

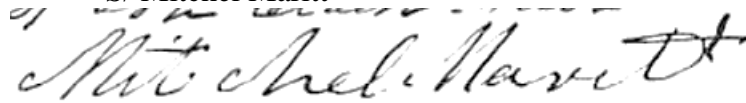
[Methodology: Spelling, punctuation and/or grammar have been corrected in some instances for ease of reading and to facilitate searches of the database. Where the meaning is not compromised by adhering to the spelling, punctuation or grammar, no change has been made. Corrections or additional notes have 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.]

State of Kentucky County of Rockcastle

On this 28 day of February 1853 personally appeared before the Judge of the County Court of Rockcastle County and State above mentioned in open court while in session on this day -- Mitchel Merritt aged 55 years -- administrator of the Estate of Peggy Merritt, deceased, widow of Stephen Merritt, deceased, a resident of the County and state aforesaid -- who being first duly sworn according to law -- doth on his oath subscribe to the following declaration on behalf of the children of the said Peggy and Stephen Merritt deceased, this affiant being one of the number. In order to obtain the benefit of the provisions made by the Act of Congress passed July 4th, 1836 -- granting Pensions to certain widows of persons who fought in the war of the Revolution. Deponent declares that his Father, on his oath, said Stephen Merritt was a soldier of the War of the Revolution, and that she is the widow of the said Stephen Merritt aforesaid, deceased, who reputation say is the Identical man who Entered the service of the War of Revolution in the State of North Carolina about the year 1776 -- a private Soldier -- and on account of his good conduct was appointed Lieut. -- and was promoted to that of Capt. in said War -- and served several years -- to the close of the Revolution that capacity -- as he has been informed -- that he served under the following named officers -- viz. -- Col. Cleveland, Franklin Col. Armstrong and Pinkney [Pinckney?] -- Col. McDonald or McDowell, Singleton & General Lincoln -- and was under several other officers -- not recollected -- that he did the great portion of his service in the North Carolina Militia -- a part of the time in NC State Troops and was possibly in the Continental Line -- that his said Father -- Stephen Merritt, was married to his said mother said Stephen Merritt about the year 1781 or 1782 -- near a town called Hillsborough -- also in Randolph County State of North Carolina and that her name was Peggy Brown before her said marriage and that his said Father died in Garrard County Kentucky December 1816 leaving his said wife Peggy a widow and some children who survived his life -- that his said widow -- did not again marry -- but continued the widow of the said Stephen Merritt, deceased, to the date she died -- which her said death took place in the County of Garrard & State of Kentucky between the 10th & 15th day of August (1840), and at her said death she left the said Peggy Merritt his said a widow left 5 children who survived the life of the said Peggy Merritt and the said Stephen Merritt, deceased, her husband, as follows -- John Merritt aged 67 years -- Mitchel Merritt aged 55 years -- Alvy Merritt aged 45 years -- Isabela Fennel aged 43 years -- Elizabeth Pullins about 57 years of age there only surviving children -- of the said Stephen and Peggy Merritt, deceased, that upon he made a former declaration he did not m s [sic?] E. Pullins was omitted -- he further states that he made a former declaration for this pension in 1850 and being informed by my attorney -- that said petition is lost or mislaid so it cannot be found, that said parties have never drawn any Pension on account of the service of the said Stephen Merritt in wright [sic, right] of his wife Peggy in whose right the Pension is claimed -- and respectfully ask

the Liberty that this Petition might be filed at the department of the United States -- at Washington City for the arrears of pension and the children of the said Peggy & Stephen Merritt, deceased, on account of his said service in the War of the revolution -- the Pension being claimed in right of his wife Peggy aforesaid -- he further declares he knows of no family record -- belonging to his said father & mother -- the said Stephen Merritt & Peggy Merritt, deceased, showing the date of the marriage of the said parties nor the births of their said children in existence -- at this time -- doubtful has long since been lost -- so it cannot be found, and to sustain this claim to the arrears of said Pension he respectfully refers the department of the United States at Washington City to the proof in the cause hereto annexed -- and to the evidence doubtless in the possession of the Comptroller at Raleigh North Carolina -- and to the Revolutionary Rolls -- on file at said department of the U.S., that he has no doubt his mother was ignorant of her rights to a pension to her death -- and the reason their said children has not sooner applied for Pension than the first application in 1850 mentioned -- they were ignorant of their rights to a Pension after the death of their said parents -- all of which is herewith respectfully submitted -- together with the deposition of John Clark &c.

S/ Mitchel Maritt



[attested by Jesse Fish, Judge]

[p 77-- affidavit of John Clark, 90, resident of Garrard County Kentucky given on September 21st, 1852, in support of the application of the heirs of Stephen Merritt and Peggy Merritt, his widow; he states that Stephen Merritt and Peggy Brown were married in Randolph County North Carolina before the battle of Guilford [March 15, 1781]; that he was not present at the marriage but saw them shortly thereafter; that shortly after the revolutionary war terminated, Stephen Merritt and his wife Peggy moved to Garrard County Kentucky.]

[p 83]

State of Kentucky County of Clay

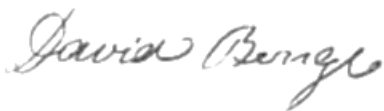
Be it known that on the 15th day of February 1853 personally appeared before me J H McWhorter an acting Justice of the peace in and for the County and State above mentioned David Beng¹ aged 95 years a resident of the County and State aforesaid -- who being first duly sworn according to law and known to me to be reputable and of the deposing memory -- does declare upon his oath and subscribed to the following affidavit only Petition of Mitchell Merritt of the County of Rockcastle and State aforesaid to the department of the United States in Washington City for arrears of Pension on behalf of the children of Stephen Merritt and Peggy Merritt, deceased, -- on account of the services rendered by the said Stephen Merritt in the War of the Revolution in the State of North Carolina -- who was residence of Garrard County Kentucky at their death.

Deponent states on his oath -- that his name was placed on the Kentucky pension agency while he was a resident of Clay County Kentucky -- that his name should have been spelled Beng instead of Burge -- that his name was placed upon the said list on account of services he rendered in the State of North Carolina in the war of the revolution as will more fully appear by reference to his declaration on file at the department of the United States at Washington City and states on his oath, that he knew the above named Stephen Merritt well while he was in the service in the war of the Revolution in the State of North Carolina and declares upon his oath that the above

¹ [David Beng S38530](#)

named Stephen Merritt is the identical man who was a soldier and an officer in the war of the Revolution in the State of North Carolina and knows well that said Merritt was a Lieut. or Capt. in said service in the war of the revolution and thinks it most likely said Stephen Merritt served in said war in the said State in both capacities -- as a Lieut. & Capt. -- deponent states that he did not serve in the same company -- or under said Merritt during said service -- but together a great deal in the same regiments in the State of North Carolina -- that said Stephen Merritt was under Col. Cleveland -- Armstrong -- Col. Richard Singleton -- and some other Colonels not recollected during said service -- that he served a part of the time in the NC militia and a part of the time in the State Troops -- and that said Merritt's Grade of office was not under Lieut. -- that he knew the said Merritt well while he was in said service from 1778 to the close of the war and that said Merritt served as an officer from said date to 1783 -- the close of the war -- of the Revolution in the State of North Carolina and that said Stephen Merritt made a faithful officer and was much beloved by all that knew him in his said service and that he knew the said Stephen Merritt and Peggy his wife well in time of the war of the revolution. Deponent did not see them married -- but knows well that said Stephen Merritt done considerable service in the war of the revolution after his marriage -- else after him and his wife Peggy lived together as man and wife - - deponent knew them both in 1781 in North Carolina -- at that time they were living together as man and wife and that their marriage was never doubted -- that said Merritt and wife shortly after the years 1783 moved to Garrard County Kentucky -- deponent lived in the adjacent County to said Merritt -- in Kentucky the year 1795 knew said Merritt & Peggy his wife well in said County Kentucky -- up to their deaths and knows well they lived together as man and wife from 1781 up to their death and raised a large Family of Children and their marriage was never doubted -- that said Stephen Merritt died in Garrard County Kentucky many years since leaving his said wife Peggy a widow who survived his life -- who died not many years since his said widow -- Peggy -- aforesaid and that Mitchell Merritt -- the applicant for this Pension is one of their children with whom deponent knows well -- deponent swears that he lived in the adjacent County in Kentucky to the said Merritt. They often talk over their service while living in Kentucky -- done in the revolution -- and deponent is fully satisfied the said Stephen Merritt is the same man he knew you in the service in the war of the revolution in North Carolina as aforesaid -- and swears that the said Stephen Merritt is the identical man who is the husband of the widow, deceased, whose children is now the applicants for the arrears of this pension and swears that he is a disinterested witnesses.

S/ David Bengel



[p 20]

State of Kentucky County of Rockcastle

On this 25th day of July 1853 before me Jesse Fish, Judge of the County Court in and for the County of Rockcastle and State above mentioned personally appeared Mitchell Merritt, the administrator of the estate of Peggy Merritt deceased widow of Stephen Merritt (deceased), aged 55 years a resident of the County and State aforesaid who being duly sworn in Open Court in and for the County & State aforesaid now in session according to law, doth on his oath make the following statement, as an amendment to his declaration now on file in the pension office at Washington City under Act of Congress passed 4th of July 1836 as administrator of his mother's estate said Peggy Merritt, deceased, and whose right the pension is Claimed.

That after a careful examination, there is no private or public Family record of the marriage of his mother the said Peggy Merritt, deceased, now to be found in existence -- and that from reputation they were married by publication, without a license, and no record of said

marriage can be found, and that no private or Public Family Record of the Births of the children of said Peggy Merritt, deceased, and said Stephen Merritt, deceased, her husband, can be found in existence, long since lost so that they cannot be found.

That he further declares in making his former declaration alluded to that he made an honest mistake as to the date his said mother died – the said Peggy Merritt, deceased, the widow of said Stephen Merritt, deceased, that the true date of their deceased was inscribed on the headstone of their Graves, the said Stephen and Peggy Merritt, deceased, that he has lately visited the Graves of the said Stephen Merritt, deceased, and said Peggy Merritt, deceased, his widow, and find the following inscription made on the headstone of each of their said Graves, Stephen Merritt died the 26th day of December 1816 – Peggy Merritt died on the 21st day of August 1840 – which is the true Genuine Inscription and date of the death of his said mother – Peggy Merritt, deceased, and to his Father Stephen Merritt, deceased, and that the said Graves aforesaid is the Identical same Graves where they were buried; that he has not seen said Graves for some nine years before he made his former declaration; and flatters himself the small mistake as to the date of the deceased of his said mother, will weigh but little with the department as it was an honest one made without design that he resides some 30 miles distant from said Graves and to sustain the Claim marriage and service of the said Stephen Merritt, deceased, the Honorable Commissioner of Pensions at Washington City is respectfully referred to the Deposition of David Benge and John Clark now on file and to the proof hereto annexed.

S/ Mitchel Merritt {Seal}

[p 44]

State of Kentucky County of Laurel

Be it known that on the 4 day of July 1853 Personally appeared before me the undersigned an acting Justice of the peace in and for said County and State above mentioned John Faubus [John Forbis]² – aged 89 years a resident of the County and State above mentioned and known to me to be Reputable and now of disposing memory who being first duly sworn according to law doth subscribed to the following affidavit upon a Petition of Mitchell Merritt of the County of Rockcastle and State aforesaid on by half of the children of Stephen and Peggy Merritt, deceased, for a Pension – to the pension office of the U S at Washington City and on account of said Stephen Merritt's service in the Revolution the pension is claimed in a right of his wife Peggy Merritt, deceased.

Witness states that he knew the above named Stephen Merritt well in the Revolutionary War and that his service was done in the State of North Carolina and well remembers said Stephen Merritt was called Captain in said Service and thinks he served as such in the War of the Revolution – and witness thinks said Stephen Merritt was a Militia Officer – not sure as to that – but is sure he knew him in the service aforesaid – and that said Stephen Merritt at that time was called Captain. Witness knew said Stephen Merritt in the County of Garrard and State of Kentucky before he died – and declares that said Stephen Merritt died in Garrard County Kentucky many years since – and further states said Stephen Merritt is the Identical man who witness knew in the North Carolina service in the War of the Revolution as aforesaid and swore that he is a disinterested witness.

S/ John Faubus, X his mark

[p 64]

State of Kentucky Laurel County Sct.

Be it known that on the 27th day of January 1854 personally appeared before me the undersigned

² [John Forbis \(Forbes\) W25591](#)

a Justice of the peace in and for the County and State aforesaid Isaac Loven³ aged he does not precisely know but thinks it is 91 years a resident of the County and State aforesaid -- and known to me to be reputable and of deposing memory -- who being first duly sworn as the law directs -- doth on his oath subscribed to the following affidavit, on a petition of Mitchell Merritt, Administrator of the Estate of Peggy Merritt deceased widow of Stephen Merritt deceased on account of their children for a pension -- from the County of Rockcastle and State of Kentucky, to the pension office of the US at Washington City under act of Congress passed the 4th of July 1836 -- due on account of the service of the said Stephen Merritt in the Revolutionary War.

Doth declare that he was a soldier in the North Carolina Troops in the War of the Revolution, and is now an applicant for a pension from the County of Laurel State of Kentucky under act of 1832 which he refers to. That while he was in the service aforesaid War of the Revolution in the year 1780 before the battle of King's Mountain witness became well acquainted with the above mentioned Stephen Merritt and I knew him to be the identical man who he well remembers was a Lieut. in the North Carolina Troops under Col. Cleveland in the year 1780 -- when and in the beginning the year 1781 -- the said Stephen Merritt was appointed a Capt. of a company of the North Carolina Militia and was in the Battle of Guilford early in the year 1781 -- witness was in that engagement -- and personally knew the said Stephen Merritt was Capt. of a company of NC militia and that Battle -- that he well remembers the above mentioned Stephen Merritt is the identical man who served in the North Carolina service as aforesaid in the war of the Revolution for at least 12 months or more, that said Stephen Merritt and Peggy Merritt his wife lived together as man and wife to witness own knowledge before the battle of Guilford - - and their marriage was never doubted said Battle came off in 1781 -- in the Revolution war -- & knows their marriage was never doubted -- and personally knows they lived together as man and wife until said Stephen Merritt died in Garrard County Kentucky. Witness lived a neighbor to the said Stephen Merritt and Peggy Merritt his wife in the County of Garrard State of Kentucky - - at an early day he knew him well in Kentucky to the date he died -- that said Stephen Merritt and Peggy his wife raised a large Family of children -- with whom witness knew well and at the date the said Stephen Merritt died have his wife Peggy a widow who remained a widow up to her own deceased in the County of Garrard State of Kentucky. And declares it is personally known to witness that the above mentioned Stephen Merritt is the identical man that he knew in the service aforesaid to be the husband of the said Peggy Merritt whose children are now they applicants for this pension -- and that Mitchell Merritt the administrator of said Peggy Merritt, deceased, is one of their children who is the applicant on the part of said heirs -- the children of said Peggy and Stephen Merritt, deceased, for said pension and swears he is a disinterested witness.

S/ Isaac Loven, X his mark

[p 71-- North Carolina Comptroller's office certificate of payments made to Stephen Merritt as shown on the books and records of the state of North Carolina.]

³ [Isaac Loven \(Lovin, Lovins\) R6478](#)

North Carolina was rec'd from by General the
1782 was it to be left that the men were to be
Seven were an insignif^{in my opinion} by order of Col. M. Smith is
now discharged by me Samuel Johnson Capt

N. Carolina Mecklenburg County Whereas Stephen
Smith an honest industrious and good
man in his County desires to remove into the
State of Georgia to view that Country and about
his usual business to purchase land
at Newnan Georgia. All that Motivation he
Behaving himself like the Vigilant
Guard should my hand Colo
this 2^d of Octob^r 1783 King Gordon Secy