

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters

Pension Application of Major Merritt S38213

VA

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. Revised 12 Oct 2020.

Virginia Sct.

At a Court held for Bedford County at the Courthouse the 26th day of May 1818–

Major Merritt came into Court (aged fifty seven years) it being a Court of record and made oath that he enlisted as a private in the first regiment of light Dragoons on the continental establishment in the army of the United States in the revolutionary war with Great Britain. That he enlisted in the year 1780 and served til the army was disbanded in 1783 that he never received any pension from the United States and that from his reduced circumstances he needs the assistance of his country for support – which was supported by the affidavit of Henry Boyer [sic: Henry Bowyer W5859] made before a Justice of the peace & exhibited in Court which states that he was a Lieutenant and adjutant in the first regiment of Light dragoons on the continental establishment in the army of the United states – That Major Merritt now a resident and citizen of the County of Bedford and state of Virginia enlisted in the said regiment for during the said war as the said Bowyer believes and that the said Bowyer served in the said regiment until the army was disbanded in the year 1783.

Henrico County, Virg'a

On this 15th day of December 1819, before me, the subscriber, one of the Judges of the General Court of Virginia, & as such Judge of the Superior Court of law for said County, personally appeared Major Merritt aged 60 years, resident in Bedford County, State afs'd, who, being by me first duly sworn, according to law, doth, on his oath, make the following declaration, in order to obtain the provision made by the late act of Congress, entitled “An act to provide for certain persons engaged in the land and naval service of the United States in the revolutionary war:” that he, the said Major Merritt enlisted for the whole war on the [blank] day of February in the year 1779 in Essex County in the state of Virginia in the company commanded by Captain [blank] of the first Regiment of Light Dragoons commanded by Anthony Walton White Lt. Colo. – Bland Colo. [Theodorick Bland VAS1859] in the line of the State of Virginia on the Continental Establishment; that he continued to serve in the said corps, or in the service of the United States, until the army was disbanded 11th June 1783, when he was discharged from service on Santee [River] state of So. Carolina that he was in the battles of Eutaw Springs [8 Sep 1781], Hickory Neck church near Wmburg Virg'a [sic: skirmish at Burnt Ordinary near Hickorynut Church 8 mi NW of Williamsburg], and ag't the Indians & Tories in Georgia under Gen'l. Wayne [probably skirmish at Sharon GA under Gen. Anthony Wayne, 24 May 1782] and that he is in reduced circumstances, and stands in need of the assistance of his country for support; and that he has no other evidence now in his power of his said services.

District of Virginia SS.

On this 10th day of November 1820, personally appeared in open court, being a court of record for the County of Henrico Major Merritt aged Sixty years, a resident in the county of Henrico in said district, who being first duly sworn, according to law, doth, on his oath declare, that he served in the revolutionary war as follows: In the 1st Virginia Regiment of Light Dragoons commanded by Col. Bland in Capt. John Hughes [VAS1652] Troop on the continental line in the Revolutionary war and that his original declaration was made on the 26th day of May 1818 and the Number of his Pension Certificate is 17011 and I do solemnly swear that I was a resident Citizen of the United States on the 18th day of March 1818 and that I have not since that time by gift sale or in any manner disposed of my property or any part thereof with intent thereby so to diminish it as to bring myself within the provisions of an act of Congress entitled “an act to provide for certain person engaged in the land and naval service of the United States in the Revolutionary War” passed on the 18th day of March 1818 and that I have not nor has any person in

trust for me any property or securities contracts or debts due to me nor have I any income other than what is contained in the Schedule hereto annexed and by me subscribed that he has no real nor Personal Estate (Necessary clothing and bedding Excepted that he been a Carpenter by Occupation but owing to his low state of health has not been able to Pursue it for Six years his family is a wife about sixty three years of age intirely helpless and the deponent further makes oath that he stands in Need of the assistance of his country for Support.
Major Merritt

[From [bounty-land records in the Library of Virginia](#) indexed as Merrit, Major.]

Powhatan April 13th 1793

This is to certify that Maj'r Merrit enlisted in the 1st Reg't Lt. Dragoons sometime in the months of July or August 1781 & to the best of my recollection for the war & that he served the term of his enlistment

John Harris [W1422]

formerly Lieut 1st Reg't L.D.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John Harris". The signature is written in dark ink on a light background.

NOTES:

A size roll of noncommissioned officers and privates compiled at Chesterfield Courthouse lists the following: Major Merit/ age 17/ height 5' 5½"/ dark hair/ grey eyes/ fair complexion/ "M Right" [mill wright]/ born and residing in Essex County where he enlisted as a substitute on 10 Apr 1781.

A Treasury-Department document states that the administrator of Merritt's received the final pension payment up to the date of his death on 1 Dec 1826.