

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of John Merrill S7220

f22NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

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[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 North Carolina Buncombe County

On this ___ day of October personally appeared in open Court before the judge of the Superior Court now holding for the County of Buncombe John Merrill [sic] a resident in the County of Buncombe & State of North Carolina aged seventy-five on July last who being first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the act of Congress passed June 7th 1832. -- That he lived in the County of Guilford & State of North Carolina, was drafted sometime in the year A.D. 1778, that his officers were then General Rutherford [Griffith Rutherford], Frank Locke [sic, Francis Locke] Col., Enoch Davis [Enoch Davis] Captain the Major he does not recollect -- that he joined the Army at Salisbury in Rowan State aforesaid from Salisbury the Army marched to Charlotte Mecklenburg County & State aforesaid -- from Charlotte to they marched to Camden State of South Carolina - - from Camden they marched to the ten mile house near Charleston State aforesaid from the ten mile house then marched to Bacon's bridge on Ashley River thence to Purrysburg on Savannah River -- at that place he was attached to the light infantry and marched to Augusta under command of Capt. James Craig Major John Nelson and Archibald Lytle at which place General Ash [sic, John Ashe] joined them with his Army -- from Augusta the Army marched to Bryer Creek [sic, Briar Creek, March 3, 1779] in Georgia at which place they had an engagement with the British and were defeated. He further states that at that defeat there was no general engagement that there was a scattering shooting for about three hours -- that Capt. Lytle [William Lytle] under whose command your deponent then was ordered a retreat and after he had retreated your deponent asked Lytle why he did not let his men fire to which Lytle replied that the British were musket & bayonet men and as his men were all riflemen they would have rushed on them with their bayonets -- from Briar Creek they went to Turkey Hill below Augusta not far from the Two Sisters [ferry] where they joined Rutherford's Army where he remained until the 10th day of April 1779 when his time being out he got his discharge and returned to Randolph County State of North Carolina Guilford County having been in the meantime divided into Guilford & Randolph Counties -- the discharge is herewith filed marked **A**. That in the year A.D. 1781 he volunteered at the Court house in Randolph County in the light horse under the command of Capt. Thomas Dougan Major James Dougan & Col. John Collier -- that they ranged about the country -- that in that time the company with whom he served had a encounter with Tories in the County of Guilford on the 15th day of April 1781 where he received a severe wound with his sword on his head the marks of which are now to be seen his brother's horse was shot under him and his Capt. then one John Knight received two balls in his head on the 30th of July 1781 he received his discharge as may appear by the discharge here with filed marked **B** after that time he never was regularly in the service though in scouting parties and some rencounters with the

Tories.

I hereby relinquish every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present and declare that my name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any State.

S/ John Merrill, X his mark

Sworn to in open court on the 18th of October 1832

Where and in what year were you born?

I have understood from my parents I was born in New Jersey in the year 1757

Have you any record of your age and if so where is it?

I have in a Bible I have given to my son who lives on Cane Creek in Buncombe County State of North Carolina about five miles from where I live.

Where were you living when called into service: where have you lived since the Revolutionary War and where do you now live?

I was living in what was then Guilford County what afterwards became Randolph County from Randolph I moved to Buncombe County where I have lived ever since

How were you called into service; were you drafted; did you volunteer or were you a substitute, and if in substitute, for whom?

I have answered in my Declaration

State the names of some of the regular officers who were with the troops when you served, such Continental and militia regiments as you can recollect and the general circumstances of your service.

I have answered in my declaration

Did you ever receive a discharge from the service, and if so, by whom was it given and what has become of it?

I have answered in my declaration

State the names of persons to whom you are known in your present neighborhood and who can testify as to your character for veracity and their belief in your services as a soldier in the revolution.

Richard Roberts, John Lyman and John Williams or any others my neighbors -- I know no one who can testify to my services but my brother Benjamin Merrill¹ who was with me in my tours but he is now sick and unable to come here.

[Benjamin King, a clergyman, and Joshua Whittaker gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

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Camp Turkey hill April 10th 1779

This is to Certify that John Merrill has served five months in the Militia from North Carolina to the Aid of South Carolina and is hereby Discharged having served as a good Soldier and is allowed 18 Days to return home.

S/ Enoch Davis, Capt.

¹ [Benjamin Merrell S8891](#)

Council Turkey Hill April 10th 1777
 This is to Certify that John Merrell has
 served five months in the Militia from
 North Carolina to the Aid of South
 Carolina and is hereby Discharged for
 having served as a Good Soldier, and
 is Allowed 18 Days to Return home
 Council Davis Capt.

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Guilford County SS} I Hereby Certify that John Merrill Haith Volenterly taken and Subscribed
 the Oath of Allegiance to the Staite of North Carolina as Directed by Jeneral Assembly of North
 Carolina. As witness my Hand and Seal Daited this 31st day of October—1777
 S/ ? Collier [John Collier?] S/ John Merrell, X his mark

Guilford County Seal
 I Do Hereby Certify that John Merrill
 Haith Volenterly taken and Subscribed the
 Oath of Allegiance to the Staite of North Carolina
 as Directed by Jeneral Assembly of North
 Carolina as Witness my Hand and Seal Daited
 this 31st Day of October
 John Merrell
 X his mark

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State of No. Carolina
 Randolph County} This is to Certify that John Marell haith Served a tower of Duty of Five
 months in the Light Horse Servise For said County Under the Command of Major James Dougan
 & Capt. Thos. Dougan and is Hereby Discharg'd Certified by Us this 30th of July 1781.
 S/ James Dougan Maj.
 Sertified by Jno Collier Colo. S/ Thomas Dougan Capt.

State of N^o. Carolina
 Randolph County
 This is to Certify that
 John Meriel hath served
 a term of Duty of Five ^{years}
 in the Light Horse Service of said County under
 the Command of Major James Dougan & Capt. Tho.
 Dougan and is hereby ^{publicly} Certified by us
 this 30th of July 1788.
 James Dougan Major
 Thomas Dougan Capt.

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State of North Carolina Randolph County

All to Whom it may concern

I Do hereby Certify that John Meriel was Raised in said County and was faithful to his Duty both in Time of War & peace until he lost the Sight of one of his Eyes he then made application to the Regimental Cormartial [court-martial] & was Exempted from further Military Service in Consequence of said disability.

Certified by me

19th August 1799 -

S/ J. Clark Lieut. Colo. Com. [probably Joseph Clark]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$37.69 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for service as a private in the North Carolina militia.]