

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Daniel (Dan) Merrell S7222

f21NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

7/6/06 rev'd 4/18/11 & 3/2/15

[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, Randolph County: Court of Pleas & Quarter Sessions November Term A. D. 1832

On this sixth day of November A.D. 1832 personally appeared in open Court before the Justices of the Court of Pleas & Quarter Sessions now sitting Dan Merrell a resident of the County of Randolph & State of North Carolina aged Seventy seven years the 17th of May 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 7, 1832. That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers & served as herein stated; -- viz. --

He states that he was born in the State of New Jersey, May 17, 1755 & about two years thereafter as he is informed was brought by his parents into this County, where he has resided ever since & now resides. He was drafted & entered the service of the United States July 22nd, 1776 under Captain Thomas Flack, Lt Col Paisley [John Paisley] & Col James Martin, was marched to Salisbury North Carolina where he was placed under the command of General Rutherford [Griffith Rutherford]: thence marched into the Cherokee territory on the Tennessee & Hiwassee Rivers to subdue the Indians & suppress their ravages & check their inroads upon the settlements: after marching in the vain pursuit of the enemy for some time, who fled from their pursuit & concealed themselves, they were marched back into North Carolina & at Salisbury, each Captain took his company into their respective Counties & he under Captain Flack was marched into Randolph County (then Guilford) & discharged the latter part of October 1776 having served three months; he received no written discharge.

He further states that on or about the 15th of September A.D. 1780 he again entered the service of the United States as a volunteer under Captain John Johnston, Lt Col Jeduthan Harper¹ & Col Collier [John Collier] (volunteered for three months) under whom he was marched to Salisbury, being also under the command of Genl Butler [John Butler]: whom the militia had joined on his way from Orange County to Salisbury. This he thinks was about five or six weeks after Gates' [Horatio Gates'] defeat at Camden [Battle of Camden, or Gates Defeat, August 15-16, 1780] & Genl Butler had stationed himself at Salisbury to wait the approach of Lord Cornwallis. He did not however get as far north as Salisbury, before his (Merrell's) term of three months expired & he was discharged; but was at Charlotte, Mecklenburg County or the neighborhood of it. He was so discharged at Salisbury. His discharge is dated December 15, 1780 & signed by his Captain John Johnston, which he now has & herewith transmits. He was not in any engagement in either of the above mentioned tours, but was in daily expectation of a battle while at Salisbury.

¹ [Jeduthan Harper W19734](#)

He further states that after the entry of Lord Cornwallis into North Carolina, there was a general insurrection of the Tories in the state particularly in the Counties of Guilford & Randolph & the adjacent Counties, who spread consternation throughout the whole country by their barbarities, burnings & murders: and that after the battle of Guilford March 15, 1781, he was repeatedly called out by Captain John Knight – by Col Collier & by other officers to defend the Country against the outrages of the Tories. These services were generally of short duration, or he was called out upon the spur of the moment, upon some inroad of the Tory party; some outrage & cruelty perpetrated by them, or upon some apprehension that they were organizing a force to do mischief; it was indeed a Tory warfare, when the summons to arms might be & was often the light of a dwelling house on fire, or women & children flying for safety, from Tory cruelties. In one of the short tours of service, he states, that with a small party of Whigs, he was surprised & fired upon by a Tory party under a Robert Campbell; his horse was shot under him several bullets passed through his cloths & he was taken prisoner by them and treated with great cruelty; he received a dangerous wound on the head, inflicted with a broad sword, from which he did not recover until after the end of the war. This occurred on the 15th April 1781. From these services he received no written discharge being called out upon emergencies & discharged when they passed off. He expects to be able to prove his service Joseph Johnston² & John Graham³ who repeatedly saw him whilst engaged in said service. He can also established his reputation for service by all his respected neighbors, among others by Genl George Hoover & Genl Alexander Gray and John Elder.

He states that he did not serve with any Continental troops & knew no Continental officers – he knew some of the captains, with whom he served, viz. Captain Forbes, Captain Bell, Captain Leak, Captain Nelson & Captain Bustard, who commanded companies raised in Guilford County.

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present & declares that his name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any State.

Sworn to & subscribed the day & year aforesaid.

S/ Dan Merrell



We Joseph Johnston & John Graham residing in the County of Randolph, State of North Carolina, hereby certify that we are well acquainted with Dan Merrell who has subscribed & sworn to the preceding declaration, & believe him to be seventy-seven years of age. Joseph Johnston certifies that he thinks he saw said Merrell on way out on the Indian expedition: that he knew he was gone out on that service, & that he went out to meet him on his return, & assist him home, with others: also that he saw Merrell the next day after he was wounded in the head as he states by the Tories. John Graham certifies that he knew of Merrell's services, & saw him at the Camp in Salisbury, & was with him on one or more Tory excursions.

Sworn to & subscribed the day & year aforesaid



2 [Joseph Johnston \(Johnson\) W5033](#)

3 [John Graham S6936](#)

[George Hoover, Alexander Gray & John Elder gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

Amendment

Personally appeared before me the undersigned a Justice of the Peace in & for the County of Randolph & State of North Carolina Dan Merrell who being duly sworn deposed & saith that he has a record of his age in a family Bible, & that he served not less than the period mentioned below and in the following grade: for 7 months I served as a private & for such service I claim a pension.

Sworn to & subscribed before me March 26, 1833

S/ Thos. Branson, JP

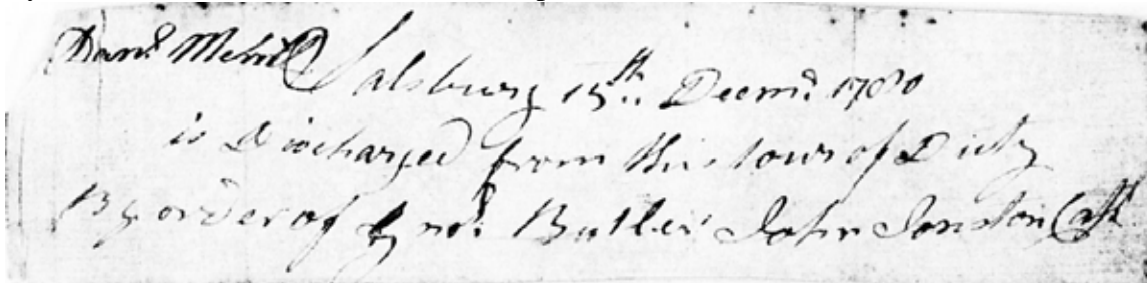
S/ Dan Merrell

[p 19]

Danl Merrill Salsbury 15th Decmr 1780

is Discharged from His tour of Duty

By order of Genl. Butler John Jonston Capt



Danl Merrill Salsbury 15th Decmr 1780
is Discharged from His tour of Duty
By order of Genl. Butler John Jonston Capt

[Facts in file: veteran died March 11, 1844 survived by a widow named Hannah her maiden name and details of their marriage is not set forth in the file; in 1845 D. W. C. Johnson, of La Grange North Carolina stated that the soldiers widow, Hannah, was his aunt.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$23.33 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for 7 months service as a private in the North Carolina militia.]