

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Benjamin Merrell S8891

f22NC/SC

Transcribed by Will Graves

4/27/09: rev'd 4/6/17

[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 North Carolina Buncombe County: Superior Court of law October Term 1833

On this fourteenth day of October 1833 personally appeared in open Court before the Judge of the Superior Court of law for the County aforesaid now Sitting Benjamin Merrell a resident in said County and State aged 81 years the 2nd day of December next who being first duly sworn according to law does on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the act of Congress passed June the 7th 1832.

That he entered the Service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated. That he volunteered [in] Gilford [Guilford] County North Carolina on the last of February or first of March 1776 in the company of Militia commanded by Capt. John Collier and served in the said County of Guilford and Rowan County during the whole tower [sic, tour] disarming the Tories but was in no engagement of importance, and served under said Capt. about six weeks but he cannot say precisely what length of time and was discharged by said Capt. sometime in April 1776 but received no written discharge. That in August the same year he volunteered again under Capt. John Anderson in York District South Carolina in the Regiment commanded by Capt. Thomas Neel and marched across Broad River at Smith Ford and passed by Wofford's Fort on Pacolet River and from there to Princes Fort and from there by the place where Greenville Village now stands and from there to the Seneca Fort and to the head of the Tennessee River in the Indian Country where we had considerable battle with the Indians and Tories in which we lost it 11 man on the 19th day of September 1776 and from there we marched to the head of the Hiwassee River and through the Indian Country to the head of the Chattahoochee River and returned to the Seneca Fort from which place we marched back to York District where we were discharged sometime in October 1776 the precise day not recollected, having served about 2 months he thinks not less but received no written discharge. That in February 1779 he was drafted in York District South Carolina then known by the name of Neel's Regiment in the company commanded by Capt. William McCulloch in Neel's Regiment under General Ashe's [John Ashe] commanded and marched across Broad River at Smith's Ford and passed the place where the Blockhouse was afterwards erected on the Fair Forest [Fairforest] and crossed Tyger [River] at Bobo's then crossed Enoree [River] at Jones Mill and crossed Saluda [River] opposite to Ninety Six and from there to Augusta and from there to the mouth of Bryer [sic, Briar] Creek where we joined Camp with General Ashe where we had an engagement¹ with the British commanded by Major Turnbull in which we were defeated before General Rutherford

¹ Briar Creek March 3, 1779 <http://www.myrevolutionarywar.com/battles/790304-briar-creek/>

[Griffith Rutherford] could get his Army over the Savannah River to our assistance and a great number of our men were drowned endeavoring to cross the River and the most of us lost our horses, guns &c and were permitted to return home and he returned home in the latter part of March 1779 having served about six weeks the precise time not recollected but he thinks not less than 6 weeks but received no written discharge. That he was again in March 1780 called out (it being his time in turn according to the number of the class to which he belonged) under Capt. Moffitt in the Regiment commanded by Col. William Bratton and marched from Col. Bratton's in York District South Carolina towards Charleston crossing Congaree River at McCord's ferry thence towards Charleston until we heard that the British had surrounded the town we then turned across Santee River then to a place on said River called Write's [Wright's] Bluff where we continued in camp a few weeks until the British had taken Charleston [Charleston South Carolina fell to the British on May 12, 1780] and were advancing up the country we then returned home and the latter part of May 1780 after having served at least two months we came home by permission and without any written discharge and that in September 1780 he again volunteered under Capt. Robert McGomerry [Robert Montgomery] and went in pursuit of Ferguson [Patrick Ferguson] & his party marching from the same place crossing the Catawba River at the Tucasejah [sic, Tuckaseegee?] Ford thence up the East side of said River to Baiteys [Beatties] Ford thence up the South fork of the Catawba thence crossing Broad River at the Island Ford thence to the Cowpens thence across Broad River at the Cherokee Ford from which place our company were permitted to return home to join in the pursuit of the next day but before that time [2 indecipherable words]² for starting the intelligence was received that Ferguson had been defeated [Battle of Kings Mountain, October 7, 1780] and we were not again called out at that time this was in October 1780 he thinks the 11th of October he was out on this tour not less than 5 or 6 weeks that this and all the foregoing service was rendered as a Militia Man. That he served in several other short tours in scouting parties which he does not pretend to describe as he does not recollect the particulars of them. That he has no documentary evidence of his Service except a Certificate from Jacob Barnes a Capt. under whom he was enrolled in South Carolina which is herewith enclosed. That he knows of no person now living by whom he can prove his service except his Brother John Merrell whose affidavit is hereunto attached. He hereby relinquishes every claim to a pension or annuity except the present and declares that his name is not on the roll of the Agency of any State.

Question 1st Where and in what year were you born?

Ans: I was born in the State of New Jersey Hunterdon County in the Hopewell Township on the 2nd day of December in the year of our Lord 1752

2nd Have you any record of your age and if so where is it?

2nd Yes I have it at home on Cane Creek in this County in my father's family Bible.

3rd Where were you living when called into service: where have you lived since the Revolutionary War and where do you now live?

3rd I was living in Guilford County North Carolina when called in the first tour and in 1776 I removed to in what is now called York District in the State of South Carolina where I resided when called out at every time after the first: and in November 1780 I removed back to North Carolina at the same place where I left but the County was divided before I returned so as to throw my residence in Randolph County which was formerly a part of Guilford County I remained there till the year 1798 I then moved to Cane Creek Buncombe County North Carolina

² *not answer.*

where I now live & have resided there ever since.

4th How were you called into service; were you drafted; did you volunteer or were you a substitute, and if in substitute, for whom?

4th The two first tours I volunteered the next two tours I was drafted and the last tour I volunteered but never served as a substitute

6th Did you ever receive a discharge from the service, and if so, by whom was it given and what has become of it?

6th I never received a written discharge but always left by and with the approbation and consent of the officers in command

6th 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.

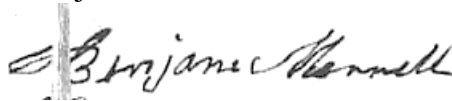
6th There were no Regulars with the troops where I served except General Sumpter [Thomas Sumter] in the 2nd tour at I served I recollect Col. Caswell's Regiment of Militia Col. Thomas Regiment Col. Brannon [sic, Thomas Brandon?] Regiment, Col. Lacey's [Edward Lacey's] Regiment, Col. Wills, Col. Hammon's [sic, Hammond's] Regiment and Col. Neel's end of which I served all of Militia. The general circumstances of my service as far as I can recollect them are stated in the Declaration on the other page.

7th 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.

7th Benjamin King and Philip Brittan and many others

S/ Joshua Roberts, Clerk

S/ Benjamin Merrell



[Benjamin King, a clergyman, and Philip Brittain gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[p 7]

State of North Carolina Buncombe County: August the 27th 1833 This day John Merrill³ came before me John Young one of the Justices of the Peace for the County aforesaid and being sworn in due form of law deposeth and saith as follows that in the time of the Old Revolutionary War his Brother Benjamin Merrill [sic] in the year of 1776 served a tower [tour] under Capt. John Collins against the Tory party and in the year of 1779 he was in the South Army the head commander General Ashe and Major Francis Ross and in Capt. William McCullor Company Besides in several Scouts against Col. Fanning [David Fanning] and others Sworn and Subscribed to before made the day and date first above by

S/ John Merrill, X his mark

Test: S/ John Young JP

[p 13]

South Carolina November ye 7th day 1780

This is to Certify that Benjamin Merrell

Belonging to the Second Class of My Company

³ [John Merrill S7220](#)

hath performed his Duty as a friend to his Country
[several indecipherable words] Given under my hand.
S/ Jacob Barnett,⁴ Capt.

South Carolina November 17th day 1780
This is to Certify that Benjamin Merrill
Belonging to the second Class of the 1st My Company
hath performed his Duty as a friend to his Country
written by a friend under my hand
Jacob Barnes Capt.

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$24.66 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for service as a private for 7 months and 12 days in the North Carolina and South Carolina militia.]

⁴ This name clearly appears as "Jacob Barnes" in the text of the declaration. The signature, however, is not so easily read. It could be "Jacob Barnett" or "Jacob Bennett." I would read it as Barnett. Bobby G. Moss, in his *SC Roster*, lists a Capt. Jacob Barnett who served under Thomas Sumter and Thomas Brandon. Moss lists no officer (or other soldier of any rank) by any of the other names.