

## Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Stephen Merritt (Merritt)<sup>1</sup> W25693 Dicey Merritt f35NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

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 8<sup>th</sup> of June 1786." Please call material errors or omissions to my attention.]

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State of Kentucky County of Allen} SS

On this 10th day of June 1833 personally appeared in Open Court before William Hain, Edwin Motley, Thomas Suten, William Fitzpatrick, Samuel E. Carpenter, John Caruthers & Samuel Harstin Justices of the County Court in and for the said County then in the Courthouse of said County in Court sitting Stephen Merritt a resident of the County and State aforesaid aged 71 years, who being first duly sworn according to law doth on his Oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the provision made by the Act of Congress passed June 7th, 1832.

This applicant upon his said Oath declareth and saith that by reason of old age and consequent loss of memory he cannot swear positively to the precise length of his service as a Soldier of the Revolutionary War, but according to the best of his recollection he served not less than the periods mentioned below and in the following grades: for three months I served as a private of infantry under Capt. Brinkley [William Brinkley] in 1778. For three months I served as a private under Capt. Powers [John Powers] in 1779. For three months I served as a private under Capt. Pitts [John Pitts] in 1780. And for such service I claim a pension.

To the questions prescribed by the department of War this applicant upon his said Oath declareth and saith as follows (to wit) To Question the 1<sup>st</sup> this applicant responds that he was born in the County of Halifax in the State of North Carolina sometime in 1762 as from the best information he has ever had on the subject he does verily believe. To Question the 2nd. That he has no Record of his age and knows of no person who had. To Question the 3rd. That he lived in Halifax County State of North Carolina when called into the Service: That since the Revolutionary war he removed to Rockingham County North Carolina, from thence he moved to Cape Fear River same State, County not recollected, from thence he removed to Pendleton County South Carolina, from thence to Barren County, Kentucky and from thence to Allen County where he now lives. To Question the 4th. That he was drafted as a Private of militia into the Service of his country. To Question the 5th. That he does not recollect the names of any persons known to have been regular Officers who were with the troops where he served. That he served under generals Caswell [Richard Caswell] and Linnington [sic, John Alexander Lillington] and in the Regiment commanded by Col. William Lytle and other field officers whose names he has forgotten; all of whom he believes to have been militia Officers and in the

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<sup>1</sup> BLWt36198-160-55

Companies commanded by Captains Brinckley, Powers and Pitts of infantry. That the general circumstances of his service are as follows (to wit). This Applicant was drafted out of Capt. Dickson's Company of militia at Infield [Enfield] Old Courthouse Halifax County State of North Carolina sometime in March or April of the year 1778, and then and there placed under the Command of Capt. Brinckley from thence in said Brinckley's Company of infantry and under his command he marched to Hillsboro North Carolina, thence to Wilmington, thence to the interior of the State to the country bordering on the Enoree and Congaree rivers to suppress the Tories who were pillaging and devastating the Country. That having served out his enlistment which was for three months he was discharged in June or July to the best of his recollection at Cross Creek. That in August 1779 applicant was again drafted out of same company same County and State and was placed under command of Capt. Powers of militia infantry, that he marched under Capt. Powers and in his Company as a private to Wilmington North Carolina, thence to the Coharie Swamps against the British and Tories, and after serving out the term of his enlistment three months, he was discharged sometime in the month of November to the best of his recollection again at Cross Creek. That in May or June of the year 1780 he was again drafted to perform three months tour of duty as a private of infantry militia, from the same County & State and out of the same militia company as before. That he was placed under command of Capt. Pitts and served as a private under him for the term of his enlistment. That Capt. Pitts marched his company this applicant being one to Halifax town near Roan Oak [sic, Roanoke] River, that they crossed the said River near said town where the company threw up a breastworks expecting that the British then in Halifax would attack them. That the day after the British fired upon them across the River for several hours, that their fire was returned by said Company, and the enemy lost several men in the engagement who were seen to fall. In the evening believing that the British intended to cross the River and attack us in our entrenchments, the Company retreated up the River on the Virginia side opposite Granville Old Court house, where they recrossed the River, and marched from thence to Halifax and from Halifax proceeded to join the division of the American Army under General Gates [Horatio Gates], and reached \_\_\_ mills not far from Clearmont on the day of the battle between the Americans and British called "Gates defeat." [Battle of Camden, August 15-16, 1780] That after Gates defeat that they retreated across Pedee River at the Shara [Cheraw] Hills from thence to Cole's bridge on drowning Creek, from thence said company was marched to Hillsboro and discharged to the best of his recollection in August or September.

This applicant upon his said Oath further states. That from the intervening time and transactions between the times and events above set forth and the time of his making this declaration, it is probable that he may have incorrectly narrated some things and may have omitted some of which the recollection has escaped his memory, if he has done so in either case, that error is wholly unintentional and he feels confident that his statement is true. To the 6th Interrogatory this applicant states upon his said oath that he recollects having received discharges from each of the Captains under whom he served, or from the Officers who commanded where the troops were discharged. The applicant head said discharges His father's residence in Halifax County North Carolina, where he left them many years ago. Applicant not believing them of any service to him after the war, never applied for them and they are no doubt destroyed and out of his power to procure them, the family residence in Halifax having passed many years since into the hands of strangers who had no interest in them. To the 7th Interrogatory he states that he is known to many persons in his present neighborhood who can testify as to his character for truth and their belief of his Services as a Soldier of the revolution and refers to Zachariah Bridges,

Uriah Whitney, John G. Whitney, George W. Mansfield, Fleming Harris and John Whitney Esquire amongst others who would doubtless add their testimony in his behalf. This applicant further states that he has no documentary evidence nor can he procure the depositions of any persons except Mrs. Ann Whitney and John Whitney whose depositions are appended hereto to prove his services as above set forth, he states that the said Ann Whitney by reason of old age, and infirmity is unable to attend in Court in consequence of which her deposition was taken by the nearest justice of the peace at her own house in Allen County Kentucky.

This Applicant hereby relinquishes every claim to pension whatever or to annuity except the present and declares that his name is not on the Pension Roll of the Agency of any State.

S/ Stephen Merrit, X his mark

[John Brooks, a clergyman, and Flemming W. Harris and George W. Mansfield gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

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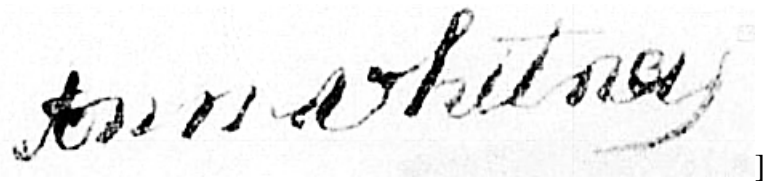
State of Kentucky Allen County Sct.

I the undersigned a resident of Allen County Kentucky being first duly Sworn according to law doth depose and say: that I have heard the foregoing declaration of Stephen Merrit read and believe the statements made therein to be true for the following reasons (to wit) This deponent states upon his said Oath that he has known and lived near said Merrit thirty years or upwards and have often heard said Merrit make in substance the same statements as to his having served as a Soldier in the Revolutionary War as in his said declaration are set forth. This deponent further states that he recollects many years ago being in the company of said Stephen and others who were reputed to have been soldiers of the revolution, that in the conversations held by and between them about the Revolutionary War they related incidents that they all admitted to have happened, and came under the notice and observation of them all, and in some of which said Merrit had acted a part. This deponent recollects hearing his uncles who were in the Revolutionary War state many years since that said Merrit served with them in said War. For the reasons above as well as from said Stephen's reputation in his neighborhood this deponent is of opinion that said Stephen was a Soldier of the Revolution and served as by him Stated. This deponent further states that has a Justice of the peace in and for the County of Allen State of Kentucky he did on the first day of June 1833 attend at the house of Mrs. Ann Whitney in said County and then and there said Ann Swore to and subscribed the deposition reporting to be hers, the same hereunto annexed, and that by reason of old age and infirmity the said Ann Whitney is unable to attend court to have her deposition taken therein. That the signatures to said deposition is the genuine signature of the said Ann, and that the signature thereto purporting to be the signature of John Whitney, J P A C is the genuine signature of this deponent and that said deposition was a red and explain to, and fully understood by the said Ann Whitney at and before her signing the same.

S/ John Whitney

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John Whitney". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the typed name "S/ John Whitney".

[p 23: Ann Whitney, 75, testified that she was raised as a child in Halifax County North Carolina within a mile and a half of the applicant's house and that she was well aware of his being drafted to fight the British and Tories.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Ann Whitney". The ink is dark and the paper appears aged. The signature is written in a fluid, connected style typical of the early 19th century. A small, faint mark is visible to the right of the signature, possibly a page number or a small stamp.

[p 14: On August 15th, 1855 in Allen County Kentucky Dicey Merrit, 75, filed for a widow's pension under the 1853 act stating she was the widow of Stephen Merrit, a pensioner at the rate of \$30 per annum under the 1832 act; that she married him on July 24, 1828; that her husband died December 23rd, 1843 and that she remains his widow. She signed her application with her mark. In a supporting affidavit she is referred to as being Dicey Levi prior to her marriage to Stephen Merrit.]

[p 5: On September 25, 1855 in Allen County Kentucky, Dicey Merrit, 75 filed for her bounty land entitlement stating that she was a widow drawing a pension of \$30 per annum for the services of her husband in the revolution.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$30 per annum commencing March 4<sup>th</sup>, 1831, for service as a private for 9 months in the North Carolina militia. His widow was pensioned in a like amount.]