

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Merritt (Merrit) Humphrey [Humphris] ¹ W5303 Mary Humphrey
f36VA Transcribed and annotated by Will Graves 5/18/14: rev'd 1/6/24

[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' or 'undeciphered' 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. Researchers should not rely solely on the transcripts but should review the originals for themselves. These transcripts are intended as an aid to research, not to be used in lieu thereof.]


State of Kentucky Oldham County: SS

On this 21st day of February 1834 personally appeared in open Court before John M Hewett the Judge of the Oldham Circuit Court now sitting Merit Umphrey [sic] aged 74 years who being 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 the 7th of June 1832 –

This declarant states that he was residing in Louisa County State of Virginia when he entered the service of the United States and served as herein stated that in the month of April in the year 1779 a draft was ordered in said County for two months when he the [said] Merit Umphrey was drafted for two months and was marched from said County of Louisa under the command of Captain George Lumsdon [George Lumsden], Major Blan and Colonel Francis Taylor to the Albemarle Barracks on arriving at said Barracks he states that he was stationed as a guard at said Barracks over some prisoners that had been taken from Burgoyne² by General Gates [Horatio Gates] he states that during his said two months for which he had been drafted that he did fully faithfully and to the satisfaction of his officers guard said prisoners until his time was out when he was discharged verbally by the said Captain Lumsdon in the month of June 1779. He further states that sometime in the fall of the year in the month of October as well as he now remembers a draft was ordered in said County of Louisa for a term of two months under which draft a Thomas Rees was drafted, he being unwilling to leave home proposed to said declarant to substitute in his place and serve out his two months. Accordingly for a certain consideration he the said Merit Umphrey agreed to substitute in the place and stead of the aforesaid Rees and [indecipherable word]³ him of the two months for which the said Rees had been drafted. He states that he had his name enrolled in the place of the said Rees – and was marched from said County of Louisa to the Albemarle Barracks under the command of Captain James Watson and was there stationed as a guard over said prisoners – and was under the command of Major Blan and Colonel Francis Taylor. He states that during his two months that he discharged his duty as a soldier and was discharged by his said Captain James Watson sometime in the month of December 1779. This declarant further states that during the year of 1780 that he removed from Louisa to Fluvanna County and that in the month of January 1781 a

¹ BLWt26896-160-55 See N. A. Acc. No. 874 Number 050089—Not Half Pay Merrit or Merritt Humphrey

² Burgoyne surrendered on Oct. 7, 1777 at Bemis Heights a/k/a Battle of Saratoga.

³  Clear?

draft was ordered in said County of Fluvanna for three months when he the said Merit Umphrey was drafted for three months and marched from said County of Fluvanna – under the command of Captain Samuel Richardson and Major Ragsdell to Hanover Courthouse – thence to Williamsburg – thence to James town – thence to Yorktown – thence to Hampton where he states they were stationed until his said three months expired when he was discharged by his said [Captain] Richardson in the month of April 1781. He further states that in the month of August 1781 another draft was ordered in the said County of Fluvanna when he the said declarant was drafted for 2 months and marched under the command of Captain Richard Knapper, Major Ragsdell and Colonel Ennis [probably James Innis] from said County of Fluvanna to Gloucester Point thence they were marched to Whiting's old Field after remaining some time at Whiting's old Field he states they were marched back to Gloucester County where he states that he remained until his 2 months were out when he was discharged in the first of October 1781 he states that he has no documentary evidence of his service and knows of no living witness by whom he can prove the facts above stated he hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present and declares that his name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any state.

Sworn to and subscribed this the 21st day of February 1834

S/ Merritt Humphris



Answers to 7 Interrogatories⁴ put by the Judges

I was born in Louisa County of Virginia in the year 1759 – and I have a record of my age as left by my Father and when I first entered the service I was living in Louisa County Virginia – and when I rendered the last two tours I was living in Fluvanna Virginia and after the revolution I lived in Fluvanna until the year of 1785 – I then moved to Woodford County Kentucky where I lived nine years and then I moved to Shelby County where I lived five years. I then moved to Jefferson County Kentucky where I lived about six years, I then moved into my present neighborhood where I have lived for upwards of thirty years. I was drafted three times into the service and I was one tour a substitute for Thomas Rees. While I was at the Barracks there were no regular officers – on my third and fourth tours there General Lafayette, General Wayne [Anthony Wayne] and Colonel Lee [Henry "Light Horse Harry" Lee] and I never received a written discharge for any tour But was always honorably discharged by my several captains and I will state the names of Zelick Mcquin and Pleasant Sadler who can testify to my character for veracity and their belief of my service as a soldier of the revolution.

⁴ The War Department promulgated regulations governing pension application format and requiring the following 7 interrogatories to be put to each applicant for a pension:

1st Where and in what year were you born?

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

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

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

5th State the names of some of the regular officers who were with the troops where you served, such Continental and militia regiments as you can recollect and the general circumstances of your service.

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

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.

S/ Merritt Humphrey

[Zalick McGuin and Pleasant Sadler gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[p 13: October 1, 1853 in Oldham County Kentucky, Mary Humphrey a citizen of said County, aged about 74, made application for a widow's pension under the 1853 act stating that she is the widow of Merrit Humphrey, a revolutionary war pensioner; that she was married to him on or about the first day of October 1802 [the year is written over and unclear]; that her husband died December 8, 1840; that the certificate and marriage license issued in Jefferson County Kentucky has been lost or misplaced. She signed her application with her mark.]

[p 10: On April 5, 1855 in Henry County Kentucky, Mary Humphrey, 75, filed for her bounty land entitlement as the widow of Mary Humphrey; that she married him in Oldham County Kentucky in 1802; that they were married by William Reller [Neller?] a Baptist preacher; that her name prior to her marriage was Mary Crim; that her husband died December 8, 1840.]

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

[From [Virginia Half-Pay record on Fold3.com](https://www.fold3.com)]

<https://www.fold3.com/image/616518620> 8-page file

[p 5: On February 16, 1847 in Oldham County Kentucky, William Humphrey & Lionel Humphrey gave testimony that Merrit Humphrey departed this life December 8th, 1840. There relationship, if any, to the veteran is not stated by the documents in this file.]