

[Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters](#)

Pension Application of Daniel Merritt W6817 Mary Merritt NC
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. Revised 13 Nov 2014.

State of North Carolina } Superior Court of Law Spring Term 1833.
Sampson County }

On this the second day of May A.D. 1833 personally appeared in open Court before the Honourable James Martin one of the Judges of the Superior Courts of Law & Equity for the State of North Carolina now presiding in the Superior Court of Law for the County of Sampson Daniel Merritt a resident of Sampson County in the State of North Carolina, aged sixty nine 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 act of Congress passed June 7th 1832.

That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated

1. Drafted in a company of Duplin militia under the command of Captain Thomas Page, Solomon Sessions Lieutenant or Ensign in a regiment or brigade commanded by Gen. [Henry William] Harrington MacIntosh [McIntosh] Major, he forgets his other officers, in the month of June 1780 and served six months as a private, and left this service a short time before Christmas 1780; that when he entered this service he resided in Duplin (now Sampson) County N. C. that he was in no battle; that he embodied at Cross Creek now Fayetteville N. C. and was stationed and remained there three months and marched from thence to Haley's ferry on Big Pedee [sic: Great Pee Dee River] and remained there one month; thence to Cheraw Hills in South Carolina and remained there upwards of a month, thence to Cole's Bridge in Bladen (now Robeson) County N. C. on Drowning Creek, where he was discharged; that he served with no continental regiments or companies in this service, that the only regular officer he knew was Curtis Ivey; that he has no documentary evidence, but can prove this service by Captain James Devane [pension application S8317] of New Hanover County; whose affidavit is hereunto appended.
2. In July or August 1781 he was drafted and entered service again under the command of Captain Jonathan Parker, Naaman Carter Ensign, in a regiment commanded by Col Charles Ward, the other officers he forgets and served two months; that he was in a skirmish at Rockfish bridge [near present Wallace, 2 Aug 1781] just above South Washington [on Washington Creek] in New Hanover County [now Pender County], where the Americans were defeated and put to route, being attacked in front by the enemy infantry and in rear by their cavalry about at the same time; that he embodied at Rockfish and remained there the two months employed in making entrenchment; that there was a considerable American force at Rockfish, that he has no documentary evidence, but can prove this service by Arthur Matthis [S9397] of Duplin County whose affidavit is hereunto affixed
- 3rd In a company of lighthorse under the command of Captain Robert Merritt, King Vann Lieutenant, that his company belonged to no particular regiment but was occasionally under the command of Col. Thomas Blutworth [Thomas Bloodworth] and Col James Kenan he forgets his other officers, about the first of September 1781 and served six months, being two tours of three months each; that he was a volunteer, that he was in two skirmishes with the tories, one at Bennett Smith's on South River where a private named David Tucker [W6318] was wounded in the thigh, and in one over Cohara [probably either Cohara Swamp or Great Coharie Creek in Sampson County] at Captain She Williams's [John C. "Shay" Williams], where two or three of the tories were killed some wounded & some taken prisoners; that his marches were principally confined to what was then called Duplin County, part of which is now Sampson, in quest of tories, to prevent them from committing depredations upon the inhabitants; that he was however also in New Hanover and Bladen Counties, that he has no documentary evidence, but thinks he can prove this service by John Register [S7368] of this County

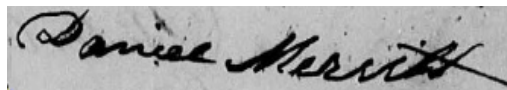
- 4th. In a company of militia cavalry under the command of Captain Robert Merritt, he forgets the other officers, in or about October he thinks in the year 1782 immediately before the British evacuated Wilmington [18 Nov 1781] and served three months as a private, that he was drafted; that he was in no battle, that he marched from Duplin County to Wilmington, that about two days before he arrived there, the enemy had evacuated that place, and the small pox was prevalent there at that time, that from Wilmington he marched back to Duplin County and was discharged a short time after Christmas, that he has no documentary evidence, but thinks he can prove this service by his brother David Merritt of this County.
- 5th. Soon after the expiration of the abovementioned service, he was drafted to guard some Tories confined in a place called the "Bull pen" near Duplin Old CourtHouse on the land of Gen. James Kenan in January he thinks 1783 and guarded them three months, left there in the first of the spring; he forgets the officers of the guard, the prisoners were taken from thence and carried to Halifax jail, that he has no documentary evidence but thinks he can prove at least that he guarded said Bull pen by his brother David Merritt

Answers of Daniel Merritt the aforesaid applicant to the questions prescribed by the War Department propounded to him by the Court aforesaid

1. I was born in Duplin County N. C. on the plantation where I now reside, on the 9th October, I presume in the year 1763 because when I first entered the service I was a little over sixteen years of age
2. I have no record of my age now, it was recorded in a Bible of my brother Frederick Merritt's, & after he died it was destroyed by the family
3. When called into service I was living in Duplin County N. C. Since the Revolutionary war I have lived in the same neighbourhood, and I now live there, which is now Sampson County
4. I was drafted three times & in my other services was a volunteer.
5. There were no regular officers with the troops where I served. I recollect no continental regiments. the militia regiments I remember, were some under Gen Harrington in South Carolina, Gen or Col James Kenan's, Col. Charles Ward's, & Col. Thomas Bludworth's
6. I received a discharge at the end of my first term of service, given me by Captain Thomas Page. I don't know what has become of it. It isn't among my papers. I never received but that one discharge in [sentence ends here]
7. [People in his neighborhood who can testify to his veracity and their belief of his services:] John Bryan, Dickson Sloan Esquire, William Robinson Esquire George W. Robinson Esq. Rev. Solomon Johnson, Patrick Murphy, Richard Parish & others I could name

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 & subscribed the day & year above written



State of North Carolina }
Sampson County }

On this the 19th day of April A.D. 1833 personally appeared before me Dickson Sloan an acting Justice of the Peace in & for the County of Sampson aforesaid in the State aforesaid, Arthur Matthis a resident of Duplin County in the State of North Carolina aged about seventy two years, who being first duly sworn according to law, doth on his oath, depose and say, that he came to the County of Duplin N.C. about the year 1777 and then became acquainted with Daniel Merritt resident of Sampson County N.C. aged about sixty nine years, and an applicant for a pension on account of Revolutionary services under the act of Congress of June 7th 1832; that this deponent lived about four and a half miles from the said applicant, that said applicant to the knowledge of this deponent served in the war of the Revolution as a private in a volunteer light hore company commanded by Captain Robert Merritt, King Vann Lieutenant, in a regiment commanded by Col. James Kenan, a term of six months, being as this deponent believes

two tours of three months each; that said applicant and this deponent entered said service together and served together the six months out; this deponent cannot undertake to state with certainty the date of entering or leaving this service, as from the lapse of time his memory fails him, but thinks it was the first of the fall of the year 1779 that he entered it, and left it in the spring of the year 1780; that they were in two skirmishes with the Tories during this service, in one at Bennett Smith's on South River, where David Tucker a private was wounded in the thigh, and in one over Cohara at Captain She Williams's; that they embodied at Captain Robert Merritt's and were confined in their marches principally within the limits of Duplin County, which then comprehended what is now Sampson, but were also in New Hanover County; that they were employed in this service against the Tories who were numerous & troublesome at that time. This deponent further deposes and saith, that said applicant & this deponent, were called out into service again by a draft in the summer of 1781 by order of Col. James Kenan and were drafted for three months and entered this tour in a company of militia Infantry commanded by Captain Jonathan Parker, in a regiment commanded by Colonel Charles Ward; that in August 1781 they were in a skirmish with the enemy at Rockfish bridge just above South Washington in New Hanover County, the infantry of the enemy this deponent believes were commanded by Major Craige [sic: James Henry Craig] and the cavalry by Capt Gorden [sic: John Gordon], that the Americans were defeated by the enemy, being attacked about at the same time both in front and rear and completely dispersed, that they had served two months, before the skirmish at Rockfish and did not afterwards collect or finish this term of three months as this deponent can recollect, that they made no marches after they arrived at Rockfish bridge, but were stationed there to prevent the enemy from passing through Duplin from Wilmington northwardly; that they were employed at Rockfish in making entrenchment and raising breastworks for defence

Arthur hisXmark Matthis

State of North Carolina }

Sampson County }

On this the 21st day of March A.D. 1835 before the undersigned a Justice of the Peace in & for said County personally appeared Daniel Merritt a resident of said County of Sampson in the State aforesaid aged seventy one years last October who being duly sworn doth on his oath make the following explanation to his declaration for a pension.

1st In regard to the six months alleged to have been served by this deponent under Capt Thomas Page; part of which was served in South Carolina, although the militia of North Carolina may not usually have been called out & continued in service for six months; yet this deponent swears that he was drafted for and served six months in one tour under Captain Thomas Page in the spring of the year 1780 as stated in his declaration and in proof thereof begs leave to refer to the affidavit of Captain James Devane accompanying his papers sent on the Pension Office to establish his claim to a pension.

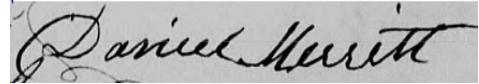
2nd In regard to his service under Capt Robert Merritt he was a volunteer but was called out by the acting authority i.e. by orders from Col James Kenan, and the then imperious demand for soldiers to act against the enemy both British and Tories, (the latter being more numerous & troublesome in consequence of the former then being in & about Wilmington) cause him to volunteer. He was not immediately under the command of any Colonel at all times during these six months service but was sometimes under the immediate controul of Col. Thomas Bludw[orth] & was generally under his direction while in New Hanover. His services were not for the special & exclusive protection of the inhabitants of Duplin County for, his marches were also into New Hanover County. On one occasion passed through the edge of Bladen & at another into Onslow County.

While in Duplin he was under the Controul (i.e. his company was) of Cols. Kenan & Moore

3rdly In his expedition to Wilmington under Captain Robert Merritt in October 1781 he was drafted for three months, marched to Wilmington & finding the enemy had left returned home, having then served one month but not discharged from service and was employed the balance of the tour in collecting Cattle for the use of the army.

4thly He was called upon to guard some Tories confined in a place called the Bull-pen or provough near Col. Kenan's residence; he is not certain it was in 1783 it might have been the first of the

year 1782. At all events it was before the war was over – for after that the Tories then confined in the Bullpen or Provough were carried to Halifax & had their trial there and compelled to enter the regular service of the United States marched into South Carolina and as he understood from some of them viz Solomon [Solomon Johnson], Ephraim [Ephraim Johnson] & Soasbe Johnson, were discharged on James's Island after peace was made. He is therefore now of the opinion that it was the first of the year 1782 he guarded the tories & he was then in service three months

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Daniel Merritt". The ink is dark and the handwriting is fluid and somewhat slanted to the right.

NOTES:

On 13 Aug 1853 Mary Merritt, age 73, resident of the Taylor's Bridge District of Sampson County, applied for a pension stating that as Mary Murfree she married Daniel Merritt on 1 Jan 1801, and he died on 12 Feb 1842. With her application she submitted the family record in her husband's handwriting, transcribed below. On 20 Sep 1853 Richard Parish, 60, stated that he was at the wedding of Daniel and Mary Merritt at the house of Jacob Merritt.

On an application for bounty land dated 3 April 1855 Mary Merritt was said to be 77. This application was supported by Alexander Merritt and Abraham Sellers.

On 20 Oct 1866 Mary Merritt, 89, applied for restoration of her pension, which had been suspended during the Civil War, during which period "her means of subsistence have been scanty, in part by her own labor and industry and from the proceeds of a small farm." This application was supported by Lewis L. Merritt, "a near neighbour," and by James D. Ruckley, then living with Mary Merritt. A typed summary states that she had lived in Sussex County VA before moving to Taylor's Bridge in Sampson County NC.

Danil Merritt and Mary Mufre was marred Jenuary the 1 day 1801

Jene Merritt the Daugter of Daniel Merrit and Marey his wife Bornd September 17th day 1801

and Marey his Daugter Died December 4th day 1807 and was in her Fouth year when shee Died

Molcey Merritt the Dauguhter of Daniel & Marey his wife Borne May the 12 day 1808

Elezebeth Merritt Born July 26 day 1811