## Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters

Pension Application of Jacob Merritt W4739 Jane Merritt NC Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. Revised 11 Nov 2017.

State of North Carolina }
Sampson County }

On this the 25<sup>th</sup> day of May A.D. 1841 personally appeared before the Subscriber Clerk and Master of the Court of Equity for said County of Sampson Jane Merritt a resident of Duplin County in the State of North Carolina, though in about a mile & a half of the dividing line between Sampson & Duplin Counties aged eighty years the 17th of last month who being first duly sworn according to law, doth on her oath make the following declaration, in order to obtain the benefit of the provision made by the Act of Congress, passed July 7, 1838, entitled "an act granting half pay and pensions to certain widows." That she is the widow of Jacob Merritt who was a private of Infantry and Cavalry in the militia of the United States in the Revolutionary War. That her husband the said Jacob Merritt served 1st In a company of Duplin militia Infantry under Captain Hardy Holmes in a regiment commanded by Col. [John] Ashe in the year 1779 in an expedition to Briar Creek [in Screven County GA] where they were defeated by the enemy [3 March 1779] and served three months as a private – that he resided in Duplin County N.C. when he entered the service, that he was draughted for this tour, that he was in the battle at Briar Creek, that he marched through South Carolina and that she has no documentary proof of this tour of service and refers to the affidavit of Daniel Merritt [pension application W6817] as the best evidence she can procure. 2<sup>ndly</sup> He entered a company of Duplin militia cavalry in the fall of the year 1780 under Captain John Moulton and marched to Cross Creek now Fayetteville and was there attached to the command of Gen'l Arrington [sic: Henry William Harrington], thence to Cheraw in South Carolina, thence on an excursion beyond Cheraw and returned to Cheraw where he exchanged places with a Mr Williams and entered a company of Infantry commanded by Captain Thomas Page to be with his brother Daniel Merritt – having served in both companies three months as a private, that he resided in Duplin County when he entered this and all his other tours of service. that he was a volunteer and found [i.e. provided] his horse, that she has no documentary proof of this service and refers to the affidavit of Arthur Matthis [\$9397] Daniel Merritt for proof thereof

3<sup>rdly</sup> He entered a Company of Duplin Cavalry under Captain Robert Merritt his Father in the fall of the year 1781 as a volunteer and served two months as a private, marched through Duplin & New Hanover Counties and into Bladen County that she has no documentary evidence of this service and refers to the affidavits of Daniel Merritt and William Robinson Esq for proof thereof.

4<sup>thly</sup> He entered again a Company of Duplin cavalry in March 1782 under Captain Robert Merritt as a volunteer and served two months as a private and was attached to a Regiment commanded by Col. James Kenan and was occasionally under the command of Col. Thomas Bludworth, and marched to Wilmington and was in the vicinity thereof when the British had possession of it and was in that vicinity when Captain James Love was killed at the eight mile House [Rouse's Tavern at present Ogden 8 mi N of Wilmington in March 1781], and was persuaded by Capt. Love to go with them the night he was killed and marched into Wilmington soon after the enemy evacuated it [on 18 Nov 1781]. that she has a discharge given by Col. James Kenan hereunto annexed to show this service to which together with the affidavit of Daniel Merritt she refers to as proof.

She further declares that she was married to the said Jacob Merritt on the [blank] day of September in the year seventeen hundred and eighty two; that her husband the said Jacob Merritt died on the 30<sup>th</sup> of March in the year eighteen [smudged] hundred and fifteen (1815) i.e. eighteen hundred & fifteen. that she was not married to him prior to his leaving the service<sup>A</sup> but the marriage took place previous to the first of January seventeen hundred and ninety-four, viz: at the time above stated. She further maketh oath that she is aged and infirm and resides at the distance of fourteen miles from the Court House of her County and unable from bodily infirmity to travel that distance to Court without great

inconvenience and danger to her health. She further maketh oath that the family Record of her children's ages hereunto annexed has been in the possession of her husband and herself for many years previous to his death and in her possession ever since, that the same is genuine except that Elizabeth's age ought to have been in December 1783 instead of 1784 and in the hand writing of her deceased husband. That she has not intermarried since the death of her said husband Jacob Merritt but continues his widow.

A In explanation of the time of their marriage and as to its not being prior to his leaving the service she declares on her oath that her husband the said Jacob Merritt after their marriage served short tours of duty for a week, a fortnight or three weeks at a time from the fall of their marriage until the next Spring that is the spring of 1783 with his horse in excursions against the Tories before peace was perfectly restored and the excitement had subsided, whether military service or not she cannot say. She further declares on oath that she believes her husband served considerably more than is stated in this her declaration and the affidavits hereunto sent – amounting to as much as two years at least but is unable to make any further proofs within her knowledge

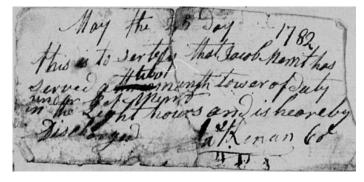
Jane herXmark Merritt

May the 25 day 1782

this is to sertefy that Jacob Merrit has served a two month tower of duty under Cap Merrit in the Light

hours and is heareby Discharged

Jas. Kenan Col



State of North Carolina }
Sampson County }

On this the 10<sup>th</sup> day of September A.D. 1840, before me Patrick Murphy Clerk and Master of the Court of Equity for said County personally appeared Arthur Matthis a resident of Duplin County in said State aged seventy eight years the 14th of next month who being first duly sworn according to law maketh oath that he was well acquainted with Jacob Merritt the husband of Jane Merritt who contemplates applying for a pension under the act of Congress of July 4th 1838 and served with him in the war of the Revolution, that we both entered a company of Duplin cavalry under Captain John Moulton, attached to a Regiment commanded by col. James Kenan in the fall of the year and he believes in the year 1779 marched from Duplin to Cross Creek now Fayetteville and remained in the vicinity thereof a week or fortnight and marched thence by Drowning Creek (where we had a small skirmish with the Tories), to Cheraw, South Carolina and stationed and guarded the hospital there awhile, thence on towards Camden [SC] and joined Gen'l Arrington's army and continued our march with them to near Camden – that said Jacob Merritt exchanged places with some person, left Captain Moulton's Company of Cavalry and entered the Infantry service under Captain Thomas Page while we were in South Carolina, that said Jacob Merritt was a private, that he was a volunteer and entered for three months and served under Captain Moulton two months at least before the exchange and he believe he finished the three months for which he volunteered in the Infantry under Captain Page whose company he entered to be with his brother Daniel Merritt who was serving in Captain Page's company. This Affiant does not recollect that he served any more with said Jacob Merritt, but believes he served afterwards in this section in the cavalry service, and has always understood that he served before in an expedition to Briar Creek.

Arthur hisXmark Matthis

State of North Carolina }
Sampson County }

On this the 12th day of July 1841 before me Patrick Murphy Clerk & Master of the Court of Equity for said County of Sampson personally appeared William Robinson a resident of said County aged seventy six years the 9th of last December who being first duly sworn according to law maketh oath, that he served a two month tour of duty in the war of the Revolution with Jacob Merritt the husband of Jane Merritt, (a Pensioner under the act of Congress of July 7, 1838 and intends applying for a small increase thereof) under Captain Robert Merritt in the light horse or cavalry commencing about the 1st of August 1781 - King Vann Lieutenant, William Goff Ensign under the command of Col. James Kenan marched mostly in Duplin County which then included what is now Sampson some in New Hanover and some in Bladen, were fired on by the Tories at Bennet [Bennett] Smith's on South River and David Tucker [W6318] wounded while we were at dinner, that just before the commencement of this service, the militia of Duplin were ordered out and marched to Rockfish to guard there and prevent the British then in possession of Wilmington from crossing, but they crossed above and below in detached parties and coming upon the Americans in the rear, routed them [skirmish at Rockfish Creek, 2 Aug 1781], the militia again collected and a Company formed under Capt Robert Merritt and undertook to serve and did serve two months under him in the lighthorse and furnished horses in lieu of the three months which they were called out to serve in the Infantry – and that said Jacob Merritt was in said Company of lighthorse and a private W. Robinson

NOTE: The affidavit of Daniel Merritt supports the claim of Jane Merritt in words similar to those in her declaration, and it agrees with his own pension application. The family record, on blank pages of *The Psalms of David in Metre* published in Scotland in 1767, is difficult to read, but an attempt at transcription is below.

Stephen Merrit the sun of Jacobines and Jane his Wife was Bourn the 7 day of december in the year 1786 Elizebeth merrit the Daughter of Jacob merrit and Jinne his wife was Bourn the thireth of desember in the year of our Lord God 1784

ELleck Cheesnut the sun of ginne cheesnut was Bourn the twenty six day of febuary in the year of our Lord [illegible]

Crese merrit the daughter of phlip merrit and Mournin his wife

Miles Merrit the sun of Jacob merrit and Jene his wife was Bourn the 7<sup>th</sup> day of August in the year of our Lord god 1785