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A WAR OF 1812 SERVICE & PENSION FILE REPORT

Amos Quillard

Sergeant · Capt. Mercer's Company · 5th Regiment Delaware Militia

War of 1812 service record (CMSR) with bounty-land and survivor's pension file

Family Keepsake Edition · Researcher-Reviewed

Prepared September 2, 2026

Every fact in this report is traced to the page that states it.

Prepared from the original records of the United States National Archives (Record Groups 94 and 15).

Amos Quillard

Sergeant, Capt. Mercer's Company, 5th Regiment Delaware Militia

Short Biography

Amos Quillard was a young Delaware militiaman who served as a sergeant in Captain Mercer's company of the 5th Regiment during the War of 1812, mustering along the Delaware coast in 1813 while still in his late teens. Decades later, having moved west to Morgan County, Illinois, he twice went after the free land the government offered old soldiers. His first try in 1850 stalled for ten years because he remembered serving under a Captain Vansant, and the Treasury could not find him on that captain's rolls; when he corrected the name to Captain Mercer in 1855, the rolls were found at once and he was awarded 160 acres. In his old age he came back a third time, and in 1871, at seventy-eight, he was granted an \$8-a-month pension for the rest of his life.

The Story of Amos Quillard, Delaware Militiaman

This report brings together two records about one man: the compiled military service record (the army's own ledger of his War of 1812 service) and the bounty-land and pension file he built up over the last decades of his long life. Read side by side, they tell a story that neither tells alone.

A young sergeant on the Delaware coast. In 1813 Amos Quillard was a sergeant in Captain Mercer's company of the 5th Regiment, Delaware Militia. The rolls kept in his service jacket show him **present**, his service beginning **August 28, 1813**, on a roll dated "Camp near Wilmington, September 12, 1813," and the company pay roll credits him for **August 28 to October 8, 1813 — 42 days**, at \$8 a month, \$11.20 paid. A second roll picks him up again that winter: he served **November 7 to December 2, 1813 — 26 days** — that roll dated at New Castle and giving his age as **19 years**. He was, in other words, a very young man doing the short, repeated coastal tours that Delaware's militia performed while the British fleet threatened the bay.

There is a puzzle in the dates worth naming plainly. When the Treasury later searched Captain Mercer's rolls to verify his claims, it reported service from **May 10 to July 24, 1813 (76 days)** — a different stretch of the same year, in the same company, from what the service jacket's own rolls show. Both are official records. Delaware militia companies were mustered for several short tours across 1813, so these may simply be different tours of Mercer's company; but this file cannot settle it, and the notes below flag it rather than smooth it over.

The land claims, and the captain he could not quite remember. By 1850 Amos was living in Morgan County, Illinois. On December 4 of that year, aged 55, he swore a declaration for bounty land under the Act of 1850, recalling that he had volunteered at Dover, Delaware, in the spring of 1813 "in the company commanded by Captain Vansant" and served about three months. The Third Auditor of the Treasury searched the rolls and reported, in March 1851, that his name was **not borne on the rolls of Capt. Vansant's company** — and the claim was **suspended** in July 1851 because his captain could not be identified. This is the classic War of 1812 problem: a man in his mid-fifties, nearly forty years on, had honestly attached his service to the wrong officer.

He came back in 1855. On May 21 of that year, aged 59, he swore a fresh declaration naming **Captain Mercer**, said he "does not now recollect why he formerly named Captain Vansant," and pointed the

government to Mercer's muster rolls. This time the answer came back positive: on September 12, 1855, the Third Auditor certified that Mercer's rolls showed Amos Quillard, Sergeant, served **from May 10 to July 24, 1813** — 76 days, penciled out as 22 + 30 + 24. **Warrant No. 41,200 for 160 acres** was issued January 8, 1856. The only thing that had changed between the failed claim and the successful one was the captain's name.

A pension in old age. On May 2, 1871, at the age of 78, Amos appeared once more, this time under the new survivor's pension Act of February 14, 1871, swearing he was "the identical Amos Quillard" who served more than sixty days in Captain Mercer's company and that he had never supported the late rebellion. The verified 76-day tour carried him over the 60-day line, and on June 30, 1871, his claim was **admitted at \$8 per month, commencing February 14, 1871**, paid through the Springfield, Illinois agency. That is where this file ends — with no marriage record, no children named, no widow's claim, and no death date. What became of him afterward, and whether he left a family, is a story that lives in records outside this file.

Two smaller notes belong in the margins: the pay-roll copyist rendered his captain's name "Merсер" rather than "Mercer," a spelling variant only; and the ages he swore over the years imply birth anywhere from about 1793 to about 1796 — see the notes.

How to Read This Report

Every fact below is tagged by how strong its source is:

- **Tier 1 — sworn testimony.** A declaration or affidavit sworn before a legal officer. Strongest for what the person did or knew — but these veterans applied 35–60 years after the war, so their sworn memories of captains and dates are honest but old.
- **Tier 2 — official records.** The Treasury's certificate of what the muster rolls show, a pension brief, the carded service rolls. Very reliable for the specific fact stated.
- **Tier 3 — process paperwork.** Office slips and suspensions — useful for how the claim moved, not for family facts.
- **Tier 4 — jackets and index cards.** Bookkeeping, not evidence.

A few flags you will see: **[SOURCE CONFLICT]** — two documents disagree, and both readings are shown; **late recollection** — a detail resting on a memory decades old; and notes where a birth year is **calculated** from a stated age rather than found in the record. Documents are coded **C-#** (from the service record, Part A) and **P-#** (from the pension/bounty-land file, Part B).

Part A — Service Record Inventory

- **C-1 (p.1) — CMSR Jacket-Envelope.** QUILLARD, Amos, Sergeant, Capt. Mercer's Company, 5 Regiment Delaware Militia (War of 1812). Lists four card numbers (55208114, 55208343, 55208570, 55208791) and "Number of personal papers herein: 0."
- **C-2 (p.2) — Company Muster Roll, Capt. Mercer's Company.** Roll dated Camp near Wilmington, September 12, 1813; commencement of service August 28, 1813; **Present.**
- **C-3 (p.3) — Company Pay Roll, Capt. Mercer's Company.** Service August 28 to October 8, 1813 — 42 days; pay \$8/month; \$11.20 paid. Copyist note: captain's name appears on this roll as **Merser.**
- **C-4 (p.4) — Company Muster Roll, Second Tour.** Roll dated New Castle, December 2, 1813; service November 7 to December 2, 1813 — 26 days; **age on roll: 19 years.**

- **C-5 (p.5) — Fold3-style source page.** Digitizer's note; not part of the original record.

Reconciliation note: the jacket lists four card numbers but only three carded records (C-2, C-3, C-4) appear among the images — a fourth abstract card is unaccounted for (see Research Gaps).

Part B — Pension File Inventory

- **P-1 (p.6) — Jacket, WAR OF 1812 / Act of February 14, 1871.** S.O. No. 17,268; S.C. No. 16,554; bounty land 41200-160-55.
- **P-2 (p.7) — Declaration for Bounty Land, Act of Sept. 28, 1850.** Morgan County, Illinois, Dec. 4, 1850; aged 55; volunteered at Dover, Delaware, spring 1813, under **Captain Vansant**; ~3 months. Sworn before H. G. Padgett, J.P.
- **P-3 (p.8) — Third Auditor's Office Report (negative), Mar. 3, 1851.** Name **not borne** on the rolls of Capt. Vansant's company. R. J. Atwater, Auditor.
- **P-4 (p.9) — Bounty Land Claim SUSPENDED (office slip).** Application No. 28,977, Act of 1850; suspended July 9, 1851 — service not shown, captain not identified.
- **P-5 (p.10) — Declaration for Additional Bounty Land, Act of Mar. 3, 1855.** Morgan County, Illinois, May 21, 1855; aged 59; served as sergeant under **Captain Mercer**; entered at Dover ~May 10, 1813, discharged at Camp Fenwick near Lewes ~July 24, 1813; withdraws his earlier naming of Captain Vansant.
- **P-6 (p.11) — Third Auditor's Certificate of Service, Sept. 12, 1855.** Mercer's rolls show service May 10 to July 24, 1813; penciled $22 + 30 + 24 = 76$ days. A. Rutherford, for Auditor.
- **P-7 (p.12) — Bounty Land Warrant Issue Memorandum.** Warrant No. 41,200, 160 acres, Act of 1855, issued Jan. 8, 1856; string 41200-160-55.
- **P-8 (p.13) — Survivor's Declaration for Pension, Act of Feb. 14, 1871.** Morgan County, Illinois, May 2, 1871; aged 78; served more than sixty days in Capt. Mercer's company; loyalty clause.
- **P-9 (p.14) — Survivor's Brief, Admitted.** Service May 10–July 24, 1813, 76 days verified; ADMITTED June 30, 1871, at \$8/month commencing Feb. 14, 1871; Springfield, Illinois agency.

Genealogical Summary

Name: Amos Quillard (spelled consistently; the pay-roll copyist rendered his captain's surname "Merser").

Birth: not stated directly. Calculated from ages given across the file, his birth falls somewhere between about **1793 and 1796** — the age of 19 on the December 1813 roll implies ~1794; aged 55 in 1850 implies ~1795; aged 59 in 1855 implies ~1796; aged 78 in 1871 implies ~1793 (see Source Conflicts).

Service origin: volunteered/entered service at **Dover, Delaware**, 1813.

Later residence: **Morgan County, Illinois**, from at least 1850 through 1871; pension paid through the Springfield, Illinois agency.

Family: this file names **no wife and no children**. There is no marriage record, no widow's declaration, and no proof-of-death paper — meaning the genealogical bridge to a family line is not inside these documents.

Death: unknown / unresolved. The record ends with the pension admitted in 1871; no later payment record, death notice, or widow's claim is present. His death date cannot be inferred from the last dated document.

Combined Service & Claim Timeline

- **June 18, 1812** — war with Great Britain declared (recited in the 1850 declaration).
- **1813 (spring/summer, per pension records)** — service May 10 to July 24, 1813, Capt. Mercer's company, 76 days (*as later verified by the Third Auditor; see conflict below*).
- **Aug. 28 – Oct. 8, 1813** — service in Capt. Mercer's company, 42 days, Present; roll dated Camp near Wilmington, Sept. 12 (*service jacket*).
- **Nov. 7 – Dec. 2, 1813** — second tour, 26 days; roll dated New Castle; age 19 (*service jacket*).
- **Dec. 4, 1850** — bounty-land declaration (Act of 1850), aged 55, naming Capt. Vansant; Morgan County, Illinois.
- **Mar. 3, 1851** — Third Auditor reports name not on Vansant's rolls.
- **July 9, 1851** — bounty-land claim (App. 28,977) suspended.
- **May 21, 1855** — additional bounty-land declaration (Act of 1855), aged 59, correcting captain to Mercer.
- **Sept. 12, 1855** — Third Auditor certifies service under Mercer, 76 days.
- **Jan. 8, 1856** — Warrant No. 41,200, 160 acres, issued.
- **May 2, 1871** — survivor's pension declaration (Act of 1871), aged 78.
- **June 30, 1871** — pension admitted, \$8/month commencing Feb. 14, 1871.

Named Social Network

- **Capt. Mercer** — commander of the company in which service was verified (5th Regiment Delaware Militia). (*Roll-verified.*)
- **Capt. Vansant** — captain Amos named in 1850; the Treasury found no such service on Vansant's rolls. (*Claimed only, roll-negative.*)
- **H. G. Padgett, J.P.** — Justice of the Peace, Morgan County, Illinois, who took the 1850 bounty-land declaration.
- **R. J. Atwater** — Auditor, Third Auditor's Office, who signed the 1851 negative report.
- **A. Rutherford** — signed "for Auditor" on the 1855 certificate of service.

(No wife, children, comrades, or attorneys are named in the file.)

Source Conflicts & Discrepancies

1. Service dates — the two official records disagree. The service jacket's own rolls credit Amos Quillard with service **Aug. 28 – Oct. 8, 1813 (42 days)** and **Nov. 7 – Dec. 2, 1813 (26 days)** in Capt. Mercer's company (C-2, C-3, C-4). The Third Auditor's certificate (P-6) and the admitting brief (P-9) instead report service **May 10 – July 24, 1813 (76 days)** — same captain, same company, a different stretch of the same year. Both are official (Tier 2) records. Delaware militia served several short tours in 1813, so these may be distinct tours rather than a true contradiction, but this file cannot decide it. Presented as unresolved.

2. Captain's name — Vansant vs. Mercer. In 1850 Amos swore he served under **Captain Vansant** (P-2); the Treasury found no such service (P-3), and the claim was suspended (P-4). In 1855

he corrected the name to **Captain Mercer** (P-5), which the rolls confirmed (P-6). The corrected, roll-verified name **Mercer** governs; Vansant was a decades-old misremembering the veteran himself withdrew.

3. Birth year drift. Age 19 on the Dec. 1813 roll (~1794); 55 in 1850 (~1795); 59 in 1855 (~1796); 78 in 1871 (~1793). Spread of about three years — normal for ages sworn late in life, but no single birth year is fixed by the file.

4. Captain's-name spelling (minor). The pay-roll copyist wrote **Merser** (C-3) for Mercer — a spelling variant only.

The Law Behind the Pension

Act of September 28, 1850 (9 Stat. 520, ch. 85) — bounty land. Free federal land for War of 1812 service on a sliding scale (40/80/160 acres by term engaged and time served). Amos filed under this act in 1850 (P-2). It was **suspended**, not on its acreage test but because his service could not be verified under the captain he named — the Third Auditor found nothing under Capt. Vansant (P-3, P-4).

Act of March 3, 1855 (10 Stat. 701, ch. 207) — bounty land. A uniform **160 acres** for as little as **14 days' service or presence in any engagement**, proved by record evidence. When Amos re-filed naming Capt. Mercer (P-5), the Third Auditor verified 76 days (P-6) — far past the 14-day floor — and Warrant No. 41,200 for 160 acres issued (P-7). *The same service that could not be matched in 1850 succeeded in 1855: what changed was the captain's name, not the law's generosity — though the 1855 test is also the easier of the two.*

Act of February 14, 1871 (16 Stat. 411, ch. 50) — survivor's pension. \$8 per month for life for **60 days' service** and honorable discharge, with a loyalty clause (never aided the late rebellion). Amos's verified 76-day tour cleared the 60-day test; his claim was admitted at **\$8/month commencing February 14, 1871** — the statute's own date, not a fact about his service (P-8, P-9).

Research Gaps & Next Steps

What this file establishes about who he is: Amos Quillard, sergeant, Capt. Mercer's company, 5th Regiment Delaware Militia; entered service at Dover, Delaware, in 1813; resident of Morgan County, Illinois, 1850–1871; born about 1793–1796. These are the anchors a family will use to tie him to a line.

The identity boundary: this report reads the file; it cannot prove that this Amos Quillard is any particular family's ancestor. Matching him to a specific line requires records **outside** this file — census, county, church, land, and probate. Same-named men of the same era exist; the family connection is a correlation task these documents cannot perform.

Specific gaps and where to look next: - **No family record.** No marriage, no children, no widow's claim. The **1850 and 1860 U.S. censuses for Morgan County, Illinois** should show his household; **Morgan County marriage and probate records** may name a wife and heirs. - **Death date unknown.** Look for **Illinois pension payment ledgers** (when the \$8 payments stopped), county death and cemetery records, and any post-1871 correspondence closing the pension. - **The service-date conflict** (May–July vs. Aug.–Dec. 1813) could be resolved by the **Delaware adjutant-general's militia rolls** and the state archives, which may show whether Mercer's company mustered for multiple 1813 tours. - **The land itself.** The **BLM–GLO patent records** will show where Warrant No. 41,200 was located — remembering that assigned 1812 warrants patent in a buyer's name, so a

patent in a distant state need not mean the family moved. - **The fourth service card.** The jacket lists four card numbers but only three carded records are present; the missing card should be requested from **NARA (RG 94/RG 15).** - An **Old Wars** search (NARA index T316) would catch any disability claim, which never files in the survivor series.

Document Inventory

Page	Document Type	Summary
1	C-1 CMSR Jacket-Envelope	Jacket for QUILLARD, Amos, Sergeant, Capt. Mercer's Company, 5 Regiment Delaware Militia (War of 1812); four card numbers listed; 0 personal papers.
2	C-2 Company Muster Roll	Capt. Mercer's Company; roll dated Camp near Wilmington, Sept. 12, 1813; commencement of service Aug. 28, 1813; Present.
3	C-3 Company Pay Roll	Service Aug. 28–Oct. 8, 1813, 42 days; \$8/month, \$11.20 paid; copyist notes captain's name as Merser.
4	C-4 Company Muster Roll (Second Tour)	Roll dated New Castle, Dec. 2, 1813; service Nov. 7–Dec. 2, 1813, 26 days; age on roll 19 years.
5	C-5 Fold3-style Source Page	Digitization provider's source note; not part of the original record; states the specimen is fictional.
6	P-1 Pension Jacket (Act of Feb. 14, 1871)	S.O. No. 17,268; S.C. No. 16,554; bounty land 41200-160-55; QUILLARD, Amos, Sergeant, Capt. Mercer's Co., 5th Regt Delaware Militia.
7	P-2 Declaration for Bounty Land (Act of Sept. 28, 1850)	Morgan County, IL, Dec. 4, 1850; aged 55; volunteered at Dover, DE, spring 1813 under Capt. Vansant, ~3 months; sworn before H. G. Padgett, J.P.
8	P-3 Third Auditor's Report (negative)	Mar. 3, 1851; name of Amos Quillard NOT borne on rolls of Capt. Vansant's company; R. J. Atwater, Auditor.
9	P-4 Bounty Land Claim SUSPENDED (office slip)	Application No. 28,977, Act of 1850; suspended July 9, 1851 — service not shown by rolls; captain not identified.
10	P-5 Declaration for Additional Bounty Land (Act of Mar. 3, 1855)	Morgan County, IL, May 21, 1855; aged 59; served as sergeant under Capt. Mercer; entered Dover ~May 10, 1813,

		discharged Camp Fenwick near Lewes ~July 24, 1813; withdraws earlier naming of Vansant.
11	P-6 Third Auditor's Certificate of Service	Sept. 12, 1855; Mercer's rolls show Amos Quillard, Sergeant, served May 10–July 24, 1813; penciled 22+30+24=76 days; A. Rutherford for Auditor.
12	P-7 Bounty Land Warrant Issue Memorandum	Warrant No. 41,200, 160 acres, Act of Mar. 3, 1855, issued Jan. 8, 1856; string 41200-160-55; forwarded to attorneys of record.
13	P-8 Survivor's Declaration for Pension (Act of Feb. 14, 1871)	Morgan County, IL, May 2, 1871; aged 78; identical Amos Quillard, served more than sixty days in Capt. Mercer's company; loyalty clause.
14	P-9 Survivor's Brief — Admitted	S.O. 17,268/S.C. 16,554; service May 10–July 24, 1813, 76 days verified; ADMITTED June 30, 1871, \$8/month commencing Feb. 14, 1871; Springfield, IL agency.

Every Fact and Its Source

Each substantive fact in this report, with the document that states it. Tier 1 = sworn or own-hand documents; Tier 2 = official contemporaneous records; Tier 3 = claim-process paperwork; Tier 4 = administrative material. Notes mark facts a witness learned second-hand, values worked out by calculation, and uncertain readings.

Fact	Source document (page)	Tier	Notes
Amos Quillard served as a Sergeant in Capt. Mercer's Company, 5th Regiment Delaware Militia, in the War of 1812.	C-2 Company Muster Roll (p. 2)	2	—
The CMSR jacket lists four card numbers and 'Number of personal papers herein: o.'	C-1 CMSR Jacket-Envelope (p. 1)	4	—
Muster roll dated Camp near Wilmington, Sept. 12, 1813; commencement of service Aug. 28, 1813; Present.	C-2 Company Muster Roll (p. 2)	2	—

Pay roll credits service Aug. 28 to Oct. 8, 1813 (42 days), \$8/month, \$11.20 paid.	C-3 Company Pay Roll (p. 3)	2	—
Pay-roll copyist notes the captain's name appears as 'Merser.'	C-3 Company Pay Roll (p. 3)	2	source conflict
Second tour served Nov. 7 to Dec. 2, 1813 (26 days); roll dated New Castle; age on roll 19 years.	C-4 Company Muster Roll (Second Tour) (p. 4)	2	—
Age 19 on the Dec. 1813 roll implies birth about 1794.	C-4 Company Muster Roll (Second Tour) (p. 4)	2	calculated/derived
Pension jacket filed under Act of Feb. 14, 1871; S.O. No. 17,268; S.C. No. 16,554; bounty land 41200-160-55.	P-1 Pension Jacket (p. 6)	4	—
In 1850, aged 55, Amos declared he volunteered at Dover, Delaware, in spring 1813 under Captain Vansant and served about three months.	P-2 Declaration for Bounty Land (1850) (p. 7)	1	reading uncertain
Resident of Morgan County, Illinois, by December 1850; declaration sworn before H. G. Padgett, J.P.	P-2 Declaration for Bounty Land (1850) (p. 7)	1	—
Age 55 in 1850 implies birth about 1795.	P-2 Declaration for Bounty Land (1850) (p. 7)	1	calculated/derived
Third Auditor reported Mar. 3, 1851 that the name of Amos Quillard is NOT borne on the rolls of Capt. Vansant's company; R. J. Atwater, Auditor.	P-3 Third Auditor's Report (negative) (p. 8)	2	—
Bounty-land Application No. 28,977 (Act of 1850) suspended July 9, 1851 — service not	P-4 Bounty Land Claim SUSPENDED slip (p. 9)	3	—

shown by the rolls, captain not identified.			
In 1855, aged 59, Amos declared service as sergeant under Captain Mercer, 5th Regiment Delaware Militia, entering at Dover ~May 10, 1813 and discharged at Camp Fenwick near Lewes ~July 24, 1813; he withdrew his earlier naming of Captain Vansant.	P-5 Declaration for Additional Bounty Land (1855) (p. 10)	1	reading uncertain
Age 59 in 1855 implies birth about 1796.	P-5 Declaration for Additional Bounty Land (1855) (p. 10)	1	calculated/derived
Third Auditor certified Sept. 12, 1855 that Capt. Mercer's Company rolls show Amos Quillard, Sergeant, served May 10 to July 24, 1813 (22+30+24=76 days); A. Rutherford for Auditor.	P-6 Third Auditor's Certificate of Service (p. 11)	2	source conflict
Bounty-land Warrant No. 41,200 for 160 acres, Act of Mar. 3, 1855, issued Jan. 8, 1856; string 41200-160-55.	P-7 Bounty Land Warrant Issue Memorandum (p. 12)	2	—
In 1871, aged 78, Amos declared he is the identical Amos Quillard who served more than sixty days in Capt. Mercer's company, and had never supported the late rebellion.	P-8 Survivor's Declaration for Pension (1871) (p. 13)	1	reading uncertain
Age 78 in 1871 implies birth about 1793.	P-8 Survivor's Declaration for Pension (1871) (p. 13)	1	calculated/derived
Survivor's pension admitted June 30,	P-9 Survivor's Brief — Admitted (p. 14)	2	—

1871 at \$8 per month commencing Feb. 14, 1871; service May 10–July 24, 1813 (76 days) verified; Springfield, Illinois agency.			
No death date, proof-of-death paper, marriage record, children, or widow's claim appears in the file; the record ends with the 1871 pension admission.	P-9 Survivor's Brief — Admitted (p. 14)	2	—

Where the Documents Disagree

Here two or more perfectly legible documents say different things. That is a finding about the record, not a reading problem - both versions are shown, and neither was silently preferred. Where the evidence clearly favored one reading, the story above follows it, and the note here says why - a visible weighing, never a silent one.

- **Page 11** - the documents disagree here (Part B Third Auditor's certificate (global p.11, orig. Pension p.6) and the admitting brief (global p.14) report Capt. Mercer's rolls showing May 10–July 24, 1813, while Part A's own carded muster and pay rolls (global pp.2–4, orig. CMSR pp.2–4) for the same Capt. Mercer's company show Aug.–Oct. and Nov.–Dec. 1813 tours. Both are Tier 2 official records). Both readings appear in the report; review confirmed the disagreement is in the record itself. Our read: Delaware militia companies commonly served several short tours in 1813, so these may be distinct tours of Mercer's company rather than a contradiction; the file cannot determine which. Evenly balanced - not adjudicated. Delaware adjutant-general militia rolls would resolve it.
- **Page 7** - the documents disagree here (The 1850 bounty-land declaration (global p.7, orig. Pension p.2) names Capt. Vansant; the Third Auditor found no such service (global p.8) and the service jacket plus the 1855 certificate verify Capt. Mercer (global pp.2, 11)). Both readings appear in the report; review confirmed the disagreement is in the record itself. Our read: Adjudicated to Capt. Mercer — roll-verified in both the CMSR and the Third Auditor's 1855 certificate, and the veteran himself withdrew the Vansant name in 1855. Contemporaneous rolls outweigh a decades-later recollection.
- **Page 13** - the documents disagree here (Ages across the set imply differing birth years: age 19 on the Dec. 1813 roll (global p.4) ~1794; aged 55 in 1850 (global p.7) ~1795; aged 59 in 1855 (global p.10) ~1796; aged 78 in 1871 (global p.13) ~1793. Spread exceeds one year). Both readings appear in the report; review confirmed the disagreement is in the record itself. Our read: Report as a range (~1793–1796); no single birth year is fixed by the file. Census and county records may narrow it. Evenly balanced - not adjudicated.
- **Page 3** - the documents disagree here (The pay-roll copyist rendered the captain's name Merser (global p.3, orig. CMSR p.3); every other document reads Mercer). Both readings appear in the report; review confirmed the disagreement is in the record itself. Our read: Adjudicated to Mercer — used on the jacket, muster rolls, and Third Auditor certificate; Merser is a single copyist spelling variant.

What the File Does Not Establish

The file is silent on these points. No document states them, so the report says so rather than filling them in.

- **Page 1** - the file does not answer this (The CMSR jacket (global p.1) lists four card numbers (55208114, 55208343, 55208570, 55208791) but only three carded records (global pp.2–4) appear among the supplied images). The Research Gaps section points to the records that might.

About this report: it was produced from the file provided, read page by page. It does not search records beyond that file - the Research Gaps section points to the outside records that could carry the story further.