

A SOLDIER'S LIFE REPORTS

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DEMONSTRATION SPECIMEN — This is a demonstration specimen. The soldier is fictional and his “file” is a typeset reconstruction of the document types found in real pension files. The process, tables, flags, and sourcing shown here are exactly what a real report contains.

A WAR OF 1812 PENSION FILE REPORT

Amos Quillard

Sergeant · Capt. Mercer's Company (roll-verified); Capt. Vansant's company
claimed in 1850 · 5th Regiment, Delaware Militia

*Bounty land (Act of Sep 28, 1850, suspended + Act of Mar 3, 1855, granted) + Survivor's
pension (Act of Feb 14, 1871)*

Family Keepsake Edition · Automated Edition

Prepared July 29, 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 Group 15).

Amos Quillard

Sergeant, Capt. Mercer's Company (roll-verified); Capt. Vansant's company claimed in 1850, 5th Regiment, Delaware Militia

Short Biography

Amos Quillard was a Delaware man who volunteered at Dover in the spring of 1813 and served a few months as a sergeant in the state militia during the War of 1812, later moving west to Morgan County, Illinois. When he first applied for free federal land in 1850 he remembered serving under a Captain Vansant, but the Treasury could not find his name on that captain's rolls, and his claim was suspended. Five years later he applied again, this time naming Captain Mercer, and the muster rolls confirmed 76 days' service under that officer — so in 1856 he received a warrant for 160 acres. In his old age, at about 78, he was granted an \$8-a-month pension under the 1871 law. This specimen file contains no widow's claim.

How to Read This Report

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

- **Tier 1** — sworn testimony (declarations, affidavits). Strongest for what a person did or saw, but note that these veterans swore decades after the war, so old memories of captains and dates are honest but fallible.
- **Tier 2** — official records (the Treasury's Third Auditor certificates, pension briefs, warrant memoranda). Very reliable for the specific fact stated.
- **Tier 3** — paperwork about the claim process (office slips).
- **Tier 4** — file jackets and index cards (bookkeeping, not evidence).

[**SOURCE CONFLICT**] marks two documents that disagree — here, the two different captains the soldier named. **▲ Late recollection** marks a detail resting on a memory of events 35–60 years past. Nothing hard to read has been silently guessed; uncertainties are listed in the flags.

Soldier Identity

Amos Quillard, Sergeant, of the 5th Regiment, Delaware Militia (jacket, p. 1; declarations, pp. 2, 5, 8).

By the war's end he had relocated to **Morgan County, Illinois**, where all of his declarations were sworn (pp. 2, 5, 8).

Age / birth year drift (all figures are self-reported and imply different birth years — see flags): - Aged **55** on 4 Dec 1850 → born about **1795** (calculated) - Aged **59** on 21 May 1855 → born about **1796** (calculated) - Aged **78** on 2 May 1871 → born about **1793** (calculated)

These are not internally consistent; the report shows them side by side rather than choosing one.

Military Service (as claimed)

Amos Quillard swore that he served in the War of 1812 (declared 18 Jun 1812), volunteering at **Dover, Delaware** (pp. 2, 5).

- **1850 declaration (p. 2):** volunteered at Dover in the spring of 1813, in the company of **Captain Vansant**, Delaware Militia, and served until discharged in the summer of 1813 — "about three months." Δ Late recollection (sworn ~37 years after service).
- **1855 declaration (p. 5):** served as a sergeant in the company of **Captain Mercer**, 5th Regiment Delaware Militia; entered service at Dover about **10 May 1813**, discharged at **Camp Fenwick, near Lewes**, about **24 July 1813**. He stated he could not recollect why he had formerly named Captain Vansant, "under whom he first drilled," and referred to Mercer's muster rolls. Δ Late recollection.
- **1871 pension declaration (p. 8):** the identical Amos Quillard who served as a sergeant in **Capt. Mercer's company**, 5th Regiment Delaware Militia, for more than sixty days.

[SOURCE CONFLICT] — the captain's name. The 1850 declaration names **Capt. Vansant**; the 1855 and 1871 declarations name **Capt. Mercer**. The Third Auditor's rolls verify Mercer, not Vansant (see Service Verification). The soldier himself acknowledged the change, saying he first drilled under Vansant. Both readings are preserved here.

Service Verification — Third Auditor of the Treasury

Militia service was checked by the Pension Office against the Treasury's muster/pay rolls held by the Third Auditor. This file contains one **negative** and one **positive** report:

- **Negative report, 3 Mar 1851 (p. 3), R. J. Atwater, Auditor:** "the name of Amos Quillard is NOT borne on the rolls of Capt. Vansant's company of Delaware Militia, war of 1812, on file in this office." A documented negative result — this is why the 1850 claim was suspended.
- **Positive certificate of service, 12 Sep 1855 (p. 6), A. Rutherford for the Auditor:** "The rolls of Capt. Mercer's Company, 5th Regiment Delaware Militia, show that Amos Quillard, Sergeant, served from the 10th May, 1813, until the 24th July, 1813." The margin carries the day-count arithmetic **22 + 30 + 24 = 76 days**.

The 76-day figure was later carried forward into the Survivor's Brief (p. 9), satisfying the 60-day test of the 1871 act.

Bounty Land Claim

- **Act of Sep 28, 1850 — Application No. 28,977.** Filed on the 1850 declaration (p. 2). **SUSPENDED 9 July 1851** (office slip, p. 4): "service not shown by the rolls; claimant's captain not identified" — the direct consequence of the negative auditor's report on Capt. Vansant.
- **Act of Mar 3, 1855 — additional/renewed application.** Filed on the 1855 declaration (p. 5), naming Capt. Mercer, and verified by the positive certificate of 12 Sep 1855 (p. 6).
- **Warrant issued: Warrant No. 41,200 for 160 acres, Act of March 3, 1855, issued January 8, 1856,** to Amos Quillard, Sergeant, Capt. Mercer's Co., Delaware Militia, and forwarded to the attorneys of record (memorandum, p. 7). Warrant string of record: **41200-160-55**.

This is the classic pattern: an 1850-act claim suspended on a negative auditor's report, then granted under the 1855 act once the service was matched to the correct company.

Survivor's Pension

- **Act of Feb 14, 1871 — S.O. No. 17,268 / S.C. No. 16,554** (jacket, p. 1).
- **Survivor's declaration, 2 May 1871 (p. 8):** sworn in Morgan County, Illinois; Amos Quillard, aged 78, the identical man who served as sergeant in Capt. Mercer's company for more than sixty days, with the statutory loyalty oath (never supported the late rebellion — a legal formula required by the 1871 act).
- **Survivor's Brief — Admitted (p. 9):** service verified as May 10 to July 24, 1813 (76 days) by the Third Auditor; **ADMITTED June 30, 1871, at \$8 per month commencing February 14, 1871** (the statutory date, not a fact about the soldier); agency **Springfield, Illinois**.

Because a certificate number (S.C. 16,554) exists and the brief is marked admitted, this survivor's claim completed successfully.

Claim Chain / Timeline

1. **Spring 1813** — volunteered/entered service at Dover, Delaware (claimed). 2. **10 May 1813 – 24 July 1813** — served as sergeant, Capt. Mercer's Co., 5th Regt. Delaware Militia; 76 days (roll-verified). 3. **4 Dec 1850** — bounty-land declaration under the 1850 act, naming Capt. Vansant (Application No. 28,977). 4. **3 Mar 1851** — Third Auditor negative report: name not on Vansant's rolls. 5. **9 July 1851** — bounty-land claim SUSPENDED. 6. **21 May 1855** — additional bounty-land declaration under the 1855 act, naming Capt. Mercer. 7. **12 Sep 1855** — Third Auditor positive certificate confirming Mercer service, 76 days. 8. **8 Jan 1856** — Warrant No. 41,200 for 160 acres issued (string 41200-160-55). 9. **2 May 1871** — survivor's pension declaration under the 1871 act (S.O. 17,268). 10. **30 June 1871** — pension ADMITTED at \$8/month commencing Feb 14, 1871 (S.C. 16,554); Springfield, Illinois agency.

Named Social Network

- **H. G. Padgett, J.P.** — Justice of the Peace before whom the 1850 declaration was sworn, Morgan County, Illinois (p. 2).
- **R. J. Atwater** — Auditor, Third Auditor's Office, signed the 1851 negative report (p. 3).
- **A. Rutherford** — signed "for Auditor" on the 1855 certificate of service (p. 6).
- **Attorneys of record** (unnamed) — received the warrant in 1856 (p. 7).
- **Capt. Vansant** and **Capt. Mercer** — the two named militia officers (see Service Verification).

Research Gaps

- **No widow's or dependent's claim** appears in this file; nothing here establishes a spouse, marriage, or children. County marriage and probate records for Morgan County, Illinois, and Delaware would be the next step.
- **Soldier's death date is not stated** anywhere in these pages. The last dated action is the 1871 admission; do not infer a death date from it. Treasury payment ledgers and Morgan County probate/cemetery records would resolve it.
- **The captain conflict** could be examined further in the **Delaware state militia muster rolls** (state archives) to see whether Quillard appears under both Vansant and Mercer as companies were re-officered.
- **The bounty-land patent** for warrant 41,200 can be traced through the **BLM GLO** patent records; note the warrant was forwarded to attorneys and may have been assigned/sold, so the patent could stand in another name and does not indicate a family move.

- **Any invalid/disability claim** would be filed in NARA's separate "Old Wars" series (index T316), not in this S.O. jacket; its absence here proves nothing.

Document Inventory

Page	Document Type	Summary
1	Act jacket / index (Tier 4)	WAR OF 1812 / Act of Feb. 14, 1871 jacket: S.O. 17,268, S.C. 16,554; Amos Quillard, Sergeant, Capt. Mercer's Co., 5th Regt. Delaware Militia; bounty land 41200-160-55.
2	Bounty-land declaration, Act of Sep 28, 1850 (Tier 1)	Sworn 4 Dec 1850, Morgan Co., Illinois; Amos Quillard aged 55; volunteered at Dover spring 1813 under Capt. Vansant, ~3 months; sworn before H. G. Padgett, J.P.
3	Third Auditor's report — negative (Tier 2)	3 Mar 1851; R. J. Atwater, Auditor: Amos Quillard's name NOT borne on the rolls of Capt. Vansant's company, Delaware Militia.
4	Bounty-land claim suspended — office slip (Tier 3)	Application No. 28,977, Act of Sep 28, 1850; SUSPENDED 9 July 1851 — service not shown by the rolls; captain not identified.
5	Additional bounty-land declaration, Act of Mar 3, 1855 (Tier 1)	Sworn 21 May 1855, Morgan Co., Illinois; Amos Quillard aged 59; sergeant under Capt. Mercer, 5th Regt. Del. Militia; entered Dover ~10 May 1813, discharged Camp Fenwick near Lewes ~24 July 1813; cannot recollect why he earlier named Capt. Vansant.
6	Third Auditor's certificate of service — positive (Tier 2)	12 Sep 1855; A. Rutherford for Auditor: Mercer's Co. rolls show Amos Quillard, Sergeant, served 10 May–24 July 1813; margin arithmetic $22+30+24 = 76$ days.
7	Bounty-land warrant issue memorandum (Tier 2)	Warrant No. 41,200 for 160 acres, Act of Mar 3, 1855, issued 8 Jan 1856 to Amos Quillard, Sergeant, Capt. Mercer's Co.; forwarded to attorneys of record; string 41200-160-55.
8	Survivor's pension declaration, Act of Feb 14, 1871 (Tier 1)	Sworn 2 May 1871, Morgan Co., Illinois; Amos Quillard aged 78; identical man who served as sergeant in Capt. Mercer's Co. for >60 days; loyalty oath.
9	Survivor's Brief — Admitted	S.O. 17,268 / S.C. 16,554;

	(Tier 2)	service 10 May–24 July 1813, 76 days verified by Third Auditor; ADMITTED 30 June 1871 at \$8/month commencing 14 Feb 1871; Springfield, Illinois agency.
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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.	Act jacket, WAR OF 1812 / Act of Feb. 14, 1871 (p. 1)	4	corroborated by second source
Amos Quillard was a resident of Morgan County, Illinois, when he made his declarations.	Bounty-land declaration, sworn 4 Dec 1850 (p. 2)	1	—
Amos Quillard stated his age as 55 on 4 Dec 1850, implying birth about 1795.	Bounty-land declaration, sworn 4 Dec 1850 (p. 2)	1	calculated/derived
Amos Quillard stated his age as 59 on 21 May 1855, implying birth about 1796.	Additional bounty-land declaration, sworn 21 May 1855 (p. 5)	1	calculated/derived
Amos Quillard stated his age as 78 on 2 May 1871, implying birth about 1793.	Survivor's pension declaration, sworn 2 May 1871 (p. 8)	1	calculated/derived
Amos Quillard declared he served in the War of 1812 (war with Great Britain declared June 18, 1812), volunteering at Dover, Delaware, in the spring of 1813 in the company of Captain Vansant, for about three	Bounty-land declaration, sworn 4 Dec 1850 (p. 2)	1	source conflict

months.			
Amos Quillard declared he served as a sergeant under Captain Mercer, 5th Regiment Delaware Militia, entering at Dover about 10 May 1813 and discharged at Camp Fenwick near Lewes about 24 July 1813, and could not recollect why he had earlier named Captain Vansant.	Additional bounty-land declaration, sworn 21 May 1855 (p. 5)	1	source conflict
The Third Auditor reported that the name of Amos Quillard is NOT borne on the rolls of Capt. Vansant's company of Delaware Militia.	Third Auditor's report (negative), 3 Mar 1851, R. J. Atwater, Auditor (p. 3)	2	—
The rolls of Capt. Mercer's Company, 5th Regiment Delaware Militia, show Amos Quillard, Sergeant, served from 10 May 1813 to 24 July 1813, computed as 76 days.	Third Auditor's certificate of service (positive), 12 Sep 1855, A. Rutherford for Auditor (p. 6)	2	corroborated by second source
Amos Quillard swore he served as a sergeant in Capt. Mercer's company, 5th Regiment Delaware Militia, for more than sixty days, and that he never supported the late rebellion.	Survivor's pension declaration, Act of Feb 14, 1871, sworn 2 May 1871 (p. 8)	1	—
Bounty-land Application No. 28,977 under the Act of Sep 28, 1850 was SUSPENDED on 9 July 1851 because service was not shown by the rolls and the claimant's captain	Bounty-land claim suspended office slip, 9 July 1851 (p. 4)	3	—

was not identified.			
Warrant No. 41,200 for 160 acres under the Act of March 3, 1855 was issued January 8, 1856 to Amos Quillard, Sergeant, Capt. Mercer's Co., Delaware Militia, and forwarded to the attorneys of record; warrant string 41200-160-55.	Bounty-land warrant issue memorandum (p. 7)	2	—
The survivor's pension claim carried S.O. No. 17,268 and S.C. No. 16,554 under the Act of Feb 14, 1871.	Act jacket, WAR OF 1812 / Act of Feb. 14, 1871 (p. 1)	4	corroborated by second source
The survivor's pension was ADMITTED June 30, 1871 at \$8 per month commencing February 14, 1871, through the Springfield, Illinois agency, with service verified as 76 days by the Third Auditor.	Survivor's Brief — Admitted (p. 9)	2	—
The 1850 bounty-land declaration was sworn before H. G. Padgett, J.P., in Morgan County, Illinois.	Bounty-land declaration, sworn 4 Dec 1850 (p. 2)	1	—

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.

- **Page 5** - the documents disagree here (The 1850 declaration (p. 2) names Capt. Vansant; the 1855 (p. 5) and 1871 (p. 8) declarations name Capt. Mercer, and the Third Auditor verified service only under Mercer (p. 6) while finding nothing under Vansant (p. 3). The soldier himself acknowledged first drilling under Vansant). Both readings appear in the report; the record itself does not decide between them.
- **Page 8** - the documents disagree here (Self-reported ages across three declarations (pp. 2, 5, 8) imply inconsistent birth years spanning about 1793–1796). Both readings appear in the report; the record itself does not decide between them.

Sworn Long After the Fact

These statements were sworn honestly, but decades after the events they describe. The oath makes them testimony, not a guarantee of accuracy - details here are a person's memory, and are weighed as such.

- **Page 2** - a late recollection (The 1850 service narrative was sworn ~37 years after the events and both the captain and the duration differ from the later roll-verified account (Mercer, 76 days)). Honest testimony, recorded as the deponent remembered it; corroborating records, where they exist, are the check.
- **Page 5** - a late recollection (Even though these dates match the rolls, the declaration (sworn 1855, ~42 years later) states them as approximate ("about")); the station name Camp Fenwick is stated only in this recollection, not in the auditor's certificate). Honest testimony, recorded as the deponent remembered it; corroborating records, where they exist, are the check.

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 file ends with the 1871 pension admission and contains no death record, widow's claim, marriage proof, or dependents). The Research Gaps section points to the records that might.