

He was educated at Harvard College for a physician. When the troubles commenced our family, being strict Loyalists, turned their attention to the army, and my grandfather obtained for him a Cornetcy in Colonel Simcoe's regiment of dragoons—he was then very young, brave and aspiring. To show his zeal for the cause we find him very highly spoken of in Simcoe's Military Journal.

Extracts from Col. Simcoe's Military Journal.

"In the latter part of February, 1781, Cornet Merritt was ordered with a reconnoitering party, consisting of 1 sergeant and 10 dragoons, to convey some negroes, who were sent to the neighboring plantations, to search for and bring in some cattle that had escaped from us.

"From his great zeal to accomplish this service he went rather further than was intended, when he unexpectedly fell in with a corps of rebels, much superior, both in the number and goodness of their horses. He retreated in good order for some distance, but finding himself much harassed from the fire of his adversaries, and seeing that it would be impracticable to get off without giving them a check, he determined on charging them, which he did several times and with such vigor that he always repulsed them.

"He thus alternately charged and retreated, until having had two horses killed under him, he was so stunned by the fall that he was left for dead.

"The rebels were so awed by their repeated repulses that they suffered his party to escape into the woods, where, by dismounting and concealing themselves in the thick Savannas, most of them got safe into the Post.

"The Sergeant was killed, and 4 men were wounded, several horses were killed. Merritt being supposed to be dead, was left, but afterwards recovered his senses and was fortunate enough to find his way to the Post, with the loss of his boots, helmet and accoutrements."

In another place, Colonel Simcoe says:— "Cornet Merritt, having been sent, about the beginning of March, with a flag, to carry a letter to Genl. Marion, by order of Col. Balfour, was detained a prisoner, to retaliate for the detention of one Capt. Postell, who, after the surrender of Charles Town, had taken a protection and the Oath to us, and had, notwithstanding, again taken up arms, and had the impudence to come to George-Town, with a flag of truce, where I detained him. They crammed Merritt, with about twenty others, sergeants and privates of different British regiments, in a small, nasty, dark place, made of logs, called a bull-pen; but he was not here long before he determined to extricate himself and his fellow prisoners, which he thus effected. After having communicated his intention to them, and found them ready to support him, he pitched upon the strongest and most daring soldier, and having waited some days for a favorable opportunity, he observed that his guard (Militia) were much alarmed, which he found was occasioned by a party of British having come into that neighborhood. He then ordered th's