

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Francis Holley R10549 Martha Thompson¹ fn17NC
Transcribed by Will Graves 5/10/11

[Methodology: Spelling, punctuation and/or grammar have been corrected in some instances for ease of reading and to facilitate searches of the database. Where the meaning is not compromised by adhering to the spelling, punctuation or grammar, no change has been made. Corrections or additional notes have been inserted within brackets or footnotes. Blanks appearing in the transcripts reflect blanks in the original. A bracketed question mark indicates that the word or words preceding it represent(s) a guess by me. Only materials pertinent to the military service of the veteran and to contemporary events have been transcribed. Affidavits that provide additional information on these events are included and genealogical information is abstracted, while standard, 'boilerplate' affidavits and attestations related solely to the application, and later nineteenth and twentieth century research requests for information have been omitted. I use speech recognition software to make all my transcriptions. Such software misinterprets my southern accent with unfortunate regularity and my poor proofreading fails to catch all misinterpretations. Also, dates or numbers which the software treats as numerals rather than words are not corrected: for example, the software transcribes "the eighth of June one thousand eighty six" as "the 8th of June 1786." Please call errors or omissions to my attention.]

The State of Alabama Morgan County

On this 15th day of December 1842 personally appeared before the Honorable Horatio Philpott Judge of the County Court held at the Court house in Somerville in said County Martha Thompson now but formerly Martha Holley widow of Francis Holley Deceased she being a Citizen of Morgan County now near seventy-eight years of age who being first duly sworn according to law doth on her oath make the following Declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the provisions made by the act of Congress passed July the 4th 1836 and the act Explanatory of said act passed March 3rd 1837 that she was married to Francis Holley on the 2nd day of February 1780 who was a private Soldier in a company of spies ordered out by Colonel Sevier then the Commanding officer of the South West Territory the frontier parts of North Carolina then a Citizen on Noley Chucky [Nolichucky] River where this same Francis Holley was kept in actual service before and after they [their] marriage took place for a considerable length of time within my own knowledge, [indecipherable word, could be intended to be the word "Seven"] months after the Marriage took place we moved from Nolichucky River to the frontier parts of the state of Georgia where my husband Francis Holley was ordered to serve in Station on the Extreme frontier parts of that State, and from that Station a Draft was ordered and accordingly Francis Holley was drafted to serve a three month tower [tour] under Captain Marlborough Captain Marlborough with his Company of men were ordered to reinforce General Wayne [sic Wayne's?] army [Army] with intent to attack the British force at Savannah town in Georgia, where kept in actual service until Cornwallace [Cornwallis] was taken and the British Army left Savannah town he was then Discharge from service at the expiration of his three months tower he afterwards returned home to me quite sick and afterwards remained a sickly man until the 7th day of May 1807 when Francis Holley Died, leaving Martha Holley his lawful married wife a widow with the following named children, Rebeckah [Rebecca] born the 20th day of May 1781, Mary born the 8th day of May 1783, James born the 24th of June 1785, Shirall born the 4th of

¹ Former Widow: "This woman's 2nd husband was pensioned, see Electious Thompson Md. S32017."

November 1787, John born the 8th of February 1790, Benjamin born the 27th of February 1792, Patey born the 8th of March 1794, Sarah born the 13th of August 1796. She further Declares that her husband Francis Holley was a citizen of a Frontier Settlement at the time the marriage took place between him and myself and continued to live in a frontier Settlement till his death which finally deprived me from having the opportunity of keeping a Bible record which would show my children's ages or her marriage or death therefore I Martha Thompson now do certify that my Declaration contains all the Material facts which I now recollect. She further states that she afterwards married Electrous Thompson a pensioner of the United States at the rate of \$50 per annum a private Soldier in the Maryland Continental line placed on the pension Roll September 17th 1833 aged seventy-eight on the 7th day of January 1826 who Died on the 30th day of December 1840 and that she is a widow at the time and on the day she signed this her application for a pension for the Services rendered by her first husband in the Defense of the general government and still remains a widow as will more fully appear by reference to the proof hereunto annexed.

S/ Martha Thompson, X her Mark

[fn p. 6: In December 1842 in Morgan County Alabama, Jacob Holley, near 75, filed an affidavit stating that he was born in the state of South Carolina near the beginning of the war; his father Jacob Holley moved on to Nolichucky then part of the frontier of North Carolina; was well acquainted with Francis Holley who was ordered out by Colonel Sevier to spy against the hostile Indians with Joseph Buller and Joseph Caney; that they started out, a Fort named Limestone Fort; that he, Francis Holley, acted as a spy for a period of not less than 4 years; that during this 4 years, Francis Holley married Martha Sherell; that Colonel Sevier order drafts to raise men to go against the British and Tories in South Carolina and the affiants father was drafted and marched to that part of the country and was in 2 engagements at the Cowpens and at Ninety Six; that his father was wounded at the battle of Ninety Six. The affiant signed his affidavit with his Mark on December 12, 1842.]

[fn p. 9: Shirell Holley, 55, gave an affidavit that he was well acquainted with Francis Holley and Martha Holley his wife until Francis Holley died on the 7th day of May 1807; that Francis Holley was his father; He recites his recollection of his father statements regarding his services as a spy in the revolution and 3 months in the Georgia militia; he also relates a conversation he had with a "Major Russell" (now dead) who spoke of his father services as an Indian spy.]