

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of George Halbrooks (Holbrooks) R5120

f27NC

Transcribed and annotated by Will Graves

3/29/11: rev'd 11/7/23

[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. The word 'illegible' or 'indecipherable' or 'undeciphered' appearing in brackets indicates that at the time I made the transcription, I was unable to decipher the word or phrase in question. 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 skills fail 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 material errors or omissions to my attention. Researchers should not rely solely on the transcripts but should review the originals for themselves. These transcripts are intended as an aid to research, not to be used in lieu thereof.]

[p 21]

[State of Indiana, Gibson County]

For the purpose of obtaining the benefit of an act entitled "An act for the relief of certain Surviving officers and Soldiers of the Army of the United States in the Revolution" approved, on the 15th of May 1828 I George Halbrooks aged 84 years in the County of Gibson State of Indiana, do hereby declare that I was an officer (a Captain in the Light Horse Service) in the Continental line of the Army of the Revolution and served as such until the end of the War, at which period I was a Captain of Light Horse or Dragoons in the Regiment Commanded by Colonel Hays¹ in the third Regiment; and commanded by Genl. Morgan [Daniel Morgan]. And I also declare that I afterwards received a certificate (commonly called a commutation certificate) for a term equal to the amount of five years full pay, which same was offered by the resolve of Congress of the 22nd of March 1783 instead of the half pay for life to which I was entitled under the resolve of the 21st of October 1780. And I do further declare that I have not received of the United States as a pensioner since the 3rd of March 1826 any money or pension of any kind nor since the 3rd day of March 1828. I further declare I held a Commission in the Continental line of the Army of the revolution as a Lieutenant in the foot in a company commanded by Capt. John Armstrong commanded by Colonel Smith and I think the third Regiment. I was a Lieut. in the foot Service 18 or 19 months after which I was transferred and promoted to the rank of a Captain of Horse, in which capacity, I Served until the war was over and I had regular Commissions in both the above situations which was destroyed about twenty one years since by accident.

S/ George Halbrooks



[attested August 7, 1828]

[John J. Neely and Thomas J. Evans gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[p 18]

Revolutionary Claims
Treasury Department,
Augt. 30, 1828

¹ The closest likely candidate I could identify as being PERHAPS the officer to whom the veteran is referring is Major John Hays of the 3rd Virginia Regiment of Foot. See E. M. Sanchez-Saavedra. *A Guide to Virginia Military Organizations in the American Revolution, 1774-1787*. Westminster, Maryland, Heritage Books, 2007, 39.

George Halbrooks of ___ in the County of Gibson in the State of Indiana has applied to the Secretary of the Treasury for the benefits of the act, entitled "An act for the relief of certain surviving officers and soldiers of the Revolution," approved the 15th of May, 1828. He states that was an officer in the Continental line, and served as such to the end of the War, at which period he was a Captain of Cavalry in the ___ regiment of the ___ line; and that he received commutation certificates for the five years full pay granted by the resolve of 22 March, 1783; and, further, that he has received as a pensioner since the 3rd of March 1826, nothing dollars, paid to him by the agent in the State of ___

The Third Auditor is requested to report how far the several statements are corroborated by the records in his Office.

By order of the Secretary
A. Dickins

Virginia.

The claimant's name is not found in the Virginia line-
3rd Auditor's Office 17th August 1829

Treasury Department,
Third Auditor's Office,
5th September 1828

~~It appears by the records of this office, that final settlement certificates had been issued for the commutation of five years full pay to ___ in the ___ line, amounting to ___ dollars.~~

It further appears that George Holbrooks [sic] is not now on the pension list of any agency, and has not been so since the 3rd March 1826 at the rate of ___ per month.

The Revolutionary records in this Office furnish no information in relation to the services of Capt. George Holbrooks [sic]

Peter Hagner, Aud.

War Department: Bounty land office
19 May 1829

The records of this Office, do not shew that Geoe. Holbrooks [sic] a Capt. of Cavalry ever received or in entitled to Land of the U. States.

E. Stephens

General Land Office
18 Sept. 1829

The name of George Holbrooks [sic] does not appear on the List of Warrants issued by the Register of the Land Office at Richmond Va. so far as they have been received.

Geo. Graham
Commissioner

[p 16]

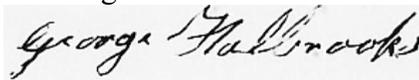
The Honorable Richard Rush, Secretary of the Treasury
Sir

Your letter of the 30th of August last has been received, making a further inquiry respecting my Services, as a Captain of Cavalry in the Continental The service of the United States in the Army of the Revolution, -- 1st the number of the Regiment, 2nd the line to which it long and 3rd the name of the Colonel, who commanded it.

In answer to that Inquiry I can State I belonged to the 3rd Regiment of Cavalry, and Served as a Captain in the same for upwards of three years, as to the line I can only State that it was Commanded

by Colonel John Hayse [sic, may be John Hays], and under Genl. Morgan and in the Continental line.

S/ George Halbrooks



Subscribed and Sworn to before me a Justice of the peace this 3rd day of October 1828.

S/ S. L Boicourt [?], JPGC

[p 27]

State of Indiana, Gibson County} Sct.

Be it remembered, that on the 22nd day of July 1829 personally appeared before me the Subscriber a Justice of the peace in the County aforesaid George Halbrooks who has heretofore applied to the Secretary of the Treasury for the benefit of an act of Congress passed the 15th of May 1828 for the benefit of certain Surviving officers and soldiers of the Army of the revolution who being duly sworn agreeably to law saith that he did served as a regular officer in the Regiment commanded by Colonel John Hays and known as the 4th Virginia Regiment of Cavalry that he Served as a Captain in said Regiment for the Term of three years & upwards, and was not discharged until the termination of the war, that he cannot at this time furnish any other evidence than his own affidavit.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this day & date above.

S/ George Halbrooks

S/ Payton Wheeler, J.P.G.C.

[p 2]

State of Indiana, Gibson County} SS Gibson Probate Court, February Term 1837

On this 13th day of February 1837, personally appeared before the Probate Court in & for said County of Gibson, George Halbrooks a resident of the County of Gibson and State of Indiana, aged ninety three years, who being first duly sworn according to law, doth on his oath make the following declaration, in order to obtain the benefit of the provision made by the Act of Congress passed June 7th 1832: That he entered the Army of the United States, as a Lieutenant in a Company commanded by Captain John Armstrong, and which he thinks was attached to the 3rd Regiment of North Carolina State Troops; that he so entered the service in the month of April or May 1776, at Surry Court House, North Carolina: that immediately afterwards, he was detailed by Captain Armstrong to recruit men to complete this company; that after it was made up it was mustered in or attached to the said 3rd Regiment; that he was still engaged in recruiting after the completion of the company to which he belonged, in Rowan, Guilford & Mecklenburg Counties N. C.; that he did not received his commission as Lieutenant until he had been in service some nine or twelve months; that he received recruiting funds from Robert Lenoir paymaster general. In consequence of his absence on the recruiting service he is unable to state with distinctness and certainty the names of the field officers of the Regiment to which he belonged, as he did not join it until the fall of 1777 as he thinks at Winchester, Virginia: but thinks the Colonel was Colonel Hays, who died some ten or twelve months after declarant first entered the Service, the Lt. Col. was Walker, and one Armstrong (then known as the Indian fighter) was Major – when he joined the Army as aforesaid, he (the declarant) marched a company which he had recruited from North Carolina to Winchester, and that one Col. Williams or Williamson was then commander of the 3rd Regiment and until his joining the Regiment aforesaid he was engaged in the recruiting service, and been so engaged nearly two years (precise time not recollected) and that he was attached to the Infantry. Declarant is unable to state from whom he received his commission as Lieutenant or by whom it issued or signed – having long since lost or mislaid it. He further states that this term of service was very nearly two years.

At Winchester he left the above Regiment by the persuasion of General Daniel Morgan (then Col.) and who was then lying with his regiment, which he thinks was the 3rd or 4th, at Winchester who

procured him a discharge from Col. Williams or Williamson and that he entered Morgan's Regiment from whom he received a commission as Captain of a company of Dragoons. He does not recollect the name of the Lieutenant Colonel of Morgan's Regiment but thinks that one Humphreys was Major. He thinks he entered Morgan's Regiment about the close of 1777. From Winchester the Regiment went [to] Frederick Town in Maryland where it was quartered the whole winter, and when the winter broke, it was marched for Philadelphia, entering the State of Pennsylvania, crossing the Susquehanna at "Harris's Ferry" & passing the towns of York, Lancaster and Carlisle: After passing the latter place, the route of the Army was changed, in consequence, he supposes, of orders from Head quarters, and there was much marching and countermarching. At this time he thinks that Philadelphia was in possession of the enemy. About this time (say the fall) he thinks the battle of Germantown [October 4, 1777] was fought. He Declarant says that he was in hearing of the battle being absent on a reconnoitering party. At this distant period [paper torn, text missing] in consequence of his extreme age, declarant is unable to [word missing as a result of a tear in paper] any thing like a detailed and accurate account, of the movements of that part of the Army to which his company was attached. He thinks that Armstrong, "the Indian fighter," succeeded Morgan upon the promotion of the latter: Shortly after the Battle of Germantown, marched South by forced marches, through Maryland & through Virginia, stopping in Staunton to recruit or rest the Army. Thence it proceeded to South Carolina, crossing Dan River at "Carmichael's Ford," thence to the "Shallow Ford" on the main Yadkin [River] in North Carolina, and without any halt of consequence reached the neighborhood of "the Cowpens" in South Carolina where an engagement [January 17, 1781] with the British took place: Genl. Morgan commanded the Americans and Col. Tarlton [sic, Banastre Tarleton] the enemy. In this action the British were defeated, and a personal encounter took place between Col. Washington, who commanded the right wing, and Col. Tarleton, in which the latter lost his Cue and a part of a finger by a Sabre blow from the former. Declarant thinks this battle was fought in January 1779 [sic, 1781]. The British were pursued after this action nearly to Ninety Six, when the Army abandoned the pursuit, and turned down Santee [River] to join the Main Southern Army under Genl. Green [sic, Nathanael Greene] (to join whom, he understood, was the object of Genl. Morgan's movements to South Carolina). Joined Genl. G. on the Santee, particular place or time not recollected, but thinks it was about 30 or 40 miles from the Eutaw Springs and about a fortnight before the action at that place. Declarant was in the battle of Eutaw, which he thinks was fought about the 1st April 1779 [sic, September 8, 1781]. In this action Declarant was under a new Colonel (cannot recollect his name with certainty, but thinks it was Col. Howard) who fell in this action; cannot recollect the Lt. Col.; but recollects the Major, who was Joseph Winston (he thinks) of Virginia. (In this place it may be proper to State, that Genl. Morgan and Col. Armstrong, under whom declarant served at the battle of Cowpens were with a detachment sent with the prisoners taken at the Cowpens to Staunton Virginia). Genl. Greene commanded the Americans and Declarant thinks, Lord Rawdon commanded the enemy, at the Eutaw Springs. The action was a very severe one, and the enemy was defeated. Cannot recollect the names of any officers, besides those mentioned, except one Col. Campbell of the regular service, he thinks was killed, and Col. William Campbell of the No. Ca. Militia. Shortly after this battle, the two lines which had been detached South (and which declarant belonged) under Genl. Morgan to join Gen. Greene, was marched to Hillsboro in North Carolina and there discharged or dismissed until again called upon – and this was done in consequence of a cessation of hostilities. Thinks this was in the month of May after the battle of Eutaw Springs which, declarant supposes, was in the year of 1779 [sic, 1781]. It may be proper here to State declarant predicates his averments in regard to the dates of the several more important events of his campaigns upon his recollection (imperfect at best) of the time of his entering the Service, and the intervals of time between these events. That inaccuracies in consequence of his extreme old age (now 93) and his infirmities no doubt have crept into his statement of his services – but he hopes he has stated the material events of his services with accuracy and particularly sufficient to convince the Department, that he was an eyewitness & participant in them.

The declarant has forgot to the state in addition to the above that went under the Command of Col. Morgan (that is when in his Regiment) and before returning to the South to join Genl. Greene, that he was marched into the State of New York from Maryland through Pennsylvania (this is the same march described above) through York, Lancaster, & Carlisle, crossing the Schuylkill [River] at or near Reading, thence crossing the Delaware [River] into New Jersey, passing through Princeton & Amboy to Elizabethtown, thence north into the State of New York marching up the North River to Albany to join the northern Army under Genl. Gates [Horatio Gates]. At Albany he was detached to intercept some provisions belonging to the English, who were then in that neighborhood under Gen. Burgoyne. This was the time that Gen. B. was captured. Declarant was not in the action, being absent as above, but came in after the capture, [he] thinks, the same evening-- Recollects seeing Generals Schuyler, Arnold and Lord Stirling here, but his recollection is not distinct. After the capture, the line under Genl. Morgan (who was there he thinks, was there promoted) to which declarant belonged, was marched into Pennsylvania, and wintered at Valley Forge, and in the spring marched south as aforesaid – and declarant begs that this make the taken in amendment to his statement above, in regard to his Campaign when in Pennsylvania.

Declarant thinks he can conscientiously [?] depose that he served in the Army of the United States as a Lieutenant a year and nine months at least, and that he served in the capacity of Captain of Dragoons three years and nine months, making his whole Service in the Revolution five years and six months at least. Declarant is aware that he has omitted to state some events which might have a favorable influence upon the action of the Department upon his application, and he hopes that all contradictions and discrepancies contained in his declaration will be attributable to his imperfect recollection of the events which transpired more than fifty years ago. He is willing however to depose and doth depose without qualification, to the length of time he served in the different capacities of Lieutenant and Captain which was as above.

~~Declarant was born in Frederick County Virginia in the year 1744.~~

The said declarant doth hereby relinquish every claim whatever to a pension or an annuity, except the present, and he declares his name is not on the Pension Roll of any Agency in any State. The Declarant saith he is unable to produce any documentary or other evidence of his testimony as aforesaid – having mislaid his commissions or lost them through lapse of time.

S/ George Halbrooks



[p 7]

Raleigh 21st of March 1837

Sir

I have carefully searched the rolls of the Continental line of this State in the revolutionary war for the name of George Holbrooks but do not find it there nor of any other document in the Office of Secretary of State for this State.

Very respectfully

Your Obedient Servant

S/ Wm Hill [North Carolina Secretary of State]

James L. Edwards

Commissioner of Pensions