

[Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements](#)

Pension application of Robert Holmes W84

Marjory

fn108NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

rev'd 5/16/11

[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.]

[fn p. 14]

State of Tennessee, Sumner County

On this 20th day of August 1832 personally appeared in open Court before the Justices of the County Court of Sumner, now sitting, Robert Holmes, a resident of said County and State aged 83 years, having been born in Ireland on January 5, 1748; landed in Philadelphia in June 1771; lived in Pennsylvania in the Forks of the Brandywine until 1777; who being first duly sworn according to law, doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the act of Congress passed June 7th, 1832. That about the last of May 1775, applicant volunteered under Captain Cochran for a tour of three months; marched first to Wilmington on the Delaware [River]; from thence up to Philadelphia in boats; there remained five or six days stationed in the Court House; then up the Delaware [River] to Trenton; remained there one day & night and drew our rations; then marched to Princeton in New Jersey; there remained a short time. We then marched to Brunswick; then to Woodbridge; thence to Amboy on North River. We were then ordered to the New Blazing Star where we remained until our time expired. While stationed at the last mentioned place, we exchanged fires frequently with the Hessians who lay stationed on the opposite side of the river. After the expiration of our time, we were discharged.

After having moved, in the latter part of the year 1777, to Rowan County State of North Carolina, applicant volunteered in the month of May 1780 under Captain Samuel Reed & was elected 1st Lieutenant in said company which office he held when he was attached to Col. Alexander's Regiment and Genl Rutherford's Brigade; was marched to Ramsour's Mill and defeated 1500 Tories; then marched down near Camden; then to Rugeley's Mills. We then took our march for Camden. There about half way between the Mills and Camden the two armies, Gates' and Cornwallis', met. Gates was defeated.

In this defeat, DeKalb was killed. General Rutherford and Major Gibbon were taken prisoners with many others -- applicant was amongst the number -- applicant with other prisoners was marched to Camden -- saw the wounds on Genl Rutherford's head which he had received from Tarleton's Dragoons. We were then marched to Charleston. Each day 150 men marched off until the 900 prisoners were all marched off. The first 150 were released by Marion [Genl Francis Marion] on the High Hills of Santee. Applicant was marched [on the] 5th day. After staying a short time at Charleston, we were marched down & put aboard the prison ships -- in number: *The Concorde*, *The Two Sisters* & *The Fidelity* where applicant remained about four months. About New Year's day, applicant, with all that survived the attack of the smallpox whilst on the ships, was landed and was put in the barracks where he remained until the latter part of February, when he with three men from Virginia, Thomas Lee, Tapley Nash & Thomas Riley, made their escape; and arrived at home the last of March a few days before Cornwallis marched to Salisbury. Genl Rutherford having been exchanged, applicant again volunteered under Captain Reed attached to the first Regiment of Genl Rutherford's Brigade; was marched down to Wilmington; where some British were stationed with whom we had several skirmishes, and who, after hearing of Cornwallis' surrender, evacuated place leaving it to be possessed by us. After the expiration of our term of service (3 months) we returned home bringing with us as much salt as the wagons of Genl Rutherford's Brigade could whole. The above is all of the service recollected, performed by applicant. He does not know of any person living whose testimony he can procure by whom he can prove his services. Applicant lived in Rowan County, North Carolina until 1806 when he moved to Sumner County, State of Tennessee where he has lived since. Applicant has no documentary evidence by which he can establish his claim. He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present and declares that his name is not on the Pension Rolls of the Agency of any State.

Sworn to and subscribed the day & year aforesaid in open court.

S/ Robert Holmes

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Robert Holmes". The signature is written in dark ink on a light background.

Test:

S/ A. H. Douglass, Clerk

[James Charlton and John H Turner gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[fn p. 11: On August 6, 1838 in Sumner County Tennessee, Margery Holms, 80, filed for a widow's pension under the 1836 act stating that she is the widow of Robert Holmes, a revolutionary war pensioner; that she married him on the [word overwritten and illegible] day of October 1780; that her husband died February 25, 1838; and that she remains his widow.]

[fn p. 86: On November 5, 1838, the widow filed an amended declaration in which she gave her age as "about 77 years"; that she in her earlier application was reciting the date of her marriage by memory but she now finds upon looking at the family record that she married her husband October 10, 1781, not in October 1780 as stated in her previous application.]

[fn p. 8]

State of Tennessee Sumner County: Evidence in the Case of Margery Holmes for pension September Term 1839 of the County Court for said County

Be it remembered that this the 2nd day of September 1839 personally appeared in open court the same being a Court of Record Albert G Holmes and Elijah Butler and made oath in due form of law that the annexed Leaf is from the family Bible of Robert Holmes deceased the late husband of Margery Holmes and that we are well acquainted with the handwriting of said Robert Holmes deceased and that we believe the said writing on said annexed Leaf is in the handwriting of said Robert Holmes deceased and that the same contains the original record of the Register of the date of the Marriage of the said Robert Holmes deceased & the said Margery Holmes the widow of the said Robert Holmes Deceased – and the dates of the birth of their children and that said Leaf had been taken from the Bible of said Robert Holmes deceased by us since his death for the purpose of affording to the Pension office of the United States upon the application of said Margery Holmes for the pension due her on account of the services of her deceased husband the said Robert Holmes as evidence of the true period of their marriage.

S/ Albert G. Holmes

S/ Elijah Butler

[fn p. 7 family record:

Robert and margrey was married October the 10th 1781

Nathaniel July the 10th 1782

Hanon was Born the October the twentieth second 178[last digit illegible]

Marey was Born Aprile the 10th 1786

Elizabeth October 22th 1788

Margrey fabuary the 20th 1799 [sic, 1790?]

Robert March the 7th 1793

James July the 14th 1794

Thomas October 10th 1796

Nathanel Holems Junier Boren Aprile the 5th 1799

Agnes Holems was Born the 7th day of november 1801

Robert Holems was Born December the 25th [entry obliterated and illegible]]

[fn p. 18]

State of Tennessee, Macon County

At a Court begun and held for the County and State aforesaid at the Court House in Lafayette on Monday the fifth day of September 1853: present the Worshipful Wilson Y. Adams, Washington White and Sampson Davis [?], Esquires, personally appeared in open court being a court of record, Albert G. Holmes, a resident of the County aforesaid aged 59 years who being first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefits of the provisions made by the acts of Congress passed on this seventh day of June 1832 allowing pensions to officers and soldiers who were engaged in the War of the Revolution and also the act of Congress passed on this seventh day of July 1838 and the various acts and amendments to the above named acts allowing pensions and arrears of pensions that should have been allowed to the said officers and soldiers and their widows during their lifetime and to

which their children acquired a right to after their death. Declarant states that he the said Albert G. Holmes, Thomas Holmes, Elizabeth McCracken and Nancy Alexander are the children of and lawful heirs of the said Robert Holmes and Marjory Holmes, deceased; that their father Robert Holmes was a pensioner of the United States at the rate of about \$55.00 per annum and drew his pension at Nashville, Tennessee; that their mother Marjory Holmes was then placed on the pension list after the death of their father and died on or about the 30th day of April 1841 and that the above rate of pension was paid to the heirs above stated. Declarant states that at the time his father in his lifetime made application for a pension he went with him to Gallatin when court was in session for the County of Sumner and declarant distinctly recollects that a young man in Mr. Turner's office drew up his father's declaration and was transcribed by Mr. Turner; that his father alleged his services to have been as Lieutenant; that the same was done in a great hurry amidst the confusion and bustle of the court then in session but not having these papers to refer to cannot say whether the same was inserted or not. Declarant states that when his father was placed on the pension list he was greatly dissatisfied as he expected the pay of Lieutenant for at least one years service in the revolution, ten months of which was in captivity hereinafter mentioned, another portion of his time as a Captain of horse, another part of his service as orderly Sergeant and would have made another effort to obtain his full pension had not his agent, John M. Turner, died. His father was also prevented from renewing his application on account of the distance and removed situation he lived from court at Gallatin and being old and infirm and unable to travel. Declarant will now state the services of his father in the War of the revolution often told him long before the pension laws were in existence and was a favorite conversation with him in his family to his children since his early recollection and which declarant fully believes to be true. Declarant states that his father enlisted in the service of the United States as a volunteer in the month of May 1780; was elected a first Lieutenant in the Company commanded by Captain Samuel Reid or S. Read when it was first raised and organized; was attached to Col. Alexander's Regiment and General Rutherford's Brigade and served until the battle of Camden or Gates' defeat on the 16th day of August following where he was taken prisoner and carried to Charleston. Declarant states that his father often told him the circumstances and disasters of this defeat. That during the engagement, the militia and volunteers, most of them were driven off the field of battle; That he was separated from his company and attached himself to Baron DeKalb's regulars and fought until he was taken prisoner by two British dragoons. That after he was carried to Charleston, he was placed aboard a prison ship and there kept a considerable time until the prisoners of the regular army, then in the Barracks in Charleston, were about [to] mutiny and burn the city when they were put on board the prison ships in place of the volunteers and the volunteers, including his father, were transferred to the barracks. Declarant states that his father continued a prisoner until about 10 months at which time is father and three others made their escape by digging under both the inward and outward stockade with old worn out spades and when they got out at the waters' edge in the night time the tide was up and they had to wait until it fell before they could travel during which time they got the watch word of the relief guard "all is well" so close were they to the sentinel. They pursued their course through the pine forest traveling in the nighttime and hiding in the day until they met with some friends who gave them provisions and direction to find Marion. These men or friends were by the name of Fielders. They came to General Marion who

treated them kindly and gave them provision to last them home. Declarant states that to the best of his recollection his father was about twelve months in this tour as Lieutenant, ten months of which was, or at least from, the battle of Camden above stated until May 1781 was a prisoner of war for which he claims the full pay of Lieutenant. Declarant further states that his father stayed at home but about two weeks when he entered the service again but cannot state the Captain's name but he distinctly recollects his father saying either in this or some other tour of service to have been as orderly Sergeant. His father returned home after serving about three months in this tour. His father returned home during the summer of 1781. The war was then raging in North Carolina and the British Army after the battle of Guilford had taken the route to Virginia. His father then raised a company of horse; was Captain of the company; marched to Virginia but did not arrive at Little York before the surrender but got very near the place when he received orders to return to North Carolina. His company was ordered to guard some salt wagons on their march to North Carolina which was an article much in demand. He was out a three month tour this time being in all about eighteen months; these services as before stated his father often told him about long before the pension laws were ever heard of and declarant fully believes to be true. The premises considered, declarant prays that the whole matter be taken up by the Commissioner of Pensions and such arrears of pension granted as in Justice belong to the heirs and, as the heirs live in different states removed from each other declarant prays that the pension allowed be made payable to the lawful administrator of Marjory Holmes deceased and as in duty bound they will ever pray &c. Declarant further states that his father lived in Iredell County North Carolina during the war of the revolution and moved from that state after the revolution about the year 1808 to Sumner County Tennessee where he lived until his death.

S/ Albert G. Holmes

Sworn in open court

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Albert G. Holmes". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned to the right of the text "Sworn in open court".

[fn p. 93: certificate dated July 20, 1854 from the North Carolina Comptroller listing in detail the payments made to Robert Holmes during the revolutionary war for military services including payments made to a Captain Robert Holems [sic].]

[facts in file: the widow was the daughter of Thomas Bell; in another filing dated 1838 the widow gave her age as 77 years; in 1839 she was living in Williamson County Tennessee at the home of Thomas McCracken; the widow died April 30, 1841 in Macon County Tennessee

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$55.64 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for 16 months and 21 days service as a private in the Pennsylvania and North Carolina militias.]