Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters

Bounty Land Warrant of Benjamin Hoomes (Holmes) BLWt977-300 VA Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. Revised 5 May 2015.

[The federal bounty-warrant file for Benjamin Hoomes contains no original document. There is also a federal pension file for "Benjamin Holmes," with no original document. The jacket of the latter file is inscribed "Dis," for disability, and states that Benjamin Holmes is the same person as Benjamin Hoomes. The following are from bounty-warrant files in the Library of Virginia:]

I do certify that Captain Benjamin Hoomes of my Regiment (a Gentleman whose conduct both in Field Camp and Garrison entitles him not only to the appellation of a good officer and soldier, but to the friendship and esteem of every Well-Wisher of America) was detached a few days before the Battle of Monmouth [28 Jun 1778] from said Regiment into a Corps under the Command of Colonel Walter Stewart, and in that action, when said corps was making a noble and firm resistance against one of the enemy's columns bearing down on our left, he was unfortunately wounded in his ancle, the Corps being pressed hard, he was a second time wounded on the crown of his Head, which obliged them to leave him on the field, where he was barbarously butchered and stripped naked by the Enemy, who left him for dead after having cut his forehead, stabbed his breast &c.

But our troops being brought a second time to the charge regained the ground, where he lay, and by the assistance of a good surgeon he is so far recovered, that he prepares to return to Virginia to try if possible to recover the use of his foot, of which there is a great doubt.

I therefore beg leave to recommend him to every provision made by Congress for officers wounded and maimed[?] in the service as likewise to the Friend[ship?] and good officers of every gentleman civil or military which I in like case shall take pleasure in retaliating.

Given under my hand at Philadelphia this 8th day of October 1778

Christian Febiger/ Colonel 2nd Virginia Reg't.

Mr Benjamin Holmes, formerly Captain of the Second Regiment of Virginia, suffers of several wounds, which he received in the engagement of Monmouth, most severly from two, in his head. Besides a giddiness, loss of memory, &c. which in a great measure render him incapable of doing justice

to himself, his family, & to Society, during his uncertain vivid intervales; his life is endangered every minute, by fits of the epileptic kind, the consequence of those wounds; a circumstance, which must make death preferable to life; more particularly, as there appears to probability of bringing about a cure. Tho' at his request, yet I owe this certificate to truth, justice, and merit of the Captain.

John Roberts

This is to certify that from my first acquaintance with Captain Holmes he has been much of an Invalid and it appeared to me that his complaints were the effects of the severe wounds he had received; and altho the Epileptic complaints proceed from a variety of causes, yet I am induced to believe that the severe fitts he is afflicted with are caused by an injury done to the brain from the wounds en [the rest missing from the online image]

Captain Benjamin Hoomes entered into the service of the United States in the Second Virginia Regiment in the year 1775, was wounded at the Battle of Monmouth, and continued in service to the end of the War.

7th September 1796 James Wood Late BG [Brigadier General] Captain Hoomes's whole term of service was upwards of Eight years.

[The following are from pension records in the Library of Virginia:]

At a Court held for King and Queen County the 9th Day of August 1785

Benj'a Hoomes being summoned to appear at this Court to shew cause why his pension should not be discontinued; and having appeared, the Court upon examination are of opinion that it ought to be continued which is ordered to be certified

A copy

I DO, with the advice of Council, hereby certify that Benjamin Hoomes [illegible abbreviation] of King & Queen late a Captain in the 2nd Virginia Regiment, appears to have been disabled in such a manner while in the service of the United States as to entitle him to the sum of Seventy Two Pounds yearly; which allowance is accordingly made him, to commence from the first day of January 1786

GIVEN under my hand at Richmond, this 10th day of June 1786.

P. Henry

King and Queen County on Monday the 12th day of June 1786

Benjamin Hoomes formerly a Captain in the Second Virginia regiment in the service of the united states of America produced a certificate from under the hand of his Excellency Patrick Henry Esquire Governor of this Commonwealth that he is continued on the pension list with an allowance of half pay being seventy two pounds per annum It is ordered that the said Certificate be recorded and that the Sheriff of this County do pay unto the said Benjamin Hoomes thirty six pounds in part of said pension.

A Copy Robert Pollard D Clk

June 30th 1786

Reced agreable to the within order of Court of the Sheriff of s'd. County Thirty Six pounds Benj. Hoomes

[The file includes many documents similar to the preceding three.]

Gentlemen

Agreeable to a request of your Court (at a session held in February) I have proceeded to examine into the disability of Captain Benjamin Hoomes and John Marshall pensioners and residents of this County

Captain Benjamin Hoomes, is still subject to the Epilepsy (or what is commonly called the falling sickness) and the return of it are frequent – and the attacks usually very Violent and from sundry circumstances, it is very probable that this disease will accompany him during the whole course of his life, it has likewise been productive of sundry other complaints as particularly general debility of body; which renders him unfit for any of the laborious exercises of life; and the General injury done to the faculties of his mind has been such as to render him by no means adequate to the exercise of any function which requires a steady regular [part missing from the online images] smallest degree, since it was thought proper to allow him a pension I am with due respect

To the Worshipful Court

Gentlemen your Most Ob't. Serv't.

of King & Queen County

Joseph W. Lee/ February 20th 1790

Mr William Lytell Mar 2

Sir Having neglected to mention to you at King Wm. Court the continuance of my father on the pension list I take this method of requesting that favor of you at your next meeting as I shall be at Richmond on Wednesday next & would be put to inconvenience without it. I am sir with great regard Your ob't Serv't/ Thos Hoomes

City of Richmond to wit

Thomas C. Hoomes personally appeared before me a magistrate for the said City and made oath that Benjamin Hoomes of King & Queen county a Pensioner of the State of Virginia departed this life on the 20 day of May in the year one thousand eight hundred & twelve Given under my hand this 28th day of Jan'y 1814

Robert McKern

[From Library of Virginia Legislative Petitions Digital Collection/ King and Queen County]

The petition of Benjamin Hoomes formerly a Captain of the second regiment of Virginia to the Assembly of Virginia Humbly shews that your petitioner on account of his being disabled by a variety of wounds at the battle of Monmouth, was placed on the list of pensioners of the State of Virginia, by the Assembly of the said State, with an annuity of twenty two pounds, upon which your petitioner surrounded by a large family, lived happily in the full enjoyment of those Rights in support of which he "Fought and bled," untill the second day of April 1804 when an accident at Fire reduced his dwelling house together with a considerable portion of his personal estate, to ashes, which unfortunate circumstance, aided by your petitioners inability to use personal exertion, together with some pecuniary disappointments have extremely embarrassed the situation of your petitioner and compel him to request that he may receive a commutation of his pensions aforesaid, by obtaining in lieu thereof seven years pension or five hundred pounds, which would afford that immediate relief to your petitioner, that could not be produced by the tardy receipts of an annuity and which sum your petitioner trusts will be adjudged reasonable, as he would be entitled to receive seventy two pounds on the fifth day of March next, on account of his pension afores'd

I hereby certify that I have been acquainted with Capt. Benja. Hoomes of King & Queen County for many years, during which he has been afflicted with epileptic Fits, to which he is still occasionally subject; but that in other respects he appears at this time to be in a good state of health.

Teste/ Rich'd Brooke

Wm. Baynham/ Surgeon/ Nov'r 27th 1805

To Claims Ref'd Dec'r. 5th 1805/ reasonable/ Reported