

## Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Joseph Holt R15187

f6VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

4/16/14 rev'd 3/6/19

[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' 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 8<sup>th</sup> of June 1786." Please call material errors or omissions to my attention.]

Leesburg Tennessee November 30<sup>th</sup>, 1851

To

Hon. A. Johnson<sup>1</sup>

Washington DC

Sir

I have undertaken a certain pension claim, which is one of importance and one over which hangs a strange mystery and you will do me and the parties concerned the favor of having a full and complete investigation made of the case, and in what condition it is in at this time and informed me at your earliest convenience (at Leesburg).

The case is this, Joseph Holt Lieutenant belonging to the Virginia State line of the Army of the Revolution died without ever receiving his due according to the decrees of the Court of Appeals of Virginia in which was payable out of the US Treasury by an Act of Congress.

During the latter part of Honorable John Blair's<sup>2</sup> time in Congress, all the requisitions of

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<sup>1</sup> JOHNSON, Andrew, (father-in-law of David Trotter Patterson), a Representative and a Senator from Tennessee and a Vice President and 17th President of the United States; born in Raleigh, N.C., on December 29, 1808; self-educated; at the age of 13 was apprenticed to a tailor; moved to Tennessee in 1826; employed as a tailor; alderman of Greeneville, Tenn., 1828-1830; mayor of Greeneville 1834-1838; member, State house of representatives 1835-1837, 1839-1841; elected to the State senate in 1841; elected as a Democrat to the Twenty-eighth and to the four succeeding Congresses (March 4, 1843-March 3, 1853); chairman, Committee on Public Expenditures (Thirty-first and Thirty-second Congresses); did not seek renomination, having become a gubernatorial candidate; Governor of Tennessee 1853-1857; elected as a Democrat to the United States Senate and served from October 8, 1857, to March 4, 1862, when he resigned; chairman, Committee to Audit and Control the Contingent Expenses (Thirty-sixth Congress), Committee on the District of Columbia (Thirty-sixth Congress); appointed by President Abraham Lincoln Military Governor of Tennessee in 1862; elected Vice President of the United States on the Republican ticket with Abraham Lincoln in 1864 and was inaugurated on March 4, 1865; became President of the United States on April 15, 1865, upon the death of Abraham Lincoln; wide differences arising between the President and the Congress, a resolution for his impeachment passed the House of Representatives on February 24, 1868; eleven articles were set out in the resolution and the trial before the Senate lasted three months, at the conclusion of which he was acquitted (May 26, 1868) by a vote of thirty-five for conviction to nineteen for acquittal, the necessary two-thirds vote for impeachment not having been obtained; retired to his home in Tennessee upon the expiration of the presidential term, March 3, 1869; unsuccessful candidate for election to the United States Senate in 1869 and to the House of Representatives in 1872; elected as a Democrat to the United States Senate and served from March 4, 1875, until his death near Elizabethton, Carter County, Tenn., July 31, 1875; interment in the Andrew Johnson National Cemetery, Greeneville, Greene County, Tenn.

<http://bioguide.congress.gov/scripts/biodisplay.pl?index=J000116>

<sup>2</sup> BLAIR, John, a Representative from Tennessee; born at Blairs Mill, near Jonesborough (now Jonesboro),

the law had been head in this County for the benefit of Martha Glass, daughter and legal representative of Joseph Holt deceased.

In this case you will please, if possible have an immediate investigation of the case with a report of its present condition, and whether this case was made out according to law, and if so, was the money ever paid ever and to whom, and upon what authority, and what amount – After John Blair's service the matter took a sudden stop, and no information has since been received in the case. If the case was made out according to law, and if ever paid there must be some evidence of such payment, and to whom –

Please vouch for me at the Department, so that my communications may receive the attention of the Commissioner of Pensions –

The mystery which appears to fail this case should if possible be removed that the parties interested may have their due.

I am very respectfully &c.  
S/ R. Humphreys

Joseph Holt's name does not appear on the records of this Office as a Lieutenant in the Virginia State line.

His heirs have never applied for a pension or for Half-pay under the Act 5 July 1852.

He never received land from Virginia.

[Note: the above is not signed or attributed to any source although my guess would be it came from the Virginia state auditor's office.]

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[From [bounty land records in the Library of Virginia](#)] 56-page file

[p 2]

H [heirs] Joseph Holt Lieutenant

The Memorial, evidence, Documents &c of John W Holt son and Devisee of Lieutenant Joseph Holt for Land Bounty 20 April 1838

This claim is allowed for a service of 3 years in Continental line

S/ D C [David Campbell, Governor of Virginia]

Cft isd [certificate issued]

S/ JRR 20 April 1838

[pp 3-12: the report of John H. Smith, Commissioner, outlining the services of the claimant's ancestry and supporting documents transcribed below.]

[pp 13-14]

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Washington County, Tenn., September 13, 1790; attended Martain Academy, and was graduated from Washington (Tenn.) College in 1809; studied law; was admitted to the bar in 1813 and practiced; member of the State house of representatives 1815-1817; served in the State senate 1817-1821; elected as a Jacksonian Republican to the Eighteenth Congress; reelected as a Jacksonian to the Nineteenth through Twenty-third Congresses (March 4, 1823-March 3, 1835); chairman, Committee on Expenditures in the Department of State (Twentieth Congress); unsuccessful candidate for reelection in 1834 to the Twenty-fourth Congress; retired to private life; again a member of the State house of representatives, in 1849 and 1850; resumed the practice of law; died in Jonesboro, Tenn., July 9, 1863; interment in the Old Cemetery.

<http://bioguide.congress.gov/scripts/biodisplay.pl?index=B000528>

B.O. June 18<sup>th</sup> 177? [last digit illegible]

The following Gentleman of my Brigade are to hold themselves in readiness to proceed to Virginia & collect & forward the Drafts to Camp – Lieutenant Colonel Ballard will superintend the recruiting business for my Brigade & receive his orders from his Excellency General Washington

Lieutenant Colonel Ballard	1 <sup>st</sup> Virginia
Major Gaskins	5 Virginia
Captain William Cunningham	1 <sup>st</sup> Virginia
Captain Pelham	Do
Lieutenant Ballard Smith	Do
Lieutenant Holt	Do
Lieutenant Drewry	Do
Lieutenant McAdams	5 <sup>th</sup> Virginia
Lieutenant Obadiah Smith	Do
Lieutenant Miller	Do

Until the Return of these Gentlemen from Virginia the 1<sup>st</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> Regiments will be joined together & do duty as one Regiment and be commanded by Colonel Richard Parker, Lieutenant Colonel Ball and Major Dickenson, the other Gentlemen Officers will please to wait on Colonel Parker where they will see in what manner they are Posted in the Regiment by this temporary arrangement.

I hereby Certify that the foregoing is a true copy of an entry in an order Book of the Army of the Revolution. The said Book was presented to the Historical Society of Virginia by the Executor of the late Colonel Charles Dabney of Hanover, and is now in the Office of the 1<sup>st</sup> Auditor

S/ D. Darlington  
15<sup>th</sup> November 1837

[p 17: illegibly faint]

[p 18]

This is to Certify, That it appears from a List in this Office of such Officers and Soldiers of the Virginia Continental Line, during the Revolutionary War, as settled their Accounts, and received Certificates for the balance of their Full Pay, according to an Act of Assembly, passed the November Session 1781, that a Certificate issued on the 29<sup>th</sup> day of March 1784, in the name of Joseph Holt, as a Lieutenant of Infantry for £73.15.2, which Certificate appears to have been delivered to himself and was given for services prior to the 1<sup>st</sup> January 1782.

To wit: payment as Lieutenant in 4<sup>th</sup> Regiment from first January 1777 to 2<sup>nd</sup> April 1778

Given under my hand, at the Auditor's Office, Richmond, this  
6<sup>th</sup> day of February 1836.

S/ Jas E. Heath, AUDITOR

[p 18-19: split image of another document prepared by John H. Smith, Commissioner]

[p 22]

To his Excellency Wyndham Robertson Lieutenant Governor, Acting as Governor, of the Commonwealth of Virginia:

The Memorial of John White Holt of Bedford County, State of Virginia –

Your memorialist begs leave most respectfully to represent that he is a son and the residual Devisee of Joseph Holt Senior, Deceased, late of Bedford County, who was a Lieutenant in the State line of Virginia on Continental establishment during the War of the Revolution – (see copy of Last Will and Testament, and certificate of Court hereto annexed) – He further represents that his Father, the said Joseph Holt, at the commencement of the Revolutionary War, was a resident of the County of Charlotte. Soon after the commencement of hostilities, the said Joseph Holt was actively engaged in recruiting men in the County of Charlotte and the adjoining Counties for the Continental service, and continued in that business until a large company was formed. He at that time acted in the capacity of Ensign. John Brent of Charlotte was Captain, Edmund Read & Thomas Spencer were lieutenants, and the said Joseph Holt was Ensign, in month 1776, when the company received marching orders. The company then ordered to Portsmouth in Virginia, to which place they immediately marched, and were stationed, until late in the fall of that year. Sometime in the fall of 1776, and during their stay at Portsmouth, Edmund Read one of the lieutenants in the company resigned, who afterwards received the Commission of Captain of Cavalry in the State service, and was attached to Major Nelson's command. Upon the resignation of Lieutenant Read, a vacancy occurred, and the said Ensign Joseph Holt was promoted to the lieutenancy in the said company. He was commissioned as Lieutenant in January 1777. From Portsmouth, the company were ordered to the North, and joined the main body of the Army under command of General Washington, and were attached to the 4<sup>th</sup> Virginia Regiment, commanded by Colonel Lawson and General Stevens. The said Lieutenant Holt was engaged in the battles of Brandywine [September 11, 1777] and Germantown [October 4, 1777], and most of the battles of much importance, which were fought during the campaigns of 77, 78 & 79. He did not return from the Northern Army, except on Furlough, until North Carolina & Virginia became the seat of war. In short during the whole period of the Revolutionary War, except short intervals, when on Furlough, he was actively engaged in the service of his country. On all occasions he conducted himself with great bravery and courage, and distinguished himself for activity and energy of character whilst in the line of duty. All of which will more readily appear by reference to the annexed certificates of old revolutionary soldiers who served with him at various periods of the war, and whose character for veracity cannot be questioned.

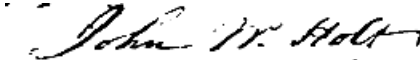
Your Memorialist further represents that the said Lieutenant Holt never resigned, as will appear from the letter of James E. Heath Esquire Auditor of public accounts, as appears from the Records of his office, which letter is hereto annexed – Your memorialist begs leave further to file with this Memorial a letter from John H Smith Esquire late "Commissioner of Revolutionary Claims" stating the Evidence on which he reported that there was unsatisfactory proof of the title of Lieutenant Holt to Bounty land. The accompanying Certificates were never before Commissioner Smith, and his explanations that Lieutenant Joseph Holt might have served prior to first January, 1777, and also, subsequently to the 2<sup>nd</sup> of April 1778. The documents to which your memorialist refers is "A List of officers of the Virginia Continental and State lines, and State Navy, whose names appear on the Army Register and who have not received Land for Revolutionary services at all," reported by Mr. Smith to Governor Floyd in 1835 and has been published.

Your Memorialist further states, it appears from the public Records in Richmond that the said Lieutenant Holt has never received Bounty land for his services in the Revolutionary war. Your Memorialist therefore pray that your Excellency will grant him a warrant for the quantity of

land, allowed a Lieutenant of the Continental line, in pursuance of the laws of Virginia in such case made and provided.

In conclusion your Memorialist begs leave to state that in consequence of the great distance at which he lived from Charlotte and the adjoining counties, where he always expected to find many of the old soldiers who served under his Father, and from other causes, which he deems unnecessary to name, he has delayed until the present time his application for bounty land. Having now obtained the certificates of many persons of the very best character – of those who were with him, and were eyewitnesses of his services at various periods of the war – and whose character for truth and veracity cannot be him. And or questioned in any shape – he submits his case with cheerfulness to the decision of the Executive – And your memorialist as in duty bound, shall ever pray &c

S/ John W Holt



[Attested August 11, 1836 in Bedford County Virginia]

[p 29]

9 September 1781

Dr. Sir

On my coming home find by a letter from Mr. Robert Colweld he desires leaving the County & of course can no longer serve as Commissioner – also find you are willing to accept the appointment which I am happy to find – you are accordingly appointed a Deputy Commissioner of the Provisions for Charlotte County you will immediately apply to Mr. Colweld for all the necessary papers in his hands as also a list of the cattle to be collected as you may the better do Justice to the people – And proceed to the execution of the Business with all due Speed – if the Six men allowed for assistance is not chosen – apply to Captain Read & have it done the Order now sent pray Comply with if possible – Will call on you in a few days – and give you your Commission and other orders if necessary in confidence you will use your best endeavors to serve the [several undeciphered words]

Your Sincere friend & Brother Soldier

S/ Henry Terrell



[p 30]

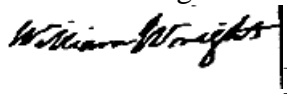
Virginia – Cumberland County to wit

I William Wright do hereby Certify that Joseph Holt, Deceased, was an Ensign in Captain John Brent's Company of Continental soldiers, when they marched from Charlotte County in the month of March 1776; at that time, John Brent was Captain, Thomas Spencer and Edmund Read were Lieutenants – In the fall of 1776, Edmund Read resigned, and Joseph Holt was afterwards promoted and made Lieutenant in Captain Brent's Company. The said company was attached to the 4<sup>th</sup> Virginia Regiment on Continental establishment and commanded by Colonel Lawson and General Stevens.

I was a soldier under Captain John Morton and attached to the same Regiment and was

with Lieutenant Holt in the same Regiment for two years, and left him in the service when I was discharged – Given under my hand this 21<sup>st</sup> day of June 1836.

S/ William Wright



[pp 33-34]

State of Virginia – Charlotte County to wit:

I Joseph Legrand of Charlotte do hereby Certify that Joseph Holt, Deceased, was an officer in Captain John Brent's company of Regulars, who marched from Charlotte in the month of March 1776 and attached to the 4<sup>th</sup> Virginia Regiment on Continental establishment in the revolutionary war. At the time this company marched, John Brent was Captain, – Edmund Read and Thomas Spencer were Lieutenants, and Joseph Holt was Ensign – Edmund Read, afterwards, resigned, and became the Captain of a Troop of Cavalry in the State service attached to Major Nelson's command, and the said Joseph Holt was then promoted to the Lieutenancy in Captain Brent's Company – It is my firen [sic ?] belief and the impression that Lieutenant Joseph Holt continued in the Continental service until the close of the war, and was an able and efficient officer – Being attached to the Commissary Department in the Revolutionary war, my situation as such, enabled me to know a good deal of the services of Lieutenant Holt – Given under my hand this 19<sup>th</sup> day of April 1836

S/ Joseph Legrand



[pp 36-37]

Virginia – Charlotte County to wit:

I William Gaines of the County of Charlotte, do hereby Certify that Joseph Holt Deceased formerly of the County of Charlotte, and late of the County of Bedford, was well known to me in the Revolutionary war – He was an Ensign in the Company of Captain John Brent, which marched from the County of Charlotte, sometime in the month of March, 1776 and was attached [to] the 4<sup>th</sup> Virginia Regiment on Continental establishment in the revolutionary war – He was afterwards promoted and made Lieutenant in the same company and Regiment – I cannot say with any degree of certainty how long he was in the service of his country, but am under the impression and belief that he continued to hold the commission of Lieutenant until the close, or nearly the close of the war – I am certain, he was in the service as an officer longer than three years – He resided for a long time in the same neighborhood with me, and was an intimate acquaintance of mine: he afterwards moved to the County of Bedford, where I understood he died – I have seen the certificate of William Vaughan and John Foster both of whom were soldiers in the same Regiment, and have the best opportunity of knowing the services of Lieutenant Joseph Holt in the Revolutionary war – They are both men of great respectability, and their statement entitled to the fullest credit and belief –

Given under my hand this 4<sup>th</sup> day of April, 1836

S/ William Gaines

*William Vaughan*

[pp 38-39]

State of Virginia – Charlotte County to wit:

I do hereby Certify that Joseph Holt, Deceased, late of the County of Charlotte, was first an Ensign, and then a Lieutenant, in the company commanded by Captain John Brent in the Revolutionary War: the said company was attached to the 4<sup>th</sup> Virginia Regiment on Continental Establishment, commanded by Colonel Lawson and General Stevens – The said Lieutenant Joseph Holt was in the service to my certain knowledge at least Three years, for I was a soldier under him in the same company, the longer portion of the time. He was engaged in the battles of Brandywine and Germantown, and distinguished himself as an able and efficient Officer. I left him in the service: and have been credibly informed, by those who had an opportunity of knowing the fact that he continued in the service of his country until the close or near the close of the Revolutionary War. The Company marched from the County of Charlotte in the month of March 1776, to Portsmouth in Virginia, where they remained until late in the fall of 1776: the company was then marched to the North to join the Grand Army under Command of General Washington – Given under my hand this 4<sup>th</sup> day of March, 1836

S/ William Vaughan

*William Vaughan*

[pp 39-40]

State of Virginia – Charlotte County to wit:

I John Foster of the County of Charlotte do hereby certify that in the year 1776, I enlisted as a soldier in the County of Prince Edward, under Captain John Morton. The said company was attached to the 4<sup>th</sup> Virginia Regiment on Continental establishment, commanded by Colonel Lawson under General Stevens. I have a distinct recollection of Joseph Holt, who was first an Ensign, and then a Lieutenant, in Captain John Brent's company, which marched from the County of Charlotte, March, 1776. The certificate of William Vaughan, on the third page, has been read to me, and [I] take pleasure in saying that the statement as made by him of the services of Joseph Holt in the Revolutionary War is substantially true and correct, as coming within my own personal knowledge. The said Holt was in the service something like three years; and I left him in the service when I was discharged. I am now 82 years old. Given under my hand this 12<sup>th</sup> day of March 1836.

S/ John Foster

*John Foster*

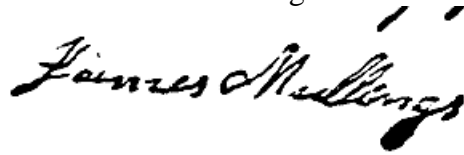
[pp 41-42]

Virginia – Charlotte County to wit:

I James Mullings of the County of Charlotte do hereby Certify that Captain John Brent's company of Continental soldiers, marched from the County of Charlotte in the month of March, 1776: and recollect distinctly that Joseph Holt Deceased was an Ensign in the said company at

the time – The said Joseph Holt was afterwards promoted to a lieutenantcy in the said company which was attached to the 4<sup>th</sup> Virginia Regiment on Continental establishment in the Revolutionary war. My impression is that Lieutenant Holt continued in the service to the close of the war: I am certain from my own personal knowledge that he was in the service as Lieutenant more than three years. I am now in my 85<sup>th</sup> year of age and was a soldier in the Revolutionary Army. Given under my hand this 14<sup>th</sup> day of April 1836

S/ James Mullings



[pp 43-44]

State of Virginia Charlotte County to wit:

I William P Hamlett of Charlotte to hereby certify that Joseph Holt, Deceased, late of Bedford County, was an Ensign in Captain John Brent's Company of Continental Regulars, when they marched from Charlotte in the month of March 1776: at that time, John Brent was Captain Thomas Spencer and Edmund Read were lieutenants. In the fall of 1776, Edmund Read resigned as Lieutenant, and was, afterwards, commissioned as a Captain in the state service, and commanded a troop of Cavalry. Ensign Joseph Holt, was then promoted and made Lieutenant in Captain Brent's Company – The said company was attached to the 4<sup>th</sup> Virginia Regiment on Continental establishment commanded by Colonel Robert Lawson and General Stevens [Edward Stevens] – I have no doubt, Lieutenant Holt was in the Continental service longer than three years successively = and do believe and have always understood from the best authority, that he continued in the same service and was a bold, active and efficient officer, until the close of the Revolutionary war – I was a soldier in the revolutionary war, and a good deal in active service; have drawn Land Bounty for my services, and am now a Pensioner of the United States.

Given under my hand this 23<sup>rd</sup> day of May, 1836

S/ William P Hamlett



[p 47]

Richmond September 23<sup>rd</sup> 1781

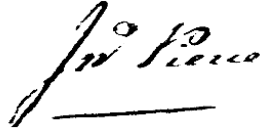
Sir

I am Just directed by his Excellency the Governor to have all the Beeves in future sent to the Army and to desist sending to hog Island as the French fleet is supplied from the Countys below. You will therefore be pleased to send your Beeves the nearest rout you can to the Army, which is now in the Vicinity of Wm/burg [Williamsburg] and must entreat [?] you to exert [?] yourself on this occasion as the quantity of [several words too faint to discern] and unless you send [words too faint to discern] with the greatest expedition it will be impossible to support the Army. [Several words too faint to discern] the inhabitants convenient to [undeciphered word] must experience the most fatal consequences as they will most assuredly see [several words too faint to discern] families have not enough to subsist on – I hope therefore that [several words too faint to discern] your power will be given to support the Army to prevent the Sufferings of your fellow citizens who at this time are so unhappily situated as to be subject to the [several words



too faint to discern].

I am Sir  
your m sob  
S/ Jno Pierce Commsy [John Pierce, Commissary]

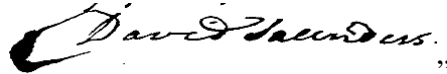
A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "John Pierce", with a horizontal line underneath.

[pp 50-51: first page of an affidavit given by David Saunders the image of which is illegibly faint. The second page of that affidavit is legible and reads as follows:

“... And married Susanna Saunders by whom he had one son now Colonel John W Holt a resident of the said County of Bedford and the only residuary devisee of the said Joseph Holt Senior deceased.

Given under my hand this 30<sup>th</sup> day of August 1836 in the County of Bedford

S/ David Saunders

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "David Saunders", with a horizontal line underneath.

[p 51- 52: split image of clerk's certification]

[pp 53-55: split images of a letter dated Sept. 4<sup>th</sup> 1836 from Wm L. B. Bedford transmitting the petition of Col John W. Holt, son and residuary legatee of Lt. Joseph Holt.]

[p 56: blank]