

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of John Holmes R5173

Transcribed by Will Graves

f50NC

rev'd 5/12/11 & 1/6/16

[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 8th of June 1786." Please call material errors or omissions to my attention.]

[p 26]

For the purpose of obtaining the benefit of "An act for the relief of certain Surviving Officers & Soldiers of the Army of the Revolution" approved on the 15th of May 1828, I John Holmes of the County of Brunswick in the State of North Carolina, do hereby declare that I enlisted in the Continental line of the Army of the revolution, for and during the war, and continued in its Service until its termination at which period I was a private in Captain James Mills' Company of the 5th Regiment of the North Carolina line. And I also declare that I afterwards received a Certificate for the reward of \$80, which I was entitled to under a resolve of Congress passed the 15th of May 1778 – And I further declare that I was not on the 15th day of March 1828 on the Pension list of the United States.

S/ John Holmes, X his mark

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State of North Carolina, County of Brunswick

On this fifth day of December [1838] personally appeared John R. Holmes a resident of the County of Brunswick and State of North Carolina aged eighty 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 7, 1832.

That he enlisted in the Army of the United States in the year 1777 and served at Fort Johnson under Captain Robt Eliss [Robert Ellis] and Lieutenants James Smith and John Devane; that said Fort Johnson [sic, Fort Johnston], as [it was] then called, was in the County of Brunswick and State of North Carolina; that he enlisted for the term of two years and served twenty-two months of that time when a British brig and a large sloop came in from [the] sea and took the Fort and blocked up the magazine There were about eighty or ninety men in Garrison, they all made their escape with the exception of Lieutenant Devane, Sergeant Denny and three man who were taken prisoners and carried to sea and kept three or four days and put ashore on Piny Point. The greater part of the Company went to Wilmington North Carolina and got their discharges. This Declarant got his discharge from Captain Elliss but has lost it. That he never entered the service afterwards. That he resided in Brunswick County North Carolina at the time he entered the service. That he was not engaged in any Battles then that already mentioned.

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or an annuity except the present and he declares that his name is not on the pension roll of any agency in any state or if any only on that of the agency of the state of North Carolina.

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid.

S/John R. Holmes, X his mark

To the first interrogatory required to be propounded by the department, he replies that he

was born on Black River in Bladen County about the year 1758.

To the second interrogatory he says: I have no record of my age.

To the third interrogatory he says: I was living in Brunswick County North Carolina when called into service and have been living in said County ever since.

To the fourth interrogatory he says: I enlisted at Fort Johnson already stated.

To the fifth interrogatory he says: I do not recollect the names of any other officers than those already mentioned.

To the sixth interrogatory he says: I did receive a written discharge from Captain Elliss and it is lost.

To the seventh interrogatory, he says: I am known to Nathaniel Potter and John Anderson who can testify for me; that he cannot procure the statement of a clergyman, at present, as there is no Clergyman at the present seat of the court with whom he is acquainted. That he had determined not to apply for a pension but finding himself reduced to great poverty and unable to live without assistance, rather than be placed upon the list of paupers in his own County, he has determined to ask for his pension.

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid.

John R. Holmes, X his mark

Witness: S/Nathaniel Potter, Clerk

Personally appeared in open Court, Nathaniel Potter, and John Anderson, who upon their oath state that they are acquainted with John R. Holmes, the applicant named in the foregoing declaration; that they believe he is about eighty years of age as he represents; that he is reputed and believed in the neighborhood to have been a Revolutionary soldier and they concur and that opinion.

S/Nathaniel Potter

S/John Anderson

And the said Court do hereby declare their opinion that the above named applicant was a Revolutionary soldier and served as he states.

I, Nathaniel Potter, Clerk of the Court of Pleas & Quarter Sessions for the County of Brunswick do certify that the foregoing contains the original proceedings of the said Court in the matter of the application of John R. Holmes for a pension.

In testimony whereof I have here to set my hand and seal of office this fifth day of December 1838.

S/Nathaniel Potter, Clerk {seal}

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State of North Carolina Brunswick County

On this 2nd day of March in the year of our Lord 1841, John Holmes personally appeared in open Court before the Court of Pleas & Quarter Sessions held for the County of Brunswick and State of North Carolina now sitting, the said Holmes being a resident of said County, aged eighty-five years, who being 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 enlisted [in the] Army of the United States in the year 1777 with Captain Robert [paper torn text missing] & in the ___ Regiment of artillery under the following named [paper torn text missing] Robert Ellis Captain of Artillery James Smith 1st Lieutenant [paper torn text missing] Devane 2nd Lieutenant. That at the period of his enlistment [paper torn text missing] resident of the County of Brunswick in the State of North Carolina that he was stationed at Fort Johnston & remained in the Garrison [paper torn text missing] the time of his enlistment in the summer of 1777 till Fort [paper torn text missing] was taken possession of by the British in the summer of 1781 [paper torn text missing] the Fort was performed by a British brig under the

command of [paper torn text missing] Steel and a British sloop of war whose commander was [paper torn text missing] does not recollect, that the Fort was taken by the British and by them destroyed; that he made his escape & returned to his home about 20 miles from said Fort that he remained there till in the year 1781 as above written 18th of December he joined a company of soldiers under the command of Captain Mills as by reference to the Certificate of William Hill Secretary of State for the State of North Carolina hereto affixed will more fully and at large appear, which certificate he prays may be made a part of this his declaration. That he joined Captain Mills' Company in the County of Brunswick State of North Carolina with which said company he proceeded through the County of Brunswick crossed Little River, Waccamaw & Big Pedee River & Black River then crossed higher up on the Santee at Murray's ferry, then passed through the head of Cooper River and then on to Ashley River and crossed at Bacon's Bridge in about a mile from the bridge at Ashley Hill he joined General Green's [Nathanael Greene's] Army the officers in the Army at that place he states were General Greene commander in chief Major Griffith McRee [Griffith John McRae] Colonel Dickson, Captain Mills Captain of his company Hardy Holmes 1st Lieutenant – ___ Bush 2nd Lieutenant that the company remained at Ashley Hill about 6 months & then proceeded to Stono River where they stopped about three months and again returned to Ashley Hill where they remained till the declaration of peace. That during the whole of the period of his enlistment he was a private soldier when in Garrison at Fort Johnston in North Carolina and when in the Army of General Greene. That he is unacquainted with any resident clergyman in this County, but that he will obtain the Certificate of a clergyman in the Town of Wilmington being in the adjoining County to this the one in which he resides. That he knows [paper torn text missing] man who would be able to give any declarations within [paper torn text missing] knowledge relative to the truth of the above statements [paper torn text missing] Potter a man very old and infirm that he made an effort [paper torn text missing] him before the court now in session and that his bodily infirmity [paper torn text missing] as to prevent his personal attendance, that he will [paper torn text missing] to obtain his deposition taken before a justice of the Court [paper torn text missing]mon Pleas & Quarter Sessions for Brunswick County & have [paper torn text missing] certified before the Clerk of said Court which said depo [paper torn text missing] together with the said certificate of the clergyman aforesaid [paper torn text missing] may be made a part of this his declaration. That at the [paper torn text missing] his enlistment he was not engaged in any civil pursuit [paper torn text missing] pursuit & that the only period in which he was not acting as a private soldier was the interval from his escape from Fort Johnston to his joining Captain Mills' Company being a period of 3 or 4 months at most. He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present and he declares that his name is not on the Pension Roll of any State. Sworn to and subscribed the year [official seal obliterates text] first above written
S/ Nath. Potter, Clk

S/ John Hol [official seal obliterates the rest
of the signature]

Upon the application the above named John Holmes the court proceeded to put the following interrogatories to him

1. Where & in what year were you born? To which he answered in Bladen County in the year 1756.

Have you any record of your age? Answer no

Where were you living when called into service; where have you lived since the Revolutionary war, & where do you now live? Brunswick County North Carolina

State the names of some of the Regular Officers, who were with the troops where you served; such Continental & militia regiments as you can recollect and the general circumstances of your service.

They are all contained in the above declaration.

Did you ever receive a discharge from the service, and if so by whom was it given and what has become of it. No

State the names of persons to whom you are known in your present neighborhood and who can testify as to your character for veracity and their belief of your services as a soldier of the Revolution.

Richard Langdon, S. B. Everitt, D. B. Baker many others

[p 2: On August 8, 1851 in New Hanover County, NC, Mary Jane Beasley. a resident of Brunswick County, NC, filed a power of attorney stating that she is the daughter of John Holmes late of Brunswick County who applied for a pension under the 1832 act.]

[p 14: Certificate dated September 22, 1852 from the North Carolina Comptroller showing payments made to Captain Ellis by the commissioners at Fort Johnston and to a Robert Ellis at Fort Johnston.]

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State of North Carolina Office of Secretary of State

I William Hill, Secretary of State, in and for the State of North Carolina do hereby certify that it appears from a Book of settlements of the accounts of the Officers and Soldiers of the Continental line of this State in the revolutionary war, that John Holmes was allowed as one of the 12 months Drafts the sum of \$80 as a final settlement of his account.

Given under my hand this first day of April 1852

S/ Wm Hill, Secretary of State

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State of North Carolina
Secretary of State's Office
15th of June 1839

James L Edwards Esquire

Sir

I do not find the name of John R Holmes on the musterrolls of the line of this State in the revolutionary war. I find the name of John Holmes who enlisted as a private soldier in Captain Mills's Company of the 10th Regiment on the 18th of December 1781 for 12 months.

Yours respectfully

S/ Wm Hill

[p 29: Affidavit dated February 7th, 1852 given by the Miles Potter, 67, of Brunswick County saying that he, the affiant, when acting as a justice of the peace took the application of John Holmes for a pension, "and that at that time, he complained of R having been inserted in his name upon his first application, through his ignorance, that he never assumed the R in his name before or since, and he further saith that, this John Holmes was the real applicant for a pension, And that he has never known a John R Holmes in the County of Brunswick, and that from general reputation, and from what he has heard from John Holmes, he thinks he should have received a pension from the United States."]

[Transcriber's Note: John R. Holmes MAY be the "man of colour" referred to in the pension

application of Josiah Sykes (S7673)¹. Sykes states that he served under Capt. John Devane and that the only person he (Sykes) knows of who can verify his services is a "coloured man by the name of Holmes living on Long Creek in New Hanover County" [sic, Brunswick County?]

¹ [Josiah Sykes S7673](#)