Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of William Hollis S10845

f31SC

Transcribed and annotated by Will Graves

1/8/11: rev'd 9/12/22

[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 3]

State of Alabama Autauga County SS

On this 12th day of February 1833, Personally appeared in open Court before the Judges of the County Court, now sitting, William Hollis a resident of the State of Alabama in the County of Autauga, aged Eighty five years, the 16th of February Inst. 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 he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated.

That he entered the service of the United States as a volunteer in the year 1777 in the State of South Carolina under the command of Captain Charles Lewis. That he was marched from Winnsborough to Orangeburg, (by way of Columbia) where he joined General Lacey's [sic, then Lt. Col. Edward Lacey's] Regiment where he united with the forces of General Sumpter [sic, Thomas Sumter]. That he served three months when he substituted in place of Edward Therington [?] for three months during which time he was marched to Stono & the Cowpens at the latter place he was in an engagement against the British & Tories commanded by Lord Cornwallis, Lord Rodden [sic, Lord Rawdon], Colonel Tarlton [sic, Banastre Tarleton] & others. That he remembers the names of General Winn who was wounded & was born from the field by Capt. Thomas Baker. That he was marched from the Cowpens to Kings Mountain, and from thence back to Orangeburg where he was discharged. That he afterwards volunteered on many occasions, and was in many skirmishes during the revolution against the British & Tories. That he was wounded with a sword by Captain Isbel near Orangeburg. That he was one Tour with Col. Cleveland on Broad River. That he was under the command of General Marion [Francis Marion] on the Pedee [River] when they killed twenty-three Tories. That he was in the Battle at

¹ Presumably a reference to the Battle of Cowpens, January 17, 1781 https://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_battle_of_cowpens.html Lord Rawdon was not at that engagement.

² Then Col. Richard Winn was wounded at the Battle of Hanging Rock on August 6, 1780 https://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution-battle-of-hanging-rock.html. He was not at Cowpens.

³ There was no known captain by that name at either Hanging Rock or Cowpens. Indeed, there was no Captain Thomas Baker known to have been an officer in either the South Carolina Continental Line, State Troops or militia.

⁴ Perhaps a reference to Colonel Benjamin Cleveland of the Wilkes County Regiment of North Carolina militia who was at the Battle of Kings Mountain.

Sullivan's Island Enlisted by Captain Boykin.⁵ That he served his country as a soldier during the revolution at least four years. That he has no documentary evidence by which he can prove his services.

I do hereby relinquish every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present & declare that my name is not on the pension Roll of the Agency of any State.

Test S/ Henly Brown, Clerk

S/ William Hollis

[Elijah Ivey, Lewis Tyns & Joseph Swan gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[p 26]

State of Alabama Autauga County} On this second day of April 1836 personally appeared in open Court before Henly Brown Judge of the County Court of said County now sitting, William Hollis a resident of said County and State aged Eighty-six years, who being first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following amended declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the [act] of Congress passed June 7th 1832.

That he entered the service of the United States under the following named Officers and served as herein stated – he thinks in May 1776 he volunteered and went to Sullivan's Island – Captains Marion & Boykin & Colonel Thompson [sic, William Thomson] commanded – and served at that place until it was taken by the British – When the Army retreated to Charleston – and that they afterwards retreated to Camden and served there under Colonel Lacey (afterwards General Lacey) after serving his tour of three months as a volunteer he served three months as substitute for Edward Thornton (or Thorington) and that he continued in the Army till the end of the War – States that he was taken prisoner at Cintilles [sic, Satilla River]⁶ when under Captain Wynn – by Burntfoot Brown [Thomas Brown] and the Indians – and was marched 15 miles into the country under guard and was then set at liberty – that he was with Marion on several scouting parties – and that he was stationed at Orangeburg at the close of the War – that Lacey commanded him – and he further states that by reason of old age and the consequent loss of memory he cannot swear positively to the precise length of his service but according to the best of his recollection he served not less than five years – first three months at Sullivan's Island & Charleston as above stated and afterwards three months as substitute – and afterwards a volunteer until the close of the war – it being not less than five years that he served and that he was not employed in any civil pursuit.

S/ William Hollis

William Malles

⁵ Captain Francis Boykin of the 3rd South Carolina Regiment of Continental troops was at the battle of Fort Moultrie on June 28, 1776. https://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution-ft-moultrie-1.html

⁶ It seems to me that the veteran MIGHT BE referring to the first Florida Expedition. First Florida expedition: Fall of 1776 https://www.georgiaencyclopedia.org/articles/history-archaeology/revolutionary-war-georgia#Three-Invasions-of-Florida February 17, 1777, Fort McIntosh surrendered to the Tories https://allthingsliberty.com/2013/12/richard-winn-fort-mcintosh/ & https://revwarapps.org/scx2.pdf

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$20 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for 6 months service as a private in the South Carolina militia.]

South Carolina Audited Accounts⁷ relating to William Hollis

pp 2

Audited Account No. 3706A

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9/12/22

[p 2]

War Department
Pension Office
July 15, 1836

Sir

I have the honor to inform you that the amended declaration of William Hollis enclosed in yours of 13th instant has been examined and filed with his other papers.

The specification of each term of service is not as distinct as the regulations for awarding a pro rata pension require, but as he alleges an aggregate of 5 years service in the revolution, it is not to be doubted that such an amount of service would be sustained by the records in the office of the Comptroller General of South Carolina, to whom he is referred for the necessary certificate of the evidence. If there be no record of such an unusual term of service, it will afford a presumption against the claim, which can be refuted only by very satisfactory proof.

I have the honor to be very respectfully Yr. Mo. Obt.

J.L. Edward

S/ J. L. Edwards [Commissioner of Pensions]

[Note: Given the response by JL Edwards as set forth above, I examined the entire pension file for this veteran to see if the South Carolina Comptroller General ever gave any evidence of service by this veteran. No such documentation is contained in his federal pension file.]

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⁷ The South Carolina Audited Accounts (AAs) are now available online at http://www.archivesindex.sc.gov/. To find the AA for a specific person, click on the Just take me to the search page link, then enter the person's surname first in the "Full name" box followed by a comma and the person's Christian name. The number behind the 'pp' indicates the number of pages in the file and the 'Audited Account No.' is the actual Account Number assigned by the South Carolina Archives.