Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of William Holson S9587 Transcribed by Will Graves

f33VA 4/15/14

[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.]

The State of Ohio Richland County: SS

On this 24th day of November 1834 personally appeared before the Honorable Court of Common Pleas in & for said County of Richland William Holson of Elias Creek Township in the said County of Richmond & State of Ohio aged 73 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 7th 1832.

That on the 1st day of October A.D. 1776 he entered the Army as a Substitute for Amos Smith in a Regiment under the command of Colonel Zachias Morgan¹ in a Company commanded by Owen Davey and that we marched to Davy's Station in Monongahela [Monongalia] County Virginia, in which County I then resided, that the duty the Regiment had to perform was to guard the frontiers against the Inroads of the Indians, that being the time for which the person for whom I substituted was drafted to serve – That the Regiment of which my company formed a part was stationed along the frontier at different stations. My Company was stationed at Davy Station but was not engaged in any battle whatever during that tour –

That again on the 1st of January 1777 I entered as a Substitute for a person whose name I cannot now recollect in a Regiment under the command of Colonel Zachias Morgan in company commanded by Captain Reason Virgil – That our company was stationed at Kellum's Station in Monongalia County Virginia in which County I then resided, and that we employed in guarding the frontiers against the inroads of the Indians – that I continued in this service for the space of one month, at the end of which, the time for which our Company was drafted expired – That our Company nor myself was engaged in no battle during that tour.

That again on the 1st day of July 1777 I volunteered in a Company under the command of Captain Charles Martin in a Regiment commanded by Colonel Zachias Morgan. That our Company was raised for the purpose of guarding the frontiers against the inroads of the Indians and we marched sometime along the frontiers divided between Scouting parties and sometimes stationed at Morison Station [Morrison Station] – That I continued in the service for the space of 3 months when we disbanded. That I was engaged in no battle during that Term of service. That again on the 13th day of March 1778 as near as I can recollect I volunteered in a Company under the command of Captain Charles Martin – that our Company was engaged all the time in this Tour in the service of Scouting along the frontiers principally in the County of Monongalia Virginia where I at that time resided. That I continued in the service for the space of 3 months

¹ This officer's name is variously spelled as follows: Zach Morgan, Zachwell Morgan, Zeckell Morgan, and Zaquell Morgan.

when we disbanded. That during that we were engaged in no battle.

And 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 agency in any State or (if any) only on that of the agency of the State of Virginia. Sworn to & subscribed the day & year aforesaid

S/ Jared Irwin[?] Clk

S/ William Holson

Wellow Holow

[John Dickson and John Urquhart gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

The following interrogatories prescribed by the War Department & the answers thereto were put to the applicant in the presence of said Court –

1st Where and in what year were you born?

I was born in Hertford County State of Maryland in the year 1761

2nd Have you any record of your age and if so where is it?

Ans. I have none

3rd Where were you living when called into service: where have you lived since the Revolutionary War and where do you now live?

Ans. I was living in Monongalia County Virginia at the time I was called into service – from there I removed in the year 1800 to Washington County Ohio – thence I removed in the year 1812 2 Jefferson County Ohio & in the year 1815 I removed to this County where I have since resided.

4th How were you called into service?

Ans. These 2 first times I entered as a substitute & the last time, I volunteered – there were [no] regular officers or troops with us, we were militia troops called out by the State of Virginia to defend the frontiers from the Indians.

I cannot recollect whether I received a discharge or not – if I did receive any I have lost them.

Sworn to & subscribed this 24th day of November 1834 in open Court S/Wm Holson

[p 11]

Clear Creek O. 4th April 1835

Sir, The Honorable William Patterson Congress

I wrote to you that I have no Testimonial explanatory to my obtaining a pension I have forgot that I had been acquainted in the Revolution with Augustine Bigerstaff [Augustine Biggerstaff?] of Jefferson County O. I suppose you have been acquainted with him I was at Kelham station in my Captain Divided his Company and he sent me with a detachment to Philip Dodriges and Mr. Bigerstaff lived with Mr. Dodridge till the sation [sic?] was dismissed is easy enough to prove that I served as a Militia Soldier somebody I think must have told his honor that my pretended declaration formed no liability to Military service now I think if I was enrolled under the commanding Officer If I was commanded to go upon any Expedition for the defense of our country had the commanding Officer authority to command the Militia I think he had I would not cast a Distant reflection upon the worthy Commissioner he says that the militia of that section of country where I resided were only called out to perform a specified service I beg his pardon I will inform you otherwise for I know that I was engaged in the military service under

Captain Owen Davey and when he discharge me from under him Captain John Evans acceded in command and Captain Evans solicited me to join his company but I declined his service but directly I went and joined another station. I am sure there was many calls of militia I was an eye witness Owen Davey was called out on Buffalo Creek John Evans was called someplace Rezin Virgin [Reain Virgin] was called at Dunkard Creek, Joseph Neil was commanded out at Scots Mill, Charles Martin was called out at ten Mile Creek again Charles Martin was called out at Martin's Fort now I can easily prove these things to be true if I could recollect there was many more calls out I went to Christian Fast's sense, I wrote to you he told me he was stationed at Scots Mill under Captain Neil he included them services with the rest of his services and received his pay I must surely be under a mistake if I had not been Autherilativey [sic] commanded If I had offended I beg pardon I only want to make the matter plain I hope to send Mr. Augustine Biggerstaff's certificate to the City I expect he will give some light on the subject so I hope his honor will not throw my case away.

Your very obedient Humble servant S/ William Holson

[p 15]

Clear Creek Ohio 22nd May 1835

The right Honorable James L Edwards Commissioner of Pensions

Pleas in your Clemency and goodwill hereby Petition and give these line a reading I received your letter 20th April 1835 I feel very much grieved that you have made such an unfavorable and fatal decision in my case you say it cannot be departed from you say that the services mentioned by me in my letter 4th April 1835 were all performed after the termination of the revolutionary War, I wish not to offend but egg leave to inform you that if you construct my letter right I have made a great mistake to do myself justice I will endeavor now in the fullest terms Explain myself I was born in the year 1761 in Maryland I crossed the mountains in the year 1772 I think the revolutionary war commenced in the year 1775 and in the year 1776 our independence was declared and in that same year I engaged as a substitute as a Militia Soldier I was going into 16 years of age under Captain Owen Davey and received by my Officers again I engaged in the revolutionary War in the year 1777 and in the year 1778 I engaged in the revolutionary war and have performed my duty with fidelity through much hardship and danger and have narrowly escaped with my life a good Soldier will not flee from danger and perils but like a good Soldier for his country's cause and has been said that I was bold in the causes of my country And have been said by my acquaintance if any man would receive a pension high alt to have a Pension Mr. Andrew Ice deposed and said that I served with him in the revolutionary war Mr. Ice is a man of good character and has a good The state my sister the Attorney said her deposition was good evidence And I am sure and it is a stubborn fact that I performed my services in the revolutionary war now I do not recollect exactly when General Clark went with his Army down the River but know that he went with the command under authority before the termination of the revolutionary war now witness that Mr. Christian Fast went with General Clark's Army down the Ohio River And he was taken Prisoner by the Indians – in about one he returned home and has applied for his pension and has obtained an ample Pension I have been acquainted with him all through the war and have thought that I had done more actual service than he done I [one or more indecipherable words] to build the Boats that Clark's Army went in and worked I suppose about 2 months lived hard but such was my Anxiety for my country now please your Honor let me

notice Christian Fast² in that army was confined a Prisoner about a year and he implicated his services with other services that he performed before his confinement and has received an ample Pension he still my respectable neighbor I would not wish to In the his success but think it unfortunate that I am denied the little Pittance that I require Mr. Fast and myself was in the heat of the revolutionary war he can Testify the same I would feel very much distressed in mind if the Honorable Gentlemen of the War Department would think that I would impose falsehood upon the Honorable Gentlemen of the war Department would I think that I would impose falsehood upon the worthy war Department or would think to present Erroneous or flimsy Documents before them I would think it and awful conclusion to think that I would impose falsehood upon the fully respectfully war Department (and me upon Oath) my conscience bear me witness that I am telling the truth I went into Mansfield last November Term to pass the Court applied to an attorney Mr. Shearman wrote my declaration. I showed him Mr. Ice's and my sisters certificates my Attorney said that my Sisters certificate was good my attorney laid before my declaration before the court Judge Jackson one of the Judges of said court particularly viewed my Declaration he examined me I answered his questions I believe to his satisfaction I showed him some names he appeared well satisfied with them names he said I would get my pension he said I ought to have my pension I transmit to you them names you may Judge whether I tell you the truth or not Mr. Sturgis a very respectable Merchant in Mansfield he insted [sic?] Upon me to pursue my pension Mr. Sturgis is acquainted with me about 20 years I used to live near Mansfield and believe the most of the Gentlemen in Mansfield would tell you that they believe me to be a man of truth and veracity and many of the most respectable man in Mansfield wish me to obtain my pension and many respectable People wish me to obtain my Pension & say I ought to have it Now may it please your Honor I humbly beg that you would open your decision and give me reconsideration Now I think if the certificates sent to you are somewhat lame it will make up the deficiency by the number of Vouchers in my behalf and cogent and copious Circumstances Now pleased to consider that I have traveled about 300 miles to and from different stations with a number of Excursions and Scouting parties at the peril of life please remember how long it took to perform the league much services I underwent all before the time I helped to build Clark's boats and to include the services done for Clark's boats after that I never performed any revolutionary services of any consequence please remembered that I have not charged the United States with building Clark's boats which think I ought to have done I do not think till I sold your letter that the decision was made but thought that my papers was suspended for further proof I expect to get good evidence shortly in my favor it will greatly distressed me if you deny me the small sum I require I am now within a few days be 74 years old it will not be a great burden to the Community to allow me what I require I cannot be satisfied till get something Excuse bad writing for I am old and infirm but thank God of sound mind and memory but my declaration has been so indelaly [sic] Established it will not be easily erased.

Gentlemen respectfully your most humble and obedient servant

S/ William Holson

[p 3 0]

Clear Creek Ohio 22nd June 1835

Honored Sir,

I received your letter of last Thursday with some hopes of success you state that I should make a declaration setting forth each Tour of duty I had performed for my part I thought that you

² Christian Fast W4195

had received my declaration and I thought the different tours of service I performed was clearly stated. I know I instructed my Council so to do the first tour of service I performed in the revolutionary war was the term of two months under Captain Owen Davey Morgan Morgan was Lieutenant John Davison was Ensign, Zacheus Morgan was commander of our Regiment I was substituted for Amos Smith he was drafted and I went in his place we was stationed at Captain Owen Davey's Station on Buffalo Creek in Monongalia County in the State of Virginia the Captain received me in Amos Smith's place I went into service about the first of October in the year 1776 undoubtedly the Company was organized under legal Authority and it was our duty to range and to spy for signs of the Enemy sometimes in stationed sometimes in the wilderness to search for the signs of the Enemy it has been declared upon oath that I had a written discharge but I do not remember whether or not for I was very young and do not know whether I received a discharge or not but I believe I did but remember well that I served two months – again I substituted under Captain Rezin Virgin, Brice Virgin was my Lieutenant, the first of January 1779 I believe I was substitute for Thomas Craig but I cannot be sure but I know I served one month under Captain Rezin Virgin at Kelham's station I do not remember whether any Occurrences took place at that station for it was very cold weather I do not recollect whether I received a discharge or not – Kelham's station was at Dunkard Creek in said County of Monongalia – and the 3rd Tour I volunteered under Captain Charles Martin he was Captain of the militia in that section of the country Monongalia County aforesaid I was commanded to guard against insurrection and considered myself under legal Authority and would not expect to be commanded by no Authority I know that I was under strict command – if my memory serves me right I entered into that service in the month of July 1777 and went into actual service immediately afterwards I served 3 months on that tour And was in the very straitened circumstances you will please remember how country was very few in number that could go to battle and we had to [indecipherable word or words] very young to go for the defense of our country against many foes sometimes in Garrison sometimes to suppress insurrection of some distance miles sometimes to apprehend deserters then on the frontiers for it was considered a great place of slaughter And I think we was kept busy against the Enemy, I served the full term of 3 months terminated in November 1777 then the first day of March or thereabouts in the year 1778 I engaged under Captain Charles Martin as a volunteer to make my matters more plain a certain Jacob Parton was shot at by the Indians but missed him he laid whip to his horse and cleared himself about the first of March 1778 Then on the 13th day of March 1778 the Indians surrounded a company of men 10 in number the Indians killed for on the spot took 3 prisoners 3 made their escape then in a few days after I was ordered to go with a company of men to go 12 miles Distance to Straddler's Fort [probably John Statler's Fort, see end note] to the relief of the inhabitants of that Fort and as we were on our way near to that Fort the Indians killed 2 men near that Fort helped to bury the dead we remained a while in that Fort for the inhabitants of that Fort was so many killed and driven away the rest of the people were afraid to leave That place least they would be killed by the way then we went with a company about 9 miles from Straddler's Fort Colonel Morgan Colonel Evans Captain Davey John Lemasters, James Purdue and others 19 in number we went to search for a Mr. Jackson's family we found Mr. Jackson lay did by the road his son-in-law was killed Mr. Jackson's son and a man of the name of Thomas made prisoners we buried the dead our route about 31 miles we was forted at Martin's Fort [see end note] sometimes in the Fort sometimes on scouting but on the frontiers mostly but it comes nearer home we were left entirely a frontier the people were driven to the East side of the Monongahela River the Indians came like roaring lions I do not know how I escaped the Tomahawk for I was nearly

every day on the frontiers sometime in May 10 persons were killed and made prisoners that did belong to Martin's Fort took 18 horses some rifle guns was taken those of my relatives fled for safety and had left me to guard the Fort I think that tour was 2 ½ months

1st 2 months 2 1 Do 3 3 Do 4 2 ½ Do Months 8 ½

I suppose you refer me particularly to the 2 braces in the printed sheet first brace you speak of Alleged service as they are known at the department I suppose Captain Owen Davey is enrolled in the department if so Amos Smith is enrolled there also. Amos Smith has been dead many years and if Captain Davey is not enrolled it cannot Exist for I know he was under legal authority for I know he had command of a considerable troop if Amos Smith was enrolled and his name is in the department I ought to be placed to his services if no [indecipherable word] can [indecipherable word] be had I suppose the proceedings may the traditionary and in case of Captain Rezin Virgin no role in exist it will be traditionary Dear Sir please your Honor I cannot procure the evidence I might have done for I believe every Officer that was over me is dead Andrew Ice I suppose is living but I cannot easily get his testimony for he lives a great way off I wish I could know whether you received my declaration or not I humbly beg you to let me know if I need to go before the Court again or not I know that I was sworn before the clerk of Richland County and in the presence of the Open Court I plead that you would the so kind as to direct me some way to obtain my Pension for I greatly need it if I had not done so much service in the United States in the revolutionary war I would hold my peace and say no more about it I suppose my counsel sent my declaration with the description of my age &c with all necessary information if you please send me some relief and I will humbly thank you.

I hope please your Honor I think you will be satisfied that I ought to have a small pittance I think you will embrace the idea that I have performed a great deal of services in the revolutionary War the rapid decrease of the revolutionary army it will be hard to procure living witnesses to prove a claim for instance I have said before that I believe that every last one of my officers is dead and if you will not receive such evidence as I have procured many will lose their Pension Honorable Sir if my name is not enrolled in the department and Captain Davey in the department Captain Rezin Virgin and Captain Charles Martin in the Department and my name is not I think they have neglected me and must I lose my Pension for their neglect pray most worthy sir prove my friend at this time.

I am with great respect your most Humble Obedient Servant S/ William Holson

[p 18]

The State of Ohio Richland County: SS

The Worthy War Department

On this 3rd day of December A.D. 1835 personally appeared in open court William Holson a Resident of Richland County Ohio before the Court of Common Pleas in & for said County of Richland being aged 74 years of age, 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 7, 1832.

That he was born in Herdfit [sic] County Maryland in the year 1761 he has no record of

his [age] [.] In 1772 he crossed West of the Allegheny Mountain and settled near where Morgan Town [Morgantown] now stands in Monongalia County Virginia in 1776 first of October he entered into the service of the United States as a private Soldier in the Virginia militia under the Captain Owen Davey at Davey's Station in said County of Monongalia as a Substitute for Amos Smith for a term of two months Morgan Morgan was Lieutenant and John Davison was Ensign Colonel Zacheus Morgan of said County of Monongalia he had the command of the Militia that he served under he served out the full term of two months at that station he believes he had a written discharge but does not know what has become of it for he did not know that it would be of any use that station was at Buffalo's Creek and it was a frontier Post and the Militia were called out and stationed there to defend against the Indians sometimes he was scouting sometimes he was on station.

Then January the first 1777 he again he entered into the service of the United States as a private soldier in the Virginia militia at Kelham's station in said Conny [sic] as a substitute he believes for Thomas Craige for a term of one month under Captain Rezin Virgin, Brice Virgin Lieutenant he served out the full term of one month he does not recollect a discharge but he knows he served the term at that station that station was a frontier post at Dunkard Creek and the militia was called out to defend against the Indians. And the tours he performed was an organized Corps called into Actual service by competent authority and for the time during which the service was performed he was not Employed in any Civil pursuit.

Again about the first of August 1779 he entered in the service of the United States as a private soldier in Virginia Militia Now it was so that the Tories was Opposed to the United States and it was called the Tories would rise on the side of the British and alarming Circumstance and a number of them were brought into Martin's Garrison where he resided and the Tories was put under guard in Martin's Garrison Captain Charles Martin had the command of the Militia at that place and he was called out to guard the Tories a considerable number of field officers was present. He volunteered to join a Corps of militia to Gard and escort the Tories to swaringham Fort [Swearingen's Fort?] Captain Charles Martin was his Captain Samuel Mclinley was Lieutenant Colonel Zacheus Morgan was the commander of the Regiment the Tories were escorted 12 miles to join the body of Tories to Sweringham's Fort 72 in number and he was bound to military service he resided as a guard over the Tories a considerable time afterward he went to Martin's Garrison he was sent with a Sergeant and a file of men to apprehend deserters James Neil Captain of a regular Troop was placed a while at Martin's Garrison as a guard he served three months on that tour And he thinks he was called into Actual service by Confident Authority and he was in company with the Militia and he was either Scouting or in Garrison for the time during which the service was performed he was not employed in any Civil pursuit; but he was not discharged for he was bound to militia service but the war had little while ceased but about the first of March 1778 the Indians broke out worse than before then he was commanded to go into the frontiers To defend the country against the hostile photo leaving all civil pursuits. The Indians killed on the 13th day of March 1778 for persons and made for persons prisoners at one place a few days afterward He passed by that place on a guard and too young men were killed as he passed by about 1 mile from Straddlers Fort it was about 12 miles from Straddlers Fort to Martin's he arrived at Straddlers Fort and joined a Corps to defend that place and was placed as a Sentinel to guard that place he attended to the burying of a number of persons that was killed by the Indians on that tour he resided a while at the Straddlers Fort there turned through the wilderness as a scout many miles to Martin's Garrison he remained as a guard at the Garrison till I was discharged that tour was two and a half months he lived only for the defense

of the welfare of the United States country again he thinks in 1779 he joined in a company of volunteers to guard a place in distress by the Indians at Prickets fort about 30 miles distant he thinks about 3 weeks but he does not charge the United States with this tour he leaves it to general rest minds he was engaged about two months building General Clark's boats to go and expedition down the Ohio – he had no battles.

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present and declares his name is not on the pension roll of the Agency of any State or if any only on that of the Agency of the State of Ohio.

Sworn to & subscribed the day & year aforesaid

S/ Jared Irwin, Clk.

S/ Wm Holson

[Joseph Hall, a clergyman, and Benjamin Gass gave a standard supporting affidavit.]

The following are the answers to the interrogatories prescribed by the War Department 1st I was born in the year 1761 in the County of Hertfort Maryland.

2nd I have no record of my age –

3. I lived at the time I was called in the service in Monongalia County Virginia. After the war I moved into Fayette County Pennsylvania – then into Washington County Ohio – then to the County where I have lived for 20 years.

4th. I volunteered & substituted –

5th. Captain Neil was the only regular officer I knew. I was employed in defending the frontiers from the Indians.

6th I believe I received discharges from my officer, but they are now lost or destroyed.

7th. I will state the names of the Honorable William Patterson Member of Congress – Honorable Mordecai Bartley

[p 28]

The State of Ohio Wayne County: SS

Personally appeared before me M. Culbertson Justice of the peace in and for said County Mary McDonald being first duly sworn according to law deposeth and saith that in the year 1776 she crossed the Allegheny Mountain and she was informed that William Holson her half-brother had went on station in the revolution to guard against the Indians and she remembers that he the said William Holson returned from the station & we lived together in one family & short time as she believes the said William went out on different Expeditions against the Indians for the defense of our frontiers she remembers that Charles Martin was Captain and Samuel McGinley was Lieutenant part of the time said Williams served under she remembers that we resided in Monongalia County State of Virginia and further this deponent saith not

Mary Medonoto

S/ Mary Mcdonold

[Attested February 26, 1834 in Wayne County Ohio]

[p 29]

State of Indiana Henry County

Personally appeared before me Benjamin J Cady Justice of the peace within and for said County Andrew Ice who being first duly sworn according to law deposeth and saith that he served 6 months in the Army of the revolution with William Holson and that said William Holson did serve in the Army of the revolution six months and that they were stationed at Captain Owen Davy's Station at the head of Buffalo Creek in the state of Virginia in the year 1778 and at the expiration of the term of 6 months I and said William Holson received a discharge from Captain Owen Davey the Captain under whom we served and Morgan Morgan was our Lieutenant John Davison was our Ensign during the term of six months we served in the Army of the Revolution together.

Sworn to and subscribed before made this 15th day of December 1833

S/B. J. Cady, JP

S/Andrew Ice3

In observe See

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$28.33 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for service as a private for 8 ½ months in the Virginia militia.]

End Note:

The forts and stations mentioned by this veteran may include the following:

MARTIN's Station or Fort: A fort erected by Charles Martin in 1773, situated on the west side of the Monongahela River, on Crooked Run, in Casa District, Monongalia County. Scene of an Indian attack in June, 1779.

PRICKETT's Station or Fort: A stockade fort erected by the family of that name in 1774, situated at the mouth of Prickett's Creek, on the east side of the Monongahela, River, five miles below the city of Fairmont. It was here in 1779 that the celebrated encounter between David Morgan and the Indians took place.

STATLER's fort or station: A stockade fort erected by John Statler after 1770, on Dunkard Creek, Clay District, Monongalia County. Scene of a bitter Indian attack in 1779 when many settlers lost their lives.

³ Andrew Ice S32336