

[Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters](#)

Bounty Land Warrant information relating to James Homes (Holmes) VAS1589 [vsl 9](#)

Transcribed by Will Graves

4/17/14

[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.]

[From [bounty land records in the Library of Virginia](#)]

[p 2: illegible affidavit which appears to be dated in April 31 1834 given by Daniel Orear¹ in which he appears to say that the veteran was in the Illinois Regiment under Colonel George Rogers Clark in 1778. The veteran may have been from Prince William County Virginia.



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[p 3]

Virginia Prince William County to wit

This day personally appeared before me a Justice of the peace in and for the County aforesaid Daniel Orear of the said County aged seventy-three years & upwards, and being first duly sworn on the holy Evangelists of Almighty God deposeeth and saith that he was acquainted with James Holmes and that they served together in the Illinois expedition in the year 1778 under Captain Leonard Helms² of Colonel Clark's [George Rogers Clark's]³ Regiment, and that they messed together during that expedition, and that he left him there, and that He the said Holmes enlisted again until more men could be got and that afterwards he heard he was killed by the Indians, and that Thomas Holmes was the brother of the said James Holmes and the lawful Heir; and that Edward Holmes the present applicant is now the lawful heir and only heir at law of James Holmes deceased as far as he knows and believes and further this affiant saith not.

Given under my hand & seal this 5th day of September 1834

S/ M. Fitzhugh

[p 4]

To the Executive of Virginia

Your Memorialist, Edward Holmes of Prince William County, nephew and Heir at law of James Holmes, a soldier of the Revolutionary Army, begs leave respectfully to represent That his uncle enlisted in the service of the State of Virginia under Captain Leonard Helms in the year

¹ [Daniel O'Rear \(O'Rear\) S7376](#)

² [Leonard Helm R14982](#)

³ [George Rogers Clark VAS269](#)

1778, and marched to the West under Colonel George Rogers Clark in the Illinois Expedition. That he continued in the service of the State until he was killed in some engagement with the Indians – as your memorialists has been informed and believes.

Your memorialists respectfully asked that the Bounty lands and other remunerations usually allowed to soldiers (or their heirs) who have performed such services as those rendered by the said James Holmes may be allowed to your Memorialist according to the laws and customs of the State of Virginia. – And that such evidence as he has been able to procure to establish his claim may be received and considered and also that such evidence of the service of the said James Holmes as the Revolutionary documents in the possession of the Government may show may also be referred to & duly considered in support of said claim. And that such evidence as he may hereafter obtained may also be received and considered provided that that above referred to should not be deemed sufficient.

And your Memorialist will ever pray etc.

S/ Edward Holmes, X his Mark

[Attested in Fredericksburg Virginia October 14, 1834]

[p 6]

Upon the Petition of the Heir of James
Holmes a Soldier of the Illinois Service, for
bounty land

No facts have been proved by the Petitioner or by the witness David Orear (whose affidavit has been filed with this petition) which are regarded as sufficiently important to be reported; except the fact (the only material one stated or proved) – that James Holmes enlisted in the year 1778 as a Soldier in the Corps commanded by Colonel George Rogers Clark (see the Petition & affidavits of David Orear which are filed with the Petition.)

The Illinois Papers & documents which are on file in the first Auditors office furnish evidence, which I think all to be satisfactory, that James Holmes was one of the volunteers who served in the Illinois Country, under the command of Colonel G R Clark. The Payrolls of Captain Kellar's ⁴Company show that James Holmes was in service as a private in that Company, from December 14, 1778 to September 1st 1779. Between those dates, I believe, the important posts in the Illinois Country were taken. Many of the volunteers, who went out with Colonel Clark, and were with him at the taking of the British Posts, after that service was performed, enlisted in the Illinois Regiment for three years, or for the war. For services as volunteers they were entitled by law to 200 acres of land each.

The time of service of James Holmes (from December 1778 to September 1779) renders it probable, that he was one of the Illinois volunteers. I have heretofore reported him entitled to land for a service of three years because I found him a private in Captain Kellar's Company, which was in service more than three years, and belonged to the Illinois Regiment – because the enlistments in the Illinois Regiment were for 3 years, or for the war – because he was found to have received the balance of his full pay down to the last of December 1781 – and because the entry of his discharge on the first day of September 1779, which was made on one of Captain Kellar's pay rolls, escaped my notice. I now, on better information, report him and Illinois volunteer who served until the British Post were taken, and who was entitled after that service to 200 acres of land.

The captions of the Illinois Payrolls have sometimes led me into error, and may lead the

⁴ [Abraham \(Abram\) Keller \(Kellar\) R15580](#)

Governor into error. That of the Pay roll of Captain Kellar is in the following words to wit "Pay roll – Captain Abraham Kellar's Company contained [could be continued] at the Illinois, under [split image document starts here—I've spliced the images together as best I could, but rely on the transcript with caution] the command of George Rogers Clark, commencing Dec. 14, 1778 and ending May 8, 1778". The 2nd Pay roll is [indecipherable word] as follows – "Payroll – Captain Abraham Kellar's Company, from 9th May 1779 & ending 9th November 1781." The pay roll, volunteers is not called, in either it is said to belong to the Illinois Regiment.

But, I think there cannot be a [indecipherable words] doubt, that the men who enlisted with Captain Kellar as early as December 1778 were volunteers. The time of enlistment creates this presumption. The fact, that the volunteers were offered 200 acres of land, whilst privates in the Illinois Regiment – who served 3 years were entitled to only 100 acres of land, creates a [indecipherable word or words] that the men, who enlisted at this early period in the Illinois service, entered as volunteers – The fact that Captain Kellar was one of the officers who commanded volunteers under General (then Colonel) Clark, also creates a presumption, that the men who joined him in 1778 were volunteers. These facts taken together prove satisfactorily, that James Holmes was a volunteer in the Illinois service = notwithstanding Captain Kellar's Company, to which he belonged, has not been in the payrolls styled volunteers.

(For proof of the above stated facts, [indecipherable word] Pay roll of Captain Kellar's company from December 14, 1778 to November 1781 – Vile young – first Illinois Papers on file in the 1st Auditors Office.)

If there was but one James Holmes (and there is evidence to think there was), in the Illinois service, he was probably [indecipherable word] a volunteer, a after September 1st 1779 enlisted with LR Regiment prove has been offered to me, of the term of his enlistment & service after September first 1779, which was the date of his discharge as a volunteer.

I Report the above state of facts to the Governor & respectfully submit that the claim of James Holmes air is good for 200 acres of land for a service as one of the volunteers who marched out with Colonel Clark & continued with him until the taking of the British Post in the Illinois Country.

To Governor Tazewell

Respectfully submitted

John H Smith, Commissioner etc.

October 22nd, 1834.

N. B. I report to the governor the additional fact, that James Holmes name appears among the names on "a list of Soldiers serving in the Illinois Department, who have received certificates for the balance of their full pay &c up to the last of November 1781" – this list is on file in the first Auditors Office.