

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of James Hollis R5154

NC VA

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. Revised 5 Oct 2014.

State of Tennessee } Circuit Court October Term
Wayne County } 1842

This day being the 5th day of October 1842 personally appeared in open Court James Hollis aged Eighty three the 22nd day of June 1842 who being first duly sworn according to law upon his Oath made the following declaration in order to obtain a pension under the provisions of the act of Congress passed June 7th 1842 [sic: 1832], to wit. Declarant entered the service of the United States on the 1st day of September 1776 under the command of Captain Isaac Bledsoe of the Virginia line & under the command of Col Christy [William Christian] of the said Virginia line & after Col Christy returned to Virginia Col Antony Bledsoe [Anthony Bledsoe] took his place as commander in Chief and that he continued to serve until the last day of March 1777. When he entered the service he resided in Sullivan County North Carolina Now Sullivan County East Tennessee

Declarant was born in Bedford County State of Virginia & removed from Virginia to North Carolina before he joined the service & when A Bledsoe & Col Christy came on from Virginia with their troops to Sullivan on their march against the Cherokee Indians he joined them & served the tour that they marched to the Indian Country on the Tennessee & burned the Indian Towns the Indians having fled [early Oct 1776], that they Erected a Fort at the Long Islands of Holsten [sic: Fort Patrick Henry on Holston River at present Kingsport TN]. We burned Old Nancy Wards Town & Draggon Canoe Town [sic: Dragging Canoe; see endnote] and various others of smaller note but their names are not recollected. Declarant further states that he again entered the service of the United States on the 1st of March 1778 [sic: see endnote] at the same place to wit Sullivan County North Carolina under Captain Henry Clarke whose Company was under the command of Colonel Charles Robertson & were conveyed by water down the Holston River to the Long Island fort & there joined Col. John Montgomery of Virginia who commanded the Virginia troops. They then Burned the Sack[?], Town, and spread over the Indian Country in [one or two illegible words] Companies & burned the Indian Huts and drove the cattle & horses they could find to the said Fort & Montgomery then went on down the River on his way with his soldiers to attack the Indians in Illinois & he declarant was discharged on the last day of April 1778 making his services in all Nine months during the Revolutionary war, Declarant states that he received a discharge from his Captain at the expiration of each of his terms of service but has long since lost both of them & has no Dockumentary evidence & knows of no living testimony or witness by whom he can prove any of the Circumstances of the above services. Declarant performed all of said services as a private Soldier & held no office whatever. Declarant removed from Sullivan County to Nashville now the capital of Tennessee, then called the French Lick in the fall of 1779 that he removed from Nashville to Montgomery County & from Montgomery to Maury County & from Maury County to what is now Wayne County, Tennessee where he has lived for twenty nine years having lived five or six years in said County when it was called the purchase before Wayne County was laid off, that he has the record of his age as kept by his father, Declarant States that this is his first application for a pension from the United States and the reason he did not apply sooner for it is because he owned a valuable Negro girl & some other property & enjoyed fine health & was able to support himself but his Negro girl died & he has used his other property for a support until it is mostly all gone & he has been taken with the Rheumatick Pains & thereby has become unable to support himself by labour & he therefore applies to the bounty & gratitude of his country for a support. He declares that his name is not on the pension roll or agency of any State or territory & he hereby relinquishes every other claim whatever to a pension except the above.



Questions propounded to the Declarant by the Court

1st. How old are you.

Answer I am in my 84th year since the 22nd of June last.

2nd Have you any record of your age & if so where is it.

Answer I have the record of my age as kept by my father at my son James's in Flowels creek[?].

3rd When & where were you born. I was born

Answer I was born in Bedford County State of Virginia on the 22nd day of June 1759

4th Where did you reside when you entered the service Where have you resided since & where do you now reside

Answer I lived in Sullivan County North Carolina when I entered the service. I removed from there to Nashville called the French Lick thence to Montgomery thence to Maury, thence to Wayne then called the purchase where I now live

5th Under what officers did you serve. State their names & grades State the regular Officers & troops if any with whom you served & the general circumstances of your service Answer the first touer I served was under Capt Isaac Bledsoe & Col Christy & A Bledsoe the 2nd trip I served under Capt Henry Clark & Charles Roberts[on]

6th Did you perform said service as a private soldier or did you hold any office. Were you a regular or Malitia soldier

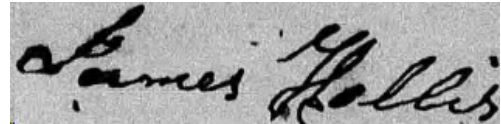
Answer I served as a private & suppose I was a Malitiaman

7th Were you drafted or did you volunteer were you a substitute & if so for whom

Answer I was not Drafted but turned out voluntarily & was not a substitute

Wayne county Tennessee }

February circuit court AD 1843 }

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "James Hollis". The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored background.

NOTES:

Like Hollis, Isaac Crabtree (pension application S30972) stated that Chota was burned during Hollis's first tour. John Barron (W2987), however, stated that Chota was spared from destruction in deference to Nancy Ward and other inhabitants who were friendly to Whites. Nancy Ward's cousin, Dragging Canoe, remained allied with the British after other Cherokees made peace with the Americans. Dragging Canoe with his band settled on Chickamauga River in towns that were destroyed 10-20 April 1779 by Hollis and other troops under Colonels Evan Shelby and John Montgomery.

The file includes a letter dated 27 July 1843 from Stephen Hollis of Waynesborough TN inquiring about the status of his father's application. A letter from the Pension Commissioner dated 3 March 1843 gives the following reasons for rejecting the claim: "The length of the first term is not consistent with the course of the Va. militia service wh'h was limited to 3 months – and neither term is supported by any evidence." The successful pension applications of John Barron (W2987) and Isaac Crabtree (S30972) stated that the first tour of duty served by Hollis lasted five to six months.