

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Thomas C. Holmes (alias Thomas Guinn or Gwinn) R5178

Transcribed by Gwineth HOLMES WALTON

Source: Washington DC Archives/ Microfilm file: M 853/ roll 16
Enlisted; 4 Nov. 1775/ alias: Thomas Gwinn or Thomas Guinn

Deposition or Sworn Statement of Thomas C. HOLMES
Also, Sworn statements of his sons.

County of Newton
State of Texas

Personally appearing this 17th day of January AD 1854, before me, a Justice of the Peace for county aforesaid; Thomas C. HOLMES, also of said county, who being sworn according to law, deposes and says; that he is now ninety-four years old; that early in the Revolutionary War, when about sixteen years of age, he entered the service of the United States under General Marion; that he gave the first information about Col. Tynes, who was taken prisoner; that he served under Capt. Ben Harrison and Govn. Caswell; that he was wounded in the knee at the battle of the Slippery Bridge; that while in the service of Gen. Marion, he was an Express Rider and carried expresses from Gen. Marion to Generals Washington, Greene, and Gevn. Caswell; that he was married in the year 1794; that his wife is still living; that he has a son, Thomas HOLMES, Jr. , who is now fifty-one or fifty-two years of age; that he was married in Wayne County, North Carolina; that he was at the battle of the Eutaw Springs, at the taking of Ft. Scott and, he thinks , at Fort Moultrie; that he was with Marion at a fight on the Big PeeDee; that when he entered the army under Marion, he ran away from his grandfather and in order to prevent discovery, assumed the name of Gwinn; that he went by the name of "Thomas Gwinn" while in the Revolutionary War under Marion; that he is the same and identical "Thomas Gwinn" who served as aforesaid; that he serve in the capacity of Express Rider during his whole service aforesaid; that he has never received from the government of the United States any Bounty Land or Pension for his services aforesaid; that he has lost or mislaid any and every evidence of his service aforesaid; he may have had; that his discharge or discharges, if any, has been lost; that he was honorably discharged from the service of the United States after his period of service with Marion and; that his memory is still clear and distinct concerning things that occurred during his early life and indeed of all his past life; that his health is uncommonly good for a man of his extreme age; that he refers for more particular proof of his service to the Rolls of the Revolutionary War under Marion and others, which bear his name throughout his term of service as Express Rider or Private in that capacity; that he now claims a pension under the Act of 1832, at the rate of forty dollars a month, which was the pay of an Express Rider, and any Bounty Land that he may be entitled to under the Law of the United States; that if the Act of 1832 be not applicable to this case, he claims the benefit of any other act under which he may claim for his services aforesaid; that he has never asked for a pension because he did not need it, but now he does need it, and he asks for it, if any; that he hereby appoints and constitutes W.G. Frethen of Washington, D.C. to be his attorney with full power of arbitration to prosecute to a continuum this disclaim against the U. States for

Pension or Bounty Land or both if it may be, and do so all lawful things he may do on the premises hereby notifying all his legal acts.

Witnesses: Jackson McGee
Sudduth P. West

Signed: Thomas C. Holmes
(Thomas Gwinn)

Sworn to, subscribed and acknowledged by the said Thomas C. Holmes, alias, Thomas Gwinn in my presence and in the presence of the two witnesses aforesaid. And I do hereby certify that I believe the said affiant is of the age he swore he is; that he is the same person he avows he is; that he is known to me to be a truthful man; that his memory appears to be good concerning everything he speaks of; that he is in good health for one of his age; that I have full confidence in all that he has said of himself herein; and I further certify that I have no interest whatever in this, his paid claim prepared by the within affiant.

This seventeenth day of January A.D. 1854.

David McMahan
Justice of the Peace

The State of Texas
County of Newton

Before me, John MOORE, an acting Justice of the Peace in and for the State and County aforesaid, personally appeared W.H.J. HOLMES, a citizen of said state and county, to me well-known, who being duly sworn according to law deposes and says that he is fifty-three years old and that he is the son of Thomas C. HOLMES, Sen., who has always from said affiant earliest recollection claimed to have served in the Revolutionary War in the Second Regiment of South Carolina; that he served under the name of Gwinn or Thomas Gwin and was employed during the whole of said war as an Express Rider and private. I have often a great number of times heard him give an account of killing a British Captain to save the life of, I think, Col. Newry and of Gen. Marion giving him the horse and equipment of the said Captain upon so doing, and he often years ago would speak of Marion and his officers rejoicing when he brought them their commissions. He often told of the contrivances he used to keep the dispatches from falling into the enemies hands in case he should be taken, and further that he, the said affiant has passed the whole of his life among good riflemen, but never has known one who could equal his father in the quickness and certainty of his aim before he lost his sight; That he and his brothers had often endeavored to persuade his father to apply for a pension, but that he always refused because he said he did not serve for money and could get along without it; but now he has become old and helpless and does need it; and affiant further says that he has often seen a scar on his father's knee which extends entirely across the knee and looks like the results of a very bad wound which he said father has always declared he received in battle during his said service in the Revolutionary War.

And, also, personally appeared before me, Charles HOLMES, a resident citizen of the state and county aforesaid, who being duly sworn according to law deposes and says that he is forty-three years old and a son of Thomas C. HOLMES, Sen. and the foregoing deposition of his brother, W.H.J. HOLMES being read over to him, he said affiant said, that his said father has always represented himself in the way therein set forth as far back as his recollection will extend, and that all of the facts thus set forth have ever been a tradition in the family.

And further said despondent say not
In presence of
(signed) George Dougharty

W.H.J. Holmes
X (his mark)

J----- Dougharty

Charles Holmes
X (his mark)

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 17th day of March A.D. 1855

John Moore
Justice of the Peace

[Transcriber's Note:

After much study of the records , I personally think the places that Thomas HOLMES referred were

Ft. Moultrie,(other names called: Ft. Sullivan, Sullivan's Island)May 1780
Big PeeDee.....Peedee Swamppossibly Sept 1780
Ft. Scott.....possibly Ft. Watson; also called Wright's Bluff or Scott's Lake.....March 1781
Eutaw Springs.....Sept 1781
the slippery bridge....possibly Videau's Bridge, Brabant Plantation, Parson Smith's Plantation.....Jan. 3, 1782

Family tradition say it was at the slipper bridge encounter that Thomas HOLMES was wounded in the knee.
He moved his family from the Pearl River, Hancock and Hinds Counties , Mississippi to East Texas about 1832.
He appears on the 1835 Census of TexasDistrict of Bevil
His home place was in Newton Co., Texas and his grave site with Memorial Stone is located there
He died March 30, 1854.
He never received any pension payments.]