

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Shadrach Holt R5185

Martha

fn49NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

4/17/11

[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. 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 fails 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 errors or omissions to my attention.]

State of Tennessee Bedford County: SS

On this __ day of November 1832 personally appeared in open Court before John B Armstrong, John L Neill & Samuel Philips Esquires Justices appointed to hold the Quorum Court of Pleas & Quarter Sessions for the County of Bedford in the State of Tennessee; the same being a Court of Record Shadrach holt a resident of said County in the State aforesaid aged about seventy-nine years ninth December 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 –

This applicant states that about the first of the spring 1779 as well as he now recollects he was drafted in the State of North Carolina Orange County where he then resided for the term of three months and was placed under the command of Captain Edward Gwin, in a Regiment commanded by William O'Neill as Colonel & John Campbell as Major; as well as he now recollects. During the time he was drafted as aforesaid his family was indisposed & he hired a Substitute, who served in his room. Some short time after the expiration of the three months tour above stated, he was again drafted for the term of twelve months, this draft or call he is confident took place about the first of June & he believes in the year 1779. Applicant's family still remaining unwell & disagreeably situated and it being convenient for him to do so; he hired a man named Thomas Willis as a Substitute during this term, who was received in his place & as deponent is informed was in the battle at Camden known better by the name of General Gates defeat – where said Substitute was killed as report says. Applicant states it was some little time after he was drafted the second time before he was called into actual Service, the time however he does not now recollect. He supposes it might have been three or four months –

After this second draft & hiring a Substitute the time he cannot recollect, but has no doubt it was the same fall or fall of 1779, Applicant states his horse & gun were pressed into the service of his Country, he resisted the call, stating that he had done for his Country as above recited. He was informed his own Services could not be required but those of his arms & other

property could. He then told him if one went the other would; He accordingly volunteered in the Service of his Country, for no particular period; as he recollects, but was to serve whenever called upon. He states he did serve from that time until the close of the war, under Captain Edward Gwin and in the Regiment commanded by Colonel William O'Neill & Major John Campbell. He states according to the best of his recollection he volunteered in the fall of 1779 & served until the same time in the year 1782; Some time after the capture of Lord Cornwallis. He states he volunteered in Orange County State of North Carolina – at the time aforesaid and was discharged near Wilcox's Iron Works on or near Deep River in the State of North Carolina. He further states he received a written discharge signed by Colonel O'Neill but that the same is now & has been for a long time past, lost or destroyed so that he cannot produce it. He believes in moving from North Carolina to Georgia, or from Georgia to Tennessee it became worn out or lost, he has never since seen it. He states he was in the service about two years and from 6 to 9 months so well as he recollects; he was during that time engaged principally in scouts after the Tories & some British, in the Counties of Orange, Cumberland and some of the adjoining Counties. He was in a little skirmish with some of Colonel Fanning's men at the Buffalo Ford¹ on Deep River the Tories were beaten. He was next in a little battle on a water course called Cane Creek² where he was informed Colonel Fanning commanded the Tories in person – in this battle the Tories were also beaten. Some other small skirmishes took place which he supposes unnecessary to mention as they probably have never obtained a place in history. Applicant well recollects to have seen many of the Soldiers on their return home from General Gates Defeat – whilst he was out as volunteer as aforesaid & received the news of Gates defeat from them. He was also within 25 miles of Guilford Court House on the day the battle was fought between Green [Nathanael Greene] & Cornwallis. He distinctly recollects to have heard the reports of the Cannon at that battle. The men to which he belonged were then in pursuit of Colonel Fanning, who was reported to have 1000 men, going to the aid of Cornwallis – & the object of his commanders was, as he was told to prevent their junction.

Applicant further states, that he has no record of the time when or place where he was born, but from the information given to him by his parents & which he believes to be true, he was born in Culpeper County in the State of Virginia in December 1753 – which will make him seventy-nine years old next December or December 1832. He further states that during his service as volunteer as aforesaid he was commanded by the officers above named. He further states he knows of no person by whom he can prove the facts or any of them, except Jacob Rich & Joshua Holt, whose affidavits he has procured & are appended to this Declaration as part of the same.

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present and declares that his name is not on the Pension Roll of the Agency of any State or Territory in the United States

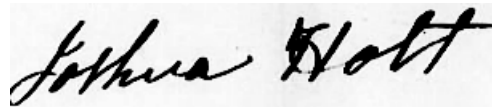
S/ Shadrach Holt, X his mark

Sworn to in open Court 5th November 1832
S/ Jas McKisick, Clk.

¹ May 11, 1781 http://www.carolana.com/NC/Revolution/revolution_buffalo_ford.html and <http://gaz.irshelby.com/buffaloford.htm>

² Probably the action at Lindley's Mill on Cane Creek September 13, 1781 <http://gaz.irshelby.com/lindleysmill.htm> and http://www.carolana.com/NC/Revolution/revolution_battle_of_lindleys_mill.html

This day Joshua Holt a Citizen of Bedford County Tennessee appeared in open Court and made oath, that he was acquainted with Colonel William O'Neill Major John Campbell & Edward Gwin the officers mentioned in the foregoing declaration, he states he has seen them mustering men frequently in the County of Orange for the purpose of pursuing & taking Fanning & his men and other Tories as he was informed & has always understood. He states further that he has been acquainted with Shadrach Holt the applicant in the foregoing declaration ever since he can recollect being born in the same neighborhood where said Shadrach Holt lived. He distinctly recollects at different times when the officers above named were mustering their men & at different times when they were marching as this deponent recollects & was informed, he does recollect to have seen the said Applicant among the soldiers who were Commanded by the officers above named, & he does further state that he always understood that said Applicant was a Revolutionary Soldier & no doubt remains in his mind that said Applicant was in the Service & served as he states, and that he is a man of correctness & his statements entitled to full credit.



[Humphrey C Ferguson, a clergyman, gave a standard supporting affidavit.]

[fn p. 31]

State of Tennessee Franklin County: This day personally appeared before me John R Patrick an acting Justice of the peace in & for said County & state Patrick Rich³ a resident of said County aged 70 years old, who after being duly sworn deposeth and saith he was a Lieutenant in the Army of the Revolution, and that he knows that Shadrach Holt now of Bedford County Tennessee, did serve against the Tories in the war of the Revolution.

S/ Jacob Rich, R his mark

[fn p. 24]

An amendment to the declaration of Shadrach Holt made at November term 1832 of Bedford County Court; in order to obtain the benefit of the Act of Congress passed the 7th of June 1832.

State of Tennessee Bedford County

On this 13th day of June 1833, Personally appeared before the undersigned a Justice of the peace in and for said County Shadrach Holt Senior who subscribed and was qualified to the declaration above alluded to, who after being duly sworn according to law, deposeth and saith 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 the periods below and in the following grades to wit: That to the best of his recollection he entered the service of the United States as stated in his former declaration in the fall of the year 1779 the first of October, as a volunteer in Captain Edward Gwin's Company who was under command of Colonel William O'Neill and Major John Campbell and was marched from Orange County North Carolina to a Fort on Deep River called the Buffalo Ford; where he says he was in the Battle or Skirmish with the Tories under the command of a Tory Colonel by the name of Fanning, and that the Tories were defeated, deponent does not recollect the month or day that this Skirmish took place, but thinks it was after Christmas in the early part of the year 1780 and that he recollects very well it was in Chatham County North Carolina; and from there he was marched to Wilcox's Ironworks on Deep River where he was kept for some time, and at that

³ [Jacob Rich W26380](#)

place the troops that he was with were joined by a reinforcement under the command of Colonel John Paistley [John Paisley] and Daniel Gillespie and from there he was marched to Brush Creek he thinks, in Cumberland County North Carolina where the troops under O'Neill, Paisley & Gillespie attacked a band of Tories and British and defeated them, he says he cannot recollect the day or month at this time that it took place but thinks it was a short time before that he Battle of Camden, him from there he was marched to Cane Creek in the lower end of Orange County or upper end of Chatham, in said last mentioned State, where he says he was in another small skirmish against the Tories under Fanning and that the Tories gave way and fled in every direction, and from there he says he was marched to the Raft Swamp in said Cumberland County where he says he was Stationed for some weeks, and from that place he was marched to the Red-field Ford on Haw River where he was kept for some time but the precise length of time he does not now recollect, and from there he was marched to various other places through the Counties of Orange, Cumberland in Randolph, to prevent the Tories from embodying and committing depredations on the Whig families who were often left without any protection scarcely, this applicant states that the Whigs were thought to be more safe in the Army or in actual service than at home, and that as his services were still solicited by his officers he continued in service until after the surrender of Cornwallis, when he was marched to Wilcox's Ironworks, where he received a discharge in writing for more than two years – for although he cannot read writing himself he has frequently heard persons read his discharge, which was always read to him for two years and nine months but that he is very certain to the best of his recollection he served not less than two years in the actual Service of the United States during the Revolutionary war as a private Soldier and volunteer for which he claims a pension. Sworn to and subscribed the day & year aforesaid before me.

S/ E. Hord, JP

S/ Shadrach Holt, SH his mark

Interrogatories propounded

Int. 1st Where and in what year were you born?

Ans. I was born in Culpeper County in the State of Virginia on the 12th day of December 1753 agreeable to the best information I have been able to get.

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

Ans. I have no Record of my age except a letter I received from a cousin of mine; a son of my uncle Michael Holt of Orange County North Carolina who could write and as I have been informed kept the age of my father's family in his Bible, and my Cousin in his letter to me, says he took it from the original record that I was born as above stated.

Int. 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 a citizen of Orange County and State of North Carolina when I was called into service and continued to be until after the close of the war when I removed to the State of Georgia I think in the year__ where I lived until the year __ when I removed to Bedford County Tennessee where I have resided ever since and where I now reside.

Int. 4th How were you called into service; were you drafted; did you volunteer or were you a substitute, and if in substitute, for whom?

Ans. I was a volunteer all the time I was in service

Int. 5th State the names of some of the regular officers who were with the troops when you served, such Continental and militia regiments as you can recollect and the general circumstances of your service.

An I was not acquainted with any Regular officer – with the troops where I served, nor do I now

recollect of any name or number to the Regiment I belonged to except Colonel O'Neill's Regiment of volunteers. And I believe the foregoing declaration and the amendment thereto are the most pronent [sic?] and general history of my Service that I am able at this advanced stage of my life together.

Int. 6th Did you ever receive a discharge from the service, and if so, by whom was it given and what has become of it?

Ans. I did receive a discharge in writing signed by Colonel William O'Neill to the best of my recollection as it was read to me for a term of Service of 2 years and 9 months – but has been worn out or lost long since.

Int. 7th State the names of persons to whom you are known in your present neighborhood and who can testify as to your character for veracity and their belief in your services as a soldier in the revolution.

Ans. I am known to Mr. Willis Green and that William Culley
Sworn to and subscribed before [me] this 13th day of June 1833
S/ E. Hord, JP S/ Shadrach Holt, SH his mark
[Willis Green and William Culley gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[fn p. 11: On July 25 1840, in Franklin County Tennessee, Martha Holt, 84, filed for a widow's pension under the 1836 act stating she is the widow of Shadrach Holt, a pensioner of the United States for his service in the revolution; that she married him in the month of March 1775; that her husband died April 15 1838 and that she has remained a widow; that she had 3 children at the time the battle of Guilford Court House which was near her residence at the time.]

[fn p. 18: On August 25, 1840 in Franklin County Tennessee, John Lokey gave testimony that he married the second child of Mrs. Martha Holt, the applicant for a pension as the widow of Shadrach Holt; that his wife is now according to his best information 62 years old and a great grand mother; that their oldest child is now 40 years of age.]

[fn p. 20: On July 1, 1852 in Franklin County Tennessee, Elizabeth Byram, 62, filed a claim stating she is one of the daughters and an heir at law of Martha Holt the widow of Shadrach Holt a pensioner of the United States; that her mother died November 28, 1846 leaving the following named children her surviving: Naney Loky, Elijah Holt and affiant Elizabeth Byram. She signed her claim with her mark.]

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