

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Thomas Holt R5187

f14VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

4/16/14

[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.]

State of Kentucky Union County: SS

On this 11th day of October 1834 personally appeared at his residence in the dwelling house of Henry Holt, his son, before the undersigned a Justice of the County Court in and for the aforesaid County of Union and State of Kentucky, Thomas Holt, a resident of said Union County and State of Kentucky, aged 81 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 act of Congress passed June 7, 1832. That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers, and served as herein stated. – He states that he first entered the service in Chesterfield County, Virginia, as orderly Sergeant under Captain William Randolph of the same County in the Virginia minute service; the day and year he cannot recollect but he knows that it was in the first or second year of the Revolutionary war, and immediately after Governor Dunmore (John Murray, Lord Dunmore, last Royal Governor of the colony of Virginia) left Williamsburg and went on board the *Troy* man of war, because they marched from Chesterfield down to Williamsburg and the Ship was in the harbor below town when they arrived; they were stationed at Williamsburg, he does not know how many men were in the Station, nor does he remember the officers generally, but that Patrick Henry who was afterwards Governor of that state, was principal in command. He states that he volunteered on this occasion, he believes the term of engagement was six months, but he was discharged at the end of three months, that Captain Randolph discharged him, and paid him some gold for his services, but he can say how much. He states that sometime he does not now know how long, but he believes it was 10 or 12 months after he was discharged as above, he was recommended to Governor Henry by Colonel John Bowlin and Archibald Carey who was speaker of the house in the Virginia Assembly, and on their recommendation, this applicant was appointed Captain pro term in the 15th Regiment of Virginia Continentals under Colonel David Mason and Lieutenant Colonel James Enis [James Innis], he states that when he received the appointment there was given him in charge 16 or 18 men who had been an enlisted by one or two others who had been appointed before him, that his orders was to take them in charge and try to raise a company including them with the promise that if he succeeded he should have a commission and command them in the line, he recovered [?] them at Chesterfield Courthouse, permitted them to go home and stay till he should call for them and was engaged himself in trying to recruit men to fill his company, but though he was all the time trying for at least three months he believes that in all that time he could and did enlist but one man, he does not remember his name, but he engaged him in the neighborhood of Williamsburg and had him qualified before a squire by the name of Johnston who lived near. He

states that after he found it impossible to fill his company he called the men that was subject to his order above mentioned and marched them from Chesterfield Courthouse in the direction to Williamsburg, across James River and as far as Colonel Charles Carter's and then sent them to Williamsburg by a Sergeant, and retired from service. He states during the whole of the above time he found his own horse and for his own expenses, and that he did faithfully devote his whole time to the recruiting service for which he never received one cent, – He states that shortly after but he does not know the precise time Captain Theodorick Bland, the Clerk of the court in Prince George County came to Petersburg raising a company of light horse for the Continental service and this applicant joined him and stayed with him in training at Petersburg about 3 weeks, and then went with him into Prince George Courthouse to be received into the service but before the Captain's party were received he, the Captain gave the liberty to applicant, left the company, Captain Bland's company were received into service and shortly after went to the North where he thinks Bland raised to bear the title of Colonel before he returned to Virginia. This Bland before he started to the North made this applicant his deputy in the Clerk's office and he continued to transact the business in that office until Bland became eligible.

He does not [indecipherable word] the above service but as he cannot remember the several dates precisely when he entered and left the service, and as these particulars may help the department in the investigation of his claim, he has been thus minute in stating what he can recollect.

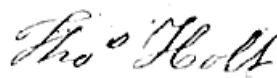
He states that in the same year that Lord Cornwallis surrendered [October 19, 1781] to General Washington at Little York, which he believes was 1781, in August or September, that he was drafted in Chesterfield County for three months; he entered the service this time as orderly to the company of Captain Francis Goode of Virginia militia who also lived in Chesterfield County; they were attached to the Regiment of Colonel __ Gaskins [Thomas Gaskins] of General Muhlenberg's [Peter Muhlenberg's] Brigade, they marched down James River to a place called Cooper's Mills in the neighborhood of Suffolk, it was after the burning of Norfolk, and their aim was to prevent the British from crossing to Petersburg and Richmond: they were stationed at the above Mills about three weeks, he thinks General Muhlenberg quartered himself at the house of a wealthy man by the name of Mead; he states that whilst said Colonel Gaskins made this applicant quartermaster to his Regiment and that he continued in his staff as such till his time was out, that the British commenced moving up the River by water and that Muhlenberg moved from here by land to Petersburg where they met General Philips [William Phillips] and gave him battle [the Battle of Petersburg occurred on April 25, 1781], this affiant was present but having charge of the baggage, was not in the action, he thinks the two armies were about equal in number, say 1200 each, but the British being better trained and equipped, beat them and they retreated to Chesterfield Courthouse and thence to Richmond, where they met General Lafayette coming to their aid, with the men under his command, perhaps 12 or 1500 they passed his review on the Richmond Heights, then joined him and marched down the River to a place called the Meadow bridges and here they encamped, the regulars on one side and Muhlenberg's men on the other of a Valley in which they all got water out of one spring, and this applicant remembers that whilst they were there situated, two soldiers, one of each troop met in the Valley to get water and raised a quarrel, on which those on each side took part, met in the Valley and began to box severely, and it was as much as all the officers could do with drawn swords to quell the disturbance. He states that General Lafayette marched from this place to Petersburg and besieged the British there, but this affiant with Colonel Gaskins' Regiment and perhaps Muhlenberg's hold brigade continued here, he knows that he remained here till his three months

expired, and that besides his duty in camp he was employed in the neighborhood in procuring provisions for the troops at this place and for those at Petersburg. Lafayette defeated the British and retook the town, he heard it said that in the siege a cannon ball passed through the house of Mrs. Bowlin where Philips was, and killed him in bed. [William Phillips, the commander of the British forces in Virginia at that time died of natural disease.].

He states also that during the above Siege General Lafayette quartered at the house of David Holt who was this applicant's father, and who lived in the corner of Chesterfield County close to Petersburg, that while there the General became acquainted with this applicant's wife who spoke the French language fluently, and that upon her admiring the plume he wore which was of a deep sky-blue color, he gave it to her and this plume was kept for many years in this applicant's family, he remembers that when his time was nearly out, General Lafayette sent his complements to this applicant in Colonel Gaskins'[indecipherable word] with the offer of the rank of quartermaster to his staff, by Major Nicholas who was one of the general aides; but that being greatly fatigued by the heavy duties he had to discharge, and wishing to return to his family he declined the offer, his time expired shortly after, and he was discharged, without pay, and went home and served no more – He states that his great age, bodily infirmity and particularly an extreme deafness (all of which together make absolutely unreasonable, if not utterly impossible for him to make his declaration in court) put it out of his power to detail the in relation to his service, the facts, with greater precision and propriety, that he has here in detailed the whole as fully as he can, that he knows certainly to the entire satisfaction of his own mind that he did serve at least 9 months in the manner herein before stated (i.e.) say four months as orderly Sergeant, two months as quartermaster, and three months as Captain pro tem in the recruiting service, for which he claims a Pension. He states that he has no doubt had papers that would have helped his memory in regard to dates and some perhaps that would have gone to support his claim, though he is not sure he had any written discharges, but if he had, they with his appointments are lost, and he has none now whatever, he knows of no person now living by whom he can prove his services, and that the only Clergyman in the County with whom he was well acquainted (to wit) Claiborne Duval, whom he expected to certify for him is recently dead.

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.
Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid.

S/ Thos. Holt



The following all the interrogatories prescribed by the War Department, with the applicant's answers

1. Where, and in what year were you born? Answer. In Amelia County Virginia the 8th day of July in the year 1753 –
2. Have you any record of your age, and if so where is it? Answer. I have none now, but this is what I have generally heard and I think it is true.
3. Where were you living when called into service; where have you lived since the revolutionary war, and where do you now live? Answer. I was living in Chesterfield County Virginia in the vicinity of Petersburg, each time when called into service; I lived in the neighborhood till the year 1789 when I removed to Nelson County in this State, thence I removed to this part, and I now live with my son Henry in his house.
4. How were you called into service; were you drafted, did you volunteer, or were you a

substitute? Answer. I volunteered first, next served by appointment, in the recruiting service, and the last time I was drafted.

5. State the names of some of the regular officers who were with the troops where you served; such Continental and Militia regiments as you can recollect and the general circumstances of your services. Answer. The same as stated in the declaration.

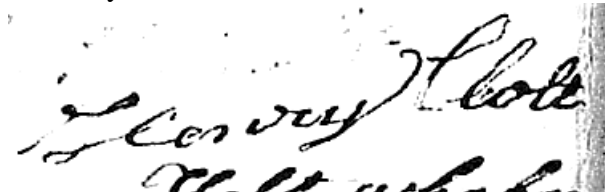
6. Did you ever receive a discharge from the service &c . Answer. I am not certain that I had written discharges, but if I had, the first was given by a Captain William Randolph and the last by Colonel Gaskins, for they respectively discharge me. (Interrogatory) Did you ever receive a commission, &c. Answer. I never had a commission as Sergeant I believe I served by verbal appointment of Captains Randolph and Goode and think Colonel Gaskins made me quartermaster in the same way, and a recruiting Captain – I had a written up appointment signed by Patrick Henry, but it is lost, thinking such papers useless, and not having House for years as I have stated in my declaration, I have none that relate to the matter.

7. 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 of your services as a soldier of the revolution. Answer. Nathaniel C. Floyd and George Givens all well acquainted with me. [Nathaniel C Floyd and George Givens gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

This day personally appeared before me the undersigned a Justice of the Peace in and for the Union County and State of Kentucky, Henry Holt and made oath that his father Thomas Holt mentioned in the foregoing letter departed this life of old age and infirmities to which he had several years been subject on the 20th of December 1834.

Sworn to and subscribed this 16th day of May 1835

S/ Henry Holt

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Henry Holt", written in dark ink on a light-colored surface. The signature is somewhat faded and has a slightly irregular, flowing appearance.