

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of Aaron Holbert S18028

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

[A note in the file states that on 9 Aug 1834 Holbert's application was sent to Washington G. Singleton, U.S. Attorney, who investigated many pension applications from Lewis, Harrison, and other counties of present West Virginia. For details see pension application S6111 of David W. Sleeth. The following is Singleton's report.]

Aaron Holbert. Draws \$70.21

I saw this man July 29, 1834 & received from him the following statement. - he is 83[?] yrs. old. in the year 1781 he was one week in service at Alexandria D. C. guarding the Magazine and working on the Battery, and 3 days working on the road near Occoquin [sic: Occoquan] preparing it for the passage of Washingtons artillery on its way to Little York Virginia. this comprises all the service he done during the war of the revolution - he once hired a substitute for six months. - James H. Bennet & R. H. Lowther wrote his Declaration to whom he gave the same narative he here gave. they by the contract were to have all the back draws except \$50. they however got but \$10 - would not pay them more after finding out they were impostures.

Col. Benjamin Riddle, a man of character and a neighbour of Mr. Holberts, informed me that shortly after the passage of the Pension Law of June 1832 he was called on by Mr. Holbert to enquire into his right to a Pension under that Law. on a minute and particular examination of Holbert found that he Holbert had only served nine days in any capacity in the Revolutionary War, after which he told Holbert he was not entitled to a Pension and so the matter rested for a while - Some time thereafter J H Bennett & R H. Louther called on him Riddle at his own House and requested him to go with them to Holders [sic] & swear him to a Declaration for a Pension - Riddle told them what had ocured between himself and Holder in reference to that matter & that he was not entitled to a Pension - they replied that they thought differently and lost[?] the matter. - in getting to Holders Louther propounded interrogatories to Holder and Bennett wrote down his answers. the examination resulted in Holders having been in service nine days only during the war of the Revolution - after the writing was finished Bennett read it to Holder . from Bennett reading of the paper it only claimed for nine days services - and this was all the Service to which he as magistrate swore Holder. Bennett had two pieces of paper, after reading the one he shifted the other piece on the top. Holder being in his opinion unable to go to the county seat, he Riddle certified to that fact.

The forgoing is a correct statement of facts communicated by the undersigned W. G Singleton
Benjamin Riddle

A true copy W. G. Singleton.
in this case Bennett & Louther have been prosecuted and Holbert sued. W. G Singleton
Nov'r. 3, 1834

NOTE: From a letter from the attorney of heirs of Samuel Harbert [pension application S15447] to the Commissioner of Pensions: "It will be found that in 1833 or 4 information was received at your Office that Jonathan M. Wamsley, James Bennett and Dr. Lowther, all of Weston, Lewis Co. Va. were engaged in presenting fraudulent Pension Claims.... Among those against whom the Government obtained Verdicts for the sum paid them, were, John Waggoner [S7824], Jacob Hyre [W7856], Joseph Kestor [S2690] and Aaron Holbert, and if I am correctly informed by the heirs of the soldiers, they were all subsequently restored to the Pension roll.