

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of John Holley S21302

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Transcribed and annotated by Will Graves

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[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 'indcipherable' or 'undeciphered' 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. Researchers should not rely solely on the transcripts but should review the originals for themselves. These transcripts are intended as an aid to research, not to be used in lieu thereof.]

State of Tennessee White County: to wit

On this 12th day of July in the year 1834 personally appeared before me William Hitchcock one of the acting justices of the peace in and for the County of White and State of Tennessee, and member of the County Court of said County the same being a court of record John Holley aged eighty-three years past, who being first duly sworn according to the laws of the State, doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the act of Congress passed June 7th 1832.

That he entered the service of the United States in the war of the Revolution in the State of North Carolina Sampson County. First he volunteered in said County for a tour of three months it was in the cold season of the year, cannot recollect the precise date but must refer to the facts detailed for dates.

He joined a company commanded by Francis Hill and joined a Regiment commanded by Colonel Kenyon [sic, James Kenan] marched down near Wilmington. The British then had possession of Wilmington and continued in possession of it during this tour. The Army was then commanded by General Rutherford. He states he was in no battles or engagements. He states he served his full tour of three months and was discharged at Jumping run near Wilmington North Carolina and returned home.

Soon after his return home he was drafted in said County of Sampson for a tour of three months and joined a company commanded by Captain Asher Pipkin and joined a Regiment commanded by Colonel Kenyon and Major John Molton and marched again to the neighborhood of Wilmington. British still had possession of Wilmington. The enemy marched out of Wilmington and attacked the American forces at a place called as he recollects North East bridge about ten miles distant from Wilmington. Colonel Kenyon was the highest in command. The enemy was compelled to retreat. The British endeavored to pass the bridge in the night but they proved unsuccessful. There was about twenty lost out of Colonel Kenyon's Regiment. On the other side of the River Colonel Brown had a Regiment on that night Captain Love who commanded a company of light horse went up the River and crossed and with Colonel Brown's Regiment attacked the enemy in the rear, and they retreated back to Wilmington. After that marched down below Wilmington to a place called Top Sale [Topsail] and lay there and in the vicinity until his tour was expired during their stay there Captain Love and his company was attacked by the British light horse and he and six of his men were killed. He states he served out his full tour of three months and was discharged in the neighborhood of Wilmington by Captain Gillespie Captain Pipkin having in some way got out of the service he was placed in a company

commanded by Captain Gillespie – Again returned home & can recollect that it was in the summer or warm weather.

After his return home, thinks in the fall next ensuing he enlisted for a term of twelve months (in the same County) and joined a company commanded by Captain Hardy Homes [Hardy Holmes] and joined the Army under General Rutherford cannot recollect the name of the Colonel. The company to which he belonged joined the Army under command of General Rutherford some short distance above Wilmington remained in the neighborhood of Wilmington for some considerable time – next marched into the edge of South Carolina where it was said the Tories were embodied – did not find them in that condition, & returned again to the neighborhood of Wilmington and whilst stationed there orders came for General Rutherford marched the Army under his command to some distant place – not recollected. His time of service being pretty well out he proposed to the Captain to get a substitute, which was agreed to, and he hired a man in his place and was discharged. He confidently believes he served as much as 9 months and returned home. He states he was in no battles or engagements during this term.

Sometime after his return home, he was drafted in the same County for a tour of three months and joined a company commanded by Captain Asher Pipkin and joined a Regiment commanded by Colonel Kenyon and Major John Molton or Murton, and marched to a place called Rockfish Bridge and while waiting for additional forces (there being but Colonel Kenyon's Regiment there) they were attacked by the British and had to retreat lost a few men, most of whom as he learned were taken prisoners. There was no regular order in the retreat and the Regiment was placed in quite a scattered condition. Collected again at a place called Maxfields Creek. From that went on below Wilmington to a ~~place~~ stream called Jumping run and there stationed, there was as he recollects no higher officer than a Colonel. Remained there until his term of service expired and was discharged by Captain Pipkin and returned home.

After his return, the same Captain Asher Pipkin raised a company of volunteers to go against the Tories they marched near the sea shore where the British shipping lay and endeavored to prevent communication between the British and Tories and protect the Country from there outrages. He marched in different directions through that part of the State of North Carolina bordering on the seashore for three months and seventeen days. Heard while at that time that Cornwallis was taken. They returned by way of Wilmington that the British had burned the town & left it and burned Brunswick on their retreat. He received his discharge at Wilmington.

This ended his service as a soldier of the revolution. He states that from old age and infirmity he has been unable to be particular as to dates or the as minute in his details as might be desirable. He states he is born down with old age and is entirely unable to go to the Court house of his County to make out his declaration and such has been his condition for a considerable, until very recently lived in a remote part of Smith County, which adjoins the County of White and has been unable to get his declaration made out at an earlier period. He states that he can say that he served one year and seventeen days in the Militia service. He states there is no living witness within his knowledge by whom he can prove his service or any part thereof. Nor can he by reason of defect of recollection state the dates and must therefore refer the Department to his detail of facts for dates. He wishes the same remarks to apply to his service as an enlisted soldier. He further states that he has no documentary evidence of his service or any part thereof. He had the misfortune to get his house burned and had his discharges and all his property in his house consumed by the fire.

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 in my presence the 12th day of July 1834

S/ Wm Hitchcock, JP

S/ John Holley, X his mark

I was born in Sampson County North Carolina and as I recollect in 1751. I lost the record of my age when I got my house burned. I lived in Sampson County North Carolina when I entered the service, moved to Jackson County, lived there one year and moved from that to Smith County adjoining said County of Jackson, lived in Smith County fourteen years, removed to this County (White) in the last spring & still lived in same place. I was twice drafted, volunteered 2 terms and enlisted for one tour.

As to officers and the general circumstances of my service can state nothing more than I have already stated.

I received discharges from my officers for all my terms, but lost them as above stated.

I believe of those in my neighborhood Colonel Jose C. Dew, Andrew Kerr, Henry Kerr, Robert Alcorn Esquire, Hugh Wallace, Hillary Barks and many others well testify as to my character for veracity & reputation as a soldier of the revolution.

Sworn to and subscribed in my presence this 12th July 1834

S/ Wm Hitchcock, JP

S/ John Holley, X his mark

[Jose C. Dew and Andrew Kerr gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[Henry Burton a clergyman gave a separate standard supporting affidavit.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$41.88 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for one-year 17 days service as a private in the North Carolina militia.]