

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Thomas Holmes S31758

f19SC

Transcribed and annotated by Will Graves

1/7/11: rev'd 9/14/22

[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' 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.]

[p 7]

To the Honorable the Senate & the House of Representatives of the General Assembly of the State of South Carolina –

The Petition of Thomas Holmes humbly sheweth that your petitioner enlisted in the regular service of South Carolina in 1777 in the first independent company commanded by Captain Benjamin Tutt for three years or during the war, for which term your petitioner faithfully performed to the close of the war. After which a great part of his time has been spent in the Cherokee Nation, where being ignorant of the laws of the State never applied for nor obtained his bounty of land which was given to the soldiers of the regular service of this State. Your petitioner has for a number of years resided among the white people and labored for his support, still getting to be Seventy six years of age he is now become so old and infirm together with the palsy that he is no longer able to support himself by his labor, and having no relations in America neither wife nor child, he is induced to apply to your Honorable body who is well known to be liberal to old soldiers who served their country faithfully for a small pension what little time he has to live or give him the value of the land he was entitled to as County for his services and which he ignorantly lost and South Carolina has no more land to give. Your Petitioner has good vouchers to accompany this petition from the only officer and a few soldiers who have served in the Revolutionary war, and as in duty bound your petitioner will ever pray –

S/ Thomas Holmes, X his mark

I Thomas Farrar¹ of Pendleton District South Carolina formerly a Lieutenant in the revolutionary War in the first Independent Company commanded by Captain Benjamin Tutt, do certify that Thomas Holmes was duly enlisted in the regular service in the company aforesaid for 3 years or during the war from the year 1777 to the close of the war, and that he the said Thomas Holmes did serve faithfully to the close of the war and that he never got his bounty land, being absent from the State, residing in the Cherokee Nation and not knowing anything of the laws of this State. I also certify that he is very old (he says 76) and has the palsy. Bad, he also says, which I am bound to believe, that he has not a blood relative in America. Also he was in the battle of Savannah under my command the 9th of October 1779.

Given under my hand this the 10th of October 1822

(signed) Thomas Farrar

¹ [Thomas Farrar R3449](#)

South Carolina Pendleton District: Personally appeared before me Robert and John Looney, two revolutionary soldiers and made oath that they were soldiers in the first independent Company raised by this State commanded by Captain Benjamin Tutt and that we were well acquainted with Thomas Holmes who belonged to the same company and that he was in the battle of Savannah with one of the Deponents (John Looney) and that we have ever since known him, and that he is very infirm and not able to get his living by his labor. Sworn to and subscribed this 26th of October 1822 before me

S/ Reuben Paine, JP

(signed)

S/ John Looney

(signed)

S/ Robert Looney

[The above documents are certified by Robert Anderson Clerk of the SC House of Representatives as true copies of documents in its official records.]

[p 3]

State of Georgia Franklin County} SS

On this 17th day of October 1834, Personally appeared before the Honorable the Inferior Court of Franklin County, now sitting, Thomas Holmes a resident of Captain David's District, in the County aforesaid, aged Eighty four years – who being duly sworn according to law, doth on his oath make the following declaration, in order to obtain the benefit of the provision made by the act of Congress passed June 7th 1832. That he enlisted into the Army of the United States (he thinks) in the year 1777, as a private for three years in what was called the South Carolina State Troops, under Captain Benjamin Tutt² in the State of South Carolina, at Fort Rutledge on Seneca River (does not recollect that there were any Counties or districts known in that part of the State at that time) & served in Major Bowie's [John Bowie's]³ Battalion, there was no Colonel in command at that time; the Battalion was called the independent Company. He remained at Fort Rutledge for some time say two years after he entered the service, and was then marched under Captain Moore [perhaps John Moore of the Lower Ninety Six District Regiment of South Carolina militia commanded by Colonel LeRoy Hammond] to the Bank of the Savannah River opposite to Augusta Georgia, where he was stationed for some time, from there he was marched to Stono, where he was in an engagement [Stono Ferry, June 20, 1779]⁴ with the British and Tories, he was there commanded by General Lincoln [Benjamin Lincoln], from there he was marched to Savannah in the State of Georgia, by General Lincoln & Captain Moore, when he reached Savannah, he was commanded by Count De Estaing French General – was in the Battle at Savannah, he was then marched up to Augusta Georgia, under Captain Moore, & then Lieutenant Thomas Farrar, where he was stationed for some considerable time, from Augusta he was marched into South Carolina to a place called White Hall, where he was stationed for some time, and was at length discharged by Captain Moore, having served out his three years, this he thinks was in the latter part of the year 1780 – That he served with an embodied Corps called into service by competent authority, that he was either in the field or in Garrison, and for the time during which the service was performed, he was not employed in any civil pursuit, he has lost his discharge, but can prove his service by Levi Lowrey⁵ of Jackson County Georgia, which is hereto attached and by John Looney⁶ of the State of South Carolina,

² [Benjamin Tutt SC3954](#)

³ [John Bowie SC12](#)

⁴ https://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_stono_ferry.html

⁵ [Levi Lowrey W8091](#)

⁶ [John Looney S1553](#)

and also by the Records of the State of South Carolina where he has drawn a pension from that State for ten years past, to which last testimony the War Department is respectfully referred. He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or an annuity except the present, and he declares that his name is not on the Pension Roll of any Agency, in any State, excepting that of the State of South Carolina, where he is informed that he cannot draw any more, on account of the provisions of the act of Congress under which he now claims.

- 1.⁷ He was born in Cheshire, England in the year 1750.
2. Has no record of his age, it was destroyed during the Revolutionary war.
3. Was living in Ninety Six in the State of South Carolina, but was on a trip to Frontier part of that State when he enlisted at Fort Rutledge. Lived in the State of South Carolina and Georgia ever since the war. He now resides in Franklin County State of Georgia.
4. He enlisted in what was called the state troops, never served as a substitute –
5. He recollects Generals Lincoln & Green [sic, Nathanael Greene], & Count d'Estaing, & Colonels Lawrence [sic, probably John Laurens], Huger [probably a reference to Isaac Huger] & Mason, he recollects the Regiments commanded by the above named Colonels. Has stated the general Circumstances in the body of this declaration –
6. Received a discharge from Captain Moore, which is lost.
7. Is known to Samuel Hymer & Alvin E. Whitten who can testify to his veracity, & their belief of his services as a soldier of the Revolution.

Sworn to & subscribed the day & year aforesaid.

S/ C. Dougherty, JICWC

S/ Thomas Holmes, X his mark

[Samuel Hymer & A. E. Whitten gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[p 17]

Georgia Jackson County } Personally came before me Levi Lowrey and being duly sworn saith on oath that he is acquainted with Thomas Holmes of Franklin County Georgia. In September 1777 when he Lowrey joined the United States Army Mr. Holmes was then in the Army in Captain Benjamin Tutt's company at Fort Rutledge on Seneca River Richard Tutt 1st Lieutenant Thomas Farrar 2nd Lieutenant & James Huggins Ensign Nicholas Glawsier [Nicholas Glosser] Sergeant Major Nicholas Shavers 1st Sergeant. The said Holmes remained in said Company at the above named place for the space of 12 or 18 months then Captain Tutt & Captain John Moore swapped soldiers & said Holmes went off under Captain Moore I saw said Holmes no more until in the spring of the year 1780 at Augusta Georgia he was still in the Army under Captain Moore & stayed at Augusta for some 2 or 3 months. My company then returned to the Fort Rutledge &

⁷ The War Department promulgated regulations governing pension application format and requiring the following 7 interrogatories to be put to each applicant for a pension:

1st Where and in what year were you born?

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

3rd Where were you living when called into service: where have you lived since the Revolutionary War and where do you now live?

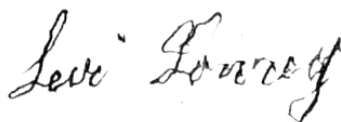
4th How were you called into service; were you drafted; did you volunteer or were you a substitute, and if a substitute, for whom?

5th 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 service.

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

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.

saw Holmes no more until after the close of the war.
Sworn to & subscribed before me this 11th day of October 1834
S/ Wm Bryant, JP S/Levi Lowrey



[p 19]

Treasury Office, Upper Division
Columbia 7th May, 1835

I do hereby Certify that Thomas Holmes, by a Resolution of the Legislature of this State passed in December 1822, was placed on the Pension list thereof as a Revolutionary Soldier and continued to draw annually his pension of Sixty Dollars until prevented by the Resolution of 1833, but was again restored by the Act of the Legislature passed in 1834, and is now entitled to his pension from this State as formally, until March 1836, at which time, by the terms of the said Act, he is to be stricken from the Role of Pensioners of this State.

Given under my hand and seal of office, at Columbia, the day & year above written
S/ Tandy Walker, Tr. Upper Division
per
S/ John T. Seibels

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$80 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for two-year service as a private in the South Carolina State Troops.]

South Carolina Audited Accounts⁸ relating to Thomas Holmes pp 17
Audited Account No. 3719B

Transcribed and annotated by Will Graves 9/14/22

[Note: The documents transcribed above and certified by Robert Anderson as the clerk of the South Carolina House of Representatives are no longer in this veteran's Audited Account file. Where those documents may be located is not known to me. Most of the documents now in the veteran's Audited Account file or vouchers for the annual payment to him of his \$60 pension from the State of South Carolina and administrative documents related thereto. The documents transcribed below are the only substantive documents now contained in this file.]

[p 4]

To the Honorable Senate and the House Representatives of The State of South Carolina in General Assembly met,

The petition of Thomas Holmes humbly Sheweth, That your petitioner upon application two years ago to your Honorable body, got a pension of Sixty Dollars which you will pensioner is truly thankful for, but it is not sufficient to support and maintain him in his present Situation

⁸ The South Carolina Audited Accounts (AAs) are now available online at <http://www.archivesindex.sc.gov/>. To find the AA for a specific person, click on the [Just take me to the search page](#) link, then enter the person's surname first in the "Full name" box followed by a comma and the person's Christian name. The number behind the 'pp' indicates the number of pages in the file and the 'Audited Account No.' is the actual Account Number assigned by the South Carolina Archives.

not having no blood relation living in America, and your applicant having fought the whole Revolutionary war to the general peace, Your Applicant never asked for any assistance until he was unable to get his living by labour, and is now in the Seventy eighth year of his age, and so much afflicted with the Palsy that he is not able to Carve or Cut his food, therefore Your Petitioner not wishing to trouble your Honorable body with an addition to his pension, but to grant him little Remuneration for his bounty land, which he never got, and which every regular Soldier was entitled to that made the necessary application to the proper officer, for a Certificate, that he served through the war, your Petitioner will be thankful for that little addition as it will help to eke out his short life without being a burden to anybody -- and as in duty bound will ever pray --

S/ Thomas Holmes, X his mark

[p 5]

I Thomas Farrar of the State of South Carolina formally an officer in the first Independent Company Commanded by Capt. Benj. Tutt, Do hereby Certify and am ready to be qualified to if requested, that Thomas Holmes the present applicant for his bounty Land or Some remuneration for the same, never applied to me for a Certificate and that the said Holmes resided either in the Cherokee nation or in the State of Georgia, I being the only officer then in existence authorized to give Certificates to those who made applications, and I gave to all that I knew had Served faithfully, but Holmes never made any application, nor never asked for a pension till he got so old and infirm that he was past labour, and Very much afflicted with the palsy, which is the Cause of his Coming forward now for the Remuneration of his bounty land which I know to be Just, and as it is a small boon he ought to have it, he is now in the seventy eighth year of his age, and of Course is not long for this world.

Given under my hand this 12 November 1825

S/ Thomas Farrar

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Thomas Farrar", written in dark ink on a light background.