

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements

Pension Application of Reuben Holt S4387

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

State of Tennessee } SS

Davidson County }

On this third day of May 1834 before the Justices of the Court of Pleas and quarter sessions for said County, in open Court, personally appeared Reuben Holt, aged 78 years, a resident of the County & State aforesaid, and made oath in due form of law, to the following declaration, in order to obtain the benefit of the Act of Congress, passed on the 7<sup>th</sup> June 1832.

He was born in Virginia, sometime in the months of December 1755 as he believes - his parents removed taking him with them to North Carolina, Orange County when he was very small. He enlisted in this County in his twenty-first year, as a volunteer under Capt Joseph Young in Col. [Archibald] Lytle's Regiment. The militia of the County assembled at Hillsborough, as also did the Regiment of Col. Lytle and marched from thence to Salsbury [sic: Salisbury], thence to Camden So. Carolina thence to Purlingsburg [sic: Purysburgh] or Smoky camp where was stationed the American forces under Genls. Saunders & Linkhorn [sic: Benjamin Lincoln]. In eight or ten days after our arrival at Camden [sic], a detachment was ordered off to attack the British forces at Savannah in Georgia - when applicant enlisted Col. Lytle was under promise to him that good care should be taken of him and his advise given him whenever required, keeping him as near his person always as possible, and during the whole of this tour he performed the duties of cook to Col Lytle - he was therefore chosen by Col Lytle to accompany him as one of the detachment. we came opposite the British in two days from setting out, at Augusta, crossed over the River to Augusta, which the British perceiving commenced their retreat down the Savannah River, and were overtaken by the aforesaid detachment in time for it to see the flames arising from the Bridge which had been set on fire by them after they had passed over. they, the British moved up Briar Creek, on which the aforesaid bridge was crossed over on the side on which we were, & marched down toward us, but on their route came across Gen'l. Nash [sic: John Baptist Ashe] - the General so soon as he saw the advance of the enemy, prepared himself for the contest, first sending for the detachment under Col. Lytle to come to his assistance with all the haste possible. before the arrival of Col. Lytle, Gen'l. Nash had been defeated [Battle of Briar Creek GA, 3 Mar 1779], his troops dispersed and running in every direction which offered an inducement to safety. Col. Lytle seeing what had been done ordered his detachment to disperse and shift for themselves. Applicant was so fortunate after a hard struggle as to go on a Boat crossing the Savannah River & arrived in two or three days, at headquarters which had been changed in the meanwhile from Smokey camp to a place called "the two sisters," one or two days travel nearer to the place of battle spoken of above, then Smokey Camp. here he remained a month, was then discharged, receiving from Col. Lytle a written discharge. It in conjunction with others which he may & did receive was burnt with his house in Orange County No. Carolina. Applicant's time of enlistment was for five months. he served six months the first tour - one month over the time of enlistment.

In eight or nine months from applicants fist discharge, Capt. Allen came to him, and insisted upon his joining a company of volunteers he was then forming. Applicant consented & did enlist for three months, marching from Hillsboro, the place of rendezvous by said Company, thro' Salsbury to Camden. in two days after our arrival here the battle of Camden was fought [16 Aug 1780]. After the American Army under Gen'l. [Horatio] Gates had been defeated, the Army became scattered over the whole country. to guard the Cattle, baggage, forage provisions &c was the duty assigned applicant so soon as he arrived on the battle ground. the battle commenced before dark, and continued raging with increased violence as the night progressed, till shortly before the dawn of day, when the Captain of the guard ordered the cattle & baggage &c to be removed with all speed from the Camp. he assisted in running off the Cattle, then departed for Salsbury where after two days and nights remainder, he was started off by Col. Lopp with dispatches for Gen'l [John] Butler, who lived in Orange Cty. As also dispatches for Gen'l. Mayben [possibly Mebane] who lived in the same County - when these embassies or dispatches were

given him his time was very near or indeed quite expired - or at least when he had performed these duties his time had expired. He enlisted for three months - his written discharge was burnt as he has stated.

Col. Wm Oneill [probably William O,Neal], who resided in Orange County, in about ten days after his second dismissal, employed him as waggon driver in procuring & providing provisions & forage &c for the soldiers - the conditions of employment were that he should work in this way three months, & it should answer every purpose as if he had served as a soldier - he worked the time so near out that Col. Oneill saw cause to release him, & allow him as he said pay for three months service. He, applicant served in the whole about 12 months - entered in 1776 [sic] as already set out

He saw Gen'l. Gates at the battle of Camden, but does not recollect much about him - he had on or wore a large cocked hat & but little of his face could be seen with any distinctness from the distance at which applicant saw him. he is known to Gov. Blount, to Wm. Lytle (whose certificate shall accompany this declaration) to E. H. Foster, all of whom will bear unequivocal testimony to his unimpeachable character.

He hereby declares that his name is not on the pension Roll of the agency of any state, and hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present.

Reuben hisXmark Holt

William Lytle, one of the Justices of the Court of Pleas & quarter sessions for Davidson County makes oath that the Col. Lytle spoken of in the within Declaration was an uncle of his - that he resided [blank] miles from Nashville - passed through Nashville frequently in going from his residence to a cousin of his below Nashville. From Nashville to his residence was just one days ride - the old Col. Lytle would arrive in the evening and stay with affiant all night - old times becoming most often the subject of familiar discourse, he distinctly remembers the Col. would always mention Reuben Holt the present applicant, as one who had performed his duty to his Country - he even spoke in terms of affection for him, and doubtless were he now alive the old man would have but little difficulty (with his assistance) in getting a pension. Mr. Holt has a character which is irreproachable, and it is my firm belief he should have a pension.

[signed] Wm. Lytle