

## Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of John Hollis S46642

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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 8<sup>th</sup> 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 Rutherford County} County Court November Term of said Court 1832

On this 20th day of November 1832 personally appeared in open Court before Henry Trott, Varner D Cowen and Henry D Jamieson Justices of the County Court of Rutherford County aforesaid, now sitting, William Hollis, a resident of said County, aged about sixty-four years, who being first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following statement or declaration, in order to obtain the benefit of the act of Congress passed June the 7th 1832, for the services as a soldier of the revolutionary war, of John Hollis, his father, who died on the 27th day of August 1832, since the passage of the aforesaid Act, and before the declaration required by the Secretary of War, had been made by him.

This affiant states that he is the son of the aforesaid John Hollis, and that he is one of his administrators, as will more fully appear from a copy of the letters testamentary, granted by the County Court of Rutherford County aforesaid, which is hereto annexed under the hand and seal of the Clerk of said County Court. He states that his father, departed this life, on the 27th day of August 1832 as above stated, and that he had, previous to his death, not made any declaration or application for a pension under the aforesaid act of Congress, that he never applied for a pension under any previous act of Congress, and that his name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any State; and that no application previous to the present, has been made by his representatives for a pension on account of his services as a revolutionary soldier.

Affiant states that he well remembers that his father entered the service as a volunteer in the North Carolina State troops in the month of June after Charleston was taken by the British. He cannot remember the year, but from the age which he thinks he then was, he is induced to believe it was in the year 1780. He thinks, according to the best calculation he can make, and the best of his remembrance, he must at that time, have been about 12 years old; and that is the only circumstance which makes him think it was in 1780. His father, John Hollis resided at that time, in Rowan County, North Carolina. He well remembers that his father went to Salsbury [Salisbury] to rendezvous, and enter into the service; but he cannot remember the company officers under whom he served. The general officer was General Rutherford. The reason probably, of his remembering so distinctly about the place of rendezvous, was on account of a violent rain & storm occurring on the day his father left home, and supposing he was out & exposed to it, the family were greatly uneasy for his safety, and he himself wept bitterly on account of, which made such a lasting impression on his mind, it has never been effaced. Affiant cannot undertake to state the length of time for which his father volunteered on this tour of duty, but he is very confident he was scarcely ever afterwards at home for more than a few days during

the war, he thinks in fact, for not more than a day or 2 at a time. He remembers more distinctly about the last tour of duty he performed than about any of the others. The last tour he performed, he thinks was under the command of General Rutherford, and that he served about 4 months. At this time, affiant was older and can probably remember with more accuracy, that he can about earlier campaigns. He well remembers that his father was out on this last tour, when Lord Cornwallis was taken; and he believes he was, and that event occurred, at Newburn [New Bern], North Carolina. During some of the terms of his service, he believes he was with General Sumter, having heard him so stayed about the time. He also believes he was once or more with General Morgan, remembering to have heard him so stayed at or about the time. During some part of the time he was in service, he was an orderly Sergeant, and he remembers on different occasions when he would return home, that he would hardly become rested from the fatigues of service, before he would receive orders, to raise the men in his neighborhood, and repaired to their posts, sometimes in pursuit of the Tories, and sometimes to join the American forces to check the progress of the British. He thinks he was much engaged in excursions against the Tories, and remembers that he was once taken prisoner by them and escaped from them soon afterwards. Affiant thinks that after his father entered into the service, the summer after the taking of Charleston, he continued for 3 or 4 years; he knows however it was until the close of the war; and he is well satisfied he was almost continually on active duty and in actual service during this time from the following circumstances. His father was a poor man, and had at the time, a large family of small children, of whom affiant was the eldest; and that he had to labor hard to support his younger brothers & sisters. In fact, he was the principal dependence to raise bread to keep them from want; and he well remembers that during the whole time, he had to labor, unassisted by his father. And he thinks it was even a matter of policy with his father to keep constantly in service for his own personal safety; for he had become so obnoxious to the Tories, on account of his zeal in the cause of liberty, that when at home, he was in constant fear of being murdered in his own house, by them.

Affiant, upon reflection, thinks his father performed 12 were of duty of 3 or 4 months under General Rutherford, previous to his entering the service the summer after the taking of Charleston. This tour was against the Cherokee Indians. He remembers well that he did perform one campaign against the Cherokee Indians, and he feels quite confident it was previous to his other services as herein mentioned, though he cannot undertake to state positively the year. Affiant states that according to the best estimate that could be made of his father's age at his death, he was in his 95th year. He learned from his father that he was born in England, in or near the city of London, and came to America at about 14 years of age. He does not know or believe that there was ever any record of his age in America. He lived, as affiant has already stated, in Rowan County, North Carolina, when he entered the service; and continued to live there afterwards, until the year 1808, at which time, he removed to Rutherford County, Tennessee, where he continued to reside until his death. If he ever had a written discharge, affiant has no knowledge of it; and he knows of no documentary evidence, by which his revolutionary services can be established.

Affiant states, that as the proper representative of his deceased father, he hereby relinquishes every claim to a pension for his revolutionary services, except the present.

S/ William Hollis, X his mark

Subscribed & sworn to in open Court November 20, 1832.

S/ J. R. Laughlin, Clk

On the 20th day of November 1832 personally appeared in open court, before Henry Trott, Varner D Cowen, and Henry D Jamieson Esquires, Justices of the County Court, of Rutherford County Tennessee, now sitting, Benjamin Todd<sup>1</sup> a resident of said County aged about seventy-three years, who being sworn according to law, doth upon his oath, states that he was a soldier of the revolutionary war; that he belonged to the Militia of North Carolina, and while at Salisbury North Carolina, guarding the British & Tory prisoners, being then a private in Captain Peter Foss company, in the Regiment commanded by Colonel Francis Locke, in the troops under the general command of General Rutherford, he saw in service in the American troops, John Hollis for whose services as a revolutionary soldier the foregoing statement & affidavit is made by William Hollis to procure a pension, and became well acquainted with him. Said Hollis did not belong to the same company with himself, nor does he know who were his company officers; but he well remembers that he was an orderly Sergeant, which he remembers so distinctly on account of his having been a Sergeant of a picket guard, on which he, said Todd, was placed; and that he went along to place him, affiant, at his post. Affiant does not remember accurately in what year this was, nor how long said Hollis was at Salisbury, but he thinks it was in 1778, or it might have been subsequent there to. He remembers, however, about Hollis' leaving Salisbury, and that he was sent to Virginia to guard the British prisoners who were sent from Salisbury there. He states he has seen and has been well acquainted with the said John Hollis since he has resided in Rutherford County Tennessee, and knows him to be the same John Hollis whom he saw and knew as above stated, in the Army at Salisbury. Affiant never saw him during the war after he was sent off to Virginia as above stated.

S/ Benjamin Todd, X his mark

[Joseph Soape and Joshua Barton gave the standard supporting affidavit with respect to John Hollis. They also gave testimony as to his being a member of the Baptist Church and sustaining a very good character in the neighborhood.]

[p 16]

December the 4<sup>th</sup> 1781 this is to Certify  
 that John hollis a corprel have Sarvd a Term  
 of Duty under Capt Robinson Colo Lofton Regt  
 Redgement and is herby Dischargd Certified by  
 me William Lofton Colo

December the 4<sup>th</sup> 1781. This is to Certify  
 that John hollis a corprel have Sarvd a Term  
 of Duty under Capt Robinson Colo Lofton Regt  
 Redgement and is herby Dischargd Certified by  
 me William Lofton Colo

September 4[?] 1781  
 this is to Sartify that John Hools hath Sarved

<sup>1</sup> [Benjamin Todd S1597](#)

at Sundrey times seven weeks in the  
milishea Sarves Sartified by me  
Myrick Davis Capt  
Joseph Cunningham Lut

September 6 1781  
this is to sortify that John Hollos had the service  
at sundrey times seven weeks in the  
milishea sarves sortified by us  
Myrick Davis Capt  
Joseph Cunningham Lut

[p 17]

Sept 22d 1780

this is to Sortify that John Hollos Sorvd  
three weeks in the hors Serves in my Company  
under the Command of Coll Davey in Mack-  
lenborg County Sortified by me

Rd Graham Capt [Richard Graham]

Sept 22<sup>d</sup> 1780  
this is to sortify that John Hollos served  
three weeks in the hors serves in my Company  
under the command of Coll Davey in Mack-  
lenborg County sortified by me  
Richard Graham Capt

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The amended declaration of William Hollis, a resident of Rutherford County Tennessee, in order to obtain a pension for the revolutionary services of his father John Hollis deceased, under the provisions of an act of Congress passed 7th of June 1832.

On this 22nd day of May 1833 personally appeared in open court before John Fletcher, Varner D Cowen and Henry D Jamison justices of the court of Pleas & Quarter Sessions for the County of Rutherford and State of Tennessee now sitting, William Hollis who states on oath, in addition to the original declaration made on the 20th day of November 1832, that he cannot undertake to state precisely the length of the different tours of duty performed by his father John

Hollis during the revolutionary war; as he was young at the time he does not remember to have heard his father state positively how long he served. And in fact, for many years previous to his father's death, his mind had become so weak and his memory so much impaired by old age that he could not have stated with any accuracy the length of his service if he had been interrogated to that point. Deponent states that according to the best of his recollection, his father served not less than the periods herein after mentioned, and in the following grades. The first tour of duty he performed which was against the Cherokee Indians, when General Rutherford commanded the troops, and which tour is mentioned in his former declaration, he is confident he served 3 months as a private soldier. Declarant since making the original declaration to which this is an amendment, has found three discharges among his deceased father's papers, of which he had no knowledge when the original declaration was filed. Said discharges are herewith filed. The first one bearing date of the 22nd of September 1780 signed by Rich'd Graham [Richard Graham] Captain shows that he served three weeks in Colonel Davy's [Davie's] Regiment in Mecklenburg County North Carolina. One of said discharges or certificates also herewith filed bearing the date in September 1781 signed by Myrick Davis Captain and Joseph Cunningham Lieutenant shows that he served at sundry times seven weeks. And the third one of said discharges or certificates, bearing date December the 4th 1781 signed by William Lofton Colonel shows that he served a tour in his Regiment in Captain Robinson's company, in the grade of a Corporal; but it does not show the length of the tour and declarant cannot undertake to state it. The last mentioned discharge is also herewith filed, which will at least same to establish the fact of his service. Declarant cannot possibly state all the different terms and length of each term of service performed by his father after his first tour as above stated, until the last one performed by him, for they were numerous, and he knows he was almost the whole of his time on service, during the war after his first tour. Deponent feels positive that after the first tour as above stated his father must have served at least two years, before he served his last tour. Declarant thinks most or all of this time, except on the tour on which he served as a Corporal, he was a private Soldier. The last tour he served was under General Rutherford, and he is confident he served not less than five months, and he is also confident that this tour was performed in the grade of an orderly Sergeant. The whole time together which his father served, declarant is certain was not less than two years and seven months, and he believes it was considerably more. For the time of two years & seven months as above stated, he claims a pension. Declarant believes that in addition to the certificate of Joshua Barton & Joseph Soape accompanying his original declaration, the Reverend David Clark, a citizen of Rutherford County Tennessee will certify as to the reputation of the services of John Hollis as a revolutionary Soldier, and his belief of his services as such.

S/ William Hollis, X his mark

Sworn to and subscribed the day & year aforesaid

S/ John R. Laughlin, Clk

[David Clark, a clergyman, gave a standard supporting affidavit with regard to the reputation of John Hollis as a soldier of the revolution.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$49.34 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for 4 months and 19 days service as a private in the Infantry; 21 days as a private in the Cavalry; 3 months service as a Corporal; and 4 months service as a Sergeant, all in the North Carolina militia.]