

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of James Holder S8736

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

State of Virginia }
Randolph County } SS.

On this 23^d day of July 1833 personally appeared before the Court of the County of Randolph James Holder a resident of the County of Wood but recently a resident of the said County of Randolph aged Seventy one years, who being first 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 in march 1781 (according to his belief) he volunteered in Capt. Joseph Friend's Company of Virginia militia and was marched from his then residence now in the County of Randolph but at that time in the County of Monongalia to Morgan Town [Morgantown] the Seat of Justice for the County of monongalia Virginia and at that place was transferred to Capt. George Jackson's Company of Virginia militia and was marched from thence down the monongalia [sic: Monongahela] River to the mouth of Muddy Creek [in present Greene County PA] and there joined the regular Troops under command of General George Roger Clark [George Rogers Clark] We continued at the mouth of muddy creek a short time and then marched to Fort Pitt now called Pittsburg we proceeded from thence down the River to a place called Shirtee — and were stationed there some considerable time from thence we proceed to where Wheeling is now erected remained there a short time and from thence proceeded down the Ohio River to below the mouth of the little Kanawha River and was there discharged he from thence returned home having been in this service five months. Some short time after he returned home he thinks in the Fall of the same year he again volunteered in Capt. Alexander Maxwell's Company of Virginia Militia and acted as an Indian spy under Capt. Maxwell for one month in spying in the teritory of the present Counties of Harrison Lewis Randolph & Wood but then in the County of Monongalia after he served one month under Capt. Maxwell he was discharged. In January or February 1783 he is not confident which month but thinks about the middle of January he volunteered in Capt. Alexander Maxwell's Company of Virginia Militia and continued in the service under him as an Indian spy for three months when he was discharged while in the last mentioned service he spied in the same Country before mentioned he thinks Capt. Maxwell's Company belonged to Col. Zachariah Morgan's [sic: Zackquil Morgan's] Regiment of Virginia militia. He has no documentary evidence but believes the evidence of Valentine Stalnaker [pension application R100043] and William Currance [R1738.5] will establish his services. His reason for making his declaration in the County of Randolph is in consequence of having resided in that County nearly ever since the Revolutionary war until within a short time since when he removed to the County of Wood in Virginia and having resided in Wood County but for so short a time he would be unable to procure the certificate of a Clergyman &c as to the belief of the neighborhood of his services in the revolutionary war, his residence among his present neighbors in Wood County being so very short that the neighborhood has formed no opinion on the subject he supposed it better to make his declaration in Randolph County where the opinion of his old neighbors with whom he has been acquainted for almost half a century could be procured and the certificate of a clergyman who was well acquainted with him and knew his reputation &c. could be had.

To the 1st Interrogatory required to be answered by the requisition of the War Department he was born in the County of Kent in the state of Delaware in the year 1762. To the 2^d he answers that he has no record of his age. To the 3^d He answers that he resided in Tygart's Valley then in monongalia virginia when he volunteered in the service of the United but now in Randolph County Virginia and continued to reside there ever since the Revolutionary war until within a short time since he removed to the County of Wood.

To the 4th He answers that he was a volunteer.

To the 5th In addition to what he has detailed in his foregoing declaration he states that he knew Gen. Clark, Maj Wells & Capt. Cheny[?] of the regular troops

To the 6th He states that he received a discharge from the first mentioned service but has lost it.

he is not confident whether he received discharges from the two last mentioned services or not. if he did they have also been lost. To the 7th He states that he is known to [blank] a clergyman in his neighborhood where he lately resided in Randolph County and to Archibald Earle Clerk of the Court, William Marteney a Justice of the Peace and Col. Solomon Wyatt resident of the same neighborhood who can testify to his veracity and their belief of his services as a soldier of the Revolution. he can also if necessary procure the testimony of his neighbors in Wood County as to his veracity 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.

Sworn and subscribed the day and year aforesaid.

James hisXmark Holder

Randolph County to wit

Personally appeared before me one of the Justices of the peace for the aforesaid county in the State of Virginia; Valentine Stalnaker of said County who made oath that he knew James Holder the Person who is herewith making application for a Pension for some thing like 55 or 60 years that he had always been called and known to be a man of honesty Probity and Good Demeanour that he knew said James Holder when he was acting as a Spy in or about the year 1782 that he had Frequently been out in Company with said Holder about that time in Scouting parties that he believes him to have been a good and Vigilent Spy in Preserving the Frontiers at that day from the Tomahawk of the Indians in the Settlement of Tygarts Valley and its Vicinity

Valentine hisXmark Stalnaker

Sworn and subscribed to before me a justice of the Piece this 22 day of July 1833 and I certify that the said Valentine Stalnaker is a creditable person

And'w. Crawford J.P.R.C.

Randolph County to wit

Personally appeared before me one of the Commonwealths Justices of the peace for the aforesaid County William Currance and made oath that he was acquainted with James Holder and knew that he was in the Militia Services under Captain Friend and marched to Morgantown and was attached to Captain George Jacksons Company under General Clarks command to go out against the Indians

William hisXmark Currence

Sworn and subscribed before me a Justice of the Peace this 22^d day of July 1833 and I certify that the said William Currence is a credible person

Brower Jenks J.P.

[The following report is by District Attorney Washington G. Singleton who investigated many pensioners from present West Virginia. For details see pension application S6111 of David W. Sleeth. Singleton wrote "Fraud" on his report on Holder, probably because his application claimed service of nine months, but he told Singleton he served only about three months.]

James Holder Serv'd. 9 mo. has drawn \$75.09

I the undersigned James Holder in pursuance of the requisition of the Secretary of War give the following narative of my age and Revolutionary Services to Wit.

I shall be 72 yrs old the 13th March next. - in the year 1781 I joined Clarks expedition. Went from Randolph County then West augusty [sic: Western District of Augusta County]. Joined Capt. George Jacksons company. Went Pittsburg. there joined Genl Clark who with his army descended the ohio river. on getting to Point Pleasant 3 miles below Parkersbu[rg] myself with 24 others left Clark & the rest of the officers & men at that point & returned home. William Currants of Randolph was on of the 24 above refered to. - I did not desert but left the army as before stated. I cant say possitivly how long it was from the time I joined Genl Clark until I left his army as before stated - but think "it was close upon two months"

Some time about the close of the English war (I cant tell in what year) one Robert Maxwell appointed me a Spy. I was out for 31 days spying in Randolph Lewis Harrison counties (then west augusty) in the year 1782 I was out 3 weeks after the Indians - we pursued them from Randolph to Wood County then over took & killed seven of them. and thus ended my services except some few days of Scouting the number of which I cant pretend to recollect.

Col. G. D. Camden wrote my Declaration I told him the same in substance I now tell. In Witness of all which I hereto subscribe my name Dec'r. 13, 1834

James hisXmark Holder

Witness W. G. Singleton.

Currants of Randolph says that Holder & himself were in Clarks expedition together.

A Copy

W. G Singleton Dec 13, 1834