

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of William Holland W4698

Margaret Holland f62NC fo

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 '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.]

State of North Carolina Rutherford County: On this 10th day of September A.D. 1832 personally appeared before the Court of Probate of Rutherford County now sitting William Holland a resident of Rutherford County in the State of North Carolina aged eighty-five 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 Act of Congress passed June 7th 1832.

That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated. –

That he resided in the County of Mecklenburg in the State of North Carolina, he volunteered his services & marched to Reedy River in South Carolina against Cunningham a commander of the Tories in that quarter: that they fell in with him and commenced fight but after a few shots, the Tories retreated and were dispersed and the troops to which I belonged returned to Mecklenburg after a service of from thirty-five to forty days – the troops to which I belonged were commanded by Colonel Thomas Polk, the Captain of the company was Thomas Harris of Mecklenburg County and Robert Mebane of Guilford County Lieutenant and Robert Scott of Mecklenburg was the Ensign of the company. The regular soldiers in this tour about three hundred in number were commanded by Colonel Martin [Alexander Martin] then an attorney at law and afterwards the Governor of North Carolina; I do not remember his Christian name, nor do I remember the date of the year. It was in the winter season & excessively cold and snowy and thence called the Snow Campaign.

He was next called on to march against the Cherokee Indians & required to rendezvous at what was called the Quaker Meadows in Burke County, where with about one hundred others from Mecklenburg County they met, and the Indians having fled at their approach they remained there only about three weeks when they were ordered home to procure tomahawks & other arms and fixtures to march against the Indians in their own nation or country – Having gone home this deponent remained there preparing for his march about three weeks, when he substituted his brother Matthew Holland in his stead, marched to the Indian nation, burnt their towns & fought them & returned; but I am not able to state the length of time of his service, nor the date of the year – further than that when he with the others mentioned above went to Quaker Meadows it was about the time of harvest, say July or thereabouts. The detachment that marched to the nation was commanded by General Griffith Rutherford of Rowan County in North Carolina & by Colonel Locke & my company by Captain Wm Alexander [William Alexander].

He remained at home until the British and Tories after the evacuation of Charleston, had marched up the Country & were lying at Cambdin [Camden] or the Hanging Rock near that place, he was then called on & volunteered in the troop commanded by Colonel Davie [William Richardson Davie] (afterwards the Governor of this State) the Major was Harriss the Captain's

office was for a time supplied by myself – Colonel Davie stationed his forces at the Waxhaw Creek & maintained for some time a partisan warfare with the British, say about two months (in summer) when the enemy marched out and drove us from this encampment & marched into Charlotte there they encamped. General Wm L. Davidson [William Lee Davidson] had made a stand on Rocky River about ten miles from Charlotte & Colonel Davie & his forces were with him, occasional & frequent skirmishes with the foraging parties occurred until Cornwallis the Commander of the British was compelled to leave this place & proceed to Winnsborough in Fairfield district South Carolina where a subsistence could be more easily and safely procured – they were pursued to the crossing of the Catawba River by Colonel Davie's forces. The British remained at their camp near Winnsborough about three months when they marched to meet General Green [Nathanael Greene] at Guilford Court House: they were met at Cowans Ford of the Catawba & their passage was opposed by General Davidson who in attempting to prevent their passage of the River was killed, our Army was dispersed & they, the British marched with little molestation to the Battle of Guilford Court House; to this place they were pursued by many of the Mecklenburgers, but for myself I gave over the pursuit as they passed Mecklenburg expecting that they would be met and opposed by armies who had been less vexed & harassed than the people of Mecklenburg had been, nonetheless I considered myself as in the service until the enemy had passed the Yadkin River. Whilst in Colonel Davie's Camp at the Waxhaws above mentioned, prisoners were taken by the scouts & brought in frequently & I was appointed commander of the guard who had charge of them. About this time understanding that the British were at Cambdon [Camden] or Hanging Rock near there, Colonel Davie beat up for volunteers to go and attack them – I with about one hundred and thirty others volunteered on this service & after a march of about forty miles met them, their Cavalry exercising in a Lane called Woffords Lane, attacked them on each flank routed the Cavalry & took their horses & returned after and absence from camp of about twenty-four hours. –

Whilst I was in charge of the prisoners as mentioned above being left in camp with them, the main body of the American forces commanded by Colonel Davie were marched to the attack of the enemy at Rocky Mount and at the Hanging Rock – this circumstance prevented my being present and partaking in those engagements.

His services were of such constant [one or more words overwritten and obliterated] in the Country of his immediate residence that they were principally rendered there, and of short intervals he was being near home, admitted to visit his family: his longest term of service was from just before harvest time to February making about ten months, he considers that the whole time of his actual service amounts to about 18 months though at the time & now he considers that he was a soldier whenever called on for 7 years. – He has no documentary evidence of his services, having never taken a written discharge except one for 3 months when his actual service had been about at least 6 months. It is copied as follows –

"These are to certify that the bearer hereof Wm Holland Ensign of Captain McKnites Company of the first Regiment of Drafts raised in the district of Salisbury has served 3 months agreeable to law and is hereby discharged.

Given under my hand this 22nd day of November 1780

S/ Caleb Phifer, L. Col.

to all persons to whom it may concern both civil & military S/ Wm L. Davidson, B. G. "
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, or only on that of the Agency of the State of North Carolina.

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid.

S/ William Holland

William Hollard

[Drury Dobbins, a clergyman, and John Padget gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

Interrogatories propounded by the Court & answered by the applicant –

1st Where and in what year were you born?

Ansr. In the State of Pennsylvania about the year 1747.

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

Ansr. No other than that made by myself upon the statement made to me by my father, which is in an old Bible now in my possession.

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

Ansr. I lived in the County of Mecklenburg in this State when called into service, and until about forty-five years since, when I removed into Rutherford County where I have constantly resided since and now reside.

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

Ansr. I was a volunteer in the service. –

5th State the names of some of the regular officers who were with the troops when you served, such Continental and militia regiments as you can recollect and the general circumstances of your service.

Ansr. Colonel Martin whose Christian name I do not remember a regular officer was with us in our March upon the British at Reedy River in South Carolina, General Daniel Morgan of the regular Army was encamped on the Waxhaw whilst we were there under command of Colonel Davie & General Davidson, and previous to his battle with Tarleton at Cowpens. – General Greene was encamped for a while and Colonel Washington of the Dragoons, but from the great length of time since I cannot state any fact or occurrence which will show the command exercise by them whilst with us. –

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

Answer. I received but one written discharge, which states the term of service of 3 months and is copied into my declaration accompanying this.

These are to certify that the Bearer here of William Hollard Private of the 1st Regiment of Dragoons in the Service of the State of North Carolina has served three Months agreeable to Law and is hereby discharged

To all Persons whom it may concern

Given under my hand and seal this 15th day of August 1779

Caleb Thigpen Col

[p. 39]

State of North Carolina Rutherford County: Personally appeared before me the subscriber Justice of the peace for the aforesaid County William Holland who after being duly sworn saith that by Reason of old age and loss of memory he cannot swear positively as to the length of his service but I am confident that it was not less than the following statement

1776 I served a Tower [tour] of 12 months under Colonel Thomas Polk to Reedy River South Carolina

1777 I served a Tower of 3 [months] under General Rutherford to the Indian Nation

1780 I served a Tower of 10 [months] under Colonel Davie & General Davidson

1781 During this time had Discharge for 3 months Service

fourteen and a half months I make my statement I am confident that I am not over my time of service. Sworn to and subscribed before made this 2nd day of May 1833.

S/ Martin Beam, JP

S/ William Holland

[family record of the children of veteran and his wife:

Marcus born May 20, 1783

Matilda born December 25, 1784

Isaac born June 3, 1786

Susannah born January 11, 1788]

[p 32]

State of North Carolina Rutherford County: This day personally appeared before me William G. Irvine one of the Justices of the peace for said County William Holland and made oath in due form of law that for the purpose of amending his Application for a pension agreeable to an act of Congress passed 7th of June 1832, he further states that for the purpose of defining his time of service, he served not less than fourteen and a 1/2 months and defined as follows (to wit) in 1776 I served 1 1/2 months under Colonel Thomas Polk to ready [Reedy] River South Carolina as a private soldier 1777 I served a tour of three months under General Rutherford to the Indian nation still a private soldier in 1780 & '81 I served under Colonel Davie & General Davidson defined as follows, a three month tour in South Carolina, a private soldier in & near a place called the Waxhaw settlement, again a three months tour in North & South Carolina an Ensign, for which I have a discharge hereto annexed: at the expiration of said tour, the company to which I was attached or belonged to made choice of me as their Captain. In which capacity I continued until I was taken with the smallpox which to the best of my recollection was 4 months. He also states that for the term of time he acted as Captain he claims no pay as Captain as he never was commissioned Captain nor has a proof of his services in that grade.

Sworn to & subscribed before me this 11th day of November 1833

S/ William Holland

[p 9: On June 28, 1841 in Cleveland County North Carolina, Margaret Holland, 76, filed for a widow's pension under the 1838 act stating that she is the widow of William Holland, a pensioner of the United States for his service in the revolution at the rate of \$55 per annum; that she married him in the year 1781; that her husband died September 19, 1837.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$55 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for 10 1/2 months service as a private and Ensign in the North Carolina militia.]