

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements

Pension application of John R. Holmes R5173

Transcribed by Will Graves

State of North Carolina, County of Brunswick

On this fifth day of December personally appeared John R. Holmes a resident of the County of Brunswick and State of North Carolina aged 80 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 7, 1832.

That he enlisted in the Army of the United States in the year 1777 and served at Fort Johnson under Captain Robert Elliss and Lieutenants James Smith and John DeVane; that said Fort Johnson [sic, Fort Johnston], as [it was] then called, was in the County of Brunswick and State of North Carolina; that he enlisted for the term of two years and served 22 months of that time when a British brig and a large sloop came in from [the] sea and took the Fort and blocked up the [illegible words]. There were about eighty nine men in Garrison. They all made their escape with the exception of Lieutenant DeVane, Sergeant Denny and three man who were taken prisoners and carried to sea and kept three or four days and put ashore on Piny Point. The greater part of the Company went to Wilmington North Carolina and got their discharges. This Declarant got his discharge from Captain Elliss but has lost it. That he never entered the service afterwards. That he resided in Brunswick County North Carolina at the time he entered the service. That he was not engaged in any Battles then that already mentioned.

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 if any only on that of the agency of the state of North Carolina.

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid.

S/John R. Holmes, X his mark

To the first interrogatory required to be propounded by the department, he replies that he was born on Black River in Bladen County about the year 1758.

To the second interrogatory he says: I have no record of my age.

To the third interrogatory he says: I was living in Brunswick County North Carolina when called into service and have been living in said County ever since.

To the fourth interrogatory he says: I enlisted at Fort Johnstson already stated.

To the fifth interrogatory he says: I do not recollect the names of any other officers than those already mentioned.

Two the sixth interrogatory he says: I did receive a written discharge from Captain Elliss and it is lost.

To the seventh interrogatory, he says: I am known to Nathaniel Potter and John Anderson who can testify for me; that he cannot procure the statement of a clergyman at present as no clergyman at the present [illegible word] of the court with whom he is acquainted. That he had determined not to apply for a pension but finding himself reduced to great poverty and unable to live without assistance, rather than be placed upon the list of paupers in his own County, he has determined to ask for his pension.

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid.

John R. Holmes, X his mark

Witness: S/Nathaniel Potter, Clerk

Personally appeared in open Court, Nathaniel Potter, and John Anderson, who upon their oath state that they are acquainted with John R. Holmes, the applicant named in the foregoing declaration; that they believe he is about 80 years of age as he represents; that he is reputed and believed in the neighborhood

to have been a Revolutionary soldier and they concur and that opinion.

S/Nathaniel Potter

S/John Anderson

And the said Court do hereby declare their opinion that the above named applicant was a Revolutionary soldier and served as he states.

I, Nathaniel Potter, Clerk of the Court of Pleas & Quarter Sessions for the County of Brunswick do certify that the foregoing contains the original proceedings of the said Court in the matter of the application of John R. Holmes for a pension.

In testimony whereof I have here to set my hand and seal of office this fifth day of December 1838.

S/Nathaniel Potter, Clerk {seal}

[Transcriber's Note: John R. Holmes MAY be the “man of colour” referred to in the pension application of Josiah Sykes (S7673). Sykes states that he served under Capt. John DeVane and that the only person he (Sykes) knows of who can verify his services is a “coloured man by the name of Holmes living on Long Creek in New Hanover County [sic, Brunswick County?]]