

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of James Holmes W4697

Esther

fn22NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

5/12/11

[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. 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 fails 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 errors or omissions to my attention.]

North Carolina Iredell County: On this 25th day of March in the year of our Lord 1833, personally appeared before me Abraham B Blackburn one of the acting Justices of the Peace in & for said County aforesaid James Holmes a resident of the County of Iredell & State of North Carolina aforesaid, aged seventy-one years, who first being 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.

First. He entered the service of the United States as a private militia man under Captain George Reed in the year 1780 & he believes in the month of May or June of that year & marched against the Tories that had embodied on the South Catawba River in Lincoln County North Carolina that while in this service he was in the Battle that was fought with the Tories that called & known as the Battle at Ramsours [Ramsour's Mill, June 20, 1780¹] – that he served at that time 2 weeks.

Second. He entered the service of the United States in the year 1780 as a private militia man and marched in pursuit of the Tories that had collected in the forks of the Yadkin River Rowan County North Carolina – that he served at that time one month under Captain Nichols principally as he believes in the month of July

Third. He entered the service of the United States as a private militia man in the year 1780 & as he believes in the month of September marched in pursuit of the Tories that had collected on the Yadkin River Surry County North Carolina – that he served at that time 3 weeks under Captain Nichols & was in the Battle fought with the Tories near what is called the Shallow Ford [October 14, 1780²] of the Yadkin.

¹ <http://gaz.irshelby.com/ramsours.htm> and http://www.carolana.com/NC/Revolution/revolution_battle_of_ramseurs_mill.html

² http://www.carolana.com/NC/Revolution/revolution_shallow_ford.html and

Fourth. He entered the service of the United States as a private militia man in the month of January 1781 – that when the British Army under Lord Cornwallis crossed the Catawba River on the first of February he was in the militia that had collected a few miles from the River at Torrences Tavern³ [February 1, 1781] where they were surprised by a party of the British horsemen – that he marched from there to Salisbury NC & that he served at that time a month under Captain Nichols.

He further states that when he served the above for short tours he belonged to what was called minute men, or men who held themselves ready to march at a moment's warning to suppress the Tories or protect the Country from Tory depredations, or on any other service where he was called.

Fifth. He was drafted in the fall of the year 1781 (the month he does not recollect) – that he marched to Wilmington North Carolina & served three months & twenty days as a private militia man under Captain H[balance of name runs off the page and is illegible] Hall.

Answers to interrogatories

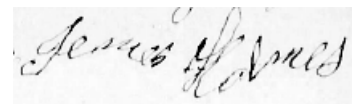
1. He was born [in] Ireland in the County of Dunnegal [Donegal] Parish of Raphere [Raphoe] in the year 1762 February 28th
2. He has no Record of his age
3. He was living in Rowan County North Carolina (now Iredell) where he has continued to live ever since
4. He volunteered in every instance except the last; for the tour to Wilmington he was drafted
5. At the battle at Ramsour's he knew Captains Sloan & Falls & Armstrong who were all killed & Captain Read who he was under was wounded. In the tour after the Tories in the forks of the Yadkin he does not recollect any other officers than Captains Nichols & Caldwell – at the Shallow Ford Battle he knew Captains Nichols & Caldwell & also Captain Francis who was killed in the Battle & the only Whigs that was killed – that in the 4th tour he served, he does not recollect any other officers than Captains Nichols & Caldwell – that in the above tours the men were generally hastily collected together & acted under such officers as were present at the time & seldom any higher than Captain. – That in the tour to Wilmington he does not recollect any officers except General Rutherford who he believes commanded the troops to which he belonged.
6. He received discharges in every instance from the Captains under whom he served, which discharges were destroyed by the burning of his house in May 1794.
7. That he does not know of any Clergyman who can testify to his services – But that he has been long acquainted with Andrew Carson & Lawrence Maiden of Iredell County North Carolina to whom he refers to testify to his character for veracity & their belief of his services as a soldier of the Revolution.

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present & declares that his name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any State or territory.

Sworn to & subscribed the day and year aforesaid.

S/ A. B. Blackburn, JP & member of Iredell CC

S/ James Holmes



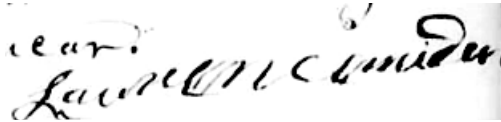
<http://gaz.jrshelby.com/shallow-fd.htm>

³ http://www.carolana.com/NC/Revolution/revolution_tarrants_tavern.html and <http://gaz.jrshelby.com/torrences-mkr.htm>

I Laurence Maiden⁴ residing in the County of Iredell North Carolina hereby certify that I have been well acquainted with James Holmes who has subscribed & sworn to the above declaration; for more than fifty years, that I believe him to be seventy-one years of age; that I was well acquainted with him during the War of the Revolution – that we served one month in the same company during the war in pursuit of the Tories. That he was reputed & believed in the neighborhood where he resided to have served other tours during they were War & in this opinion I concur.

Sworn & subscribed the day and year aforesaid.

S/ Laurence Maiden

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Laurence Maiden". The signature is written in dark ink on a light background.

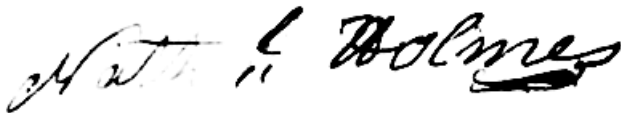
I Andrew Carson,⁵ residing in the County of Iredell North Carolina hereby certify that I have been well acquainted with James Holmes who has subscribed & sworn to the above declaration for more than fifty years; that I believe him to be seventy-one years of age; that I knew him during the War of the Revolution; that he was reputed & believed in the neighborhood where he resided to have been a soldier of the Revolution, & that I concur in that opinion – & further I believe that we were in the Service of the United States at the same time on to short tours; one after the Tories on the Forks of Yadkin Rowan County North Carolina & the other at the Battle with the Tories at the Shallow Ford of the Yadkin – But do not now recollect to have seen him at either place, but from some circumstances which he relates & from his character as a man of truth I believe he served as he states & account for my not recollecting him by his belonging to the foot Company & myself to the Horse.

Sworn to & subscribed the day & year aforesaid

S/ Andrew Carson

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Andrew Carson". The signature is written in dark ink on a light background.

[fn p. 4: On August 22, 1843 in Iredell County North Carolina, Nathaniel Holmes, son of the late James Holmes a pensioner of the United States for his service in the revolution made a claim under the 1838 act on behalf of himself and the other heirs of James Holmes; that his father married in the first of the year 1790 Esther McConnell; that they lived together as husband and wife until James Holmes died August 31st, 1834; that his mother, Ester, died September 2, 1842; that she died still the widow of his father.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Nathaniel Holmes". The signature is written in dark ink on a light background.

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[facts in file: the widow died survived by Nathaniel, born December 12, 1790, Robert and Esther who married Ninnia Steel.]

⁴ [Laurence Maiden S7190](#)

⁵ [Andrew Carson S8173](#)

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$22.78 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for 6 months and 25 days service as a private in the North Carolina militia.]