

[Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters](#)

Pension Application of John Read S15961

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

State of Virginia }

Harrison County } To Wit

On this 7<sup>th</sup> day of November 1833 personally appeared John Read now a resident of the same County aged Eighty Eight years before the undersigned a Justice of the Peace in and for said County of Harrison and the said John Read who first being duly sworn according to law doth declare that he is unable from bodily infirmity to appear in Open Court to make this his declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the act of Congress passed June the 7<sup>th</sup> 1832.

That he was born in Prince Edward County in the State of Virginia (as he understood from his parents in the year 1745 – that he has no other record of his age) from thence he removed to the County of Bedford in 1753 where he resided about sixteen years and from thence to the then District of West Augusta in the state aforesaid afterwards Monongalia County now Harrison where he married and has resided the greater part of his time. And being so a resident of said District Volunteered as a private in the militia service of the said state for the defence and protection of the Northwestern frontier under Captain William Lowther at Nutters fort [on east bank of Elk Creek in present Clarksburg WV] in the year 1777 and served a tour of six months during said year. In the year 1778 he a again volunteered under the said Cap William Lowther at Nutters fort in the now County of Harrison as a private and served a tour of six months and that in the year 1779 he volunteered again under the said Captain William Lowther at Nutters fort as afores'd for the term of six months and served as a private his said tour as aforesaid – That also in the year 1780 he volunteered as a private soldier for the term of six months and served the same under the said Captain William Lowther at a Block House where Clarksburg now stands in the County of Harrison and sate of Virginia. That in the year of 1781 he volunteered under Captain John P. Duvall [John Pierre Duval] (lately known as Col. Duvall of Kentucky) for the term of six months and served the same as a private soldier and also in another tour of six months that he volunteered under the said Capt. John P. Duvall he was appointed by the said Captain an Indian Spy and served his said last mentioned tour as such in the year 1782 – That from his great age and loss of memory he is unable to state the several dates on which he so volunteered, or the [illegible word] termination of his several tours of services as aforesaid That whilst so engaged he was in several engagements with the Indian enemy under the said Captain Lowther In one of which the Indians had been committing depredations and doing many murders in Tygart Valley (now in Randolph County Va) and the said Lowther with his company after pursuing them until they overtook them on Indian Creek (so called because of the battles there fought) a branch of Hughes River (now in Lewis County Va) That in the engagement with the enemy the said Capt Lowther & company were victorious retaking from the savages several prisoners and killing a number of the enemy two of whom he this applicant killed with his own weapon This affair considered a brilliant one at the time and took place in the year 1780 – he also states while under the command of said Lowther & Duvall he was necessarily exposed to great danger inconveniences, hardships and sufferings attendant upon the mode of warfare in which he was employed, by his said commanding officers as all those engaged in Indian warfare can well avouch as he among others was frequently commanded to repair to apoints[?] some 30 or 40 miles distant from his posts to pursue a wiley and artful enemy until they were driven far from the white settlements on the then frontier of Virginia. He further states that Captain William Lowther and Captain Jno. P. Duvall under whom he served at the times he has stated were duly commissioned officers and in the service of the State of Virginia as Militia Captains and served as such – and that whilst so in service during the tours above mentioned he was not employed in any civic pursuit. He further states that he never received any written discharge for his said Terms of service that he now

remembers, or if so he has lost or mislaid them. He further states that Capt. William Lowther & Captain John P. Duvall under whom he served are both dead and that he has no documentary evidence to establish his services as aforesaid – The evidence he can adduce in support of his claim that can certify to the same who are now living he will refer to Christopher Nutter [pension application W5434], Sotha Hickman [S5516], and Josiah Davisson [pension application either S8301 or S8307] all of the county of Harrison & State of Virginia nearly all the rest of his associates in arms being dead or left the country and their places of residence being to him unknown.

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a Pension or annuity except the present and declares that his name is not on the Pension Roll of any agency or state. John hisXmark Read

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid

Jacob Coplin J.P.

We John Davis [pension application W8654] a clergyman residing in the said County of Harrison and John Summervill also of the same County hereby certify that we are well acquainted with John Read the within named applicant who has subscribed and sworn to the above declaration that we believe him to be 88 years of age; that he is reputed and believed in the neighborhood where he resides to have been a a soldier of the Revolution and an Indian Spy and that we concur in that opinion

[signed] John Davis

[signed] John Sommerville

State of Virginia }

Harrison County }

on the 16 day of November 1833 personally appeared th Sotha Hickman in his 86<sup>th</sup> year of age before me Jacob Coplin an acting Justice of the peace and made oath that he is well acquainted with John Reed the present applicant for a pension & that he believes the said Reed to be Eighty Eight years of age and that in 1777 he knows the said John Reed vollunteered under Capt William Lowther at Nutters Fort and served a tour of six months and that in 1778 he knows the said John Reed vollenteered under Capt William Lowther at Nutters Fort and served a tour of six month and that in 1779 he knows that the said John Reed vollenteered at Nutters Fort and served a tour of six month under Capt William Lowther and that 1780 he know that him self and John Reed ware both soldier under Capt William Lowther and served a tour of six month and that in 1781 he knows that John Reed Vollenteerd under Capt John P Devall at a Blockhouse whare Clarksburg now stands and served a tour of six months and that 1782 he know that John Reed was appointd an Indian Spy by Capt John P Devall and that he served a tour of six months and that Nutters Fort and Block house are both in the present County of Harrison & State of Virginia and that he beleaves that John Reed served all of his tours as a private soldier and was considered a bold and actiff Defender of the frontier of Virginia Sotha hisXmark Hickman

[Almost identical certificates were signed by “Josiah Davisson of Brushy Fork in Harrison County,” age 75, and by Christopher Nutter, 74.]

[The following report by US District Attorney W. G. Singleton, who investigated a large number of pension applications from Harrison and Lewis counties, is in the pension file of John Goodwin (S8587). For details of Singleton’s investigation, see pension application S6111 of David W. Sleeth.]

John Ried [sic] – draws \$80 – the Services of this Pensioner are precisely such as were done by John Goodwin – he states that he was at Nutters Fort – the Block House & at Clarksburg all through the war, was not in Clarks or McIntoshes campaign and that he got the “settlement right”

[The following letter is in the pension file S8307 of Josiah Davidson (Davisson).]

War Dept Pension Office Jan 10, 1837

Sir Herewith enclosed are copies of the papers of John Read and John Goodwin; and transcripts of copies in the cases of Evan Thomas [S16002] and Isaac Shinn S7505], the originals having been sent to US Attorney for the Western District of Virginia, in order that suits might be instituted for the recovery of the

money improperly paid. In the case of Josiah Davison the original papers were also sent, and no copies retained in consequence of the pressure of business in this office at that particular period.

The pensions in all these cases except that of Read were stopped because it appeared from an investigation had by the District Attorney that their services were not of that character which would entitle them to pensions, being engaged in protecting the frontier from the incursions of the Indians.

The pension of John Read was suspended because his service was considered doubtful. Before his name can be restored to the roll, it will be necessary for him to produce satisfactory proof of his service.

[Two paragraphs deal with unrelated cases.]

Hon. J. Klingensmith, Jr. H[ouse of] R[epresentatives]