

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of Evan Thomas S16002

VA

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. Revised 23 Aug 2013.

State of Virginia

Harrison county – to wit

On this thirtieth day of November 1833, personally appeared Evan Thomas, aged 80 years, and now a resident of the county and state aforesaid, before the undersigned [Joseph Johnson], Justice of the Peace in and for the county of Harrison, and being first duly sworn, doth on his oath make the following declaration, in order to obtain the benefit of the act of Congress, passed June 7, 1832.

That he was born in Chester County in the state of Pennsylvania, as he understood from his parents in the year 1753 – on the 28th day of February – that he has no other record of his age. From thence he removed to the county of Loudon [sic: Loudoun], in the state of Virginia, thence he removed to the then District of West Augusta, in the State aforesaid (now Harrison county) where he now resides.

That in the year 1777 he volunteered as a private soldier, in a company commanded by Capt. William Robinson; that he was stationed at Powers' fort on Simpson's creek, a branch of the Monongahela river, and served a tour of six months. Again in the spring of 1778 he volunteered under the aforesaid William Robinson, was stationed at the same place, and served a tour of six months. And that in 1779 he volunteered again in a company commanded by Captain Andrew Davidson, and was stationed at Powers' fort aforesaid and served a tour of six months. Again in the year 1780 he volunteered in a company commanded by Captain Joseph Gregory, and was stationed at a block house, where Clarksburg now stands, and served a tour of six months. that in the year 1781, in the month of March, he again volunteered, in a company commanded by the aforesaid Captain Gregory, was stationed at the place last aforesaid, and served a tour of six months. That again in the year 1782 he volunteered under the same officer, was stationed at the same place, and served a tour of six months. In all the aforesaid tours he served as a private soldier, and was employed in traversing the country between the Monongahela and Ohio rivers; that he was not engaged in any civil pursuit. He further states, that the aforesaid officers were regularly commissioned and in the service of the State aforesaid; and at the expiration of each of the above tours, he was orally discharged by his officers.

He has no documentary evidence by which to prove the above services; and knows of no living witness, except John Goodwin [pension application S8587], whose deposition is hereto annexed. He hereby relinquishes every other claim to a pension or annuity except the present, and declares that his name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any state Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid

Evan Thomas

We Hamilton Goss, a clergyman residing in the county of Harrison, and State of Virginia, and William Martin residing in the same county and state, hereby certify that we are well acquainted with Evan Thomas who has subscribed and sworn to the above declaration; that we believe him to be 80 years of age; that he is reputed and believed in the neighborhood where he resides, to have been a soldier and an indian spy of the Revolution; and that we concur in that opinion.

Sworn and subscribed the day and year aforesaid.

Hamilton Goss,
William Martin

State of Virginia,

Harrison county to wit.

On the 17th day of December, 1833, personally appeared before me Jacob Coplin a Justice of the Peace in and for the county and state aforesaid, John Goodwin in his 72^d year's of age, and made oath that he is well acquainted with Evan Thomas, the present applicant for a pension, and that he knows that in 1777 Evan Thomas volunteered in a company commanded by Captain William Robinson at Powers' fort, now in the county of Harrison, and served a tour of six months and was engaged in scouting and

spying, and that he knows that the said Evan Thomas volunteered again in Captain William Robinson's company, and served a tour of six months in 1778 at Powers' fort, and was employed scouting and spying during the said tour, and that in 1779 he knows that Evan Thomas volunteered in a company of volunteers commanded by Captain Andrew Davisson, and was stationed at Powers' fort and served a tour of six months, and that he knows that Evan Thomas volunteered in a company commanded by Capt. Joseph Gregory and was stationed at a Block house where Clarksburg now stands, and served a tour of six months in 1780. and he knows that Evan Thomas volunteered in Captain Gregrey's company of volunteers, and served a tour of six months at the aforesaid blockhouse in 1781 – and that Evan Thomas he believes is not less than 80 years of age, and that Captain Wm Robinson, Captain Andrew Davisson & Captain Joseph Gregrey were duly commissioned officers in the serves of the State of Virginia as militia captains.

John hisXmark Goodwin

[The following report is by District Attorney W. G. Singleton who investigated many pension applications from Harrison and Lewis counties. For details see pension application S6111 of David W. Sleeth.]

Evan Thomas draws \$80

July 18th Thomas made the following statement of his age and revolutionary services to Wit – he is in his 83rd year of age. Raised in Pennsylvania. remained there until he was 23 yrs. old – then moved to Loudon County and in his 24 year of age settled in Harrison cty and has resided there ever since – he came to Harrison county in June 1777 – in the year 1776 and whilst he lived in Loudoun county he went as a volunteer to the Chesapeake Bay in pursuit of the tories – word had come to Loudoun county that the tories were doing great mischief on the Bay. on getting on the bay were informed that the tories had dispersed – returned to Loudoun county. was gone about one month – Peyton Harrison was Captain & had about fifty men under him

On removing to Harrison County in June 1777 as before stated he went with his wife to “Powers Fort.” remained there working & hunting until next spring. – the summer following Andrew Davidson went to Augusty [sic: Augusta] County. on his return he stated that he had a commission and was authorized to Enlist men. himself and twenty or thirty others enlisted under Davison. dont know for what length of time. – they went out in parties of four & five and would scout and rainge sometimes for two or three days at a time. they would return and others would go out and so on. was on this sort of service he thinks not less than two months–

Early next spring he removed to Clarksburg where there were number of settlers. Some of the settlers were engaged in clearing ground and raising bread. whilst others were scouting and guarding against the Indians – they worked and scouted and scouted and worked – alternately – one Joseph Gregory was their captain – he (Thomas) was sometimes engaged in clearing and cultivating ground, and some times scouting as others were. – he remained at Clarksburg employed as above detailed for four or five years – Capt Gregory was at Clarksburg all the time – in the winter season all hands would return to their respective settlements and spend the winter in Hunting &c. – the settlers were not interrupted by the Indians in the Winter season. – he cant pretend to say how long in the whole he was in actual service whilst at the stations above mentioned –

Jacob Copelan [sic: Jacob Coplin] got his pension & he supposes wrote his declaration – gave him in substance the same statement now given – he swore to his declaration before the said Copelan. – dont recollect the contract made with him but he got \$100–

In testimony that the forgoing statement contains the truth I hereto subscribe my name July 18,

1834

Evan Thomas

Witness

A true copy

Nathan Goff. [pension agent at Clarksburg]

W. G Singleton Nov. 18, 1834

[Reverse of this sheet inscribed “Fraud.”]

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

War Dept Pension Office Jan 10, 1837

Sir [Hon. J. Klingensmith, Jr. House of Representatives] Herewith enclosed are copies of the papers of John Read [S15961] and John Goodwin [S8587]; and transcripts of copies in the cases of Evan Thomas and Isaac Shinn [S7505], the originals having been sent to US. Attorney for the Western District of Virginia [Singleton], in order that suits might be instituted for the recovery of the money improperly paid.

[Rest of letter unrelated to Thomas.]

Depart of War Pen. Off Apl 5 1838

Sir [Hon. Joseph Johnson, Member of Congress] I have re-examined the papers of Isaac Shinn, Evan Thomas and Jno Goodwin, who claim for services as Indian Spies in Western Virginia, but find no justifiable grounds for restoring their names to the pension roll, from which they were dropped in 1835

These persons, as was common in that day emigrated to the west, and obtained, each a tract of land from the Government, called a settlement right, as a remuneration for the many privations and dangers to which they were necessarily exposed from the hostile character of the Indians.

The statements of these claimants are very simular, and at the same time, very reasonable. They resided in forts or blockhouses with their families, and during the summer of each year while the revolutionary war continued, devoted themselves alternately in small parties to the cultivation of the farms, and the guarding of their settlement and crops from Indian depredation.

Isaac Shinn has placed this service in its proper light in his explanatory statement. he states that at an early period, aid was asked of the Gov'r. and obtained, but that the settlers did not join them thus sent for their protection. Indeed there does not appear to have been the most remote connexion with the settlers and the military operations authorized by public authority; the services of this form were at all times required in the making and securing of their crops, and in keeping up the system of domestic police, for their mutual defence. The affidavits of C Nutter, Jno Goodwin, are returned: – being attached together, cannot be filed with the respective papers for which they were intended

I have the honor

GC [George William Crump, Chief Clerk and sometime Acting Commissioner of Pensions]