

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of Isaac Shinn S7505

VA

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

State of Virginia }

Harrison County } To Wit

On this 16 day of December 1833 personally appeared Isaac Shinn in open Court before the justices of the Court now sitting and on his oath makes the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the act of Congress passed June 7 1832.

That he was born in Burlington County in the State of New Jersey on the 9th day of October in the year of 1760 has a record made by his parents from thence his parents removed to Stafford County in the State of Virginia, from thence they removed to Hampshire County in Virginia and brought him with them from thence he removed to the then district of west Augusta now Harrison County. in 1778 he volunteered in a company commanded by Capt. William Robinson at Powers Fort on Simpsons Creek a branch of the West Fork of the Mononghala river [sic: West Fork River, tributary of Monongahela River] and served a tour of six months and was stationed at said Fort and again in 1779 he volunteered in a company commanded by Capt Andrew Davisson at Powers Fort and was employed in scouting and spying a tour of six months That again in 1780 he volunteered in a company commanded by Capt. Joseph Gregrey [Joseph Gregory] at a Blockhouse where Clarsburg [sic: Clarksburg] now stands and was employed in Spying and Scouting a tour of six months that again in the year 1781 he volunteered in a company commanded by Capt John P Devall [sic: John Pierre Duval] and known as Col. Devall of Kentucky and was employed in Scouting and Spying a tour of six months That again in 1782 he volunteered under the aforesaid Capt John P Devall and served a tour of six months and was stationed at the said Blockhouse and that in all of his tours he served as a private and while so engaged he was not employed in any civil pursuit during the above mentioned tours and that Capt William Robinson Capt Andrew Davisson Capt Joseph Gregrey and Capt John P Devall were commissioned officers and in the service of the State of Virginia as Militia Captains, on the frontier of the State and that he never had any written discharge that he now resides in the county of Harrison in the State of Virginia and has resided there ever since the year 1773. he further states that he has no documentary evidence nor does he know of any living witness by whom he can prove the above facts [sic: see below] for his general character he would refer to the Hon. Thomas Morris a member of the Senate of the United States and the Hon. J. J. Allen member of Congress from this district. He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present and declares that his name is not on the Pension Role of the Agency of any State.

Sworn and subscribed the day and year aforesaid (Signed) Isaac hisXmark Shinn

We Hamilton Goss a clergyman residing in the County of Harrison in the State of Virginia and Samuel Harbert [pension application S15447] and Benjamin Coplin [S10464] residing in the same County and State aforesaid also appeared in open court do hereby certify that we are well acquainted with Isaac Shinn the above named applicant who has subscribed and sworn the above declaration that we believe him to be 73 years of age, that he is reputed and believed in the neighborhood where he resides to have been an Indian Spy or (soldier) of the Revolutionary war and that we concur in that opinion, and we Samuel Harbert and Benj. Coplin do further certify that we were with the said Isaac Shinn when he served his tours as he has above stated – Sworn to the day and year aforesaid.

(Signed) Hamilton Goss
Benj Coplin
Samuel S Harbert

[The following letter is in the pension file S8307 of Josiah Davidson (Davisson). The US Attorney referred to was W. G. Singleton who investigated a large number of pension applications from Harrison

and Lewis counties. For details see pension application S6111 of David W. Sleeth. In contrast to most of these cases, Shinn's file does not contain a copy of Singleton's report. Shinn's declaration is virtually identical with that of Evan Thomas (S16002), however, and the outcome of the investigation was probably the same. Part of Shinn's testimony to Singleton is paraphrased in the 1838 letter following, which is found in Evan Thomas's file.]

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, 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. [Rest of letter unrelated to Shinn.]

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 similar, 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]

NOTE: On 12 Mar 1860 Joseph Wilkinson, son-in-law and administrator of Isaac Shinn, applied for any arrears of pension due to Isaac Shinn or to his widow. Wilkinson stated that isaac Shinn died in Harrison County on 11 Sep 1844, leaving his widow, Agnes Shinn, who died in Harrison County on 16 Apr 1853. In Shinn's file is a copy of the record from Harrison County of the marriage of Isaac Shinn to Agness Drake on 16 Feb 1785 by Isaac Edwards M.D. Wilkinson listed the following children who survived Isaac Shinn: "George now living in Illinois. Isaac living in Carroll County Missouri. Rachel Wilkinson, wife of this declarant living in Harrison County Virginia. Mary, wife of William Smith living in Harrison County Virginia. Deborah, wife of Samuel Davidson living in Clinton County Ohio. Rebecca Curl wife of Samuel Curl living in Clinton County Ohio. Tabitha wife of Hiram Shinn living in Illinois. Samuel who died before the death of the widow and about ten years ago. Benjamin who died about three years ago in Harrison County Virginia. Hannah wife of Edward Shinn of Clinton County Ohio. Agnes wife of Maxwell Bartley living in Livingston County Missouri and Susannah wife of Felix Bartley of Livingston County Missouri."