

corn & other matters. their custom was to go out to work about ten in company. – whilst they were working others would be guarding – they worked and guarded alternately. that had to be done by all of the people at the Fort and in the settlement. he continued in this kind of service at Nutters Fort two summers – in which he was in actual service of the sort above detailed six months – then moved to Simpson Creek. aided in building Power's Fort. – Powers was commander at this Fort. whether he was captain or Lieut. cant say. thinks he was chosen officer by the people of the Fort & settlement. – while in this Fort was drafted to go over East of the Mountains against the british but did not go – the people at the Fort petitioned the Governor for Help. – He sent one Wares. Harris. two of the Townsons[?]. Septus & many others to the assistance of of the Fort and the people in the settlement. he was not called on to go out with the men sent over by the Governor he remained at Powers Fort for three years. Whilst there was often out Scouting and guarding the people whilst they were at work and working himself whilst others were guarding – was under the control of the County Lieutenant Powers. – during those three years he always stood ready for duty. – he considers that he was in service all the time whilst at the Fort. cant pretend to say he was in actual service in the Three years – After the expiration of the three years last above mentioned he left Powers Fort and went to Booths creek in same county. there helped Build Edwards Fort [in present Taylor County 5 mi S of Boothsville]. Capt Thomas had charge of this Fort. he (goodwin) continued to do the same kind of service which he done at Nutters' and Powers Fort and remained there upwards of two years. Cant pretend to say how much actual service he done during the seven years – considered himself in service all the time. – Jacob Copelan [sic: Jacob Coplin] wrote his declaration to whom he gave the same statement now given – Copelan charged \$80 & he paid it.

the forgoing statement was read to Goodwin in the presence of Nathan Goff [pension agent in Clarksburg] & Gustavus Harrison and acknowledged by him to be correctly taken down.

A Copy

W. G Singleton Nov. 18, 1834

Christopher Nutter [pension application W5434] states that Goodwin was in Harrison County during the whole time of the War of the Revolution and that he was scouting guarding and raingeing – but cant say what amount of service he done

John Ried [sic: John Read, pension application S15961] – 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 [i.e. 1781 campaign of George Rogers Clark organized at Fort McIntosh] and that he got the “settlement right”

[The following letter is in the pension file S8307 of Josiah Davison (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 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 [Singleton], 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.]

The following is in the pension application of Evan Thomas S16002:]

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]

NOTES:

Although the 1837 letter above states that Goodwin was dropped from the pension roll, a Treasury-Department document in his file states that “John Goodwin, Sr.” was paid from 4 Sep 1840 to 4 Mar 1841.

On 12 Mar 1860 John Goodwin, executor of the estate of his father, John Goodwin, applied “to obtain the arrears of pension to which his father and his mother... were entitled at their deaths.” He stated that his father died on 20 Nov 1842, leaving as widow “Elizabeth Goodwin who was married to him in Monongalia (now Harrison) County Virginia about seventy or seventy five years ago” and who died in Harrison County Virginia in Sep 1846. He listed the following children who survived their father: “Zepporah Chidester, widow of Samuel of Lee County, Iowa. Zadock Goodwin now dead leaving children. John Goodwin, this affiant, a resident of Harrison County, Virginia. Tabitha Frum, wife of Solomon of Harrison County, Virginia. Comfort Clevenger widow of Samuel of Barbour County Virginia. William Goodwin of Harrison County Virginia. Nancy Bartlett, wife of John of Barbour County, Virginia. Mary Husstead, wife of Moses Husstead of Pruntytown Taylor County Virginia. and George T. Goodwin of Harrison County Virginia.”