Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of Francis Goodwin R4126
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

State of Virginia } SS.
Harrison County } On this 24th day of October 1833 personally appeared before me
Jonathan FitzRandolph a Justice of the peace in and for the county of Harrison in the said state
of Virginia Francis Goodwin a resident of Harrison county in the State of Virginia aged seventy
two years who being first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following
declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the provisions of the act of congress of the 7th of
June 1832. That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers
and served as herein stated. That in the year 1777 in March of that year he was drafted in
Fayette County in Pennsylvania under Captain Connell to serve six months in the Pa. [militia]. He
was marched to a place on the Yohagany [sic: Youghiogheny] river about 16 miles from where
Union Town [Uniontown] stands he was stationed on said river at a garrison which had been
erected there under Col. Evans. There he acted as a guard to the Garrison and Magazine from
March 1777 till in October 1777 He was discharged by Captain Connell having served more than
six months as a private soldier in the Pa. Ma. Again in April 1778 he volunteered in what is now
Monongalia county in Virginia to serve six months in Captain John Evans company of Indian
spies and militia He was attached to a regiment commanded by Colonel Zachariah Morgan [sic: Zackquil Morgan] stationed at Picketts Fort [now Picketts Fort State Park 4 mi NE of Fairmont in Marion County WV] and ordered to guard and spied westwardly in what is now Tyler Brook & Ohio Counties in Va. He did so spie and guard the Fort alternately from April 1778 till in
Novr'/ 1778 Having served more than his tour was discharged by his captain having served more
than six months this tour as a private soldier and Indian spie. Again in the Spring of 1779 He
volunteered as a militia man and Indian spie under Captain Levi Morgan and under the same Col
Zachariah Morgan to serve six months in May 1779 He was again stationed at Picketts Fort in
what is now Monongalia county in Virginia Here he was again ordered to spie westward from
this Fort in (now) Tyler Brook & Ohio counties in Va. from May 1779 till in November 1779 when
he was discharged by Captn Levi Morgan having served this our full six months as a private
militia man and Indian spie. Again in March 1780 He volunteered in a company of Virginia
militia under captain Cooke Col. Martin was stationed at Martins Station on the Monongahela
river in what is now Harrison County, Virginia and ordered by Col Martin to spie from Martins
Station over to Picketts fort and up to Herberts Blockhouse on ten miles [sic: Fort Harbert on Tenmile Creek in Harrison County] and to spie on the west side of the Monongahela river and
give information to each of those places of any discoveries made in the several incursions which
they made which was weekly in this service he continued from March 1780 till in December
1780 full nine months. The Indians which had been lurking and done some mischief on
Ringamon creek were discovered to have recrossed the Ohio towards their towns. He was
discharged by Captn Cooke
Again in the Spring of 1781 He again volunteered in the Virginia militia for the defence of the
western waters as it was then called under captains John McCall Col. Duvall He was stationed
at Nutter's fort on the Westfork river in what is now Harrison County in Virginia [in present
Clarksburg] and ordered to spie from thence to Lowthers fort thence to West fort [near present
Jane Lew in Lewis County] thence to Buckhannon fort [near present Buckhannon in Upshur
County] and back and so far west as the little Kenhawa river [sic: Little Kanawha River] and on
its tributaries Hugh's river [sic: Hughes River] & performing the trip from Nutter's fort to the
others and back by the above route every four weeks. this he continued to perform from April
1781 till in October of that year more than six months the period for which he engaged He was
discharged in October 1781 Having served more than six months this year as an Indian spie – a
private in Captn McCall's company. Then again in the Spring of 1782 He was drafted to serve
six months on the western waters under captain Christopher Carpenter. He was stationed at
Richard's fort on the westfork river [near the mouth of Sycamore Creek] in what is now Harrison
County Virginia under Col. William Lowther and ordered to spie in the adjacent country in what
are now Lewis Wood Jackson and Tyler Counties in Virginia done so until in November 1782 was discharged having served from May 1782 till in Nov’r. of that year more than six months. This end his revolutionary career he served after agst. the Indians as a spie until the year 1794 as a spie but none in 1783. He does not remember that he saw any general officers except some that passed to the West. He saw of them Genls. [Edward] Hand and [Lachlan] McIntosh. He knew no regular troops his services was in the Militia and as Indian spie for more than three years from 1777 till 1782. He has no documentary evidence he knows of no person whose testimony he can procure who can testify to his services as a soldier of the revolution. He hereby relinquishes his every claim whatever 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.

Subscribed and sworn to this day and year aforesaid. Francis hisXmark Goodwin

The said Justice propounded to the applicant the seven several interrogatories prescribed by the war department to which he answered as follows viz.

1st. That he was born in the Town of Derry in the County of Londonderry in the province of Ulster in that part of Great Brittain called Ireland in 1761.

2nd. That he has no record of his age.

3rd. That he was living in Fayette county Pennsylvania That after the war he continued to reside in Harrison County 18 miles from the Courthouse where he now lives in Va.

4th. That he was first drafted. 2nd. volunteered. 3rd. volunteered 4th. volunteered. 5th. volunteered 6th. He was drafted.

5th. He knew and remembers Cols. Evans, Zachariah Morgan, Martin, Duvall, and Lowther. The general circumstances of his service are set forth above as nearly as the lapse of half a century enables him to do.

6th. He rec’d. written discharges from each of his captns They are all lost long since. He considered them of no further service to him only affording some proof that he had done his part in the war.

7th. He is known in his neighborhood to John Goodwin [possibly pension application S8587] (in no wise akin to him) and Uriah Schoolcraft both old men they can both testify to his character for veracity and their and the neighborhood belief of his services as a soldier of the revolution. There are no clergymen residing near him Francis markXhis Goodwin

[The following report is by District Attorney Washington G. Singleton who investigated many pensioners and applicants from Harrison and other counties of present West Virginia. For details see pension application S6111 of David W. Sleeth. Singleton wrote “Not Entitled” on his report on Goodwin.]

Francis Godwin of Harrison cty charged to Lewis. applicant —

Called on Mr. Goodwin July 15, 1834. he stated that all the service he had done during the R. War was in scouting and camping against the Indians in defence of himself and his neighbours without authority and without officers. other than those of their own selection. It was a sort of neighbourhood warfare always held themselves ready to repel invasions from the Indians. Cant pretend to say how long he was in this kind of service, would not be certain about it, not very long. – Sometime in October last was in Clarksburg during the session of the county court & others met Jonathan Wamsley who told him he was entitled to a Pension - and took him into a tavern wrote his Declaration and as he thinks swore him to it himself. be that as it may, he never done any further or other swearing than what was done in the tavern. was not taken or required to go to court then in Session. and this is all he knows about the matter.

A true copy. W. G Singleton Nov. 11, 1834.