

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of David W. Sleeth S6111

VA

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. Revised 16 Dec 2016.

[The items on the first three pages are from [Library of Virginia Legislative Petitions Digital Collection/ Lewis County](#)]

To the Legislature of Virginia

Your petitioner David W. Sleeth of the County of Lewis begs leave to represent to your honorable body that in the year 1778 your petitioner enlisted under one capt James Booth [VAS1757] who received orders from Col [Sampson] Mathews of Staunton Virginia, to raise a company for the protection of the western part of virginia from the merciless ravages of the Indians. Your petitioner further states that after enlisting as aforesaid he joined said Booths Company and served as a rainger for about 13 months in the western part of virginia towit in the limits of the County of West Augusta but now principally Lewis. Your petitioner further states that Capt. Booth fell a victim to the merciless hands of the savages during the time of your petitioners enlistment [Booth killed by Indians on 16 Jun 1778 near present Boothsville WV], and that his Lieutenant soon thereafter removed to the section of the Country now the state of Kentucky – Your petitioner was informed and believed that no return whatever was made to the proper tribunal of the services of said Booths Company this fact is known to your petitioner, that he never received any pay or other remuneration for his aforesaid services, expenses and loss of property by the absence of your petitioner neither did your petitioner while his [several undeciphered words] regret his not getting paid [several undeciphered words] general government. Your petitioner further states that during the time of his aforesaid service he received a rupture of the belly which operated seriously upon your petitioner compelling him to wear a truss for about the period of Twenty years, and that during the time your petitioner was in the service aforesaid, he was constantly exposed to all kinds of weather having for [one or two undeciphered words] been compelled to use the ground[?] for a bed which brought him, petitioner the Rumatism which disease has continued to this day – is now pressing upon the frame of your weather beaten petitioner. That your petitioner well and truly served in the capacity aforesaid is a fact, that he not only contributed much by his own exertions but by perseverance induced others to aid and manly defend the rights of their Country and protect the helpless women and Children from the brutal hands of the savages, all of which could be well demonstrated if your petitioners valiant Companions who fell by his side were living, to present in proper colours to your honorable body the dangers and difficuties your petitioner underwent during the time of his serving aforesaid, would require a pen wielded by a Jefferson. Your petitioner is now sixty five years of age much reduced in bodily abilities, still labouring under the aforesaid rupture & rumatism, and also reduced to a state of indigency, having a family illy able to contribute anything to their support. – Your petitioner therefore prays, that your honorable body will afford to your petition that relief which his case demands, either by granting your petitioner a small pension annually, or making your petitioner such an allowance for his aforesaid services &c as may seem just.

and your petitioner will ever pray &c  
Lewis County towit

David W. Sleeth/ Nov. 18, 1826

The above named David W. Sleeth personally appeared before me the subscriber a Justice of the peace in and for said County and made oath that his foregoing petition contains the truth to the best of his knowledge remembrance & belief. Given under my hand this 18 day of Nov. 1826

John McWhorter J.P.

Lewis County towit

James Kurtz a Gentleman of unquestionable veracity & truth personally appeared before me the subscriber a Justice of the peace in & for said County made oath that he knows that the above named David W. Sleeth did serve under Capt. Booth as set out in the foregoing petition and that it was the general understanding at that time that said Booth was acting under authority of the laws of Virginia, said Kurts further maketh oath that he believes the other part of said petition contains the truth. Given under my hand  
Nov. 18, 1826 W. Huffiman JP

Lewis County to wit

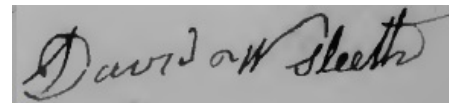
This is to Cartify that I was well aquanted with Capt Booth in his Life time and with David W Sleeth befour he Inlisted in the servis of His Cuntry as a Spye or Ranger under Capten Booth and has bin well aquainted with him ever sence as I Live a close Neighbour to him and beleve the statement to be true as the maj'r Part of the facts stated in the Peticon coms with in my one knoedg Given under my hand this  
20<sup>th</sup> of November 1826 Edw Jackson [Edward Jackson VAS73]

[In different handwriting]  
Dec 18<sup>th</sup> 1826 ref'd to Claims  
1826 Dec'r. 27. Rejected  
28 Reported

Virginia Lewis }  
County to wit }

This day David W Sleeth maketh oath before me the subscriber a Justice of the peace in & for said county that about the year 1778 and 79 he served as a soldier in a company of rangers commanded by Captain James Booth in that tract of country then called and known as West Augusta now Harrison Randolph Tyler Wood and Lewis counties. That he enlisted in what is now Lewis county. That he endured many hardships in said service. That his said captain James Booth was killed near his own house on Booths Creek, now Harrison County. That said creek derived its name from his said Captain. That he affiant was by said accident prevented from getting his discharge. That in consequence thereof he has never rec'd any pay for his said service nor does he believe his fellow soldiers ever did. Affiant states that two of his company are still living in Lewis County one of which rec'd. a wound from an Indian near affiant. Their names are Alexander West [pension application W6450] and John Cutright [W6626].

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 22 day of Nov'r. 1831  
Weeden Huffman J.Peace



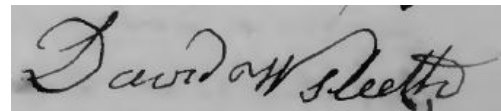
Virginia Lewis County towit

This day alexander West made oath before me the subscriber a Justice of the Peace in and for the county of Lewis – that about the years 1778 and 79 David W Sleath served as a Soldier in a Company of rangers Commanded by James Booth Captain in that tract of Country called and known by the name of West Augusta and Harrison, Randolph Wood Tyler and Lewis Counties – said Sleath enlisted in what is now called Lewis County and served thirteen months for which this affiant believes that not of the company ever received pay – Capt James Booth was killed on Booths Creek near his own House in consequence of which no one of the Company ever obtained a discharge – this affiant further states the Company Commanded by James Booth furnished their own provisions that there is now but three of the Company still living towit Alex West – David W Sleath and John Cutright, who was wounded

Subscribed & sworn to before the subscriber Alexder hisXmark West  
November 25<sup>th</sup> 1831/ John McWhorter  
[see endnote on p 9]

To the general assembly of Virginia

Your petitioner respectfully states that he enlisted in the service of Virginia in what was then (1778) called West Augusta now Lewis County as a Ranger in company commanded by Captain James Booth. That he served faithfully in said company for a term of Eighteen months ranging in said West Augusta in that tract of country now composing the Counties of Harrison, Tyler, Wood, Lewis and Randolph under the command of Capt. James Booth who was killed by the Indians on Booths Creek in Harrison County deriving its name from said Booths being the first settler on its waters. Your petitioner does not wish to enter into a detail of the heart sickening scenes which he witnessed during said service by the massacres of the Indians nor does he wish to promote the success of his petition by an appeal to the sympathies of this honorable body, if it cannot be sustained on principles of equity let it be denied. Your petitioner states in general terms that his service was in its nature hard and exceedingly perilous. That he made many hair breadth escapes, at one time his fellows killed on each side of him at another wounded by his side. for all of his services your petitioner never rec'd. one cent but lost his time and spent his scanty estate in the service of his country. Your petitioner lost his pay or rather was always refused because it was alleged there was no roll returned by his captain and because your petitioner had not obtained a regular discharge, both of which he here declares were (in his opinion) the consequences of captain Booths murder. The latter he knows viz. That if Captain Booth had have lived he would have obtained an honorable discharge. At the time your petitioner felt no concern about his pay or discharge, as he was young and able to labour and his government had no funds. How changed, now he is old infirm and poor and his Government has a treasury overflowing. The ground on which his mortal combats took place with the savage foe are now in profitable cultivation Your petitioner is now unable to prove his services except by two of his compeers who yet remain Alexander West and John Cutright The latter rec'd a wound by an Indian Ball in his body whilst on a scout with your petitioner. Your petitioner does not suppose for a moment that his delay will militate against him, he has heretofore been a petitioner and successful (as he was informed) in the lower house, but failed in the Senate. In conclusion He respect asks that a law may pass authorising him to receive from the Treasury pay for 1[?] months service with Interest from 1779 or without interest as to your honorable body seems right



[In different handwriting]  
Dec'r 12<sup>th</sup> 1831 ref'd to Rev'y. Claims

The speaker and house of delegates of Virginia.

Your petitioner David W Sleeth sole surviving heir of John Sleeth respectfully states that his father was a serjeant engaged by regular enlistment under captain James Booth who was killed by the Indians as stated in your petitioners former petition That his said father served 13 months as a serjeant in said Booths company commanding Indians spies and never rec'd. one cent therefor, because he could not procure a discharge. He therefor prays That a law may pass authorizing him to receive the pay of a serjeant of those days for 13 months service.

David W Sleeth

24<sup>th</sup> Nov'r. 1833.

[In different handwriting]  
Dec'r 17<sup>th</sup> 1833 ref'd to C'ms [Claims]  
1834 Feby. 5<sup>th</sup> Reasonable

Received this 7<sup>th</sup> of Feby. 1837 of the Clerk of the House of Delegates, the petition of David W. Sleeth, with the affidavits of D. W. Sleeth and of Alexander West, accompanying. Withdrawn under leave of the House.

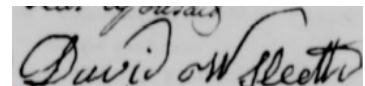
Wm. McCoy

State of Virginia }  
County of Lewis } SS

On this 7th day of August 1832 personally appeared in open court before James M. Camp, John McWhorter, Abner Abbott & George Bush Justices of the Peace for the said County of Lewis, and members of the Court of the said County of Lewis, now sitting, David W. Sleeth a resident of Leading Creek in the said County of Lewis and State of Virginia, aged seventy 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 act of Congress passed June 7<sup>th</sup> 1832. That he entered the service of the United States under the following named Officers, and served as herein stated. in May 1777 at West's fort on Hackers Creek now in the County of Lewis at that time in the County of Monongalia Virginia he inlisted in Captain James Booth's company, ordered to act as Indian Spies principally in the territory now composing the County of Randolph, Harrison and Lewis in Virginia. Edmond Freeman was the Lieutenant under Cap't. Booth the insigns name is not recollected. Soon after he inlisted he commenced the service of a spy and continued the period of his inlistment in said service which was eighteen months. That in June 1778 his Cap't. James Booth was killed by the Indians on Booths Creek now in the County of Harrison then in the County Monongalia Virginia. after the death of Capt Booth Lieutenant Freeman commanded the company the remainder of the Term of months. as soon as the 18 months service expired Lieutenant Freeman left the neighborhood in which we had been Spying and went to Kentucky without giving the company any discharges the service under Capt Booth and Lieutenant Freeman ended in November 1778. the Indian hostilities continuing Capt George Jackson [R15396] was required to raise a company to spy in the territory & country which Capt. Booths Company had been Spying. Declarant joined the company of Capt. Jackson in a few days after his service under Capt Booth and Lieutenant Freeman expired at the Buckhannon Fort now in the County of Lewis then in the county of Monongalia [at the present town of Buckhannon in Upshur County WV] and continued under Capt. Jackson as a spy until the latter part of the year 1780 Jacob Brake was the Lieutenant and Timothy Dorman Ensign under Capt Jackson. While he acted as spy under Capt Booth Lieutenant Freeman and Capt. Jackson he spied principally in the present Territory of the before mentioned counties, was in several skirmishes with the Indians during the before mentioned periods of his service. That he has no documentary evidence.

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 the agency of any state. The Court propounded to the said Declarant the several questions required by the Secretary of War to the 1<sup>st</sup> of which the Declarant answered that he was born in the county of Frederick Virginia in the year 1762 on the 18<sup>th</sup> of May according to the information of his father. To the 2<sup>d</sup> question the Declarant answer that his fathers Bible in which is recorded the names & ages of his children is now in the possession of David Smith of this county who married the Daughter of Declarants oldest sister this Bible shows the age of Declarant To the 3<sup>rd</sup> question the Declarant answered That he was living at West's fort on Hackers Creek now in the County of Lewis but then in mongalia when he entered the service under Capt Booth, and when he entered the service under Capt. Jackson he lived at the Buckhannon Fort now in the County of Lewis Virginia but then in the County of Monongalia Virginia. Since the revolutionary war he has lived within the bounds of the present County of Lewis Virginia. at the present time he lives on Leading Creek in the said County of Lewis. To the 4<sup>th</sup> question the Declarant answered That he was called into service by inlisting under Capt. James Booth. it was voluntary inlistment. To the 5<sup>th</sup> question He answered that the company he belonged were ordered to act as spies and were not attached to any other Troops. To the 6<sup>th</sup> question he answered That he does not recollect of ever having obtained a discharge. To the 7<sup>th</sup> question He answered That he is known to Jacob Bush [W24685], John Cutright and Alexander West of his neighborhood who he supposes can Testify to his services.

Sworn and subscribed to the day and year aforesaid



[Certified by John Talbott, clergyman and Clerk of Lewis County, and Henry McWhorter.]

I John Cutright doth certify that he knows of David W Sleeths being an Indian Spy as set forth in his Declaration above and of his said Sleeth serving as therein mentioned as he said Cutright was with said Sleeth in said service during the whole time mentioned in the above Declaration  
Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid      John hisXmark Cutright

I Jacob Bush doth certify that he recollects that David W Sleeth who has applied for a pension was in Capt Booths company of Indian Spies, he thinks he went into the service under Capt. Booth in the Spring of 1777 and continued in a considerable time. He also recollects that after Sleeths service under Capt. Booth expired that said Sleeth served for a considerable time as an Indian Spy under Capt. George Jackson.  
Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid      Jacob hisXmark Bush

[The following report is by US District Attorney Washington G. Singleton who investigated hundreds of pension applications from present West Virginia. See my appendix below for details. On the cover of the report Singleton wrote "Fraud."]

David W. Sleeth. Pensioner Draws \$80—

Saw Mr. Sleeth July 29 1834, & received from him the following statement. in his 73<sup>rd</sup> of age born in Frederick County Virginia removed from thence to Now Lewis County in the year 1776. On the first day of May 1777 or 1778 not certain which, he Enlisted under Capt. James Booth for eighteen months. Served under him for the first thirteen months at which time he was killed by Indians. the remaining five months was served under Lieut. Freeman who succeeded Capt. Booth in command upon his demise. in this Service he was stationed generally at Wests Fort on Hackers Creek in what is now Lewis County. whilst in this service he was out on Scouts and Raingeing – his Scouting and raingeing did not extend father than the present limits of Lewis County, on one or two occasions he was perhaps beyond those limits for a short space of time. — In the Winter Season of the year generally staid at the Fort or Station — the Indian depredation upon the settlements from the 1<sup>st</sup> March to December, his Father lived in Wests Fort when he David Served — his Father had a cabbin and acquired the settlement right — David himself did not acquire the Settlement right. he was two young. — in the Spring succeeding this service thinks in 1779 or 1780 he enlisted under Capt. Davis [possibly Robert Davis] from Augusty [sic: Augusta] County for 3 mo. in the year Capt Davis came out from Augusty County with about sixty men to Wests Fort to guard the settlement and rainge in the settlement adjacent. Capt Davis enlisted some four or five men (including himself) on this side the mountains, who were acquainted with the geography of the country. had as guides – he remained in this service 3 mo. 15 days. – whilst in this service these men performed duty in turns – they would be from 4 to 5 days out rangeing – come in & rest at the Fort for about the latter number of days & so on — In the succeeding summer, Capt James Trimble came out from Augusty County with about sixty men he was sent out for the same purpose for which Capt Davis had been sent and was stationed at Wests Fort – he Sleeth enlisted under Capt Trimble as a guide for not less than three months, George Jackson & Joseph Parsons [S8942] enlisted at the same time and for the same purpose to wit as guides – the Service performed in this tour was precisely the same as was done under Capt Davis in the years 1782 & 1783 he done other services as a volunteer in short tours under different Captains – this latter service was done under the direction of the county Lieut. – he Sleeth knew Wm. Powers [William Powers S18164] whilst he Sleeth was stationed at Wests Fort – Powers was not stationed there – Col. G. C. Camden [Gideon Draper Camden] wrote his Declaration. the statement given to Camden is in substance the same that he now gives – Camden charged him rather less than \$40 – In testimony that the foregoing statement is true I hereto subscribe my name. July 29 1834

Witness Nathan Goff

David W. Sleeth

A True copy– W. G Singleton Nov'r. 3, 1834

W. G Singleton

William Powers, a Gentleman of veracity made the following statement — He Powers was in Harrison & Lewis counties before and during all the time of the revolutionary war and knew every man in that region of country who took a part in those troublesome times. He Powers in the years 1777 1778 & 1779 was at Power's Fort [on Simpson Creek in Harrison County] distant from Wests Fort 18 miles. Capt Booth (under whom Mr. Sleeth says he enlisted for 18 mo) was in the years 1777 & 1788 at Coons [Koon's] or Booths Fort on Booths Creek 30 miles distant from Wests Fort. — (Powers Fort was about mid way between Wests & Coons or Booths Forts) — Part of Capt Booths men were at Nutters Fort 14 miles from Wests Fort. but none of them of them were at Wests Fort. of this fact Mr. Powers thinks he cant be mistaken. Booth was killed on the 16<sup>th</sup> June 1778 at Booths or Coon Fort. — Mr. Powers knew Edman Freeman (the same that Sleeth says succeeded to the command of Booths men) before. at the death of Booth, and long after, Powers is perfectly confident that Freeman never did succeed to the command of Booths men, or to any other command. he never held any command during the war of the Revolution — Mr. Powers never heard of Enlistments in this Country (Western Virginia) for eighteen months. — nor was there or could there have been any such enlistment. — the universal practice of raising men for the service of which Mr. Sleeth speaks & which he says he done, to volunteer for the season, the understanding of which was, that the men so volunteering were to be in service for the Spring Summer & fall months when necessity required their services. — in these were the the Indians more in the practice of making war upon the settlements. in the winter season the settlements had peace in the absence of the Indians — they on all occasions in that season went to their towns — — Mr. Powers further states that Capt. Davis from Augusty came over the mountains with men in 1778 & 1779 and was stationed at Wests Fort. — but he has no recollection of Capt Trimble being out in like manner nor does he believe he was. — Mr. Powers saw Mr. Sleeth in the country at the time refered to by Sleeth in his forgoing statement — he might have done some service, but he cant be mistaken in saying that the Narative of Service given by Mr. Sleeth to say the least of it is eronious—

Christopher Nutter [W5434] settled in Harrison County in 1773 knew every station and Fort in all the settlement. and almost every man who took a part in the war of the Revolution in this region of country — there was no such service known as 18 months Enlistment occuring then. He also knew Capt. Booth & Edward Freeman, the former was killed at the time stated by Mr. Powers — the latter did not succeed to the command of the former, or to any other command — thinks Mr. Sleeth mistaken in his narative of service to say the least of it—

Note, this man Sleeth is the same who as Magistrate certified such a number of Declarations from Lewis County; it is currently stated (and no doubt often just) that he received from \$10 to \$20 pr each and every Declaration of his certifying — through his corrupt means many frauds have been committed — the Narative of service here declared by him, you will I presume compare with his Declaration. whether they be the same or not is wholly immaterial. There is no doubt of his being an Imposture — he is a man of infamous character. W. G Singleton Nov. 3 1834

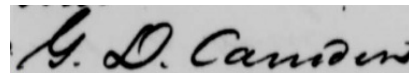
Clarksburg Va./ 19 Dec 1835

Sir [James L. Edwards, Commissioner of Pensions]

In reply to yours of 18<sup>th</sup> July last, I have to state that Mr. John Ryan's [S18584] residence being so remote, has prevented me from getting an explanation as to his Six Months service in Eastern va until recently. You will find from the enclosed affidavit of Adam See Esq. that his six months service was performed and that it was necessary to guard & suppress the Tories. Mr. See is an old Gentleman of the highest respectability was a member of our late convention to amend the State Constitution and statement is entitled to entire credit. I hope that the explanation will prove satisfactory, and that Mr. Ryan who is a very correct old may be permitted to again enjoy the small annuity which seems to be admitted by all, he so justly merits.

I should be happy to be informed at large the reasons why David W. Sleeth of Lewis County was Stricken from the Pension roll, if my recollection of his case is correct, his services were proven by highly

respectable witnesses, and the most of his services were performed under an act of the Legislature of Virginia, for which our Legislature has within the last five or six years made provision to pay the spies under Capt. James Booth. Very Respectfully/ Your obt. serv't.



Clarksburg Va 18<sup>th</sup> Jany. 1836

Sir [James L. Edwards] Your of the 4<sup>th</sup> instant in relation to the claim of David W Sleeth has been received in which you state that "It is in evidence evidence before the Department that there was no such service in Western Virginia as those claimed for by Mr. Sleeth" my impression is (but I cannot be certain) that Mr. Sleeth proved his services under Capt Booth by Jacob Bush and Alexander West both of whom are now dead but two more credible old men were not to be found any where until their death they both sustained characters for strict integrity, and should any evidence exist in the Department conflicting with them if consistent with the rules of the Department I should be glad to be furnished with a copy of such evidence. I presume that the Department would take pleasure in furnishing a person who had once been placed on the Pension roll, and whose pension had been suspended or superseded, with the evidence upon which the suspension was founded. in the present instance the evidence has been taken ex parte, and I presume by a person [Singleton] as to whom from the force of circumstances I am compelled to say has been much prejudiced against all claims (or nearly so) from this portion of Country, from the failling of our nature when the mind once becomes prejudiced, however pure our intentions may be, it is very difficult to free oneself from a bias or leaning against the objects of our animadversion. In making this request for all the evidence taken against Mr. Sleeth in order that he may have an opportunity to explain or rebut this exparte testimony, a right deemed sacred to all, not to Judged or condemned without being "confronted with the witnesses against him." I hope it will not supposed that I intend to cast the slightest reflection upon the motives of those who acted on the part of the government. In relation to the services of Mr. Sleeth under Capt. Booth they are of considerable notoriety. I presume they have been proved several times before the Virginia Legislature. might not the persons who deposed against Mr. Sleeth be mistaken in the year, or might not Capt. Booth in fact have been at Coons fort, and at the same time, have commanded West fort and a portion of his men been stationed there. our Legislature has paid by special acts many including Mr. Sleeth for services under Capt. Booth during the Revolution. it is clear to my mind that Mr. Sleeth can show himself entitled to a pension, of what amount, at present I cannot say.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully. Your ob't. serv't. G. D. Camden

Virginia Lewis County to wit

Personly appeared before me Philip Reger a Justice of the peace in and for the county of Lewis and state of Virginia John Cutright of said County aged Eighty one years and after being first sworn deposed as followeth

that he recolects of Captain James Booth then of west Augusta Virginia in that section that is now Harrison County enlisting men for eighteen months to be engaged against the Indians. that he recolects of David W. Sleeth enlisting under said Booth in the year 1778 and served under him untill the Indians killed the said Booth when Lieutenant Edmond Freeman took command and Stephen Ratliff was Ensign that he the said Cutright served under the said officers. that he recolects that the said Sleeth served out his full time of enlistment and that the company under the above named officers was was kept in actual service

John hisXmark Cutright

the above was sworn to and subscribed before me this 27<sup>th</sup> day of May 1836 Philip Reger J. P.

State of Virginia }  
Lewis County towit }

The affidavit of Elizabeth Butcher, widow of Paulser Butcher [VAS1756] dec'd. aged (as near as she can recollect) about Eighty six or seven years, who being first sworn deposeth as follows:

deponant states that she was well acquainted with a certain Capt. James Booth then of west augusta, now Harrison County. that he raised a company of men and went against the Indians and that her husband was one of his solders. She states that her husband was a considerable time absent under Capt. Booth, but the precise length of time she can't now state; nor has she any means of ascertaining the time, or year Capt. Booth raised his Company; and the time he and his company was Engaged agst the Indians; Except for the ages of her children; and by her calculation from the ages of them born at that time, thinks it must have been at least between fifty five and sixty years ago, deponant states she well recollects hearing her husband say that John Cutright and Adam Bush [W5960] were soldiers under Capt. Booth at the same time he was.

Sworn to before me the subscriber a Justice of the peace in and for Lewis County this 4<sup>th</sup> day of June 1836  
Weeden Huffman J.P.

Personally appeared before me William Parks a Justice of the peace in and for the County of Lewis and state of Virginia Pheby Cuninghame [widow of Thomas Cunningham; W4166] aged Seventy Six years and after being sworn to answer questions answered as followeth question was you acquainted with a Captain James Booth – who in the time of the revolutionary War lived on Booths Creek – then in West Augusta now Harrison County Virginia – if so what do you know about his Inlisting men to serve against the Indians

Answer I knew Captain James Booth – of Booths Creek – I recollect of him Inlisting a Company of men to go against the Indians – the time and length of servis I do not exactly recollect I recollect that the Company was kept in actual servis one summer and Winter – and my husband Thos's Cuninghame (Deceased) was one of the Company – I think it was about the year 1777 or 78 – The Indians killed Captain Booth and Edmond Freeman who was then his Lieutenant afterwards married his Widder – Question did you know of David W Sleeth belonging to that Company and serving under Capt. Booth and Lieutenant Freeman — I do not recollect distinctly – but I always understood my Husband in his life time to say that he was one that served with him

Sworn before me the Subscriber this first Monday [6<sup>th</sup>] of June 1836

State of Ohio Licking County SS

On the 20th Day of December AD 1838 before the subscriber a justice of the peace for Washington Township County of Licking and State of Ohio Personally came Elias Hughs [Elias Hughes S8747] who being duly sworn according to law to testify the truth the whole truth and nothing but the truth respecting the services of David Slieth of Lewis County State of Va as a private soldier in the Revolutionary war under the Command of Captain James Boothe of the Virginia Malitia deposeth and saith That to the best of his recollection it was in the year seventeen hundred and seventy eight or before that time that David Slieth inlisted under under Capt James Boothe. States that he Elias Hughes did not see him inlist but heard the Lieutenant say that he David Slieth had inlisted that he remained under his Boothe's Command for some time cannot say how long he remained in the service but knows that he Slieth was out under him Elias Hughs on one excursion when he the said Elias Hughs had the Command of a company of Spies After the death of Captain James Boothe And further the deponent saith not

Elias hisXmark Hughs

Attest/ Jonathan Hughes



NOTES:

Although Alexander West stated above that he, David W. Sleeth, and John Cutright were the only surviving members of Capt. James Booth's last tour, several others later applied for payment for their service on the tour. The pension application (W4166) of Phebe Cunningham, widow of Thomas Cunningham, includes a copy of the following law passed by the Virginia Legislature on 13 Mar 1834: "Be it enacted by the General Assembly, That David W. Sleeth, sole surviving heir of John Sleeth deceased, who was a Sergeant in the company commanded by Captain James Booth, in an expedition against the Indians during the Revolutionary War, be allowed the sum of One hundred and thirty dollars, for thirteen months services of his said father as Sergeant as aforesaid, and Joseph Parsons [S8942], John Tucker [S6274], James Brown [S6718], and Phebe Cunningham, widow of Thomas Cunningham deceased, shall be allowed the sum of One hundred and four dollars each, for their services as privates for the same time in said company; and the Auditor of Public Accounts is hereby authorized and required to issue a warrant on the treasury, in favor of the said Sleeth, Parsons, Tucker, Brown, and Cunningham, respectively, for the same to be paid to them or their representatives out of money therein not otherwise appropriated This act shall be in force from its passage."

Sleeth's pension certificate for \$80 per year was sent to Gideon D. Camden of Weston. Like all other pensions in Lewis and Harrison counties, it was suspended during Singleton's investigation. A letter in the file of Samuel Harbert (S15447) states that Singleton prosecuted Sleeth, but he "was acquitted & his pension subsequently restored." There does not appear to be any evidence, however, that the pension was restored.

After the Revolutionary War David Wallace Sleeth settled in what is now Clarksburg, and in 1793 he became a deputy sheriff and was soon afterwards commissioned a lieutenant of militia. Subsequent appointments were as a justice of the peace in 1817 and school commissioner in 1819.

In the report on Thomas Carney (R1711) Singleton wrote: "this case is certified by D. W. Sleeth. – it is the general rumour in this country (and no doubt of the truth of the Rumour, though not susceptible to strict proof– ) that this man Sleeth is packed about from mountain & Vally & from county to county by the Lewis Speculating gentry and receives ten dollars for every case he certifies — Sleeth is said to be a man of bad character. – the Department cannot (in my opinion) be doing injustice to the parties concerned by adopting as a general rule to disallow all cases certified by this man Sleeth. this is the opinion of any Honest man (a scarce commodity here) that I have met with."

The "Lewis Speculating Gentry" is described in more detail in the appendix below.

## APPENDIX

### THE LEWIS SPECULATING GENTRY

In the 1835 *Report From the Secretary of War*, which lists Revolutionary pensioners by county of residence, Harrison and Lewis counties in what is now West Virginia immediately catch the eye. Every pensioner from those counties who was not dead had been suspended before the semiannual payment scheduled for 4 Sep 1833. The reason for this distinction was reported as follows in the *Richmond Enquirer* on 28 Oct 1834:

“FRAUDS ON THE TREASURY.—At the last term of the Federal Court, holden at Clarksburg, Va., 37 indictments for *forgery* and *perjury*, were found by the grand jury, against certain Pensioners and their Attorneys. Among the Attorneys implicated, are Jonathan Wamsley, Commonwealth’s Attorney for Lewis county, and J. Bennet, a Delegate elect from the same county. They have both taken leg bail, left their homes, and taken themselves, as is supposed, to the Province of Texas.

“The Pensioners concerned, are generally supposed to be innocent of any criminal or fraudulent intentions whatever. They are believed to have been deceived and imposed upon by their Attorneys in the following manner:—When old gentlemen, who had been more or less engaged in the Indian or border warfare, but not for the length of time sufficient to entitle them to a pension, would apply to their Attorneys, and detail to them, an account of their services, the Attorneys would assure them, that they were justly entitled to receive a pension under the law, and would forthwith draw up the declaration, not of the *actual* services of the applicant, but of such services as they (the Attorneys) knew would entitle the applicant to his pension; when the declaration was drawn, the applicant was assured that it contained nothing but the facts as he had detailed them, *only that they were put in legal form*. With this understanding and belief, and reposing confidence in their Attorneys, the applicants were generally, easily imposed upon, and indeed to take the necessary oaths; without reading or examining the declarations themselves. The applications were generally successful; and, as a matter of course, Wamsley and Bennet, as pension agents, acquired a great reputation. What proportion or a share of the money thus drawn from the Treasury, was usually retained by Wamsley and Bennet, for their services is not known, but it is presumed, that it was no inconsiderable amount.— *Wellsburg Rep.*”

Such fraud was easy under the pension act of 1832, because Congress relaxed the rules of evidence for those who served in the militia. Unlike soldiers in the Continental Line, those who served in militias seldom had their names recorded on rosters, so all Congress required as proof was a plausible declaration of service and the oath of two neighbors that the applicant had a good character for veracity and the reputation of having been a soldier of the Revolution. The agent would not even have to present the applicant in court before skeptical neighbors if a justice of the peace certified he was too infirm to travel. Thus all that was needed to make a fraudulent claim was someone with enough knowledge of history to write a believable declaration of service and at least one dishonest Justice of the Peace. The scheme quickly falls apart, however, if the applicant is called upon without warning months later to give a narrative of his services. That is what happened when US District Attorney Washington G. Singleton came to investigate. He soon discovered that at least ten magistrates and leading citizens of Lewis and neighboring Harrison counties were involved in perpetrating fraudulent pension claims. He referred to them as the “Lewis Speculating Gentry.”

Singleton is not known to have listed all the members of the Lewis Speculating Gentry,” but certainly he would have included the above-mentioned James M. Bennett and Jonathan M. Wamsley. Singleton probably would also have included Robert H. Lowther, Johnson F. Newlon, and David W. Sleeth, who were also indicted and were frequent associates of Bennett and Wamsley in fraudulent claims. In addition, in the pension application of Francis Boggs (R985) Singleton referred to William L. Mitchell as “one of the Lewis Speculators.” Singleton also named Samuel Z. Jones (S18474) as having been “instrumental in many impositions upon the government. he was the complete tool. (a magistrate by the way) in the hands of Wamsley and his confederates in crime.” I add the following three because they were

also indicted as part of Singleton's investigation: Jacob Coplin, George R. Gillilan, and Wilson K. Shinn.

Jonathan M. Wamsley was the first among these ten members of the Lewis Speculating Gentry (LSG). He drew suspicion as early as 1815 when \$400 he had obtained as payroll for his militia company went missing (<http://pages.swcp.com/~dhickman/journals/V6I4/1812wamsley.html>). Twenty years later, however, he was among the leading citizens of Lewis County. Wamsley appears to have initiated the first of the fraudulent claims (ten of them) on 16 July 1832. Between then and 24 Oct 1833 he authored or coauthored 28 pension applications under the act of 1832, 22 of which are clearly fraudulent from a comparison of the application with the applicant's narrative to Singleton.

By 8 March 1834 Wamsley learned that pension applications from Lewis County had somehow attracted the attention of the Commissioner of Pensions, Col. James Lewis Edwards. Wamsley's letter to Edwards on that date (filed with the pension application of Reuben Jenkins R5574) reveals something of his character. After stating that he had recently learned from James M. Camp that some pension applications from Lewis County were suspect, he attempts to shift blame from himself to the pension applicants, and he even offers to investigate them. "...I learned from an old man a faithful chronicler of the occurrences of that day that the application of David Carpenter [R1712] of Harrison is erroneous as to the period of his services That they were performed after 1783. This old mans tenacious memory leaves me no doubt on this subject. tis due to Carpenter and others to say that from what hear of the standing of Carpenter that he is only mistaken. he is a frail and weak man I learn and such is his appearance I have seen him but have no acquaintance with him. The same I think is case with Uriah Ashcraft [R278]. The information about him is not so decisive but enough so to make me request the depart. not to act in his case unless some further information shall clear the case of much doubt I should much regret being accessory to any imposition on the depar.... I have wrote declarations from memoranda furnished me for several men whom I have never seen some of those may have misstated from design or frailty the precise period of their service. If there is any designation made of any of my cases either of those who have been allowed or are now pending I will be at pains to investigate by all the means in my power the grounds of the charge and report the evidence. Among the cases of application now before the depart. under my controul I am personally acquainted with the following of whose claims I can have no doubt Wm. Cookman [William Cookman R2281], David Wolf [R11767], .... Reynolds [Benjamin Reynolds R8709] and C.Knight [Christopher Knight R6023]. I have no doubt of Goodwin [Francis Goodwin R4126], of Conway [sic: John Conaway R2244] I know nothing nor hear anything pro or con. The same I say of Hyatt Lazear [R6219]."

Six months later Wamsley was indicted by a grand jury on multiple counts of perjury, subornation of perjury, and forgery. Similarly indicted were Bennett, who had been recently elected to the House of Delegates, and Robert H. Lowther, who was a physician as well as a lawyer. Of the 15 pension applications authored and coauthored by Bennett, comparison of the application with the narrative to Singleton shows 14 of them to have been fraudulent. Lowther authored or coauthored 18, of which I judge 13 to have been fraudulent. Indictments for subornation of perjury were brought against Johnson F. Newlon, who authored or coauthored 14 applications, of which 10 appear fraudulent. Also indicted for subornation of perjury was Jacob Coplin of Randolph County. (Information about the indictments is from an unknown researcher from documents at the Philadelphia depository of the National Archives and Records Administration (Records Group 21 of the US District Court for the Northern District of West Virginia Clarksburg Misc. Case Papers Criminal 1834-37 Box 1 E-10-05-06-3. It was brought to my attention by Mr. David Houchin, Special Collections Librarian at the Clarksburg-Harrison Public Library, who obtained it from Ms. Terry Ward of Daughters of the American Revolution.)

A letter dated 14 Sep 1834 from Archibald McCall to George A. McCall, transcribed by Mr. Houchin, provides a similar account of the prosecutions: "The Criminal business, which I mentioned had occupied the time of the Court, was the prosecution of a set of fellows who had entered into a regular conspiracy to defraud the Government, by obtaining pensions for persons not entitled to them, & sharing, or rather appropriating to themselves, the ill gotten profits.— Wamsley, the fat Lawyer from Weston... was the prime leader & principal Actor in the business.— no less than 11 bills were found against him by the

Grand Jury, 6 for forgery & the rest for subornation of Perjury &c, bills were also found, 5 or 6 each, against three other persons, all of Weston, – One of them [Bennett] a member of Assembly, another [Lowther] the principal physician of the Town, & the third [probably Newlon] a relative of Col. Stringer's..... At first they put a bold face upon it, appeared in open Court & declared their intention of standing trial & proving their innocence, but as soon as it was known that the Attorney Gen'l would move the Court for a Warrant to secure their persons, they instantly disappeared, and have not since been heard of – It is expected they have, or will, leave the U.S. for Texas or Canada.” (According to Houchin, “Col Stringer” in the letter was Daniel Stringer, formerly Clerk of Lewis County, who died in December 1833. His second wife was the mother of Newlon and also of Jonathan Wamsley’s wife. In addition, he was the father-in-law of Robert H. Lowther and of William L. Mitchell.)

An article in the 2 May 1835 Newport *Mercury* brought to my attention by independent historian David Armstrong of Tygart Valley, states that David W. Sleeth was indicted. A letter in the file of Samuel Harbert (S15447), also states that Singleton prosecuted Sleeth, but he “was acquitted & his pension subsequently restored.” According to Singleton, Sleeth’s main role in the LSG was to recruit old men to apply for pensions and to get others to certify that they served with them. Sleeth also sat as a magistrate in the court before which some applications were presented, but in most cases Sleeth and the other conspirators obtained applications in private and certified that the applicants were unable to attend court. Sleeth appears to have authored or coauthored 14 pension applications, of which nine appear to be fraudulent. Many of Sleeth’s declarations of service were written with considerable detail and verisimilitude. Some of those accounts, including those in Sleeth’s own application, may have borrowed from *Chronicles of Border Warfare*, published by Alexander S. Withers in 1831, but in most cases I have not been able to identify Sleeth’s sources.

Singleton named William L. Mitchell as one of the Lewis Conspirators, and in his report on William Dixon (R2972) he stated that Mitchell had been indicted for forgery and left the country. Mitchell was married to a sister of Lowther. He authored or coauthored a total of 11 pension applications, seven of which were fraudulent.

Samuel Z. Jones also appears to have escaped justice. Jones was linked with Newlon, Wamsley, and Sleeth in his own pension application (S18474). I could find no hint of fraud in it, but Singleton urged “rigid justice” at least partly because he thought Jones had “been instrumental in many impositions upon the government. he was the complete tool. (a magistrate by the way) in the hands of Wamsley and his confederates in crime.. – he admitted to me that he had certified several Declarations, in the high way, after night and by a torch light, all of which found to be fraudulent.” I found three fraudulent cases certified by Jones outside of court (John Mitchell R7274, Walter Skinner R9636, and Samuel Stalnacker S9487), and two fraudulent cases certified by Jones in open court (Jacob Bonnett S8080 and Joseph Parsons S8942).

Several others were indicted as part of Singleton’s investigation, but they were apparently associated with other members of the LSG in only a few pension applications. George R. Gillilan, a Justice of the Peace in Greenbrier County, wrote four applications with Sleeth, two of which appear fraudulent. Gillilan was indicted at the same time as Sleeth.

Also indicted with Gillilan was Wilson K. Shinn, but I could find no connection between him and the LSG. Shinn was indicted for stealing evidence (according to papers in the pension application of William Martin W9937), but he was elected to the House of Delegates for 1836-37. As noted above Jacob Coplin was also indicted. He coauthored one application (which was fraudulent) with Bennett and Newlon, but most of his fraudulent cases appear to have been independent of the LSG. Coplin was still a magistrate and acting as an agent for Revolutionary claims in 1837. (See James Booth VAS1757.)

#### WASHINGTON G. SINGLETON’S INVESTIGATION

Washington George Singleton undoubtedly deserves credit for his extraordinary industry in exposing the Lewis Speculating Gentry and many fraudulent claims. While still in his mid-30s and having been U. S. Attorney for the District of Western Virginia for only three months, he left his young family

and the relative comforts of Winchester in May 1834 to spend the summer in what is now northern West Virginia. During that summer and the next he interviewed some 400 pension applicants in most of what is now West Virginia. Besides investigating pension fraud, he also had charge of a case of postal fraud and one of counterfeiting in his huge and rugged district. In his absence a son was born and his father died.

Singleton's investigation prevented numerous frauds against the Treasury, but it also deprived a large number of deserving veterans of their pension, as well as their honor. He labeled as impostors and frauds many old and illiterate men who had been tricked into putting their Xs on declarations falsified by others. Singleton also charged fraud and disallowed claims made for service against Indians, even though such service had previously been accepted by the Pension Office, as will be discussed later. Others were accused of dishonesty for "Hesitancy Stammering &c" when Singleton called on them unannounced. Even those he said had "only part of a mind" were put under oath and expected to give statements that agreed in detail with what they had said in their original declarations more than a year before.

In many cases Singleton's allegations of fraud were based on nothing more than his opinion and the opinions of unsworn and often unnamed informants. For example, ignoring the sworn statements of a man who had served with John Brookover and of a woman who had known him during the war, Singleton asserted that Brookover "never done one particle of service in my opinion Such is the neighbourhood opinion." Little confidence can be placed in the statements Singleton attributed to even named informants, such as Christopher Nutter (W5434), William Powers (S18164), and Adam Flesher (S18403), who were probably themselves potential suspects. For example, the three of them stated that Patrick McCan (S18502) was no more than 13 years old in 1785, but records show that he married in 1787. An ill-founded accusation of fraud lodged against Samuel Bowman (W27663) elicited a rebuke from Congress, and even the Commissioner of Pensions, James L. Edwards, admitted in the case of Edward Kearney (S15495) that reliance on unnamed informants was unjust (although he did nothing to remedy it). Judging from the case of John Burdin (S12369), Singleton's interpretations of such unsworn testimony was also faulty. He quoted Evan Morgan (S11098) as saying that Burdin "had enlisted and shortly thereafter deserted," but Morgan later explained that he had merely repeated to Singleton an amusing anecdote that Burdin had told him about another soldier.

In the case of John Latham (S8811), Singleton's suspicion of fraud was due to his own carelessness in copying notes made during the investigation. Peter Cogger and Isaac Mace lost parts of their pensions because of Singleton's misunderstanding of history. Many of Singleton's decisions were not even based on the applicant's service, but on his opinion of the applicant's general character or age based on his brief acquaintance or on hearsay.

Singleton also appears to have decided some cases based on his opinion of the agent who prepared the application. Singleton's handling of the case of Thomas Smith (S15989) is especially revealing. After admitting that he had been "unable to procure any evidence touching his case," Singleton nevertheless concluded that the application was fraudulent "because the Declaration was written, and the certificate obtained by Wilson Shinn, whose cases are all wrong, and one of them manifestly fraudulent – it is the case of John Swiger." Swiger's (or Sweger's) application (S15998) is the only one I could find that was prepared by Shinn. Singleton appears to have been especially hostile to applications prepared by Col. Joseph Johnson of Harrison County, who does not appear to have been a member of the LSG, although he was a frequent associate of Coplin. In his report on Jacob Swisher (S6179), Singleton's only explanation for alleging fraud was "this is one of Col J Johnsons cases, most all of which are fraudulent." In fact, however, out of the 22 cases prepared at least in part by Johnson, Singleton charged that the claim was fraudulent or not entitled in only 10, and in 9 of those cases Singleton was demonstrably wrong or gave no reason.

Singleton was capable of fairness, as when he decided that Thomas Roberts was probably entitled to his pension even after Roberts "Indulged in much personal abuse of the 'Powers that be' as well as myself." At some point, however, he developed an animosity toward folks west of the Alleghenies. In several of his reports he stated that an honest man was "a rare commodity in this region," and he characterized many applicants with ethnic stereotypes such as "an Ignorant dutchman" and "shrewd

Irishman.” A witness to the interrogation of Peter Haught is quoted as saying that Singleton “was very rude & ungentlemanly, and that he sought to intimidate Haught by threatening a prosecution for perjury.”

Out of 131 cases associated with the Lewis Speculating Gentry, Singleton passed judgment on 107, and of those he deemed 97 (91%) to be fraudulent. In most of the fraudulent cases the pension applicants told Singleton that the service claimed in the pension application was not what they had told the member of the LSG who drew up the application. The situation was very different with the 264 applications not associated with the LSG. Of those cases Singleton made a judgment in 161, and he deemed 91 (57%) to be fraudulent, although the applicants seldom if ever claimed to have been tricked into signing a false declaration. In fact, in 181 non-LSG cases where both the pension application and the narrative are in the file, the service described in the application and in the narrative to Singleton agreed 85% of the time. In 11% of the cases the only differences were in the duration of service. Names of officers, engagements, and other details in the narratives were consistent with what was stated months before in the pension applications. Only 4% of narratives were so different from pension applications as to indicate that the applications were fraudulent. If these results are typical, then 96% of pension applications are trustworthy accounts of what the applicants remembered of their services. Clearly fraud was less pervasive than claimed by Singleton, and dozens of old soldiers were wrongly deprived of pensions as a result of his investigation.

Those whose pensions were suspended were seldom told the reason, and many discovered they were suspended only after they went to collect their payments. Many were too infirm or uneducated to inquire about the reason for the suspension and too poor to hire someone to inquire on their behalf. Their silence was then taken as evidence of guilt. When heirs inquired in 1862 why William Haddox’s pension had been suspended, the Pension Office replied that “No effort was made during the life time of Haddox to be restored, and the inference from his silence is that he acquiesced in the justice of the decision of the office.” Several suspended pensioners who were educated and could afford the effort, such as William Martin (W9937), succeeded in getting Singleton’s decisions reversed. Some found it easier to repay the money already collected, and others were cowed into putting up bonds to secure repayment. (George Wade responded to such a demand, however, by ordering Singleton out of his house and threatening to cane him.)

Several of the pensioners’ attorneys alleged that Singleton acted “from corrupt motives” and “from no consideration but the fees the Govt. paid him” – \$20 per rejected pension according to Congressman Zedekiah Kidwell. Joseph McMillan also stated that he understood Singleton “was to have a large bounty for Every one he could find out and convict of fraudulently drawing money by forgery or false swearing from government.” There is no evidence to support those claims, but Singleton did take from four individuals a 5% “commission” totaling about \$35 on what they owed the government. The Pension Office stopped that practice as not being provided for by law. (See the pension application of John Sweger or Swiger, S15998.) Singleton’s compensation was supposed to be \$8 per day regardless of how many pensions he stopped.

Even if Singleton’s motives were pure, his actions were widely and understandably condemned by those who witnessed his treatment of their ancestors and esteemed neighbors. The attorney for heirs of Peter Haught on 21 Feb 1837 described the general opinion of Singleton as follows: “The Government, in this instance, through the indiscreet zeal of a third rate lawyer by the name of W. G. Singleton, at the time United district attorney, has done the old soldier, and his numerous and respectable family irreparable injustice. This is the universal conviction of this whole neighborhood, now and at the time, not so much in the trifling pecuniary loss of withholding the annuity it had allowed him, as in the efforts that were made to question his veracity and impugn his motives.” Anonymous articles in the Clarksburg and Abingdon newspapers attacked Singleton’s handling of the cases, and in 1835 a Mr. Baldwin complained directly to President Andrew Jackson. Singleton and the Pension Commissioner took these criticisms personally and sought to discover the identities of the authors. (This letter and others cited hereafter as “Singleton Papers” are in the Washington G. Singleton papers, 171 WFCHS, Stewart Bell Jr Archives, Handley Regional Library, Winchester VA, USA.)

Criticism of Singleton must be shared by others, especially the Pension Commissioner, Col. James Lewis Edwards (1786-1867). Edwards began working as a clerk in the War Department in 1816, and by the time the first Revolutionary-War pension act was passed in 1818 he became the chief pensions clerk. Soon after passage of the pension act of 1832 he became the first Commissioner of Pensions, a position he held until retiring on 27 Nov 1850. During Congressional debate on the 1832 pension act it was charged that in administering the 1818 pension act Edwards had made decisions “of the most arbitrary character.” Examples cited were interpreting the requirement for at least nine-months *total* service as nine-months *continuous* service under a single enlistment, denying credit for time served after soldiers’ enlistments expired (even if they volunteered for the additional service, were compelled by their officers, or were hospitalized or prisoners of war), and denying pensions to those discharged prematurely because the army could not pay or clothe them. [Gales & Seaton's Register of Debates in Congress, House of Representatives, 22nd Congress, 1st Session, 29 Feb 1832, pp 1918-1943. <http://memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/ampage?collId=llrd&fileName=012/llrd012.db&recNum=250>. I am grateful to David Houchin for bringing this source to my attention.]

Edwards’s misjudgments continued in his administration of the 1832 act, as in his sometimes asserting that militiamen never served voluntary tours longer than was set by law for drafted tours (compare John Davis W8654 and William Davis S5329, for example). Edwards also suspended pensions based on unsworn accusations (see for example William Martin W9937). In the 1840s Edwards suspended or obstructed several pensions simply because their agent was suspect in other cases (see John Gibson R3996). Doubts about Edwards lingered as late as 1915, when it was found that he had mistakenly revoked the pension of John Kincaid (S19367) because of Singleton’s report on a different John Kincaid. One A. Wilson inserted a note in the file that the “statement made in [Singleton’s] report is so vague that no pensioner should have been dropped without further investigation anyhow.” Other examples of Edwards’s misjudgments are discussed below.

Besides Edwards, other trusted officials outside of Washington also abetted Singleton. His frequent collaborator in Lewis, Harrison, and some other counties was Nathan Goff, then a Deputy U. S. Marshall and Pension Agent at Clarksburg, and later a wealthy banker. Goff wrote many pension applications for old soldiers without charging, and Singleton was so confident in Goff that he often did not bother to investigate those pensioners. In spite of his integrity, however, Goff made only faint-hearted attempts to temper Singleton’s judgments. The closest thing to criticism of Singleton was in a letter to Edwards in which Goff wrote, “we have amongs us many Base, disingenuous, dishonest & corrept villons yet I am glad to say we have also many hones & correct men in our Country,— I have not the smalest dout, infact I know it, that many of the correct suffer by reason of the disingenuous, Base Scoundels.”

#### THE RESULT OF SINGLETON’S PROSECUTIONS

Many not only lost future pension payments, but were sued for repayment of what they had already drawn. The following letter in the Singleton Papers, written by Nathan Goff to Singleton while the latter was at home in Winchester on his way to Washington, lists some of those who were sued.

Clarksburg February 24th 1835

Dear Singleton/ I this evening received yours of date 19th and hasten to give you the wanted information, – I could not get into the Clarks [Clerk’s] this evening, but I beleive I can give you a correct statement from my own Men'os

George Wade [S7829]	}	Monongalia County,
Peter Haught [S6981]	}	all papers wanted
Jacob Hyre [W7856]	}	All living in Lewis County, and none of these
Isaac Mace [S8995]	}	have acknowledged judgement –
John Hagle [S8669]	}	
H Penninger [Henry Peninger S8946]	}	
Mark Smith [S18594]	}	
Levin Nicholas [Leaven Nichols S9440]	}	

Zeph Nicholas [Zepaniah Nichols S9439] }  
 Tunis Mucklevain [Tunis Mucklevaine S9043] }  
 Wm Radcliff [William Radcliff S9049] }  
 Nicholas Gibson [S8559] }  
 John Cain [S9307] }  
 Adam Flesher [S18403] }  
 John Waggoner [S7824] }  
 Sam'l Stalmaker [Samuel Stalnaker S9487] }  
 John Sims [S7518] }  
 Aaron Holbert [S18028] }  
 Jacob Bonnett [S8080] }  
 Peter Bonnett [S5293] }  
 Lewis Bonnett [S5294] }  
 Patrick McCann [Patrick McCan S18502] }  
 John Wingrove [S11856] }  
 John Brown [S6720] }  
 James Brown [S6718] }  
 John Brake [S15762] } All live in Harrison none of these have acknowledged  
 John Lathram [John Latham S8811] } judgement  
 Evan Thomas [S16002] }  
 Th's Staut [Thomas Stout S7626] }  
 Richard Bell [S8064] }  
 David Wamsley [S18669] }  
 Joseph Baley [S17833] }

Simeon Harris [S15871] – Randolph County, – [illegible] all the papers in this case, –  
 George Wilson [S6391], – have his note

Phillip Cox [Philip Cox S18360], – Setteled, – all to the \$40 – which his says he did not draw – you  
 will ascertain the fact –

Moses Husted [Moses Husstead S9600], – Judg't – acko'l  
 David Technal [David Tichanal S7727] " "

The foregoing I believe is a correct Statement of the several persons who suit have been Commenced  
 against in behalf of the United States, relative to the pesion frauds &c – and are all marked as requested by  
 your, – I hope it will be sattisfactory, – We shall want the Declarations of Leonard Kelch [R5823] & Benj  
 Bond [Benjamin Bond R1000] of Tylor County, I know of none others we shall want which whe have not  
 got already.

I would call your attention to two cases in in particular of this County, which are the cases of Joseph  
 Kester [S2690] & David Technall [David Tichanal S7727], – you will recollect they each give their notes  
 and acknowleged judg'ts and that we told them that we would try and get them replaced on the pension roll  
 for what they were entiteled to, – I think should you lay their cases before the department while your are in  
 the city, you would get them placed on the pension Roll for the proper amount, and get them each a credit  
 on their bonds for the amn't they should have drawed, – I wrote the department on this subject, – The  
 answer was that they had not examined your returns &c &c –

I will stop, as I believe I have given you all the necessary infomation I have not been will sinc I seen you in  
 Wheelig [sic: Wheeling] – you recollect I was taken sick the night I got there  
 I have wrote this letter in a hurry for fear the mail would be closed – / your Friend/ Nathan Goff  
 Should Mr Singleton he in Washinton City his family had better forward this letter immediately to him, as  
 he will want it while there – “

Notes from National Archives Records Group 21 by the unknown researcher cited before list the  
 following 21 pensioners and applicants who were prosecuted:



Richard Bell.

Peter Bonnett: Indicted for perjury; prosecution dropped.

Samuel Bowman [W27663]: “appears to have been suspended due to the discrepancies in age.”

John Brake.

James Brown.

John Brown.

Adam Flesher.

Nicholas Gibson: Indicted for perjury. “Defendant admits the plaintiffs action for the sum of \$240 damages with interest on \$200 parcel thereof from 22 Feb 1834 until paid and interest on \$40 residue thereof. Court orders plaintiff to recover money from the defendant.”

John Hagle.

Simeon Harris: “criminal proceedings against him for false swearing and for recovering money paid on false papers.... adjudged to be entitled to a pension.”

Peter Haught.

John Latham.

Levin Nicholas: “death of the defendant is here suggested and for reasons appearing to the court it is ordered that the suit be, and stands, abated.”

Zachariah Piles [W10896]: “Fraud and misrepresentation. Defendants were ordered to pay to W. G. Singleton the sum of \$157.90 on 1 May 1835. They have not done so. Added damages \$100. Zachariah Piles died between 8 Apr 1840 and Spring term 1841.... The suit was revived by the government. Final judgment to be made 5 Sept. 1841. Abraham Brown was the security for Zachariah Piles.”

Mark Smith: “These records are in fragments, quite burned.”

Samuel Stalnaker.

Thomas Stout.

John Swegar [S15998]: “Paper burned, in fragments.”

Evan Thomas [S16002].

George Wade: “Charged with false swearing and for recovery of money paid on false papers. Defendant died just prior to 4 April 1840.... On the back of the Scirofacias to George Wade's Administrator, issued September 12 1840 is the note ‘G. Wade, who purports to be deceased, is still living.’”

John Wingrove: “If this cause should be decided in favor of the plaintiff [Singleton], then if the defendant should be entitled to a pension for 7 months service, would the United States retain the pension for 7 months until the judgement of the plaintiff is satisfied? We, the jury, find for the plaintiff without intending thereby to express the opinion that the deft. is not entitled to a pension for 7 months service more or less as this jury is of the opinion that he is so entitled.”

None of these cases appears to have gone to trial, because records were destroyed by arson on 12 August 1836, as described in an article from the 30 Aug 1836 *Baltimore Gazette* sent to me by David Armstrong: “The Wheeling Times of Saturday states that the office of the United States Court at Clarksburg was partially consumed on the night of 12th inst., by the work of an incendiary. The fire was communicated through a window, the bolts of the shutter having been removed by boring, to some valuable papers lying near by. The building was saved with but little damage, though the villain succeeded in his design by the entire destruction of the papers....” (Armstrong informs me that one of Singleton’s letters refers to another fire at his own lodgings.) Singleton apparently did not bring any new pension cases after the fire except one against Joseph Ramsey (S7348) in Wythe County.

For many years the government continued to hound those who had posted bond for repayment of pensions they had collected. It eventually dropped its suit against the estate of Purnell Houston (S15467) when his heirs charged that Singleton’s accusations were themselves fraudulent. In 1852 Singleton’s successor, George H. Lee, dropped all suits for repayment, and the government eventually paid many of the heirs the pensions that had been denied to their ancestors.

None of the Lewis Speculating Gentry was ever punished by law. A letter in the file of Samuel Harbert (S15447) states that Singleton prosecuted Sleeth, but he “was acquitted & his pension subsequently restored.” (There does not appear to be any evidence, however, that Sleeth’s pension was restored.) In late December 1836 Sleeth made a sworn statement in Lewis County in support of a petition by heirs of James Booth (VAS1757). Wamsley, Lowther, and Bennett could not be found on 2 Nov 1835 or 6 Sep 1836 when the Sheriff came to arrest them. Lowther took his family to Mississippi, where he died a few years later. According to the Register of the General Assembly of Virginia, Bennett’s seat in the House of Delegates was “declared vacant in consequence of leaving the commonwealth,” and Weeden Huffman of Lewis County was elected in his place on 12 Jan 1835. Afterwards Bennett resumed his legal practice in Lewis County and was reelected to the House of Delegates. A 26 June 1837 letter to Singleton from the Attorney General of the United States stated that Gillilan “must go unpunished,” because he had not fled justice, and the two-year statute of limitations had expired. (Singleton Papers)

#### DENIAL OF PENSIONS FOR VOLUNTEER DEFENDERS OF THE FRONTIER AGAINST INDIANS

Singleton’s misjudgments resulted in the loss of pensions for a far greater number of veterans than he directly investigated. Soon after conferring with Singleton in February or March 1835, Pension Commissioner James L. Edwards began ruling that service during the Revolutionary War as a volunteer to defend the Virginia frontier from Indians did not count under the pension act of 7 June 1832. Edwards’s decision is contrary to the plain language of the 1832 act, which provided pension to “surviving officers, non-commissioned officers, musicians, soldiers, and Indian spies, who shall have served in the continental line, or State troops, volunteers or militia.” [4 (Stat.) 529, Twenty-Second Congress. Sess. I. 1832, Chap. CXXVI. Section 1 An Act supplementary to the “Act for the relief of certain surviving officers and soldiers of the revolution.”]

The regulations for administering the act, which had been approved and perhaps written by Edwards, also make it clear that volunteer Indian spies were to be included: “This Law has been construed to extend, as well to the line, as to every branch of the Staff of the Army and to include under the terms ‘Continental Line,’ ‘State troops,’ ‘militia,’ and ‘volunteers,’ all persons enlisted, drafted, or who volunteered and who were bound to military service, but not those who were occasionally employed with the army upon civil contracts, such as Clerks to Commissaries and to Store Keepers, &c., Teamsters, Boatmen, &c.... Four general classes of cases are embraced in the law:

1. The Regular Troops.
2. The State Troops, Militia, and Volunteers.
3. Persons employed in the Naval Service.
4. Indian Spies.”

Like all able-bodied men 16 and older, those on the frontier were enrolled in the militia and were called into active service as needed. When not in active service as militiamen, however, frontiersmen usually volunteered with others for mutual defense from early spring till late fall, when Indians were a threat. Joseph Oney (S8909), who was a volunteer Indian spy gave the following explanation of the difference between militia and volunteer service: “[T]he company to which he belonged consisted of men mostly resident on the frontier aforesaid. they were kept in continual readiness and were never actually discharged as the militia from the adjacent Country who were drafted to perform regular tours or rotines of duty.”

The intent of Congress regarding voluntary service was expressed in the floor debate on the 1832 act as follows: “The bill now under consideration provides, also, for those regiments raised by voluntary association. Every sentiment which has been stated in favor of extending the benefits of the pension system to the State troops and the militia, applies with equal force to volunteers. As it has been often remarked that this bill has for its foundation actual service, there can be no reason why all who rendered that service should not be equally entitled, without any discrimination touching the character of the respective corps. So long as the names of Shelby, of Marion, and of Sumpter, shall be remembered, the value of the services of this description of troops cannot be forgotten.” (Gales & Seaton's Register of

Debates in Congress, House of Representatives, 22nd Congress, 1st Session, 29 Feb 1832, p 1931) The reference to Generals Francis Marion and Thomas Sumter is especially significant, because those who volunteered to serve under them did so in South Carolina when there was no state government to authorize or pay for their service. Like service on the frontier, this was often in defense of their own neighborhoods, but against Tories rather than Indians.

Edwards did not deny pensions to those who applied before his conference with Singleton, but afterwards he dismissed such service as “a mere voluntary association... considered no part of the military service of the country.” (See Abraham McColloch S15534.) By 1841 (see John Struthers R18262) he was denying that the policy had ever changed. Such service, he claimed, “was *never* considered of such a character as to place the persons engaged in it on the footing of soldiers drafted or enlisted for the general defence of the country.” He also denied responsibility for the policy, stating that “if we are wrong, it would be difficult to say who, if any one, can be censured for the decisions.” It is not at all difficult to say who should be censured: it was Edwards for letting himself be persuaded by Singleton.

## SUMMARY TABLES

The three following tables summarize 131 cases investigated by Singleton that were associated with the Lewis Speculating Gentry, 268 cases investigated by Singleton that were not associated with the LSG, and 70 cases from Lewis and Harrison counties that were not investigated. They list pension applicants with file numbers, abbreviations of the counties where they applied, and notes on the outcomes of Singleton’s investigation. Direct quotations are from Singleton’s reports. In some cases those who prepared the application are also noted. Transcripts of all the pension files are at the Southern Campaigns of the American Revolution pension site ([revwarapps.org](http://revwarapps.org)) except for those who did not serve in the South and were not investigated by Singleton, indicated by the abbreviation of a northern state following the file number.

In addition to the persons listed below, the following are named in a letter in the file of Michael Sease (S9475) as having been suspended from the pension list, but I could find no files for them: Joseph Hester, Josiah Riffée (possibly Jacob Riffée), John McRee, Henry McRee, Edward Goodwin, Jonas Davison, Isiah Davison. (One or both of the last two may be Josiah Davisson or Josiah Davidson).

All applications were made under the Act of 1832 unless otherwise noted. In these tables the prefix S in a file number means the application was initially successful, even if the pension was later suspended. The prefix R indicates that the soldier’s or widow’s application was rejected, often as a result of Singleton’s investigation while the soldier’s application was pending. The prefix W indicates that the soldier’s widow obtained a pension, even if the soldier’s pension had been suspended. The prefix VAS indicates an application made to the state of Virginia.

Counties where the applications were filed are as follows: A = Alleghany, B = Brooke, C = Cabell, F = Fayette, G = Greenbrier, H = Harrison, Hy = Hardy, J = Jackson, L = Lewis, Ma = Monongalia, Me = Monroe, N = Nicholas, O = Ohio, Pe = Pendleton, Pr = Preston, Po = Pocahontas, R = Randolph, T = Tyler, W = Wood, Wy = Wythe.

All pensioners from Lewis and Harrison counties were suspended before Singleton’s investigation, but some were later restored to the pension roll. “1840” means the soldier was listed as a pensioner in the 1840 federal census.

A = applicant; S = Singleton.

The Lewis Speculating Gentry is considered here to include the following 10 persons: Bennett = James M. Bennett; Coplin = Jacob Coplin; Gillilan = George R. Gillilan; Jones = Samuel Z. Jones; Lowther = Robert H. Lowther; Mitchell = William L. Mitchell; Newlon = Johnson F. Newlon; Shinn = Wilson K. Shinn; Sleeth = David W. Sleeth; Wamsley = Jonathan M. Wamsley.

Others mentioned by surname in the tables: Baird = Adam Baird; usually spelled “Bird;” Brookover = John Brookover; Brown = William G. Brown of Preston County; Camden = Col. Gideon D. Camden; Camp = James M. Camp; Goff = Nathan Goff; Johnson = Col. Joseph Johnson; McCord = William McCord; Nutter = Christopher Nutter; Prentiss = Henry L. Prentiss; Price = Samuel Price, Clerk of

Nicholas County Court; Ray = Thomas P. Ray, Clerk of Monongalia County Court; Waldo = Calvin Waldo.

PENSION APPLICANTS ASSOCIATED WITH THE LEWIS SPECULATING GENTRY

Uriah Ashcraft R278	H	By Wamsley, who later said A not entitled. "Not entitled." Nutter and Benjamin Coplin said A too young.
Solomon Baker R438	L	By Sleeth. "not entitled" based on opinions A was too young, contrary to censuses.
Joseph Baley S17833	H	By Johnson and Coplin. "Fraud," because A claimed for four months in hospital with small pox contracted in service. Sued.
Isaac Beesly R710	L	By Wamsley after Newlon failed. Certified by Sleeth. Application differed from A's statement to S; "May be entitled."
Richard Bell S8064	H	Pension certificate to Lowther. S tried to interview, but A refused. Said to be only 60. Sued.
Francis Boggs R985	N	By Mitchell and "Capt. Byrd." "Not entitled." A not interviewed. Claim for Indian service rejected from adverse testimony.
Benjamin Bond R1000	T	By Mitchell and Camp. Claimed service as Minute Man; rejected for insufficient evidence. Mentioned in 24 Feb 1835 letter from Goff to S, but no report by S.
Jacob Bonnett S8080	L	By Wamsley; certified by Jones. "Fraud." A said he never claimed to have served. Sued.
Lewis Bonnett S5294	L	By Wamsley. "Fraud." A admitted to S he never served. Sued.
Peter Bonnett S5293	L	By Wamsley. "Fraud." A not interviewed by S. Indicted for perjury, but case dropped.
John Booth R1020	H	By Wamsley. "Not entitled." A too young to have served.
Abraham Brake R1147	H	By Coplin and Johnson. Rejected because service was not in Rev War.
John Brake S15762	H	By Coplin and Johnson. Said to have been a Tory; hired a substitute. Sued.
Edward Brown R1292	L	By Lowther. "Not entitled." A told S he served only briefly.
James Brown S6718	L	By Wamsley. Sleeth obtained benefit for A by act of Congress. "Fraudulent." A claimed less service to S than in application. Sued.
John Brown S6720	L	By Wamsley. "Fraud." A told S less service than in application. Sued.
George Burns R1483	R	By Newlon. "Not entitled" based on statements A was under 60.
Samuel Butcher R1540	W	By Mitchell. "Not entitled." Declaration claimed nine months; A told S three.
John Cain S17873	L	By Lowther. "Fraud." A too young; indicted for perjury.
William Carder S17872	L	By Lowther. "Fraud." A said Lowther and Cummins E. Jackson visited him bidding to take his deposition, and Lowther won. Lowther falsified declaration by A, who agreed to repay with interest.
Thomas Carney R1711	L	Certified by Sleeth. "Not entitled." A said to be too young.
Christopher Carpenter VAS1743	H	By Wamsley. Application by son for bounty land. Not investigated.
David Carpenter R1712	L	Certified by Sleeth. "Not entitled." Said to be too young.
John Carpenter S8160	L	"Fraud." S did not interview; alleged fraud based on statement A had fled justice and was too young, contrary to censuses. 1840.
Thomas M. Caul S18342	L	By Bennett. "an Honest Man the fraud has been with Bennett."
Peter Coger S10481	L	By Lowther. "Fraudulent," from S's error in history. S disallowed part of service, but case reopened. 1840.
John Cole R2130	H	By Coplin who apparently intended fraud. "Not entitled:" A told S he served three or four days.
George Collins S8247	L	"Fraud" based on neighbors' claims he was too young, yet he was rejected under 1818 act because Virginia rolls showed he served in 1777, but less than nine months. Pension certificate of 1832 shows he claimed service in NJ militia.
John Conaway R2244	H	"Not Entitled." Ray had told A he was not entitled.
William Cookman R2281	L	By Wamsley. "Not entitled." A apparently tricked.
John Cottrill S39597	H	By Coplin. Act of 1818. Pension suspended for conflicting statements about militia and regular service. No report by S.

Isaac Cox S9215	L	By Wamsley. "Fraud" A preferred giving up pension to answering S's questions. Father of Philip Cox S18360.
Philip Cox S18360	L	By Wamsley. "Fraud" "I could not resist the belief that he was an imposture. (perhaps a tory during the war)" A could not describe services to S. A claimed to be 70, but S thought 60. Goff said A "settled" (Singleton Papers 24 Feb 1835). Son of Isaac Cox; father of Philip Cox, Deputy Sheriff.
Thomas Cunningham W4166	L	Soldier died 1826. Widow deposed for Sleeth, and Sleeth obtained benefit for her from Congress. She applied for her pension in 1839, after S investigation. 1840.
William Currance R1738.5	R	"Not entitled." A served only three months.
John Cutright W6626	L	By Newlon, certified by Sleeth. "Entitled" for services stated to S, which differed from application. 1840.
Josiah Davidson S8307	H	By Coplin. Pension dropped for Indian service. Reapplied but denied because of inconsistencies.
Samuel Davis W2534	H	By Coplin. "Entitled," but pension possibly not restored. Widow received pension.
William Davis S10521	L	By Bennett. A admitted he did no service. "this case is more notorious than any other in Lewis county."
Jacob Deem R2838	W	By Mitchell and Camp. "not entitled." Rejected because Indian service.
Henry Depue R2893	W	By Mitchell with Lowther as agent. "Not Entitled." Too young.
Abraham Devieze R2904	L	By Mitchell. "Not Entitled." A told S he never served.
William Dixon R2972	W	By Lowther and Mitchell. "Not entitled." A was said to be incompetent to give a declaration of his service to the agents.
Ebenezer Flanagan R3595	R	Certificate was to have been sent to Newlon. "Not entitled." S did not interview A: accepted statements he had been a Tory.
Adam Flesher S18403	L	By Lowther and Wamsley. "Fraud." Grand jury refused to indict A, who repaid. S used his testimony against others.
Gilbert Gallion R3876	H	By Coplin. "Not Entitled. a very different story from the one in the original declaration – not a word in either true"
James Gillilan R4029	G	By son Gillilan and Sleeth. "Not Entitled." Had Ensign's commission but rejected for Indian service on frontier.
John Godfrey R4083	L	By Waldo and Sleeth. "Not entitled." A told Waldo, Sleeth, and S he served only two or three weeks.
Francis Goodwin R4126	H	By Wamsley. "Not entitled." A told S he served briefly against Indians.
John Goodwin S8587	H	By Coplin. "Indian." Took turns guarding and planting.
Elisha Griffith S10192	H	By Johnson and Coplin. "not Entitled." A told S less than six months active service. Claim rejected but later granted. 1840.
William Haddox S8694	H	By Coplin. "Fraud." A's narrative to S confused in dates and other details, but otherwise consistent with application.
John Hagle S8669	L	By Newlon. "Fraud." Indian service. "Hagle is an Ignorant man, and I understand of good character. he has been imposed upon. I am satisfied that it was not his intention to commit a Perjury." But is on above list of those sued.
David Hannah R4573	N	By Lowther who falsified declaration. "Not entitled," but "if the case here stated in titles Hannah to a Pension he should in my opinion have it – because I believe he has told the truth – his character is fair among his neighbors." Rejected because of Indian service.
John Harbert R4585	H	By Coplin. S relied on Christopher Nutter W5434 statement A too young. 81 in 1850 census.
Henry Hedrick R4841	G	By Sleeth; sworn by Gillilan. "Not entitled." Indian service.
Hezekiah Hess S8707	L	By Bennett. "Fraud... evidently an impostor – his character is very bad – his reputation as a confirmed liar is not excelled in the western region."
Richard Hill R5008	Po	By Sleeth. "Not entitled." Indian service.
Aaron Holbert S18028	L	By Bennett and Lowther who switched false declaration for A's. S sued A.
Lawrence Hopkins R5212	L	By Lowther and Sleeth. "Entitled" "this case presents the only single brite spot

yet found in this dark Horizon”

Moses Husstead S9600 H By Bennett, Newlon, and Coplin. “Fraud.” A told S he had claimed for only sporadic Indian spying. Goff said A acknowledged judgment against him (Singleton Papers 24 Feb 1835).

Jacob Hyre W7856 L By Lowther. “he seems to be an Honest & frank man.” Pension reduced to what A claimed. 1840.

Samuel Z Jones S18474 L By Newlon; certified by Wamsley. A’s statement to S agrees with deposition, but S recommended “rigid Justice” for reasons given on page 9 above.

Leonard Kelch R5823 T By Mitchell and Camp. Suspended for further proof. Mentioned in 24 Feb 1835 letter from Goff to S, but no report by S.

John Latham S8811 H By Coplin, written by Alexander S. Withers. “Fraud.” Applied for less than one year service, but Pension Office gave pension for three years. S compounded error by misreading Goff’s notes. Sued.

Hyatt Lazear R6219 L By Sleeth. “Not Entitled.” Said to have deserted after Col. John Gibson took his wife.

David Lee R6244 W By Mitchell. “Not Entitled.” A told S he did not serve.

William Lowther VAS32 L By Wamsley. Virginia bounty-land application by heirs rejected. Not investigated by S.

Isaac Mace S8995 L By Bennett and Lowther. “Fraudulent.” Pensioned for two years service but told S only six months. Said to have been a Tory. Pension stopped. Sued.

John Mace S13847 L Pension certificate to Lowther. “Fraudulent,” based on allegations A had been a Tory and application written by a Lewis agent.

James Maze R7066 L By Mitchell. “Not Entitled” for Indian service. Declaration claimed for more than A told S.

Joseph McClintick R6623 G By Sleeth. “Not Entitled.” Told S he had not served.

John McFerren R6712 G By Gillilan and Sleeth. “Not entitled,” except maybe for six months.

Joseph McMillan S18116 G By Sleeth and Gillilan. “this is an Honest man – he surrendered his certificate” A claimed 5 months 12 days; declaration claimed 6 months. Jury acquitted Sleeth and Gillilan, recommended pension for A.

Christopher McVany S15533 L By Newlon. “No opinion.” Clearly fraudulent.

John Middleton W7464 H By Coplin. “Entitled.”

Andrew Miller R7176 R “Died in summer of 1834, his neighbors say that he was not entitled to a pension – this is one of Wamsleys cases”

John Mitchell R7274 L By Waldo, certified by Jones. “Not entitled.” Application claimed more than two years, but A told S less than a month. S believed others who said A was 60 or younger.

Andrew Morrison R7414 G By Sleeth, certified by Gillilan. “Not Entitled.” Told S he served less than six months.

John Neely W5408 H By Wamsley; certified by Isaac Cox and Philip Cox. “Entitled.” Declaration differed from narrative. “a man of character and I should infer without seeing his declaration for comparison that he is entitled to all he draws.”

Leaven Nichols S9440 L By Camp and Thomas Bland, son-in-law of Newlon. Pension certificate sent to Wamsley. “Fraudulent.” Recruited from Kanawha. Sued.

Zepaniah Nichols S9439 K By Bennett and Lowther. “Fraudulent.” Pension certificate for two years service, but A told S 2 mo & 10 days. Sued.

John Norris W19930 L By Lowther, who claimed for 8 rather than 7 months, but charged nothing. “Draws too much, Honest.” Camp successfully prepared widow’s application.

Zerah Osborn R16861 R By Newlon. “Not Entitled.” Neighbor doubted service. Rejected for Indian Service.

Joseph Parsons S8942 L Certified by Sleeth, Jones, Adam Flesher, Alexander West. “Fraudulent.” Nephews said he served only 3 months.

John Patterson R8003 G Certified by Sleeth, Adam Flesher, and Alexander West. “Not entitled.” Indian service.

John Patton R8012 G By Sleeth and Gillilan. “Not entitled.”

Henry Peninger S8946	L	By Wamsley. "Fraud." Sued.
Henry Philips R8193	L	By Bennett. "Not entitled." Told Bennett he did not serve.
Isaac Philips R8194	R	By Newlon, Wamsley, & Bennett. "Not entitled." Brother Henry said he served against Indians after the war.
William Powers S18164	L	Certified by John Brown, Adam Flesher, John Schoolcraft, Alexander West. "Entitled." S did not interrogate; used A's testimony against others. 1840.
William Radcliff S9049	L	By Wamsley. "Fraud." Pensioned for two years, but told S six months. Sued.
John Rains S5969	L	By Wamsley and Newlon who falsified A's deposition. "Entitled." 1840.
Philip Reger S7383	L	By Camden; certified by Sleeth. "Entitled." 1840.
Benjamin Reynolds R8709	L	By Camp and Wamsley. Suspended in 1833 for further proof and explanation. Not investigated by S.
George Richards S18572	L	Probably by Lowther. Certified by Mitchell. No report by S.
Jacob Riffée S9066	H	By Newlon and Bennett who falsified service. "Fraud."
John Romine S6008	H	By Johnson and Coplin. "Fraud." Pensioned for six months; admitted to S he served only three.
Elijah Runion R9079	J	By Lowther, who claimed too much service. "Not entitled."
Nicholas N. Ryland S38346	L	By Wamsley under pension acts of 1818 and 1828. Not investigated.
Jacob Schoolcraft R9268	L	By Newlon; sworn before Sleeth. "Not entitled." Declaration based in part on <i>Chronicles of Border Warfare</i> . S believed Nutter's saying A was 50. 1810 census says over 45.
Paul Shaver S7504	L	Pension certificate to Wamsley. "Fraud." S did not interview A. Relied on John Mitchel S5761 statement he was born about 1765, not 1759 as claimed, consistently with censuses.
John Sims S7518	L	By Bennett who deceived mentally-impaired A. "Fraud." Sued.
Walter Skinner R9636	L	By Waldo, signed before Jones. A told S he told Waldo he had never served.
David W. Sleeth S6111	L	By Camden. "Fraud." Narrative to S different from declaration.
Charles Smith S15649	J	First attempt by Lowther; second by James Smith. S dismissed sworn testimony; relied on opinion that A "almost entirely deficient in veracity." Pension later restored at smaller amount.
Daniel Smith S18596	H	By Wamsley. "never served an hour," but S decided A was entitled after interviewing others. Suggested A, poor and impaired, repay money collected by Wamsley and reapply.
George P Smith S18595	L	By Bennett and Lowther. "Fraud." A told Goff he served only three months.
John Smith R9766	L	Probably by Wamsley; certified by Jones. "Not entitled." Had moved to Indiana, but "it is sufficient however in my opinion that the Lewis Gentry have had the management of his case." Declaration false.
Mark Smith S18594	L	By Newlon. "Fraud." Pensioned for two years, but told S he served less than six months. Sued.
Thomas Smith R9865	K	By Mitchell. "not Entitled." Said to have done no service.
Samuel Stalnaker S9487	L	Certified by Jones. "one of Jonathan Wamsley's boys – this of itself ought to exclude him from the benefit of the Pension Law." Could not describe his service. Thought too young. Sued.
Charles Steuart R10148	J	By Camp and Mitchell. "Not entitled." Claim had already been suspended, possibly for Indian service. A was away. S was told he was too young.
Thomas Stout S7626	H	By Newlon and Bennett. "Indian." Pensioned for two years, but could not say how long he served guarding against Indians. Sued but verdict in his favor.
Hezekiah Summers R10304	Ma	By Coplin. "Not entitled." A told S he served less than five months.
John Sweger S15998	H	By Shinn. "Fraud." Served mostly after Rev War. A told S he did not want any dishonest money and would return it.
Samuel Tanner R10389	J	By Lowther. A stated he was too young for Rev War. "Not entitled."
Evan Thomas S16002	H	By Coplin. "Fraud Indian." Declaration and what A told S differed. Sued.
David Tichanal S7727	H	By Richard W. Moore from notes by Coplin. "Fraud," because pensioned for less than a month more than A could tell S. but suspended because S thought too much time claimed. Pension certificate was sent to Johnson. 16 Dec 1834

letter (Singleton Papers) says Johnson worried that report that he is to be sued will affect his election to Congress, and that every cent was paid to Tichanal and none withheld.

John Townsend R10660 L By Bennett and Lowther. Claim correctly rejected for insufficient proof.  
John Waggoner S7824 L By Newlon. "Too much Fraud" "represented to [be] an Honest man." Pensioned for two years; told S less than three months. S and Goff rewrote declaration. 1840. Letter in file of Samuel Harbert says A was sued and made to repay, but heirs were later repaid.

David Wamsley S18669 L By Wamsley, nephew of A. Service judged not authorized. Sued. Goff to S, 29 Dec 1835 (Singleton Papers): "he now says he will never pay one cent of the execution vs him; says he is intitled to a pension and intends to draw it."

James Wamsley S6323 L By Wamsley, nephew of A. "Fraud." Pensioned for two years service. Later applied for one.

Matthew Wamsley R11110 L By Wamsley. "Not entitled." Told S he did no service.  
William Wamsley S7806 H By Wamsley, son of A. "On the whole it is thought the claim ought to be allowed."

John Welch (Welsh) S7847 H By Coplin. "Fraud." A admitted he had not served six months. "this is an Honest man. Copelan has deceived and deluded him."

Cornelius Westfall R11333 L By Wamsley, who told A that Indian wars after 1783 counted. "Not entitled."  
David Williams R11572 G By Sleeth, sworn by Gillilan. "Not Entitled." Narrative to S differed from declaration.

George Wilson S6391 L By Bennett. "Fraud." Declaration implausible. A posted bond for repayment and was sued.

John Wingrove S11856 L By Deputy Sheriff Philip Cox, son of Philip Cox S18360; pension certificate to Wamsley. "Fraud." Pensioned for 23 months; A told S 7 or 8. Sued.

David Wolf R11767 L By Wamsley, certified by Sleeth. "Not entitled." Application for more than two years. A told S he served less than one month. "This is a suit case!!"

NO KNOWN CONNECTION TO LEWIS SPECULATING GENTRY; INVESTIGATED BY SINGLETON

Thomas Alderson S8020 Me Feeble in mind, but "no doubt of his haveing served as alledged"  
Samuel Allen S6484 Me "of the opinion... that he served... for 18 mo. as alledged." 1840.  
Peter Anderson R199 W By Prentiss. "not Entitled" Claimed actual militia service but told S he only took turns planting and watching for Indians.

Adam Arbogast S8037 Po By A's son. "Entitled." 1840.  
Jacob Argubright S12907 Me By Henry Alexander. "the old Gentleman seems honest."  
Henry Arnot S8030 Me No opinion by S. 1840.  
James Athey R289 W By Wamsley's brother-in-law, Benjamin Arnold. Admitted fraud.  
Isham Bailey S12965 K Died one or two months before S's investigation.  
William Bailey W5777 K "Entitled." Report illegible.  
Isaac Barnett R532 N Too young according to Camden and others. "Not entitled."  
Samuel Barrett S6590 W Narrative to S "satisfactory."  
William Baxter S6591 B Suspended for Indian service, but evidently restored. S report not found.  
George Bickle (Bickel) R821 L By John S. Camden. A said to be too young. "Not entitled."  
Abisha Blodgett S15752 O No opinion by S.  
Patrick Board W5854 W By James Stephenson. "special examination requested." A unclear about service. Pension suspended but eventually paid to widow.

Michael Bock S6679 H By Johnson. "Fraud" for no apparent reason. Suspended.  
Samuel Bonnifield R1007 R By Camp and Baird. "Not entitled." Witnesses said A told agents of only brief service.

William Boswell R1045 Pr "Entitled." "this man seems to be honest" Declaration and narrative agree, but are incorrect.

Marshall Bowman S16651 K By J. M. Laidley. "Entitled."  
Samuel Bowman W27663 O Act of 1818. Service proved by witness, but neighbors said too young, and S estimated 60 to 70. "Fraud. the attention of the Com'r. of Pensions is specially



	directed to this case.” S lost suit to recover money but pension not restored until widow petitioned Congress to overrule this “unlawful act.”
John Bradshaw S6738	Po Had died. “opinion of those of whom I made enquiry is in his favour.”
Joseph Britton S8087	H No opinion by S. Declaration and narrative agree.
John Brookover S5300	W By Prentiss. “Fraud.” “has but a small portion of mind... he never done one particle of service in my opinion Such is the neighbourhood opinion”
Thomas Brown S6769	Pr “Entitled.”
Luke Bryan R1380	R By Camden; S Wyatt. “Doubtful... somewhat improbable” for no apparent reason. Claim rejected and labeled fraudulent, again for no reason.
James Burchnell R1445	L “Not entitled.” Brother of Cummings E. Jackson accused the latter of attempting fraud.
John Burdin S12369	Ma By Ray. “Fraud,” because S took a humorous anecdote seriously. 1840.
John Cain S9307	H S wrote “Fraud – Indian” “guarding & scouting and working – working whilst others guarded – and guarding whilst others were working.” Sued.
John Caldwell S9146	O By “Mr Jacobs.” Frontier service against Indians, but S swayed by A’s reputation. 1840.
Hugh Call R1602	G “Not Entitled.” Did not apply; A inquired of S to see if he was qualified.
Archibald Campbell W10572	G “May be correct.” Declaration and narrative to S agree.
William Canafax S19233	Me “This is an Honest man.” Declaration and narrative to S agree.
Jesse Carpenter S9309	L “Fraud.” Pensioned for two years service, but credible testimony says A only about 58.
William Carter S9133	Me Temporarily suspended because of S’s error in history.
John Casey W29604	K “Fraud” based on hearsay and S’s opinion.
Nicholas Casey S9152	Po “Dead.”
Adam Casner S9141	B Col. McCluney. “an old, Ignorant... Honest Dutchman, his character is good.”
Zadock Casteel R1795	Pr “Not entitled.” S believed relative who said A never mentioned service. 1839 application succeeded with eye-witness and supporting documents.
Robert Chambers S8194	Me No opinion by S. 1818.
Jacob Chapman S19237	N By Price. “Fraud and certificate surrendered.” Pensioned for 15 months; A told S six. Pension reduced to six months. 1840.
Richard Chew R1914	M “Not Entitled.” No application. Ray told S he had examined A.
Robert Christian S9177	K “Entitled.”
William Clark W6683	L By Camden. Appears valid. Widow collected pension owed.
Elisha Clayton W1145	Ma By Ray. “Entitled.”
James Collins S17895	Ma By Ray. “Entitled.” S’s report not found. Pension reduced for Indian service.
Robert Commans S9259	B By Capt. McCluney. “draws too much” based on false belief that A’s service was same as that of William Stevens W19109, Richard Mathews R7028, and James Holliday S7025
Moses Congleton W4930	B “a gentleman of standing”
William Congrove S19261	W By Prentiss. “Fraudulent.” Declaration and narrative agree but vague. Contradicted by witnesses.
Benjamin Coplin S10464	H “Indian” “Dead.” Declaration and narrative agreed in detail.
Anderson Corbin W6739	H By Goff. “Entitled,” but pension reduced by half because Edwards did not believe 12 months continuous service in militia.
Thomas Cotteral S8242	L “Fraud.” S did not interview but relied on statements that A was too young.
George Cox S9203	B By Capt. McCluney. “Not entitled.” Indian service not “recognized by any legal authority.”
Harmon Crim S8254	H By Goff. “Entitled.”
Richard Crisswell S6779	B “very old and Ignorant” but “said to be an Honest man.” 1840.
Leonard Critzer S9251	H By Johnson. “Entitled... an Honest man. a rare commodity in this region.” 1840.
Asher Crocket W2533	C By Mr Samuels. “I believe his statement to be strictly true.”
Walter Cunningham S9263	H Pension dropped because of Indian service.
William Cunningham S8264	H By Johnson. “Entitled.” 1840.

Leonard Cupp W4167 Jesse Curtis R2601	Pr John P. Byrne. Declaration and narrative to S agreed. No opinion by S. L "This is one of Calvin Waldo's Boys." "Not entitled." A denied applying for pension.
John Curtis S12645	O No opinion by S. Statement to S similar to declaration, but pension temporarily suspended. 1840.
Samuel Darby R13662	Pr "Not Entitled. W G Brown is his agent. that single fact would be sufficient for me to require proof of service."
Daniel Davis S8287	C "sustains a good character... entitled to [what] he draws."
Jacob Davis S17916	H Probably by Johnson. "Fraud" for no apparent reason.
John Davis W8654	H By Johnson. "Entitled." "received through Mr. Davis important information which lead to the detection of several fraudulent cases... this fact together with Mr. Ds frankness and fairness satisfied [S] that he was entitled to the amount awarded him notwithstanding the discrepancies in his two statements." A's pension was nevertheless cut in half. 1840.
William Davis S5329	H "Fraud." "John [Davis] the witness proves that William done more service, than he himself can make out – something wrong." Goff "thinks him an Honest man, he may be Entitled." 1840.
William Davis W6973	F "Entitled." S did not interview: was told A's "mind entirely gone."
Josiah Davisson S8301	H By Johnson. "Fraud." Nutter said A too young, contrary to censuses. Dropped and prosecuted.
Adam Deem S10522	W By Prentiss. "Fraud... cant exceed sixty years old – he has not a grey hair in his head," but censuses show A born about 1762.
James Devers S17924	Ma Final declaration by Goff. "Entitled." S could not interview. 1840.
Henry Dorton S5362	Ma By Ray. "Fraud" because of Pension Office miscalculation.
Samuel Dudley S6806	Ma By Ray. "Entitled." 1840.
Jonathan Dunbar S19286	N By Price. A died before S could interview.
James Ellison S6821	Me By H. Alexander. "clearly Fraudulent." Pensioned for one year; told S he served less than two months, but considered himself in service during whole war.
Simeon Everly S8446	Ma By William Newlon. "Fraud." Pensioned for nine months, but A told S less than six.
Henry Farnsler S15829	R "cant decide." A stated his agent Baird cheated him of all but \$20. 1840.
Jacob Fisher R3565	N By Price. "an Ignorant dutchman, but I believe an Honest man." 1840.
Moses Fleshman S8484	F "Entitled."
William Ford S8506	Ma By Johnson. S thought A lying because of "Hesitancy Stamerling &c" but changed his mind. Edwards did not restore pension because A's name not on militia rolls! Congress restored \$20 per year of \$80 pension.
John Foster S8504	Me By H Alexander who charged nothing. Continental service. 1840.
Caleb Furbee W740	Ma "Entitled."
John Fryer S6866	G "Entitled." Continental service well documented.
Uriah Gandee R3890	J "Not entitled," based on hearsay. S did not interview A.
Nathaniel Garter S10719	Me By Henry Alexander. No opinion by S. Declaration and narrative agree. 1840.
Nicholas Gibson S8559	L Pension suspended for fraud; indicted for forgery. A admitted and repaid.
Job Goff W1752	H Father of Nathan Goff. "Entitled. Mr Goff is a man of good character." Former state legislator. 1840.
John Greathouse S8630	H By John E. Jackson under act of 1818; suspended for having property. By Goff under act of 1832. "Entitled" even though A confessed to desertion.
Samuel Green R4275	L "not entitled," based on statements that A was too young
James Gregory R4292	G By Henry Erskine. Took turns planting and guarding against Indians. Could not detail service to S.
Samuel Gwinn S17992	G By Henry Erskine. "Not entitled" Took turns planting and guarding against Indians.
Peter Hammer W5699	Ma By Ray. "Entitled."
Martin Hammock R4529	K By Ezra Walker. "Not entitled." S concluded A never served, but A's service

	proved by roster.
Benjamin Hamrick S5472	N "Entitled." Too remote to interview. S relied on Benjamin Lemasters S18490.
George Hanger R4565	G By Henry Erskine. "Not entitled." S improperly disallowed service as wagoner.
Joseph Hanna R4576	G Probably by Gillilan. "This man died recently"
Edward Harbert S15448	H "Fraud." S did not interview A but inferred fraud from brother Samuel Harbert S15447.
Samuel Harbert S15447	H By Goff. "Indian fighter." Pension dropped.
Simeon Harris S15871	R By Camp and Baird, who kept all but \$25. "Fraud." Pensioned for six months, but A told S only three. S prosecuted, but A was judged entitled to a pension.
Jacob Harrow S5480	H By Johnson. "Entitled." 1840.
John Hartman W7680	Pr By William T Byrne. "Suspicious comparison," falsely suggesting difference between A's declaration and his statement to S. 1840.
Jacob Hartzell R14891	Pr By John P Byrne. "Entitled" Pension dropped by Edwards who falsely stated A did not serve six months.
Peter Haught S6981	Ma By Brookover, who alleged fraud to S after A refused his exorbitant fee. Second application by Ray. S sued A, but suit dropped in 1852; pension restored to heirs about 1858.
Isaac Hawk S9571	Po By McCord. "Entitled."
Alexander Hill R4991	O By Morgan Nelson. "a man of good character, and of great moral. so said every one with whom I conversed on that subject." Edwards improperly denied claim in spite of S.
John Hoffman S8735	O No conclusion by S; service well documented.
James Holder S8736	R By Camden. Application claimed 9 months service; A told S only 3 months.
Jacob Holland R5141	Ma By Ray. "Entitled"
James Holliday S7025	O No opinion by S. 1840.
Levi Hopkins W11330	Pr By Brown. "Fraud." Pensioned for seven months; A told S less than four. "this is an Honest man, he has been deceived & deluded by Brown." A lost pension, but widow succeeded.
Purnell Houston S15467	Ma By Ray. "Fraud," because A told S he served "at least five months." A died in Mar 1835. S sued A's security, who charged S with fraud. Suit dropped in 1852. Pension restored to heirs in 1859.
Thomas Hughes R5357	L Note in file says "Rejected – See Mr. Singleton's report," but no report or application in the file.
George Hull S13317	G By Erskine. "Entitled."
Jonathan Humphrey S5583	H "Entitled."
Robert Humphrey S5582	O "Dead."
John Hutchison S5585	Me No opinion by S. 1840.
Thomas Hutson S5447	B By Capt. McCluney. A told S the same as in his declaration, but S wrote "this fellow never done one hours service – he is as great a scamp as ever I met with – his mind and memory is as good as ever it was. So says his neighbours. they also say he is an impostur – his own statements convict him of the fact."
Henry Isner R5501	R By Camp after Camden told him not entitled, according to S. "not Entitled." No application in file.
Thomas Isner R5502	R By Camden. "Not entitled.... service... if done at all must have been after 1783," without foundation.
James Jack S8750	Ma By Brookover. No report by S, who thought A deserving. Letters in file suggest fraud by Brookover.
Field Jarvis S5606	Me S accepted opinion that A was of good character and entitled.
Reuben Jenkins R5574	Pr By Waldo and James Robison, who falsified length of service. "Not entitled."
Andrew Johnson S15905	Pr By Brown. "Fraud Black" based on hearsay and opinion A was younger than 60, contrary to censuses. "there is not a man in the county who believes that he has the slightest claim to a pension," but A found more than a dozen who swore he did. Pension restored.
Berryman Jones S5632	G By James Bolen. "entitled."

James Jones W7917	Me	No opinion by S. 1840.
John Jones W7920	K	By Benjamin Smith. "Entitled."
Thomas Jones W7901	G	By Edward B. Bayley. "Entitled."
Barney Karren S15906	R	By Camp and Baird who took all but \$100. "Entitled."
Edward Kearney S15495	O	By Dr. McKeehan. "Fraud." "the opinion of his neighbours so far as I learnt it is highly unfavourable to him" this remark later ruled unjust. "he was rather too zealous in the cause. 18 months continuous service for a Militiaman, in three several tours, is in my opinion rather over doing the matter"
George Keller S5649	H	By Ray. Pension reduced for claiming long militia tours. 1840.
Joseph Kester S2690	H	By Johnson. "Fraud" but S later admitted there was none. A put up bond & repaid on being sued. Pension later reinstated.
John Kincaid W3428	A	"Fraudulent" based on flimsy evidence. S's misfiled report caused another John Kincaid to be dropped.
Jacob Kinnison S16905	Po	By McCord. "Entitled," but S deducted time claimed for taking turns planting and guarding against Indians.
Jacob Kittle S13630	R	"Entitled." 1840.
Christopher Knight R6023	H	No application. Goff informed A he was not entitled.
Peter Knight S5660	H	By Goff. "Entitled." 1840.
John Lap R9200	Pr	"Not Entitled." Narrative agreed with declaration but S said vague.
George Leach W27584	W	By Prentiss. "Fraudulent," because of association with brother Thomas Leach and Prentiss.
Thomas Leach S8837	W	By Prentiss. "Fraud." Narrative to S consistent with application, but S wrote, "the statement contradicts its self." 1840.
Benjamin Lemasters S18490	N	By Price. S wrote "entitled" from "General opinion in his neighborhood," but subsequently suspended. Pension Office refused to restore pension after falsely claiming he was not on muster roll.
Abraham Lewis R6307	R	"Not entitled." Declaration and narrative plausible and consistent, but S wrote "this is a very Improbable Story."
William Lilly R6343	N	Dead. Rejected based on Col Alexander Donnally's statement A was under 65.
Isaac Linton S5690	B	By Capt McLuney. "an impostur" based on A's claim he served at age 14.
Godrell Lively R6389	Me	No opinion by S.
John Mallihan R6852	N	"Not entitled." Said to be too young.
Job Martin S18496	K	By Benjamin Smith. "Fraud," based on allegations A was deserter and Tory. Declaration and narrative to S agree.
William Martin S5736	H	By Johnson. "Entitled." 1840.
William Martin W9937	H	S stated falsely that A said he "was employed by those assistant commissaries as a clerk" and not as a soldier acting as assistant commissary. Pension suspended, then restored, then suspended again on false accusations by Shinn. Pension finally restored and increased.
Isaac Mathew S9001	Pr	By John P. Byrne. "Entitled." 1840.
Richard Mathews R7028	B	"old and very infirm in body & mind. I understand that his character is good"
Hugh McCain R6596	L	By Waldo, but not submitted. "Not entitled." "Can't exceed fifty years old," but 1830 census lists him 60-70.
Patrick McCan S18502	L	"Fraud." S dropped: Nutter, William Powers, and Adam Flesher said A 12 or 13 in 1785, contrary to censuses and marriage in 1787. Sued.
Abraham McColloch S15534	O	S disputed Indian service, sued unsuccessfully to recover money. Executors sued for back pay and prevailed, but Pension Office refused to pay.
John McComas W18496	C	By William McComas. "this mans character is good."
Thomas McElroy R6699	Ma	"Not entitled." Declaration plausible, but "This old man is a shrewd Irishman, & a great imposter in my opinion.
Thomas McGee S5752	Pr	"this is an Honest Man, and is entitled to all he draws," even though A stated some of the tours were a sort of neighbourhood defence
Robert McIntire S5743	B	Capt. McCluney. "Fraud." Declaration included time returning home, which S deducted, bringing A below six-months minimum.

Robert McMillen W7426	Pr	“entitled.”
George McNemar R6807	L	“Not entitled.” Said, probably correctly, to be too young.
Henry McWhorter S7210	L	“Entitled.” Certified by Daniel Stringer, Samuel Z. Jones, John Neely, Alexander West, William Powers. Pension reduced by four months for Indian service in PA. 1840.
Robert Mean (Means) R7084	L	“Not Entled.” Testimony that A was in Ireland during war.
Abner Messenger S9022	Pr	“fully entitled to the amount awarded him” “first application was rejected for want of proof. So concious was he of his right and tenacious of his Integrity that he in his 75 year of age mounted his old horse (something younger than himself) and went all the way to New York to procure evidence of his services. his poor old Horse died on the way. he then took it afoot, persisted in his march until he found his Captain, procured his affidavit & returned on foot.” 1840.
Rush Milam S7943	K	By Ezra Walker. “Fraud.” Pensioned for nine months, but A told S less than six. Surrendered pension certificate.
Peter Miller W7456	Ma	By Ray. “Entitled.”
Samuel Miller S15940	B	By Capt. McCluney. No opinion by S. 1840.
John Milligan S13939	O	By Mr. Jacobs. No opinion by S.
David Minear S15932	R	By Camp and Baird. “Fraud.” Goff could get no information from A, "almost Eat up with cancer," but what A said consistent with declaration. Goff accepted general opinion was A did not deserve a pension. A died 1835; children received arrears in 1861.
John Mitchel S5761	L	“Entitled.”
John Mollihon R7295	N	“Not Entitled.” Said to be too young.
Enoch Moore S5785	H	By Goff. “In” (Indian) S and Edwards wrongly decided A was Indian fighter in the area where he settled.
Evan Morgan S11098	Ma	“Entitled.” 1840.
Zackquil Morgan W1912	Ma	“Fraud” for no apparent reason. A died soon after.
Amos Morris S7244	Ma	By Ray. “Entitled.” Suspended but A personally appealed to Edwards. 1840.
Tunis Mucklevaine S9043	K	By Thomas Bland, son-in-law of Newlon. “Fraudulent.” Too young. Sued.
John Nay S11128	H	1840.
John Nevill S5827	Hy	“Cant decide.”
Richard Nichols S7271	W	By Prentiss. “Fraud.” Pensioned for 19 months; A told S less than six.
John Night R7672	N	By John Brown, certified by Price. Witnesses and censuses say Night was too young.
Rhodam Nutt R7745	L	“Not Entitled.” Jacob Brake stated Nutt too young. Censuses agree.
Jeremiah Odell S8905	N	By Price. “fraudulent... his own statement is [con]clusive against him.” Pensioned for nine months, but S misunderstood A as claiming less than six.
John Orr R16849	Pr	By Brown. “Entitled,” but pension stopped by Edwards for Indian service.
Andrew Parks R7964	Ma	By Brookover. “Not entitled... he never done one hours service.”
William Parsons X899	L	S did not interview A; accepted statements he was too young to have served.
Henry Payton S8943	C	By William McComas. S wrote “clearly a fraudulent case,” apparently based on A’s “manner and confusion” and character “worse than bad.”
William Pepper S5901	H	“Entitled.” A deaf and blind; S could get no information from him. Suspended, but pension eventually restored to heir.
Elias Perkins S5908	G	“Entitled.” S did not interview A; witness statements agreed with application.
Christian Peters S5898	Me	By J. Dunlop. No opinion by S.
Thomas Peterson S5899	B	A’s memory failed, but what he told S consistent with declaration. Pension reduced apparently by Edwards to what A was able to tell S.
Zachariah Piles W10896	Ma	By Brookover. “Fraud,” for no stated reason. S sued, but suit dropped posthumously in 1852. Widow obtained pension.
Thomas Pribble R8439	W	By Wamsley’s brother-in-law Benjamin Arnold. “Not Entitled... the whole of Prebble’s Statement is a fiction.” Declaration and narrative agreed, but declaration claimed more than two years, and A told S only 18 months.

Jacob Price S3730	G "Entitled." Not interviewed because receiving a pension from Virginia.
Jonathan Purdy S5956	O A's long narrative matched declaration, S suspicious. Pension not suspended.
Robert Pyeatt S8987	O Narrative to S agreed with declaration. Pension reduced for Indian service.
Joseph Ramsey S7348	Wy By John H. Price & Samuel McCamant, who fraudulently claimed A served to end of war. Penalty deducted from A's pension; eventually repaid to widow.
James Randall W26354	H By Johnson. "Entitled."
John Read S15961	H "Indian." Narrative not in file, but summary by S consistent with declaration. Pension dropped for Indian service.
Allen Rece W5697	C By John Samuels. "not entitled to the amount awarded." Pensioned for 18 months, but A told S much less.
Noah Redgway R8641	Ma "Not entitled."
Isaac Reed W3868	Ma By Ray. "Entitled." 1840.
Zachariah Rhodes R8735	J By James Arnold of L. "mind is almost entirely gone... incapable of making a Declaration." Declaration convincing, but narrative only a shadow of it.
William Richmond S9088	G By John Meller(?). "Entitled."
Bazzell Right S15966	J By James Arnold who claimed 16 months. "not entitled" A told S he served only six weeks.
Thomas Rinehart S5986	Pr Mentioned as dead in S's report on Jacob Wagner S6320.
Jonathan Roach W3870	Me By Henry Alexander. Declaration and narrative agree. No opinion by S.
Isaac Roberts S19453	C By John Samuels. "sustains a good character."
Thomas Roberts W5738	C "Indulged in much personal abuse of the 'Powers that be' as well as myself... I think it probable that he is entitled to the amount awarded him." 1840.
James Robinson S7432	H By Goff and service was east of the Allegheny Mts so S did not interview.
Aquilla Roby R8918	L By John S Camden. "Not entitled." A said to be too young.
Abraham Rodgers S6026	B By Capt. McCluney. "Indian fighter." S falsely stated, "wholly irregular and unauthorized." Pension suspended.
John Roe R8932	H A's narrative to S confused but consistent with declaration. "not Entitled... what a pity it had not been this soldier" who was killed rather than his captain.
Rhodam Rogers S6021	H By Johnson. "Entitled." 1840.
John Ryan S18584	R By Camden. "Entitled."
John Sammons S6045	G By Henry Erskine. "Entitled." Pension reduced because A did not tell S all the service he claimed, and Indian service not counted.
Nathaniel Scales S18201	C A was away. S heard A "is a man of Intelligence and of great respectability."
John Schoolcraft S7468	L "Fraud." Witnesses and census show A was too young.
Michael Sease S9475	H By Johnson. "every word false," even though declaration and narrative agreed. Pension dropped for Indian service.
Charles Shaw S7484	H S report not in file. Goff said S had A suspended because A said he was drafted in deposition, but a substitute in narrative – not understanding the difference. Reinstated in 1851.
Isaac Shinn S7505	H S's report not in file. Suspended for Indian Service.
John Simmons W26442	Applied in Monroe County OH. Lived in Ohio County VA. Narrative to S agreed with declaration. "he seemed to me to have done too much service."
Charles Simpkins R9588	Ma By Ray. "Entitled." 1840.
James Sims S19464	N By Price. "Fraudulent." Pensioned for nine months but A told S about four.
Patrick Sinnett W8296	W By Prentiss. Pensioned for 14 months, A told S 19, and S somehow thought five months. "although he is one month short I respectfully recommend him to the mercy of the Comr of Pensions." 1840.
John Slaven S6110	Po 1818 act; rejected under 1820 act; pensioned under 1832 act. "Entitled." 1840.
Philip Smell S11414	Ma By Ray. "Entitled."
John Smith S6117	H By Richard W. Moore, Clerk of Federal Court. A had moved to Indiana. "Entitled."
Jonathan Smith R9777	Po By McCord. "Not entitled." A told S he did not serve six months.
Thomas Smith S15989	H By Shinn?. "Fraud." "This man is dead. I have been unable to procure any evidence touching his case... the Declaration was written, and the certificate

	obtained by Wilson Shinn, whose cases are all wrong, and one of them manifestly fraudulent."
Frederick Spahr R9948	Pr By John Byrne. "Fraud." Applied for nine months; told S he served six.
Valentine Stalnaker R10043	R By Camden. "Not entitled." A told S service was before Revolutionary War.
John Stephenson W6204	C A was away. S was told A was "of good character." 1840.
William Stevens W19109	B By Capt. McCluney. "Draws too much." based on false assumption that A's service was same as that of Richard Mathews R7028
Henry Stone S6151	Ma By Ray. "Entitled."
Caleb Stout S7593	H By Johnson. "entitled."
Jacob Swisher S6179	H "Fraud" because "this is one of Col J Johnsons cases, most all of which are fraudulent." Declaration claimed 4½ months more than narrative to S.
James Tenney W3888	R "Entitled." 1840.
Joseph Thomas W6277	K "Entitled. sustains as good a character as any in the county." S recommended A apply for increase in pension.
Alexander Thompson S14691	K By Ezra Walker. "Fraudulent & [pension] certificate returned." Pensioned for six months but A told S only three months during the war.
Arthur Trader S30169	H By Johnson. "Fraud Black & diabolical." A's pension declaration claimed more than 27 months; narrative to S claimed 18 months. S relied on statements about A's bad reputation. Dropped.
James Troy S7747	Ma By Ray. "Fraud." Pensioned for 11 months - much less than A told S. S ignored testimony of sworn witnesses in open court; gave no reason for alleging fraud.. Pension restored to heirs.
Henry Tucker S6278	H By Johnson. "Indian." Suspended because of Indian service.
John Tucker S6274	H "Indian." "what service he did perform was unauthorized by the State authorities"
James Turley S11585	C "sustains a good character."
John Vanasdal S11611	B By Capt. McLuney. No opinion by S. "I could not learn whether he was of good or bad character."
Cornelius Vanausdell S15691	G "May be Entitled." Declaration and narrative to S agree in detail.
George Wade S7829	Ma By Brookover. "Fraud." Brookover accused A of fraud because he would not pay exorbitant fee. Suit dropped in 1852 and pension restored to heirs in 1859.
Jacob Wagner S6320	Pr "Dead."
Pleasant Waid R11000	G Listed in Andrew Morrison R7414 as having been investigated by S and suspended, but no report by S in file.
John J. Waldo S6321	H "Entitled." S did not interview; relied on reputation. 1840.
Thomas Walker S6339	Me By James Dunlop. No opinion by S. Declaration and narrative agree. 1840.
John Wells S6351	Ma By Ray. "Entitled."
George Whetsel R11492	Ma Probably by Ray. "Not entitled," based on hearsay that A too young to serve.
Samuel White S7871	O Died before S could interview. No opinion.
Henry Whiteman S7881	R By Camden. "Entitled."
Matthew Whitman S18654	R By Camden. "Entitled."
Joacham Wicoff W4401	B "his mind is gone." 1840.
Andrew Wilson R11653	L By John S Camden, James D Sprigg. "Not entitled." A refused to talk with S; son-in-law told S that A had told agents he had not served.
Robert Wilson S6433	Me Mr. Preston. No opinion by S. Pensioned for 6 months but told S a few days over five.
William Wilson S7907	Ma "Entitled." 1840.
Henry Winckleblack S6389	Me No opinion by S. Declaration and narrative agree.
Jonathan Windsor R11703	N "Not entitled." S did not interview. Ignored sworn testimony of witnesses and relied on "neighborhood opinion," perhaps tainted by "the malice of his wife."
Joseph Wiseman R11741	Me No opinion by S. Declaration and narrative agree.
John Wolford S11898	R "Entitled."
Joseph Wooddell S11883	Po "Dead." S wrote that opinion of others "in his favour."
Simeon Woodrow W3910	B "Dead"

David Work S7961	B	“Dead.”
Henry Yoho S7996	Ma	Probably by Ray. S did not interview. Edwards reduced pension for Indian service.
John Young W1975	Po	“this man seems to me to be Honest.”
John Young W7377	K	“Entitled;” was informed A’s character good “as any in the county of Kanhawa.”

FROM LEWIS AND HARRISON COUNTIES APPARENTLY NOT INVESTIGATED

Applications under the Act of 1818 are generally not suspect, because service in the Continental Army could be checked against muster and payrolls. State abbreviations indicate that the soldier served in the North, and his application has not been transcribed at revwarapps.org.

Jonathan Adams W5596	H	Act of 1818. Died 1835.
John Ashcraft S6537	H	By Johnson. Died age 95 in 1832.
Joseph Barnet S6583 PA	H	Certified by Coplin as JP; pension certificate to Johnson. Not suspect.
Samuel B. Beall (Bell) S37740	H	Act of 1818. Moved to Wood County in 1826.
Henry Berkhammer R21768 PA	H	Claim rejected for lack of proof.
James Black VAS1761	L	Petition to Virginia in 1821.
James Booth VAS1757	H	Application to Virginia by son-in-law in 1838.
John Bunnell W6222	H	Act of 1818. Died 1 Apr 1823.
Adam Bush W5960	L	Died 1805.
Jacob Bush W24685	L	By Camden. Sleeth certified service. Died 28 Nov 1832. Edwards denied the widow a pension in her lifetime, but her heirs obtained it.
Paulser Butcher VAS1756	L	Widow’s application to Virginia for pay for husband’s service.
John Byrnes W6224	H	Act of 1818. Died 7 Nov 1833.
Michael Carey S40039	H	Act of 1818.
Nicholas Chroushour R2545	H	Possibly by Johnson. Rejected; service thought to have been in 1794.
Valentine Clapper S39325	H	Act of 1818.
James Cobun VAS2018	H	1820 petition to state legislature.
James Cochran W6743	H	Act of 1818. Died 1830.
Solomon Collins S39331	L	Act of 1818.
Anthony Coon S9213	H	Not fraudulent. 1818 claim rejected for property; 1832 application accepted.
Sarah Cunningham VAS2019	H	1816 rejected petition to state legislature.
Joseph Davis R2738	H	By A, with Johnson as agent. A volunteered statement to Goff, who judged him honest, but claim denied for lack of proof.
Thomas Demoss VAS1804	L	1820 petition to Virginia.
Henry Farence S39508	H	Act of 1818.
Ebenezer Fisher S8473	H	By Goff. Died 15 Nov 1833.
Stephen Fleechart S39529	H	Act of 1818. Died 1825.
James Fleming R3605	H	Died 14 May 1833. Widow was denied pension based on allegations by Benjamin Reeder that he was a Tory.
Dabney Ford S39531	H	Act of 1818. 1840.
Elijah Ford et al. VAS1388	H	Heirs’ 1834 claim for state bounty land. Suspect.
Edward Goodwin VAS2020	H	Unsuccessful 1834 petition to Virginia Legislature.
John Hacker VAS1749	L	Petition to Virginia legislature.
Anthony Haley S41624	H	Act of 1818. Moved to OH 1829.
Joseph Hall S37983	H	Act of 1818.
James Hanlon S37994	H	Act of 1818. Died 3 Jan 1829.
David Harrison R4677	H	Act of 1818; rejected.
Sotha Hickman S5516	H	Died before 21 Nov 1834.
Mathias Hite S38031	H	Act of 1818. Died 9 Jan 1823.
Jonathan Hughes S9591	H	Moved to H after the fraud and investigation. 1840.
John Hullderman R5365	H	Claim rejected.
Jacob Hunt W4241 MA	L	Act of 1818.
George Jackson R15396	L	Heirs applied in 1850s. No hint of fraud.



John Jarvis MDS3	H	Act of 1818.
Joshua Jones S5628 PA	H	By Goff. S did not interview A because Goff a man of integrity, and service was east of the mountains. 1840.
Richard Jones S38081 PA	H	Act of 1818. Died 1 Sep 1822.
William Keys S18070	H	Died early 1833.
Jacob Keyser W7952	H	Act of 1818. Widow 1840.
Joseph Koon VAS1748	H	Petition to the Virginia legislature.
Walter Lindsey W8048 PA	H	Act of 1818. Widow 1840.
Aaron Lockart S38146 PA	H	Act of 1818.
Thomas Lynott R6551 DE	H	By Goff. Rejected because service was as a cabin boy.
Peter McCune W7412	L	Act of 1818. Died in 1831 or 1832.
Michael McKinney R6767	H	Rejected for fraud. No further details.
William McRee S5754 PA	H	Nothing from S. Certificate says "pay reduced and resumed."
John R. Miloy S38224 MA	H	Act of 1818. Died 1832.
Christopher Nutter W5434	H	1840. Not investigated, because he was S's informant.
John Obart W4752 NJ	H	Moved to NY by 1826.
Samuel Oliver S38270 DE	L	Act of 1818.
John Patton S8931 PA	H	By Goff.
George Pritchard W5594	H	Act of 1818. Dead.
Isaac Richards S9056	H	Died 29 Apr 1833
John Roe W5726	H	Act of 1818. Died 29 Sep 1829. Widow's pension by Johnson and Coplin.
Moses Rollins W10241	H	Act of 1818.
David Scott S25425	H	Disability claim from 1785.
Joseph Selmon S38361	H	Act of 1818.
John Sharp S38367 PA	H	Act of 1818.
Jonathan Sheppard S38365	L	Act of 1818.
William Shingleton S38371	H	Act of 1818. Said to have died in 1837, but 1840.
John Stackhouse S38409	H	Act of 1818.
Anthony Swick R10360 PA	H	Card in file reads "rejected (fraud)." No further information.
Jacob Thompson S41240	H	Act of 1818. 1840.
James Tutt VAS225	H	Virginia pension. Died 2 Jun 1828.
Robert Wadsworth S41296	H	Act of 1818.
Alexander West W6450	L	Certified by Sleeth. A died June 1834.
Edmund West VAS75	L	Rejected state land claim by heirs. West died in 1814.
John Westfall S41319	H	Act of 1818.
Joseph White S38469	H	Act of 1818. Died 19 May 1828.
Joseph Wilson S38475	L	Act of 1818. 1840.
George Wyer R11917	H	By Shinn. A note in file says "Rejected (fraud)." Probably for Indian service.