

Dubois County's known Revolutionary soldiers

by Kathy Tretter

While Dubois County did not exist during the Revolutionary War, there are eight known Revolutionary War veterans buried in the county's hallowed ground. Quite possibly there are more, but the following eight Patriots definitely chose to settle here and here they remained after death.

The first is **Luther Adams**. According to the History of Gage County, Nebraska, "John Lawrence was born in England, and left in infancy an orphan. He was adopted by a Mr. Adams of Massachusetts, and from that time took the name of his adopted parent."

It goes on to say that he came to America when he was nine or ten years old. He settled in New York and later married. He lived in New York, New Jersey, Kentucky, and finally Dubois County, Indiana where he died at the age of 94, in 1839.

A somewhat different account is given on "INPCRP Cemetery Hall of Shame, Wilhoit Cemetery, Dubois County, Indiana." According to that account he died at 94, but in 1849. Also, his name is given as John Quincy Luther Adams. This account relates how he, his son, David, and David's wife, Hester Ann, were removed from Wilhoit Cemetery and re-interred in Shiloh Cemetery.

The family was residing in Greenup County, Kentucky before migrating to Dubois County in the late 1830s.

According to ancestry, he was born Oc-

tober 10, 1753 in England and died in 1847 in Dubois County.

No matter his birth or death dates, Luther was a private in Houghton's Co. P, Denny's Massachusetts Militia, also in Captain Jonathan Houghton's Co., Col. Samuel Denny's 2nd Regiment General Fellows Brigade. He enlisted October 24, 1779 and was discharged December 1, 1779 at Claverack. He then served with West Point men in 1781.

Next we have **William Anderson**, an early settler to Dubois County. He was born November 21, 1763 in Colerain, Lancaster, Pennsylvania, and died April 22, 1836 in Ireland, Indiana. William is buried in the Hobbs/Hillsboro Cemetery.

He is listed on the Muster Roll, 2nd Class, 6th Battalion, Lancaster County Militia, on tour of duty in 1781.

James H. Harbison, for whom Harbison Township is named, was born in 1762 in South Carolina. He served in the Virginia Militia during the Revolutionary War, volunteered in Botecourt Co., Virginia in 1780 under James Robinson. He joined Morgan's Regiment near Ramsour's Mill and was in battle at Island Ford on the Yadkin River. James Harbison died October 6, 1841 at age 81, having been married twice and fathering eight children between the two wives. He is buried in Devine Cemetery in Harbison Township.

John Hills was a private who served in the

North Carolina Militia in Col. Thomas Eaton's Regiment. John, who was born around 1756, enlisted on October 10, 1778 and also served under Captain Brittain Harris. He died July 11, 1833 at age 75, in Patoka Township but had also lived in Harbison Township. The whereabouts of his remains are unknown. See a separate article about John Hills.

Lewis Powers was a true patriot, enlisting in July of 1776. He served two and a half years, finally being discharged in December of 1778. Lewis was a private in Captain Lewellyn Jones company of Colonel Bland's Continental Dragoons. He enlisted in Goochland County, Virginia and fought in the battles of Brandywine, Germantown and Monmouth. At the Battle of Monmouth he allegedly saw Molly Pitcher take an artilleryman's place and fire a cannon. Lewis was also closely connected with George Washington's Army.

He moved to Dubois County in 1826 from Shelby County, Kentucky where he had settled after the war. Lewis bought 80 acres the year Jasper was founded (September 10, 1830). He eventually donated land that would today be West 6th Street (where the old high school gym still stands) and was one of the donors toward the original log courthouse in Jasper. Lewis Powers died on August 16, 1833 and is buried in the Evans Graveyard in Jasper.

Hugh Rodman Sr. served from May 1, 1778 to 1783, as a frontier ranger under Capt.

James Thompson. Rodman was born in 1756 in Northumberland County, Pennsylvania. He died May 7, 1815 and is buried in Nedia Woods Graveyard near Dubois. Scanning a multitude of records, this was all the information found on Mr. Rodman.

About **Richard Stillwell** it could be said he lived a very long life. He was born in England in 1732 and died 104 years later, in 1836. Richard enlisted in Bucks, USA (assuming Bucks County, Pennsylvania) and initially served under Captain Peter Van Sant's 3rd Associated Company, Buck County Militia. He then joined Captain Joshua Anderson's 6th Company, 3rd Battalion and rose to the rank of 1st Lieutenant, then was made a Captain. He is buried near Holland in Simmon's Graveyard, also listed as Cuzco Cemetery.

Last but not least is **Zedekiah Wood**, a soldier from the state of Georgia, born in either 1750 or 1753 in Augusta, St. Paul Parish. Zedekiah served under Captain Pace and signed a petition to the Continental Congress. He died in 1823 in Patoka Township but the whereabouts of his remains are unknown. According to Junie Himsel, Wood's military service has never been confirmed. If anyone has any confirming information please contact this newspaper.

However, both Stillwell and Wood are listed as heads of the household for the 202 families living in Dubois County in 1820, as are John Hill and William Anderson.

The Mystery of Revolutionary veteran John Hills

by Doris Pfaff and Kathy Tretter

Editor's note: Despite the emergence of a significant number of genealogy sites designed to help track down ancestors, some mysteries require old fashioned detective work, along with a paper trail to follow.

Doris Pfaff is an expert when it comes to this type of research. She's a bit like a dog

with a juicy bone, tenaciously digging and digging until she finds answers and doesn't stop with a single verification. She makes certain the proof she finds is valid and is backed up by several sources.

For many years poor John Hills was an enigma to researchers going back as far as Dubois County Historian George R. Wilson,

who couldn't seem to verify that Hills was one of Dubois County's Revolutionary War veterans.

Junie Himsel, himself an astute historian and researcher, questioned Hills validity as recently as last November when he was included with other American Revolutionaries who later settled in Dubois County in

a special Veteran's Day edition. However, authentication had not been verified so the "tribute" was a bit vague. Fires at early and/or original area courthouses where records were destroyed also proved problematic.

Despite all the challenges this sort of research presents, Doris was able to amass an

(Continued on page 10)

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