

Grainger County: Taxable Inhabitants Living Within the Indian Boundary, 1797

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by Paula Gammell

In the Grainger County Court minutes for May Sessions 1798 their tax collector was released from collecting 1797 taxes due from the inhabitants living within the "Indian Boundary."

Parts of Grainger County were indeed within the Indian boundary, where white settlement was prohibited by not only the Holston Treaty of 1791 but also the Hopewell Treaty of 1785. But whites were firmly settled there anyway, and had been for many years. No wonder they were upset when, in the summer of 1797, Benjamin Hawkins surveyed the boundary and the settlers, having been proven to be settled illegally, were required to move.

Their argument was that their settlement when made was legal and was rendered illegal only after the fact. Well, they *may* have had a point. These lands were indeed available for legal purchase under North Carolina's Land Act of 1783 – but it remains to be seen whether these lands were obtained under that act or the Land Act of 1777.

Regardless, this had a happy ending for the settlers: their situation was resolved and they were all allowed to return to their homes the next year.

Here they are:

Austin, Nathaniel	Sullins, Peter	Davis, [James?]	Moore, [L----?]
Anderton, Thomas	Shoats, Jacob	Drunden, Benjamin	[McLellan?], Thomas
Bunch, Julius	Thompson, Allexander	Durham, Stephen	Newport, John
Branham, John	Wallen, John	Douthen, Evan	Owen, John
Chisum, James	Wier, William	Elam, William	Owens, William
Cunningham, John	[Ward?], William	Finley, William	Peters, Elijah
Chisum, Elijah	Allen, William	Finley, William	Reynolds, John
Crabb, Joseph Junr.	Adkins, James	Finley, William	Rull, George
Chaney, Francis	Arthur, John	Franklin, Edmond	Reynolds, James
Cogden, Joseph	Bruton, Samuel	Finley, James	Ross, Angus
Clark, Thomas	Boling, Jeremiah	Gibson, George	Smith, Mathew
Dodsson, Nimrod	[Baxter?], [J---al?]	Gibson, [J----y?]	Sweeton, Dutton
Dodson, Jessee	Burdon, Charles	Graham, Spencer	Sweeton, John
Duvalt, [Abiham?]	Bennet, John	Hatfield, Richard	Stevenson, John
Dodsson, Jessee Junr.	Black, Mathew	Hatfield, Joseph	Stevenson, William
Gibbons, Thomas	Brown, Morris	Haines, Andrew	Stinnet, William
Harrison, Jonathan	Bruton, James	Hill, Thomas	Stinnet, Benjn.
Henderson, Thomas	Busham, Archer	Henderson, William	Stevenson, Edward
Hardingo, William	Bitson, Thomas	Hamlen, John	Stinnet, John
Hodgson, David	Box, John	Howard, Robert	Shanley, Michael
Hughs, Samuel	Bitson, James	Halfacre, Peter	Sharp, Joseph
Hughs, Theophilus	Bowman, William	Hill, William	Star, James
Hansley, Samuel	Barton, William	Henderson, James	Sears, John
Hamit, Nathaniel	Burdsong, John	Hatfield, John	Thomas, Joseph
Hamit, Nathaniel	Cope, Andrew	Innis, Jeremiah	Trammel, Dennis
Jonston, James	Cope, James	Inglis, William	Tinsley, William
Keith, John	Crowley, Benjamin	Jones, Jessee	Vanbiber, John
Keith, Thomas	Cave, John	Linch, Jeremiah	Vanbiber, Peter
Lane, Isaac	Cox, Josiah	Lewis, Joel	Vanbiber, James
Lane, Tidance	Cowen, Alexander	Lush, Samuel	Womack, Jonathan
Livingston, William	Cope, [Barney?]	McBride, William	Womack, Jeremiah
Miller, John	Cope, Mathew	Mahan, James	Womack, David
Miller, Frederick	Claypole, Stephen	Martin, Dannel	Weaver, Samuel
Morgan, John	Callums, George	McDonald, John	Weaver, Joseph
[Rogers?], John	Daugherty, William	McBride, Thomas	Weaver, John
Sims, James	Daugherty, William	McDonald, William	Weaver, Samuel
Sims, Martin	Davis, James	McBride, Andrew	Yoklham, George

This list also shows the amount due, number of slaves owned, etc. If you'd like to see a copy of the original list yourself you can find it in "East Tennessee Roots" Vol. 9 No. 3. We publish many other Grainger County records, too!

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