

## The Edward Goodwin Family

By CLARENCE L. GOODWIN

A replica of Fort Necessity, near Uniontown, Pennsylvania, was the scene of the Battle of Great Meadows which was fought in 1754 between troops under the command of Colonel George Washington and a body of French troops aided by Indian allies. It may be of interest in this connection that a grave in Charlestown Township, Clark County, Indiana, is the last resting place of a soldier believed to have been one of the Virginians who was in that battle. An Edward Goodwin was in the engagement and received a wound. The descendants of the Edward Goodwin who migrated to Clark's Grant from Virginia, many of whom live in Clark County today, do not claim to be able to furnish positive proof that their ancestor is the same who served at Fort Necessity, but they confidently believe this to be true.

While the Edward Goodwin who died in Clark County, Indiana, at the age of one hundred eight years, left no records of his early life, it is known that he was from Virginia. The family tradition is that he was born in Wales and brought to America when a boy. At the time of the Battle of Great Meadows, he was about thirty-seven years of age. His descendants know that two of his sons, Amos and William, served in one or the other of the expeditions of Colonel George Rogers Clark against the British and Indians in the Old Northwest. They also know that either the father, Edward Goodwin, or a son of the same name served along with Amos and William.

Amos Goodwin served two years as a Virginia soldier in the Continental Line probably after his service under Clark in the West. There is a record of his enlistment from Culpepper County, Virginia, under Captain Thomas and Colonel Slaughter.

It was about 1790 that the Goodwins, Edward and his sons, migrated from Virginia. They located in the "Pond Settlement" near Louisville. In 1800 Edward and his son William crossed the Ohio to live in what became Clark County, Indiana. Amos remained behind and died in Kentucky at Jeffersonton not far from Louisville. That the Goodwins saw

service in the Northwest is evidenced by the roll of Clark's forces.<sup>1</sup>

A chapter devoted to the "Goodwins of Clark County, Indiana," forms a part of *The Goodwin Families of America* by the late Judge John S. Goodwin of Chicago. This work was issued as a voluminous supplement to the *William and Mary College Quarterly* of October, 1899.<sup>2</sup> In the chapter relating to the Clark County Goodwins, Judge Goodwin, one of the Goodwins of Brookville, Indiana, and who was not related to Edward Goodwin, said of him:

An Edward Goodwin served as an officer under Colonel George Washington in his campaign on the Monongahela in 1754, and was allotted land under Governor Dinwiddie's proclamation, and an Edward Goodwin served in the French and Indian Wars of 1771 in Captain Hogg's company, George Washington, Colonel. I have found no other Edward Goodwin in all the family records pertaining to the Southern Goodwins and think it extremely probable that these records all referred to this Edward, as he is known to have been living in Virginia in 1758.<sup>3</sup>

Edward Goodwin lived to be 108 years old, being a man of remarkable physical vigor. It is said that at the age of one hundred he could "jump on the back of a horse." He died in Charlestown Township, Clark County, in May, 1826. His remains lie in a Goodwin family graveyard on a farm which has been in the Goodwin family since about 1800. It is on the banks of Pleasant Run Creek, Charlestown Township, four miles southwest of Charlestown. The old Virginian was buried beside his son, William Goodwin, who, because of his service under Clark, received an allotment of land in Clark County.

William Goodwin, who moved his family from Virginia to Kentucky about 1790 and later settled in Clark County, Indiana, became one of the six judges of the Court of Quarter Sessions for Southern Indiana, Clark County being included in the district. He served for a period of twenty-three years.

<sup>1</sup> See William H. English, *Conquest of the Country Northwest of the Ohio River* (1896), II, 1060-1073, for the roll. The names of Amos and Edward Goodwin appear on p. 1063. It is not known whether there was a son Edward, so it seems a fair conjecture that the Edward listed was the father of Amos and William, who was then about sixty years old.

<sup>2</sup> A Supplement prepared by Judge Goodwin was first issued by the *William and Mary College Quarterly* in October, 1897. In this no reference was made to the Goodwins of Clark County. The revised Supplement issued in 1899 is marked by numerous changes and incorporates additional matter, the chapter on "The Goodwins of Clark County, Indiana," being included.

<sup>3</sup> *William and Mary College Quarterly*, October, 1899, Supplement, 119-120. This opinion of Edward Goodwin is sustained by J. A. Leach, a genealogist of Richmond, Virginia, who was employed in later years by a descendant of Edward to examine the colonial records at Richmond.

He was appointed in 1800 or in 1801 by William Henry Harrison, then Governor of Indiana Territory. William Goodwin was succeeded as judge by his son, Willis W. Goodwin, who had previously served as sheriff. While sheriff, Willis is said to have arrested Aaron Burr and taken him before Judge Thomas T. Davis. This arrest was presumably made when Burr was in the West laying plans to organize the conspiracy for which he was later tried at Richmond, Virginia.<sup>4</sup>

William Goodwin's three sons, John, Willis W., and Amos, all residents of Clark County, served in the Tippecanoe expedition in 1811. Amos is understood to have held the rank of captain at the time. When preparing to leave for this service, it was found he had no suitable coat and a black sheep was speedily sheared and the fleece quickly spun and woven to make him a coat. A descendant of John Goodwin has the old saber and flint-lock pistols which his grandfather carried as a member of a company of light dragoons at the Battle of Tippecanoe.

Among the descendants of Edward, through his son William, was the late Thomas W. Gibson, great grandson of William who served three years in the Seventh Indiana Cavalry during the Civil War. After the war he became an officer in the *Eighth United States Cavalry*, serving in Indian campaigns. His brother, the late Charles H. Gibson, was a prominent attorney of Louisville. The late Dr. Albert L. Goodwin of Mitchell, Indiana, grandson of William, served in an Indiana regiment in the Mexican War and was also for a time in the medical service of the Union Army during the Civil War. The following additional grandchildren of William Goodwin, son of Edward, now all dead, should be listed: Calvin S. Goodwin, Columbus C. Goodwin, Isaac H. B. D. Goodwin, Mrs. Thomas W. Gibson, and Mrs. John P. Nicholson, all of whom lived in Clark County; Dr. John M. Goodwin of Warren County, Kentucky; and Felix Goodwin of Texas.

Many descendants of the elder Edward Goodwin still live in Indiana in Clark and Floyd counties, among them being: Henry Goodwin of New Albany, a son of Willis W., who lived to the age of 93; Gay G. Goodwin of Jeffersonville; Tyler

---

<sup>4</sup>Twice while in the Ohio Valley, Burr was brought before a federal grand jury at Frankfort, Ky., Joseph Hamilton Daviess being the federal district attorney. It was possibly in this connection that Sheriff Willis W. Goodwin figured. Judge Davis was friendly to Burr, but District Attorney Daviess was hostile to him. See Isaac J. Cox, "The Burr Conspiracy in Indiana," in *Indiana Magazine of History*, XXV, 257-280.

Goodwin and Amos Goodwin of Charlestown Township, Clark County; Judge George H. D. Gibson and Mrs. Mary Goodwin Davies of Charlestown; and Mrs. Lena Goodwin and Mrs. Charles T. Hertzsch of Jeffersonville. Other living descendants are: John K. Goodwin of Indianapolis; Dr. C. C. Goodwin of Kendallville, Indiana; Mrs. Georgia Speed and Goodwin Speed of Louisville, Kentucky; Prof. Russell Sharp of St. Louis, Missouri, and Cecil Sharp of Peru, Indiana; and Clarence L. Goodwin, author of this article, of Greensburg, Pennsylvania.

The last three named and John K. Goodwin are graduates of Indiana University. John M. Goodwin of St. Petersburg, Florida, another descendant of Edward Goodwin, was a student at Indiana University in the eighteen-eighties. Still other descendants were the late Willis B. Goodwin, of the Class of 1864, and his brother, the late Alexander Campbell Goodwin, both of Jeffersonville, and both prominent educators of their time.



GRAVE STONES IN THE GOODWIN CEMETERY.

(On each stone there is inscribed in small type, which did not reproduce, between the name at the top and the name of the widow below, the words, "Husband of." The dates and years refer, respectively, to Edward and William).