

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of Paul Abney (Abner) W23390
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

State of Illinois } SS On this 14th day of April one thousand eight hundred and forty seven before the
Gallatin County } subscriber one of the County commissioners in and for said county appeared
Rhody Abney a resident of this County aged seventy nine years old next December who being first duly
sworn according to law doth on her oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefits of
the provisions made by the acts of congress passt July 7 1838 march 3rd 1843 and June 17 1844 granting
pensions and half pay to certen widdows that she is the widdow of Paul Abney who was a soldier in the
Armeý of the revolution and served in the whole as I have heard him say seven years and enlisted at two
different times and served until the termination of the war but I am not able at present to remember who
was his officers. he enlisted from Albemarle County Va but have heard him say that he was shot threw
the boddy and have seen the scar a number of times and have heard him say in what battle but cant
rember at present

when was you married [illegible word] in March 1785

when did your husband die on the 15 of June 1815

were you married by licens or by proclamation and what was your name before marriage – my name was
Rhody Norman and I think we was married by licens

have you a family record. none farther back than the birth of my first child on the 3rd of December 1785

by whom can you prove that you was the wife of the soldier previous to 1794. by Henry Norman in
William County [sic: Williamson County IL] if living – by whom can you proove the date of your

husbands death. by Nancy Grisson. I have lived a widdow ever sense the death of my said Husband how
long have you lived in the state and where did your move from here. I have lived in Ills twenty two or
three years and removed from Dickson County tenn

She further declares that she was married to the said paul Abney some time in march in the year
seventeen hundred and eighty five in the County of Greenville South Carolina but cant rember the Esquire
name and that her husband the aforesaid died on the 15 day of June one thousand eight hundred and
fifteen and that she still remains his widdow She farther declares that she was not married to the said
Paul Abney prior to his leaving the services but that the marriage took place previous to the first day of
January, seventeen hundred and ninty four at the time aforesaid Subscribed and sworn to before me on
the day and year of our lord first above written Rhody herXmark Abney

I do certify that I know Pall Abner was a Soldier in the last warr with Great Brittan. I know that
he served for during the warr in the 14 Virginia Redgmt. Given under my hand this 2^d. day of Feby
1812. [Chester District SC] Herod Gibbe Lt 15th V. Regt

I do herby certify that I know Pall Abner as a soldier in the Late warr with Great Brittan I know
he served for three years in the Fourteenth Virginia Redgmt on Continental Establishment. Given from
under my hand this 27 day of Janu'y. 1812. [Union District SC] Hugh Norvell Corporal in the 14th Reg't.

I do hearby certify that I knew Pall Abner as a private in the last warr with Great Brittan I know
he serv'd during the warr in the 14th Virginia Redgmt in the Infantry on Continental Establishment.
Given under my hand this 3rd day of Feby 1812 [Fairfield District SC] Thomas Wills SG4VR't[?]

State of Illinois } SS personally appeared before the subscriber one of the Justices in and for
Williamson County } said County Henry Norman and after being by me dewly sworn on his

oath deposeth and says that he became acquainted with the above named Paul Abney shortly after the revolutionary war have frequently heard him tell about being in the battle of the Sand [sic: Sand Hills below] have heard him say that he enlisted for during the war as a privet soldier I believe. have frequently heard him say that he was shot threw the boddy at the battle of Guilford [Guilford Courthouse NC, 15 Nov 1781] or brandywine [11 Sep 1777] have frequeently saw the wound or scar in his breast bone was acquainted with him while single and was at his wedding when he was married to the said Rhody Abney but dont rember the Esquires name that married them it was in Greenville County South Carolina and about the year of seventeen hundred and eighty five and in the spring of that year and have been acquainted with the said Rhody from that time up to the present
Sworn to and subscribed before me this 16th of April eighteen hundred and forty seven Henry Norman

State of Illinois } SS

Jefferson County } personally appeered before the subscriber an acting Justice of the peace in and for said County Joshua Abney and after being by me dewly sworn on his oath deposeth and says that he was well acquanted with the above discribed paul Abney husband of the above named Rhody Abney the maker of the foregoing declaration was acquainted with him when he enlisted as a regular soldier at the house of Alexander Fretwells Albemarl County Virginia six miles from Charlettsvill [sic: Charlottesville] saw him afterwards on a line of marching in the service of the united states saw him a bout eighteen months afterwards of twenty or thirty days furlow saw and heard it read he again returned to the army he was in the battle of Brandywine and uetaw spring [sic: Eutaw Springs SC, 8 Sep 1781] and Gilford Corthouse and the Sand hills [possibly Battle of Hobkirk Hill, 25 Apr 1781] was wounded I believe in the battle of Gilfort Corthouse [see endnote] was shot in the lower part of the breast bone and out three ribs have saw the place frequently he enlisted for during the war and believe he served seven years in the war have heard him say that he received some small office during his servis in the army but cant rember what office and he died some time in June eighteen hundred and fifteen
sworn to and subscribed before me this 23rd day of April 1847 Joshua hisXmark Abney

State of Illinois } SS Personally appeared before the subscriber Sterling Hill one of the Justices of the William County } peace in and for said County Henry Norman and after being by me duely sworn according to Law doth on his oath depose and say that Rhody Abney who made a declaration before David Upchurch one of the Judges of the Cort in and for Gallatin County on the [blank] day of April last in order to obtain the benefits of the law granting pensions to certain widdows is the widdow of the identical man commonly called Paul Abner I was well acquainted with him for many years of his life. immediatly after he left the army of the revolution he the said Paul Abner or Paul Abney put up a black smith shop near my Fathers door[?] and not being able to write he employed my Father for his Clerk who kept his Books for several years during which time he married the foresaid Rhody Abney her maid name was Rhody Norman the daughter of Eli and Sary Ann Norman. the said Paul Abney was most generally known as Paul Abner it was the way that he spoke his name and consequently others generally called him Abner I for years use to frequent his Shop have frequently put my finger on the hole where he was wounded in the breast bone at the lower edge was present when him and the said Rhody was married am still acquainted with his widow and there children they still pass most generally by the name of Abner though they at this time spell there name Abney – Sworn to and subscribed before me this the nineteenth day of June one thousand eight hundred and forty seven Henry Norman

NOTES:

A size roll compiled at Chesterfield Courthouse after 1 Sep 1780 includes the following: Paul Abner/ age 21/ height 5' 10"/ B. Smith/ born and residing in Albemarle County/ light hair/ hazel eyes/ dark complexion/ enlisted Dec 1777 for the duration of the war/ "Deserted Dec'r."

It is unlikely that Abney was wounded as described at the Battle of Guilford Courthouse and recovered in time for further duty in 1781. More likely he was wounded at the Battle of Brandywine.

On 5 Oct 1847 Henry Norman, born in North Carolina in 1773, deposed that about 18 years after Paul and Rhoda Abney were married he and they moved to Tennessee, and that they had four sons under Andrew Jackson in the War of 1812. Norman further stated that Abney "was a man of lite complexion had fair eyes and fair hair and was after he got his groth a stout heavy built man near six feet high." Another document states that Rhoda Norman was born in Dec 1768 and died 20 Jan 1856.

The family record written on blank pages of a New Testament printed in 1795 appears as follows:

Ages of Paul and Rodah Abney

Thomas Abney was born December the 3^d. 1785

John Abney was born January 2^d 1788

William Abney was born February 3rd 1790

Elias Abney was born January 23 1792

Ab Abney was born November 14th. 1795

Michael Abeney was born No the 15 1797

Joshua Abney was born December [?] 1799

Nancy Abney was born February [?] 1801

Deleah Abney was born May 18th 1806

Henry Abney was born August 1809

Mathy Abney was born August 14[?]. 1811

[New page. Abner Abney of Saline County IL deposed that the names and dates on this page are those of his children recorded soon after their births.]

William Abney was born October 1st. 1814

Patsey Abney was born May 14th 1817

Rody Abney was born January 22^d 1819

Sarah Abney was born May 28th 1821

Willis Abney was born February 22 1825

Charity Abney was born May 14th 1827

Jonathan Abney was born Oct 18th 1829