

[Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters](#)

Pension Application of Joseph Cole W347 Sarah Cole VA
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

[Punctuation partly corrected.]

State of Tennessee: Wilson County

On this 24th day of May Eighteen Hundred and fifty one, personally appeared before the subscriber, a Justice of the Peace, in and for said County & State, Sarah Cole, a resident of the aforesaid County and State, aged ninety one, years, who being first duly sworn according to law doth, on her oath, make the following Declaration, in order to obtain the benefit made by the Acts of Congress passed July 4th 1836, July 7th 1838, March 3^d 1843, June 17th 1844 and February 2^d 1848 for the benefit of certain widows. That she is the Widow of Joseph Cole, who was an orderly Sergeant in the Service of the United States during the Revolutionary War from the State of Virginia, that her husband the said Joseph Cole entered the Service as an enlisted Soldier for a term of three years and was placed under General Washington, that she can not now recollect the names of his Captain or Colonel or the number of his Regiment, although she has often heard her husband give their names, she has no doubt, but distinctly remembers hearing her husband say that after his enlistment, which she thinks was in the latter part of the year Seventeen Hundred and Seventy Six (1776) he was marched to the North under General Washington, where he was engaged in various battles, among which she remember having heard his speak often of Germantown [4 Oct 1777] and Brandywine [11 Sep 1777]. she also thinks that he was at the Battle of Princeton [3 Jan 1777], having always understood from him that he was among the first enlisted Soldiers from Virginia, that she has often heard him speak of the hardship which he suffered while stationed with General Washington at Valley Forge during one of the Winters [1777-78] in which he was in the service, that he spoke of the troops stationed there, having been almost without clothes or shoes, that he himself suffered greatly from cold, so much so that knots were raised upon his breast as large as chestnuts, which he said were occasioned by exposure while in camp that he continued in service until the termination of his engagement, when he was honorably discharged, that during his service his father removed from the State of Virginia to the eastern portion of the Territory of North Carolina then called Tennessee; that after his discharge he came out to his Father's in Sullivan County, Tennessee in the early part of the year Seventeen Hundred and seventy nine, where Declarant became acquainted with the said Joseph Cole. She further declares that she was married to the said Joseph Cole in said Sullivan County on the 30th day of November Seventeen Hundred and seventy nine, that her husband, the aforesaid Joseph Cole shortly after their marriage, (the Indians and Tories being very bad on the Frontier) was drafted or volunteered to guard the Frontier for three months under Captain Martin, that at the expiration of the three months tour he returned home. this was in the year Seventeen Hundred and eighty (1780), after which he remained at home but a short time when he was again called out for another three months tour under Captain Martin, which he performed against the Indians and Tories on the Frontier; this was also in the year Seventeen Hundred and eighty (1780), that after he returned home this tour, he remained at home some two months, when the Indians became very troublesome, when he again went out against them as Captain of a volunteer Company which he raised for a tour of three months, which term he faithfully performed. she thinks that in this tour he was under Command of Colonel [John] Sevier and that it was in the year Seventeen Hundred and eighty one (1781) she further states that prior to her marriage with the said Joseph Cole her name was Sarah Barton, that the first child of her self and her husband aforesaid was born on the 21st day of December Seventeen Hundred and Eighty (1780). she further states that her husband the aforesaid Joseph Cole died on the 28th day of November in the year Eighteen Hundred and twenty two [sic], and that she has remained a Widow since that period, as will more fully appear by reference to the proof hereto annexed. That she was married by one William Wallace a Justice of the

Peace. she further declares that she has no record or other documentary proof of her marriage or in support of her claim except her old original Family record, which was taken many years ago to the Western Portion of the State by her daughter Mrs Bloodworth, in whose possession she supposes it is still, but does not know, and that all other original papers left by her husband at his death have been destroyed by her children and grandchildren and that she has never before applied for a Pension.

Sarah herXmark Cole

NOTE:

On 23 Sep 1851 George F. McWhirter, 64, of Davidson County TN, stated that Joseph Cole "lost one of his eyes, while he was engaged in some battle with the enemy."

The file includes a copy of the last will and testament of Joseph Cole dated 22 Nov 1823 with the following provisions:

To wife Sally Cole 150 acres of the land on which he lived, "a negro man by the name of Dick, a woman by the name of Rachael, and a girl by the name of Chancy," as well as stock and household furnishings.

To daughter Frances Bloodworth "a negro girl by the name of Silvey" and \$143 loaned to William Bloodworth.

To children of Frances Bloodworth "two girls one by the name of Charlotte and one by the name of Sirene."

To daughter Jemima Word "one negro girl by the name of Lucinda."

To son Elisha Cole "a negro boy by the name of Bob," a bed and furniture, and a cow and calf.

To son David Cole "a negro boy by the name of Robin," to be divided among his children after his death, as well as a horse.

To son James Cole "a negro boy by the name of Simon," a bed and furniture, and a cow and calf.

To William Cole's two daughters, Sally and Frances, "a negro girl by the name of Milly," and a bed and furniture.

"[T]he following negroes shall be sold at a twelve months credit, to wit Fan, Kaisey, Cherry and Jane," as well as the remaining horses, cattle, and land.

The will was signed "John hisCmark Cole" and proved in December 1823.

On 29 May 1851 Jemima Word stated that she was the fourth child of Joseph and Sarah Cole and had understood from her father and grandparents that Joseph Cole had moved from Maryland to Virginia and was a Revolutionary soldier from one of those states, and that he had said that "the soldiers had to march over the frozen ground, when they might have been tracked by the blood from their feet.." She also stated that the first child of her parents was William Cole. She also stated that the extract transcribed below was from an original family record.

29th August 1760 Sary Cole was born

Elizabeth Word was Born [the rest missing]

Wm Word Was Borne January 29th 1786

Jemima Word was Borne August 9th 1788[?]