

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters

Pension Application of John Toney W9859 Martha Toney NC
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. Revised 6 July 2015.

State of North Carolina }
County of Halifax }

on this 14th day of August 1838 personally appeared before me a Justice of the Peace for the County & State above written Martha Toney a resident of the County of Halifax and State of North Carolina aged to the best of her knowledge Eighty Five or Six years who, being first duly sworn according to Law, doth, on her oath make the following declaration, in order to obtain the benefit of the provision made by the act of Congress passed July 4th 1836. That she is the widow of John Toney who was a soldier of the Revolution and served as such in the militia and regular service for the best part of the war. She is unable to state the names of the officers he served under but she well knows that he was for several years under the command of General [Jethro] Sumner and served as much as five years.

She further declares that she was married to the said John Toney in the month of May Seventeen Hundred & Seventy Seven by Col James Allen a Justice of the Peace on the upper end of the county of Halifax. That her husband, the aforesaid John Toney died in the month of november 1823 and that she has remained a widow ever since that period, as will more fully appear by reference to the proof hereto annexed
Martha herXmark Toney

State of North Carolina }
County of Halifax }

The affidavit of Nathan Baker a citizen of the county and state above written taken to establish the right of Martha Toney wife of John Toney to the benefit of the act of Congress granting pensions to the widows of Revolutionary soldiers passed 4th of July 1836.

This affiant being first duly sworn according to Law testafies and says that he is now in the 70th year of his age. That he has resided in this county for the last Sixty five or Sixty six years, and from the earliest period of his recollection he has known John Toney and his wife. This affiant has no knowledge of the period of the marriage of John Toney to his wife now applying for a Pension But he is fully persuaded that she was married long before the close of the Revolution for the following reasons. 1st This affiant is now Seventy years of age and he was at the same school with one of the children of John Toney who if alive could not be less than Fifty Eight or Sixty years of age. This affiant well recollects that John Toney was at Guildford Cort House [sic: Battle of Guilford Courthouse NC, 15 Mar 1781] and ran home and was taken and made to serve to the end of the war.

This affiant knows that Martha Toney has never married since the death of her husband John Toney. Given under my hand & seal this 11th day of August 1838. [signed] Nathan Baker

State of North Carolina }
County of Halifax }

The affidavit of Mrs Winney Holly of the County & State above written taken to prove the marriage of John Toney with his wife Martha Carpenter.

This affiant being first duly sworn according to Law testifies and says that she is now in the Seventy Eighth year of her age. That Martha Carpenter resided with her mother, and was to the knowledge of this affiant married to John Toney in the spring of the year Seventeen Hundred and Seventy Seven by Col James Allen. This affiant was not present at the marriage but she was close by and saw them when they returned. She has known from her earliest recollection John Toney & his wife and resided in the same neighbourhood with him up to the time of his death and ever since near his Widow.

This affiant testifies that John Toney and his wife were married in the spring of 1777 and before the close of the Revolution his wife had Two children. John Toney was in service the best part of his

time, and this affiant well recollects seeing him on his return home on one occasion and of his finding his wife at work in the field. She also testifies that Martha Toney now applying for a Pension is the identical person known to her in 1777 and then married to John Toney & that to her knowledge she has been a widow ever since the death of the said John Toney

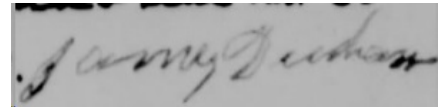
Sworn to and subscribed before me this 14th day of August 1838

Winney herXmark Holley

State of North Carolina }
Warren County }

This day personally appeared before me a Justice of the Peace James Durham a Pensioner of the United States [application S8371] aged 80 years who being first duly sworn according to Law Testafies and says that he first knew John Toney immediately before the defeat of Genl [Horatio] Gates near Camden [Battle of Camden SC, 16 Aug 1780] he was then in the regular service and under the command of Captn [Edward] Yarborough it was in the month of august 1780. he next saw John Toney immediately after the Battle of Guildford Court House he was then in service under Captn Yarborough in 1781 and in the fall of that year and immediately after the British left Halifax this affiant being then in service again met with John Toney at the Town of Halifax under the command of a Captn Bush who was a regular officer. The said John Toney was still in service until the month of March or april of 1782. This affiant is confident that John Toney served two years but knows he served at least one year and nine or ten months. He knew John Toney after he left the service and what impresses the fact on his mind is that he had a difficulty with him when at Halifax in service and this applicant struck him with a musket. This affiant has no knowledge of his marriage or the time it took place.

Given under my hand & seal this 26th day of Sepr 1838.



State of North Carolina

Secretary of State's Office

I William Hill Secretary of State in and for the State aforesaid do hereby certify that it appears from the musterrolls of the Continental line of this State in the revolutionary war, that John Toney a private Soldier in Cap't Yarborough's Company of the 10th Regiment, was enrolled for the term of 12 months some time in the year 1781 (the month nor day not mentioned) and that he was omitted on the 1st day of April 1782.

Given under my hand this 26th day of October 1838. W. Hill

NOTE: The 1820 federal census of Halifax County NC lists John Toney as head of a household of "Free Colored Persons." On 20 Jul 1836 W. T. Harris of Eads TN wrote to the Veterans Administration for information about Toney, stating in part, "According to tradition, John Toney was an Indian man – described as a 'man of colour' and nothing know we of his parentage.... As a direct source of information, I am enclosing the copy of the original Blue print, which we received from the state of N. C. through the exertion of tireless efforts after an advertisement appeared in an Arkansas news paper advising all Indians that had claims against the U. S. Government to send their claims in."