

Pension Application for John Atkerson

W.15115

Mary Neale or M'Neale (Former Widow)

This woman was also pensioned as the widow of her other husband, James Neale, Neal, or M'Neale, Continental Mass. W.13759. Atkerson was a Gunner in the company of Captain Treadwell in the Mass. Line. He served on the Continental Line and as a Privateer.

Commonwealth of Massachusetts

County of Bristol SS.

On this twentieth day of April in the year of our Lord one thousand Eight hundred and thirty seven, personally appeared before me, John M Williams, a resident in said County of Bristol, and one of the Judges of the Court of Common Pleas in and for the state of Massachusetts, Mary Neale a Resident of Somerset in the County of Bristol and State of Massachusetts, aged eighty 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 and that act explanatory of said Act passed March 3d 1837.

That she was married to John Atkerson who was a private in the American Army in the war of the Revolution. That according to the best of her Recollection, the said John Atkerson enlisted in the service of the United States in the Spring in the year 1777, in Malden in the vicinity of Boston in the State of Massachusetts, and served in a company commanded by Capt. Treadwell and in Col. Crane's Regiment; that he marched from Boston to the State of New York and served there and in other places, three years, and was discharged in the Spring of the year 1780; according to the best of her Recollection and belief he served as a private of Artillery; that she does not know whether he was in any Battles during said Campaigns and does not know all the Section of Country through which he marched, but she knows that he served the three years from the fact, that she received the gratuity of fifty dollars from this Commonwealth which was granted only to those soldiers (and their heirs) who served three years or two and a half years); that she has no documentary evidence to support her claim.

She further declares that she was married to the said John Atkerson in the month of January in the year Seventeen hundred and Seventy seven; that her husband, the aforesaid John Atkerson died in the month of July in the year Seventeen hundred and Eighty-one; That she was afterwards married to James Neale in the month of June in the year Seventeen hundred and Eighty five, who died on the twenty sixth day of October 1832, and that she was a widow on the 4th of July 1836 and still remained a widow, as will more fully appear by reference to the proof hereunto annexed.

(Signed) Mary Neale

Sworn and Subscribed on the day and yea above written before me. John M. Williams, Judge of C.C. Pleas. April 20, 1837, John M. Williams Judge of C.C. Pleas.

Royal Blethins

I Royal Blethins of Somerset in the County of Bristol and State of Massachusetts, aged Seventy five years do testify and say.

That I have been acquainted with Mary Neale for more than Sixty years, and firmly believe that she was lawfully married to John Atkerson and that said Atkerson after the said marriage served in the Army of the Revolution for the term of three years or thereabouts, which belief is founded upon the following circumstances, to wit:

I lived with my mother during the War of the Revolution, and in the early part of the War Mary Brown (now Mary Neale) lived with my mother and John Atkerson came to board in the family, it was soon a subject of common report that the said Atkerson was about to be married to Mary Brown, and the day was fixed upon for the wedding, Mary Brown left my mothers [mother's] and went home to her fathers [fathers's] house about thirty rods distant, and on the day appointed for the wedding, Atkerson also left my mothers, as for the purpose (as was said) of being married to the said Mary,--I saw people going to the wedding, and the marriage ceremony (it was said) was performed by Jerathmel Bowers Esquire.

On the night previous to the marriage my brother Joseph died, which prevented our family from attending the wedding. The death of my brother Joseph took place, as near as I am able to determine about the twentieth of January in the year seventeen hundred and seventy seven.

Soon after the marriage Atkerson and his wife commenced housekeeping together in the same neighborhood and I have never known the fact or the legality of the marriage to be doubted by any one.

After they has kept house for a short time, Atkerson left home and was absent about three years, when he returned ti was reported (and not doubted to my knowledge) that he had served three years in the army during his absence, that he had received his pay in State Securities which he was not able to sell here, and that being distressed in regard to the means of living, he went to Boston and sold his Securities for about thirty dollars. Atkerson afterwards went to Sea in a Letter of Marque and the report was that he was taken prisoner, and was shot while endeavoring to make his escape from Jamaica.

His widow was afterwards married to James Neale who has since died, and she now remains the widow of said Neale.

Atkerson was called a Scotchman and from what I can recollect of his history I suppose that he deserted from the British service, and resided for some time near Boston, an then came to Swansey (now Somerset) where the marriage as I have before related soon afterwards took place. (Signed) Royal Blethins

Before me Wheaton Luther, Justice of the Peace.