

State of North Carolina

	Provincial	Surgeons	Savages	Civil	Court
Major John Fellows	£920				
By Amount brought forward	£920				
By James Kelley . . . 140 Days	2/ 4				
By Benj. ^W Simonson . 40	2/ 4				
By Robert Harper . . . 40	2/ 4				
By John Sanderson . . 40	2/ 4				
By James Trenhorn . 40	2/ 4				
By Michael Cornelius . 40	2/ 4				
By William Simonson . 40	2/ 4				
By Geo. Kells 40	2/ 4				
By Jarvis Tellingham . . 40	2/ 4				
By John Williams . . . 40	2/ 4				
By Thomas King . . . 40	2/ 4				
By Peter Karsens . . . 40	2/ 4				
By Southy Pittman . . . 40	2/ 4				
By Morgan Nixons . . . 40	2/ 4				
By John Boyd 40	2/ 4				
By Joseph Peirce . . . 40	2/ 4				
By Stephen Gyles . . . 40	2/ 4				
By Major Ruffel . . . 40	2/ 4				
By John Ruffel 40	2/ 4				
By Benjamin Mason . 40	2/ 4				
By Jeremiah Barnes . 40	2/ 4				
By Eli Hudson 40	2/ 4				
By Jacob Willis 40	2/ 4				
By Joshua Lindsay . . 40	2/ 4				
By Joshua Carter . . . 40	2/ 4				
By Isaac Carter 40	2/ 4				
By Robert Stinger . . . 40	2/ 4				
By William Cadet . . . 40	2/ 4				
By David Conn 13	2/ 11 6				
By Joseph Karsens . . . 13	2/ 11 6				
By John Clemmends . . 40	2/ 4				
By William Jones . . . 40	2/ 4				
By James Seales 40	2/ 4				
By Elisha Beasley . . . 40	2/ 4				
By David Rensdy . . . 40	2/ 4				
By Shadrack Twinnely . 40	2/ 4				
By Malachiiah Ruffel . 40	2/ 4				
By Samuel Kent 40	2/ 4				
By John Sheen 40	2/ 4				
By John Peirce 40	2/ 4				
By Jonathan Morris . 40	2/ 4				
By Samuel Truck 40	2/ 4				
By Luke Torgue 40	2/ 4				
By Moses Dickson . . . 40	2/ 4				
By Ephraim Pagar . . . 40	2/ 4				
By Abram Taylor 40	2/ 4				
By Martin Black 40	2/ 4				
Amount Carried Forward	£1102 12				

Martin Black maketh Oath, that he is at this time and always has been a resident citizen of the State of North Carolina. He enlisted as a Soldier in the Continental line of the State of North Carolina during the war of the Revolution. he enlisted at New bern and was marched with others under the Command of Colonel Ben Sheppard [sic: Abraham Shepard] as a part of the tenth Regiment as he believes to Georgetown on the Potomack [sic: Potomac River] at which place the soldiers were inoculated for the small pox. From Georgetown he marched to Valley Forge in Pennsylvania where the American Army were encamped [winter 1777-78] under General Washington, while the enemy were in Philadelphia. He was in the battle at Monmouth [28 Jun 1778], at the Storming of Stoney point [Stony Point NY, 16 Jul 1779] and at the capture of West point. from West point he went with the Army to Albany & marched thence in the Brigade of General Hogan [sic: James Hogun] to Charleston. He was a prisoner at Charleston with the army surrendered there [12 May 1780] but escaped on the seventh day & returned to New bern North Carolina. From his first enlisment as above mentioned to the return to Newbern, he served three years. After remaining at home a few days [sic] he enlisted as a soldier in Captain Benj. Colemans [Benjamin Coleman's] company as an Eighteen months man in the Continental line of North Carolina, marched to Charleston where he remained with the army there encamped until the Peace, when the army entered the City as the British evacuated it [14 Dec 1782], & in a few weeks after was discharged. deponent believes he is now sixty seven years of age. he is in reduced circumstances without property & dependent on his labor for support. He needs the assistance of his Country, and will gladly receive the benefit of the Act of Congress, entitled "An act to provide for certain persons engaged in the land and naval service of the United States in the Revolutionary War" 22 nd April 1818 Martin hisXmark Black

SECONDARY SOURCES

Martin Black



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Black, Martin

Date: January 2024

By [Kassa, Kemisa](#); Revised by SLNC Government & Heritage Library, April 2024

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Martin Black was a Black soldier, prisoner of war, and landowner during the American Revolution. He was born free around the year 1751 in Craven County, North Carolina. He was the son of Elizabeth “Betty” and Peter Black. Elizabeth died in 1772, and her estate paid Martin “8 shillings” to bury her the same year.

Black also bought and sold land in Craven County after his mother died. Black sold 90 acres “on the east side of Hancock's Creek on Cahoque Creek" in Craven County to a William Dove in February 1775. Little else is known about Martin’s life before he served as a soldier in the American Revolution.

Black also fought as a Patriot during the American Revolution. Black served in Stevenson's Company of the North Carolina Continental Line (the Tenth North Carolina regiment). Black enlisted on May 16th, 1777, in New Bern, North Carolina. He was enlisted in the regiment for three years. Black’s pension application stated he “...was marched with others under the Command of Colonel Ben Sheppard [sic: Abraham Shepard] as a part of the tenth Regiment as he believes to Georgetown on the Potomack at which place the soldiers were inoculated for the small pox.” From Georgetown, the soldiers marched to Valley Forge. There, Black was moved from the Tenth to the Second North Carolina Regiment. Black was transferred with other soldiers to help with deficiencies in the Second Regiment. He received a monthly payment of \$8 for his service to the Continental Line.

Under the command of Colonel Abraham Sheppard on July 16, 1779, Black fought in a skirmish against the British troops near Stony Point, New York. On May 12, 1780, the Second North Carolina Regiment surrendered to the British army at the Fall of Charleston. Black was included in this surrender and was captured as a prisoner of war. He escaped after seven days and returned to New Bern. "After remaining at home a few days," Black re-entered military service. He enlisted in Captain Benjamin Coleman's Company as an "Eighteen-month-man." With the Company, Black "marched to Charleston where he remained with the army there encamped until the Peace, when the army entered the City as the British evacuated it" on December 14, 1782. A few weeks later, Black was discharged from military service.

After the war, Black married Anne Moore on April 12, 1784. Black and Moore had at least two children: Keziah (Black) Martin and William Black.

Later in Martin's life, two of his children, likely William and Keziah, were also placed into an involuntary apprentice bond. According to court proceedings, Benjamin Borden, an enslaver and planter in Craven County, took the children into bondage without Black's permission or knowledge. The minutes from Craven County court's March 1811 session documented the legal suit. They stated that Martin Black:

"...appeared and stated [in court] that during the present term two of his children had without his knowledge and consent been bound to Benjamin Borden, that said children were free and born in lawful Wedlock."

The court suspended Borden's apprenticeship order. The matter was likely handled outside of the courts as there were no further court records of Borden v Black.

Martin Black died sometime between September and November of 1821. Black's will was dated September 16, 1821. It was probated on November 7, 1821. In his will, he left his son William a total of \$10 to be paid by the executor of his estate. Keziah's husband, Samuel Martin, was also willed a musket and was made the executor of Black's will.

NORTH-CAROLINA, Newbern District, No. 2337.

THIS may certify, that, agreeable to an Act of Assembly passed in the Year 1781, *Isaac Carter* of *Crawford* County, is allowed in *Specie*, *one pound* of *Militia Duty*

Dated this *20th* Day of *February* 178*4*

Wm. Coor { Dist.
John Hawks { Aud.
Clerk, }

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SECONDARY SOURCES

Isaac Carter



There is disagreement as to whether our Isaac was the son of an earlier Isaac, as the authors below believe, or Abel Carter. The records indicate that both men served in the Craven County Militia in the 1750s and it is possible that Abel and the earlier Isaac are, in fact, the same man. In any case there is no dispute about Harlowe's "Isaac Carter's" service and it is important to note that his relationships with Joshua Carter (probably his brother), William Dove (his neighbor), and Isaac Perkins (his brother-in-law and neighbor), all of whom are shown on the memorial plaque, are mentioned. Below is the biography of Isaac Carter from the book "African-American Patriots in the Southern Campaign of the American Revolution" by Bobby G. Moss & Michael C. Scoggins. He was born c. 1760 and was a "free Mulatto" from Craven County, North Carolina and was probably related to Joshua Carter. He was probably the son of Isaac Carter who served in the Craven County Militia Regiment commanded by Col. Edward Grifith, and whose name appeared on "A List of the Company of Foot from Mr. James MacKilwean's Mill on Maule's Run and Upwards to Ye County Line between Craven and Johnston Counties," commanded by Capt. Lewis Bryan, dated 25 October 1754. On 1 September, 1777, he enlisted as a private in the 10th North Carolina Regiment under Capt. Silas Stephenson (Stevenson) and Col. Abraham Sheppard (Shepard), for three years or the duration of the war. In the winter of 1778, Isaac Carter served under Capt. John Tillman (or Tilghman) in the garrison of Fort Hancock at Cape Lookout, North Carolina, along with Joshua Carter, William Dove and Isaac Perkins. Tillman's men were enlisted for a period of one year and remained on duty at the fort for a total of two years. As far as is known, there was no contact with the British army or navy during this period. In June 1783, Carter left his regiment. In 1785, he received comptroller's ofce certficate number 4409 for militia service in the Wilmington District during the Revolution...

He was listed as a free Negro in the North Carolina 1790 census Craven County, with a family of five. Among his neighbors were William Dove and Isaac Perkins. This black Isaac Carter has been confused with several white soldiers named Isaac Carter who also served in the Revolution, especially Isaac Carter from Gates County, NC, whose military service in the 8th North Carolina Regiment has been erroneously equated with the service of Isaac Carter from Craven County...

Background

The SAR is the leading male lineage society that perpetuates the ideals of our war for independence. We seek to maintain and expand the meaning of patriotism, respect for our national symbols, the value of American citizenship and the unifying force of “e pluribus unum” that was created from the people of many nations— one nation and one people. In pursuing these goals, we realized some years ago that the contributions of the many African-American Patriots during the Revolution had been under-represented in American history. The chartering of the Patriot Isaac Carter Chapter is the latest step in our process of correcting this obvious failure of understanding of our shared history. Isaac Carter was one of fourteen Patriots from the Harlowe communities that served the cause of independence during the American Revolution. In an earlier step aimed at correcting history, the NCSSAR dedicated a memorial marker to these “Forgotten Patriots” on March 16, 2014 at the Havelock-Harlowe Senior Center. The four small communities that make up what is now known as the Harlowe area were settled by a group of FREE African-American families who came from Virginia and Maryland well before the American Revolution. In the absence of documented historical research, we don’t know exactly when these families reached the Harlowe area, but they were certainly here in the 1750’s. Even this makes the settlements of the Harlowe area among the earliest free African-American settlements in North Carolina. But they MAY have arrived in the Harlowe area as many as thirty years prior to the 1750’s. Whenever these families arrived in the Harlowe area, their story is a part of the early settlement of North Carolina that is rarely told – but it is a story that needs to be told! We are sure that you will agree that the people who first settled the Harlowe area and then sent fourteen of their sons, husbands, and fathers to fight for American independence deserve to have their stories told. We believe that the formation of the Patriot Isaac Carter Chapter is a step in that direction and we hope that you will join us in our celebration of its formation.