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I Phillis Tatton of Lebanon County of New London, State of Connecticut aged ninety two years, depose and say in oath that I am and have been for more than forty five years last past the widow of Anthony Tatton deceased, previous to my marriage with whom, I was the widow of Cuff Wells alias Cuff Saunders, commonly call<sup>d</sup> Doctor Cuff, who died at said Lebanon Dec. 1788 of the influenza. That my said husband Doct Cuff was a slave to Isaiah Wells of Colechester, and in order to attain his freedom, enlisted into army of the United States for during the war, that we had been acquainted with each other for some time before he enlisted, and joined the army, was in the habit of coming home occasionally in furlough, and always call<sup>d</sup> to see me. but [But] we could not obtain the consent of my old mistress Mrs. Elizabeth Hinckley to our marriage until April 1783 I then got Mr. John Shapley who had been a clerk to my Master Hinckley in his life time, to write to Cuff, who was then serving as a waiter to the surgeon[sic] at the Hospital of the United States at Danbury and inform him, that my Mistress has given her consent for us to marry and request him to get furlough for a short time and come home which he did and we were joined in marriage the first week in May 1783 by the Rev Mr. Hones that my said husband Doct Cuff then after went back to Danbury and remained in military service of the United States until late in the fall after to wit<sup>2</sup> 1783 that he then returned home with a soldier note, as he call<sup>d</sup> it, for some one hundred dollars, or thirty pounds which he said he received ----- for serving faithfully during the war. With this note he purchased three acres of land of Jonathan Webster in said

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<sup>1</sup> Superscript. Read as "Called."

<sup>2</sup> Phrase that means, "that is to say" or "namely."

Lebanon, on which he built a small house the year after he left the army, into which we mov'd<sup>3</sup> and their lived together until his death in December 1788. . . There is one circumstance which took place which I well remember – before my husband let Mr. Webster have his soldier note the late Gen Henry Champion call<sup>d</sup> on him to buy it but as he would not offer trifle for it Cuff told him in my hearing that he should not have it, and afterwards he let Mr. have it for the land as above stated [no period] That I was married to Anthony Tatton in Jan'y<sup>4</sup> 1791 by the late Peter Thomas Esq<sup>5</sup> that the said Anthony died a few years after our marriage, that I have remained ever since his death, and still am a Widow wholly destitute of property, and dependent on my only child now living for my support, and have been dependent for more than twenty years last past that the late Prince Saunders who died at Hayte<sup>6</sup>

[2]

in February 1839 and was Attorney General of the Island at the time of his death, was a son of mine by my first husband the said Cuff Saunders....From whom I expected to receive some assistance, but find I am not likely to obtain any thing from that quarter.

her

Sworn and subscribed this 28<sup>th</sup> .. day

Phillis X Tatton

of November AD 1840

mark

before me Frederic Morgan Justice of Peace

New London's County fs. Lebanon November 28<sup>th</sup> ,, 1840, Personally appeared the above names

Phillis Tatton, known to the subscriber as a person of good character, for truth and veracity, who

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<sup>3</sup> Abbreviation of "moved."

<sup>4</sup> Abbreviation of "January."

<sup>5</sup> Abbreviation of "Esquire."

<sup>6</sup> Haiti. Prince Saunders was a prominent advocate for the education of African Americans and for the colonization of African Americans in Haiti during his lifetime. T. Wang, "Prince Saunders," *Black Past*, June 17, 2008, <https://www.blackpast.org/african-american-history/prince-saunders-1775-1839/>

after being duly cautioned, and closely examined, and having exhibited evidence of uncommon intelligence; and remarkable tenacity and memory, made solemn oath to the truth of the foregoing statement of the facts by her subscribed.

Before me Frederic Morgan Justice of the Peace

I Phillis Totton of Lebanon, County of New London, State of Connecticut aged ninety two years, depose and say on oath that I am and have been for more than forty five years last past the widow of Anthony Totton deceased, previous to my marriage with whom I was the widow of Guff Wells alias Guff Saunders, commonly call'd Doctor Guff, who died at said Lebanon Decr. 1788 of the Influenza that my said husband (Doct: Guff) was a slave to Isaac Wells of Colchester, and in order to obtain his freedom, enlisted into the army of the United States for during the war, that we had been acquainted with each other for some time before he enlisted, and had agreed to be married, that the s<sup>d</sup> Doct: Guff after he joined the army, was in the habit of coming home occasionally in furlough, and always call'd to see me, but we could not obtain the consent of my old mistress M<sup>rs</sup> Elizabeth Hinckley to our marriage, untill April 1783 - I then got M<sup>rs</sup> John Shapley, who had been a clerk to my Master Hinckley in his life time, to write to Guff, who was then serving as a waster to the surgeons at the Hospital of the United States at Danbury and inform him, that my Mistress has given her consent for us to marry, and request him to get a furlough for a short time and come home, which he did, and we were join'd in marriage the first week in May 1783 by the Rev<sup>d</sup> M<sup>r</sup> Stone that my said husband (Doct: Guff) soon after went back to Danbury and remained in the military service of the United States untill late in the fall after to wit 1783 - that he then returned home with a Soldier's note (as he call'd it) for one hundred and thirty pounds which he said he received - for serving faithfully during the war, With this note he purchased three acres of land of Jonathan Webster in said Lebanon, on which he built a small house the year after he left the army, into which we mov'd and there lived together untill his death in December 1788. There is one circumstance which I can plainly remember - before my husband let M<sup>r</sup> Webster have his soldier's note, the late Gen<sup>l</sup> Henry Champlain call'd on him to buy it, but as he wou'd not offer but a trifle for it, Guff told him in my hearing that he should not have it, and afterwards he let M<sup>r</sup> Webster have it for the land as above staid - That I was married to Anthony Totton in Janry 1771 by the late Peleg Thomas Esq, that the said Anthony died a few years after our marriage, that I have remain'd ever since his death, and still am a widow wholly destitute of property, and dependant on my only child now living, for my support, and have been so dependant for more than twenty years last past - that the late Prince Saunders who died at Saybrook

in February 1839 and who was Attorney General of the Island  
at the time of his death, was a son of mine by my first husband the  
said Guff Saunders from whom I expected to receive some assistance,  
but find I am not likely to obtain any thing from that quarter,

Sworn and subscribed this 28<sup>th</sup> day <sup>her</sup> Phillis Sallon,  
of November A<sup>D</sup> 1840 <sub>mark</sub>  
Before me Frederic Morgan Justice of the Peace

New London County ss. Lebanon, November 28<sup>th</sup> 1840  
Personally appeared the above named Phillis Sallon, known to the  
subscriber as a person of good character, for truth and veracity, who  
after being duly cautioned, and closely examined, and having  
exhibited evidence of uncommon intelligence, and unshakable  
tenacity and correctness of memory, made solemn oath to the  
truth of the foregoing statements of facts by her subscribed.

Before me Frederic Morgan Justice of the Peace

*Merriam-Webster*, s.v. “to wit ,” accessed March 11, 2020, <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/to%20wit>

Revolutionary War Pension and Bounty-Land Warrant Application Files: Connecticut, (Washington, D.C.: National Archives Microfilm Publication, Records of the Department of Veterans Affairs), Record Group 15, 674-675 in Revolutionary War Pension and Bounty-Land Warrant Application Files 1800-1900, [ancestry.com](http://ancestry.com).