

The Totoket Historical Society, Inc.

**Four Black Slaves in North Branford Named “Dick”**

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by

Theodore Groom, Ph. D.  
Chairman, Technology  
The Totoket Historical Society, Inc.

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## **Introduction:**

Several articles have been written by members of The Totoket Historical Society concerning slaves during the Revolutionary War period. In truth, slaves from New England, North Branford included, played a significant role in the War. Mr. Eugene C. MacMullan has written two such articles concerning Tull Dick, a slave owned by Solomon Rose and Timothy Russell of Branford. Of course, at that time North Branford was a part of Branford. A copy that document follows:

The following document is a digitized copy of an indenture agreement promising freedom to a negro slave, Tull Dick, if he would join the Continental army. Under the agreement he would legally be considered an indentured servant to Lieutenant Mark Mazuzen during the war and would receive his freedom when he reached 21 years of age on May 29, 1782. His original masters, Timothy Russell and Solomon Rose signed the Indenture as did Lieutenant Mazuzen and Tull Dick.

A search of Revolutionary War records shows that Tull Dick enlisted in Hazen's Regiment in New Haven on April 15, 1777, a month before the Indenture was signed. At the time, he was 16 years old. He was removed from the rolls of the regiment on September 11, 1777 with the note that he had probably been killed or captured at the Battle of Brandywine. Lieutenant Mazuzen served in the same regiment and resigned in December, 1777 but later rejoined and served until 1783.

Below is a copy of the original manumission document and following that is Mr. MacMullan's transcription of that document.

This Indenture made between Timothy Buffell, and Solomon Pape  
of Branford in the County of New Haven and State of Connecticut  
on the one part and Masha Mozagan of Branford in the County of  
State afores - Witness -

That we the S<sup>d</sup> Timothy Buffell, and Solomon Pape, Doe by these presents  
put two and bind out <sup>negro</sup> Sull Dick Negro servant to the S<sup>d</sup> Buffell, and Pape,  
to Masha Mozagan sicut in the Continental Service, to serve with him  
in the manner of a bound servant untill he shall arrive to the age  
of Twenty one years, which will be on the 29<sup>th</sup> Day of May A<sup>d</sup> 1782  
And in this S<sup>d</sup> Term of time he shall faithfully his S<sup>d</sup> Masters Service  
and obey, and not absent himself from his S<sup>d</sup> masters Service without  
his leave, and all his Lawfull Commands he shall obey, he shall  
not Imbezil or waste his masters goods or estate, nor suffer any to  
Doe the same without giving Notice thereof to his S<sup>d</sup> Masters

And I the S<sup>d</sup> Masha Mozagan sicut Doe bind myself to provide for the  
S<sup>d</sup> Sull Dick Negro servant to S<sup>d</sup> Buffell & Pape, all necessary meates, and  
Drinks, Cloathing, washing in sickness and in health, and to keep him in Service  
either in the Army of these States, or in Case they was Captive at some other  
diligent attending, untill the 29<sup>th</sup> Day of May A<sup>d</sup> 1782 as aforesaid  
And then at the expiration of S<sup>d</sup> Term of time to Dismiss him from  
my Service, and give him decent Washing Apperell, to all parts of his Body  
And also we the S<sup>d</sup> Timothy Buffell, & Solomon Pape, jointly declare and by  
this Instrument release to this bound servant of ours Sull Dick, after hee  
has faithfully served his S<sup>d</sup> Masters this Time here mentioned, his Liberty &  
Freedom from all bonds or obligations to us, and to be his own Master, and  
As this Indenture is given of him for the Supply purpose of his serving  
in the Continental Army, It also release to S<sup>d</sup> Sull servant, at the Close  
of S<sup>d</sup> War, or Dismission of S<sup>d</sup> Army three 100. Acres of Land promised & given  
by the Continent to such private Soldiers, in Case, the S<sup>d</sup> Sull Dick  
should not live till hee arrives to the age of Twenty one years, or the End  
of the present war, his Master sicut -- Mozagan shall have and be  
Intitled to S<sup>d</sup> Lands and is hereby by us in S<sup>d</sup> Case, Intitled two S<sup>d</sup> Lands  
as his Right and Claim.

Turn over



Brought over

21  
3

In witness whereof we the justices have hereunto set our hands  
and seals this the 29<sup>th</sup> Day of May A. D. 1777. In the second year  
of the Independence of the American States.

Signed Sealed and Delivered

In presence of  
Sam<sup>l</sup> Bello  
Hannah Bello

Sim<sup>l</sup> Puffel

Solomon Rose

Mark Mazuzen

And in consequence of the above freedom to me given in this  
Indenture, by my P<sup>r</sup> Masters Timothy Puffel & Solomon Rose.  
And the same being ratified and confirmed by them in a certain  
Bill of Freedom to me given, and well attested, I do by these  
presents consent and concur, with the above indenture and promise  
for myself carefully to observe & fulfill the same, by serving in  
the Continental Army during the present war, and if that happens  
before I arrive to the age of twenty one to serve out <sup>to</sup> Mark  
Mazuzen, as an indentured apprentice or servant, till I doe arrive  
to P<sup>r</sup> age which will be the 29<sup>th</sup> Day of May Anno Domini, 1782.

The fulfilling the conditions of P<sup>r</sup> Indenture to me as above  
In witness whereof I set my hand and seal the Day and Date  
above mentioned

In presence of  
Sam<sup>l</sup> Bello  
Hannah Bello

Full <sup>his</sup> Sign  
Mark

Mark Mazuzen

2007-001-008

This Indenture made between Timothy Russell and Solomon Rose of Branford in the County of New Haven and the State of Connecticut on the one part and Mark Mazuzen of Branford in the county and state aforesaid, Witnesses:

That we the said Timothy Russell and Solomon Rose do by these presents put to and bind out Tull Dicks, Negro, man servant to us the said Russell and Rose to Mark Mazuzen, Lieut. in the Continental Service, to live with him in the manner of a bound servant until he shall arrive to the age of twenty-one years, which will be on the 29th day of May, AD 1782 and in the said term of time he shall faithfully his said master serve and obey and not absent himself from his said master's service without his leave and all his lawful commands he shall obey. He shall not imbezel or waste his master's goods or estate nor suffer any to doe the same without giving notice thereof to his said master.

And I the said Mark Mazuzen, Lieut. Doe bind myself to provide for the said Tull Dicks, negro servant to said Russell and Rose all necessary meats and drinks, clothing, washing in sickness and in health and to keep him in service either in the army of the States or in case the war ceaseth in some other diligent and strong employ until the 29th day of May 1782 as aforesaid. And then at the expiration of said term of time to dismiss him from my service and give him decent wearing apparel to all parts of his body.

And also we the said Timothy Russell and Soloman Rose by this instrument secure to this bond servant of ours, Tull Dicks, after he has faithfully served his said master the time here mentioned his liberty and freedom from all bond or obligation to us and to be his own man. And as this Indenture is given of him for the express purpose of him serving in the Continental Army, it also secures to the said Tull, servant, at the close of the war or dismissal of said Army the 100 acres of land promised and given by the Continent to each private soldier on serving but in case the said Tull Dicks should not live till he arrives to the age of twenty one years or the end of the present war, his master Lieut. Mazuzen shall have and be entitled to said lands and is hereby by us in the said case intituled to said lands as his right and claim.

In witness thereof we the parties have hereunto set our hands and seals this 29th day of May AD 1777 in the second year of the independence of the American States.

Signed, sealed and delivered  
In presence of

Samuel Ells  
Hannah Ells

Timothy Russell

Solomon Rose

Mark Mazuzen

And in conformance of the above freedom to me given in this indenture by my said masters Timothy Russell and Solomon Rose and the same being ratified and confirmed by them in a certain bill of freedom to me given and well attested I do by these presents consent and concur with the above indenture and promise for myself carefully to observe and fulfill the same by serving in the Continental Army during the present war and if that ceaseth before I arrive to the age of twenty one to serve Lieut Mark Mazuzen as an Indentured Apprentice Servant till I doe arrive at said age which will be the 29th of May AD 1782 the fulfilling of the conditions of said Indenture to me as above.

In witness whereof I set my hand and seal the day and date above mentioned.

In Presence of

Samuel Ells  
Hannah Ells

his  
Tull X Dick  
mark

Further, in a second short article in the "Totoket Times" Mr. MacMullan wrote:

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GLIMPSES OF NORTH BRANFORD HISTORY  
from the Totoket Historical Society

**Our Black Revolutionary War Hero**

by  
Eugene C. MacMullan

2008

The Totoket Historical Society has recently been given an old document that sheds light on a local legendary hero of the American Revolution. The document is an indenture promising freedom to a Negro slave, Tull Dick, if he would join the Continental army. Under the agreement he would legally be considered and indentured servant to Lieutenant Mark Mazuzen during the war and would receive his freedom when he reached 21 years of age on May 29, 1782. His original masters, Timothy Russell and Solomon Rose signed the Indenture as did Lieutenant Mazuzen and Tull Dick.

A search of Revolutionary War records shows that Tull Dick enlisted in Hazen's Regiment in New Haven on April 15, 1777, a month before the Indenture was signed. At the time, he was 16 years old. He was removed from the rolls of the regiment on September 11, 1777 with the note that he had probably been killed or captured at the Battle of Brandywine. Lieutenant Mazuzen served in the same regiment and resigned in December, 1777 but later rejoined and served until 1783.

The story doesn't end there. According to a local legend, when the British invaded New Haven in 1779 the men of the town went off to fight and left a slave named Dick to lead the women and children to the safety of his home on Totoket Mountain. The home site is still called Dick's lot.

Was this the same Tull Dick who had served earlier in the Army? How likely is it that there were two black men named Dick in North Branford at that time? If it was Tull Dick, he must have survived the Battle of Brandywine and hopefully received his freedom 1782.

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Mr. MacMullan has raised a valid question. Having recently come across several pieces of information concerning North Branford slaves named “Dick” I think we can answer that question with finality.

According to Mr. MacMullan’s research, Tull Dick was 16 years old in April of 1777 when he enlisted in the army. Records of The Northford Congregational Church show the following:

Marriages performed by the Rev. Mr. Warham Wiliams:

February 23, 1774            Dick Negro and Mary Lattomore Indian

If this “Dick Negro” was “Tull Dick” then he must have been 13 years old when he was married, a very unlikely situation. Further the records also show:

Deaths:

October 1782                Dick Negro            age 60

This means that Dick Negro was married at the age of 52. The Dick Negro who died in 1782 could not have been Tull Dick as he would only have been 21 in May of 1782. There definitely were two black slaves in North Branford named “Dick.” Further investigation of the records of The Northford Congregational Church reveal:

Deaths:

January 10, 1777            Dick Negro            age 22

This “Dick Negro” could not have been “Tull Dick” because he was dead prior to “Tull Dick” joining the Continental Army. It is now apparent that during this time period there were actually three slaves in North Branford named “Dick!” Unfortunately most probably Tull Dick was killed or captured at The Battle of Brandywine on September 9, 1777. He never realized his dream of becoming a free man.

Supplementary investigation reveals that there was a third “Dick Negro” in Northford who died at age 100 in in 1755. The name “Dick” for a slave appears to have been quite common in these parts.



# Revolutionary War Records for Tull Dick

916  
*Dick, Tull*

**Hazen's Regiment,  
Continental Troops.  
(Revolutionary War.)**

*Private* | *Private*

CARD NUMBERS.

1	37485290	a
2	198423	a
3	479237	a
4		a
5		a
6		a
7		a
8		a
9		a
10		a
11		a
12		a
13		a
14		a
15		a
16		a
17		a
18		a
19		a

Number of personal papers herein *0*

Book Mark: *Art. 436, 786*

See also \_\_\_\_\_

*D* | Hazen's Regiment. | Continental Troops.

*Tull Dick*

Appears with the rank of *Priv* on a  
**Return**  
of Officers & Men belonging to Col' Moses Hazen's Reg. who were considered as part of the Quota of the State of Connecticut and have been included in the settlements made with the Line of said State

**Revolutionary War.**

Return dated *Nov. date*, 17\_\_

Commencement of Service, *April 15*, 1777.

Remarks:

(548d) *J. C. Kessler* Copyist.

*D* | Hazen's Regiment. | Continental Troops.

*Tull Dick*

*Pl. Parmelee* Co.,  
Col. Moses Hazen's Regiment.  
**Revolutionary War.**

Appears in a book \*  
**Copied from Rolls**  
of the organization named above.

Enlisted *1 Apr*, 17\_\_.

Term \_\_\_\_\_

Casualties *Dis' 11 Sept 77*

Remarks \_\_\_\_\_

\*This book appears to have been copied (from original rolls) in the Office of Army Accounts under the Paymaster General, U. S. A., who was authorized by Congress, July 4, 1780, to settle and finally adjust all accounts whatsoever between the United States and the officers and soldiers of the American Army. Journal, American Congress, Vol. 4, page 257.—R. & P. 436, 786.

Vol. *15*, page *23*

(675) *Ballard* Copyist.

*D* | Hazen's Regiment. | Continental Troops.

*Tull Dick*

Appears with the rank of *Private* on a  
**Roll**  
of Cap' James Duncan's Comp' in Col Moses Hazen's Reg'

**Revolutionary War.**

Roll dated *Sept*,  
*Sept 13*, 1778.

For What Term Inlisted, *during the War*

Remarks: *Prisoner War*  
*Sept 11, 1777.*

(685) *J. A. Mas* Copyist.

Col: Moses Hazens Regiment

Names	Rank	Commencement of Service
Crook Coger	Private	January 1. 1777
Benjamin Davison	ditto	d°
Will Deke	ditto	April 15. 1777
James Darrak	ditto	January 1. 1777
Henry Gilman	ditto	d°
Over Griswold	ditto	d°
William Hartley	ditto	d°
Charles Keaton	ditto	d°
John Kummiston	ditto	d°
Daniel Kummiston	ditto	February 25. 1778
Joseph Jones	ditto	January 1. 1777
Thomas Janis	ditto	d°
David Keller	ditto	d°
Michael Kirkland	ditto	d°
Peter Sims	ditto	d°
David Murray	ditto	d°
Epa Munson	ditto	d°
Christopher Brady	ditto	d°
Jacob Parrish	ditto	d°
Samuel Robison	ditto	d°
John Kopf	ditto	d°
Thomas Roberts	ditto	d°
Charles Rundell	ditto	February 3. 1779
Samuel Ransom	ditto	January 1. 1777
Peter Stingham	ditto	d°
Jachariah Sherwood	ditto	d°
Abraham Shelley	ditto	d°
Seth Smith	ditto	d°

Col: Moses Hazens Regiment

Names	Rank	Commencement of Service
David Hayer	Private	January 1. 1777
Oliphant Isdale	ditto	d°
James Makeland	ditto	d°
John Shepherd	ditto	October 1. 1778
William Beck	ditto	January 25. 1781
Joniah Samerley	ditto	d°
James Necker	ditto	February 18. . . .
Michael Welch	ditto	March 1. . . .