

John W. Simonton

(- 15 May 1854)

Simonton. In this city on the 15th instant, John W. Simonton aged about 65 years formerly a citizen of Key West, Florida and recently a resident here. His funeral will take place on this Tuesday afternoon at half past 4 o'clock from Mrs. Wallingford's boarding house on 4 and 1/2 street at which his friends and acquaintances are invited to attend.

Old Records, A.G.O., show no military service of a colonel or other officer named John W. Simonton (or John Simonton) prior to 1854. The records do show, however, that one John W. Simonton served in the War of 1812 as a private in Captain John B. Moorhead's Company, 1st Regiment (Kennedy's), Pennsylvania Militia. His service commenced September 1, 1814, and ended March 5, 1815. His place of residence is shown as Dauphin County, Pa. He was discharged in Baltimore.

Founder of Key West, Florida. From Key West, The Old and The New, by Jefferson B. Browne, 1912: John Watson Simonton - Mr. Simonton was a native of New Jersey, but his business connections were with several Southern cities and Cuba. After the settlement of Key West, his winters for several years were generally spent here, his Northern residence being Washington, D.C. He had an extensive acquaintance among the members of Congress, and was on intimate terms with several prominent men of the then administration, his influence always being exerted for the best interests of the island. After the location here of the United States troops in 1831, he was for some time sutler of the post, and was subsequently interested in the manufacture of salt, as the representative of a company whose stock was principally held in Mobile and New Orleans. He afterwards engaged in business in the latter city and died in Washington in May, 1851. His social qualities, amiability of temper, energetic business habits, and various places of residence caused him to have an extensive circle of friends and acquaintances.