

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements

Pension Application of Stephen Freeman BLWt2393-100
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

To the Honbl'e the Executive of Virginia.

I beg leave to present on behalf of Squire Osborne, a free man of colour, the following claims for Land Bounty — It is proper to remark that there were many Indians, free negroes and descendants of Indians in the Army of the Revolution, who not only served faithfully, but who have rec'd. Land Bounty. Of the latter description (descendants of Indians) are the persons now asking relief.

Stephen Freeman was a soldier of Infantry in the Continental line, and rec'd. £103.11.8 "for services" "prior to 1 Jan. 1782" - This will be seen by the Auditor's certificate annexed, and is he believed to be proof positive of a service of more than three years. But Land Bounty is asked for his services to the end of the war. The proof to sustain this demand is positive and unequivocal, and may be found in the Documents of the U.S. Senate 1st Session 20th Congress Vol 2 Doc. 42 - Or, it may be seen in the Journal of the house of Delegates for 1833 - 34, Smith's Reports Document No. 34 page 8, and at the top of the second column. This list was made out by order of the U. S. Senate, in order to shew what officers and soldiers served to the end of the war and who had not rec'd. Land Bounty from the United States. Stephen Freeman's name will be found on this list, conclusively proving a service to the end of the war.

This is to certify, that it appears from a list in this office of such officers and soldiers of the Virginia Continental line, during the Revolutionary War, as settled their accounts and received certificates for the balance of their full pay, according to an Act of Assembly, passed the November session 1781, that a certificate issued on the 7th day of April 1783, in the name of Stephen Freeman as a soldier of Infantry for £103.11.8, which certificate appears to have been delivered to Gen'l. [Daniel] Morgan, and was given for services prior to the 1st January 1782.

Given under my hand at the Auditor's Office Richmond, this 12th day of April 1839
Jas. E. Heath Auditor.

Executive Department Richmond Va March 25, 1846

I hereby certify the foregoing as true copies from papers on file in this department.
Wm H Richardson Dep Com'r

At a Court held for New Kent County at the Courthouse on Thursday the 14th day of May, 1840.

It appears to the satisfaction of the court on the Testimony of Jane Collins a free woman of colour, who being first sworn according to law, that Molly Holt, Rhody Arnold, Billy Sampson and Squire Osborn free persons of Colour are the only heirs at law and legal representatives of Stephen Freeman, John Freeman and Robert Mush [probably Robert Mursh or Marsh, pension application W8416] who were soldiers in the Continental line of Virginia in the war of the Revolution, which is ordered to be certified to whom it may concern.

NOTE: A power of attorney dated 10 Mar 1846 lists the following as heirs of Stephen Freeman: Rhoda Arnold, Molly Holt, Thomas Sampson, and Delphia Sampson.