

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of Dabney (Abney) Freeman R3778  
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris.

VA

State of Virginia

Rockingham County towit

On this 17<sup>th</sup> day of March 1845 personally before me appeared Abney Freeman a resident of said County aged eighty five years, who being first duly sworn according to Law doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the provision made by Act of Congress passed June 7<sup>th</sup> 1832. That he was a militia man in the war of the revolution and served therein twelve months. That he was drafted in Captain White's Company in the month of October 1780; that he entered service at that time and proceeded to the lower County at a place called the "Big gum Spring," where he remained some months on duty, that afterwards his company was called to Williamsburg, whither they went and from there his Company was marched to the Seige of Yorktown in Virginia which was he thinks in the faul of 1781. that he returned home after Cornwallis surrendered [19 Oct 1781]; that on his way down he marched through, Culpeper, Spotsylvania, King and Queen Counties and other Counties the names of which he cannot now remember; that he was in a battle that ocured between the British and Americans some short time after he reached the lower County, that said Battle was on York River, was fierce and he was wounded with two shots in the thigh which can be seen at this day; that at the time of entering the service he was a resident of Orange County that he cannot from the lapse of time and failure of memory specify the Col. he was under but he remembers that General [George] Weedon was his commander.

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or an annuity except the present and he declares that his name is not on the pension roll of any agency in any State whatsoever.

[signed by a mark, name illegible]

Sworn to and subscribed on this 17<sup>th</sup> day of March 1845.

Aug. [Augustus] Waterman, a justice of  
the Peace for this County of  
Rockingham

Declaration of Dabney Freeman examined by his Honor Daniel Smith [sic] Judge of 6th Judicial circuit  
C. Payne [Coleman Payne; see endnote]

Virginia to wit;

At a court held for the County of Rockingham on Monday the 17<sup>th</sup> day of March in the year 1845.

Upon the application of Abney or Dabney Freeman, for a pension, under the act of Congress of June 7<sup>th</sup> 1832, the follow questions and answers were received by the court & ordered to be Recorded, which questions and answers are in the words and figures following to wit, 1<sup>st</sup>. where, and in what year were you born?

Answer. I was born in Orange County in the year 1760.

2<sup>nd</sup>. Have you any record of your age & if so, where is it?

Answer I have no record myself, it exists though in the Church where I was Christened in — County

3<sup>rd</sup>. where were you living when called into sevice – where have you lived since the revolutionary war, – and where do you now live?

Answer I lived in this County, at this time, and have lived in this County, and Augusta for 36 years past.

4<sup>th</sup>. How were you called into sevice, were you drafted – did you volunteer, or were you a substitute, and if a substitute for whom?

Answer I was drafted in the same company which my fahter served in, I never was a substitute for any one.

5<sup>th</sup>. State the names of some of the regular officers, who were with the troops, where you served, such Continental and Militia regiments, as you can recollect, and the general circumstances of your service? Answer I know only three Generals whilst I was in service. they were, Washington, Lafayette, and General Weedon, that with their men were with us during my service, and I knew them all by sight, I

seen Cornwallis surrender his sword, my father held me on his shoulder, that I might see the ceremony. [See endnote.] I fought by his side during the twelve months.

6<sup>th</sup>. Did you ever receive a discharge from the service, and if so by whom was it given, and what has become of it? Answer No I did not call for a discharge: I understood the war had ended, and I thought of nothing but getting back home.

7<sup>th</sup>. State the names of persons to whom you are known in your present Neighborhood, and who can testify to your varicity, and their belief of your services as a Soldier of the Revolution? Answer, I know General Sam'l Lewis of this county, Capt Dundore[?], Major Eddins, Dr. Kemper, Stephen Hansbarger, Colo. Givens, Colo Mauzey, Albert Mauzey Esq'r. Colo Nicholas, all of whom can speak of my character, for I live near to them all,

Sworn to and subscribed on this 17<sup>th</sup> day of March 1845

Dabney hisXmark Freeman

Abraham Smith

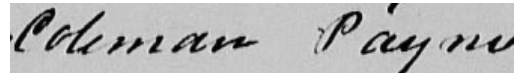
[Copy certified on 18 March 1845 by Henry J. Gambill, Clerk of the Rockingham County Court.]

Harrisonburg, Rockingham County/ Virginia April 1845

Dear Sr [James L. Edwards, Commissioner of Pensions]:

Enclosed you will receive Mr. Freemans papers for a pension under act of 1832. As soon as judgment is given be so kind as to inform me of the results by letter directed as above

Yours Respectfully/



Virginia Rockingham County towit:

On this day [9 Oct 1845] personally appeared in open Court before the Court of said County now sitting Abney or Dabney Freeman aged about 84 years a resident of said County who being first duly sworn according to Law doth on his oath make the following declaration as a supplement to his former one for a pension under Act of June 1832 for a Pension. that he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated amounting to twelve months in the Virginia militia: That as near as he can remember he was drafted for a six months tour [see endnote] in the month of October 1780 under Captain White of Orange County Virginia. That as soon as said Company was formed they marched to the Lower Country in company with a larger body of militia that was raised about the same time. that in passing to the Lower Country his company was marched through Caroline, King & Queen and other Counties and was stationed some time during said tour at a place called the "Big Spring" in Essex or Sussex Counties he thinks. If not in those Counties it was somewhere near there. That after being stationed for some time at the "Big Spring" his company was marched to the best of his memory near Williamsburg and from there went in the direction of Norfolk passing over Gloucester, New Kent & Middlesex & other Counties that after being stationed at various places in the lower Country and the Spring of the year coming on his men were discharged and he came home. That during said first tour his company were not in any engagement but were in daily expectation of battle from shouts [skouts?] of the enemy in the lower Counties. that he thinks one Anthony Few or Ew who afterwards settled in Caroline County Virginia was his Colonel – of this he will not be positive that one General Weedon was his commanding officer at this period of his service, that during said first tour of six months his company was not attached to any of the regular soldiers – sometimes the regulars would pass withing a few miles of where his company was stationed. that of his first tour he has no documentary evidence and until lately knew of no one who could prove his services – but recently is informed that Mr. Richard Snow can prove his services [see endnote]. That during said first tour of six months he was a drafted militia man and his father Isaac Freeman was also a soldier in that company and served till the draft expired. that he did not ask for a discharge from said tour it being generally known all hands were discharged and thought nothing of a "discharge." that said first tour of 6 months he is almost positive was in the faul and winter of 1780 but it might possibly been in '79.

That he was not long after returning home from the above tour again drafted in the militia under the same Captain White, for a three months tour and being at that time still young he went as before very

willingly – That said Company was read [raised?] in a short time and according to memory marched to the lower Country on York River in Virginia passing through King William & Hanover Counties and he is quite positive said second draft was made early in the Spring of 1781 probably in the month of April of that year – his company was not stationed long at any particular place during said tour – the places at which his company did stop however he heard of no particular name and consequently can not name the places at what his Company was stationed at and during said tour. that during said tour his company was he thinks stationed near a Town called Hampton somewhere near the Bay. That during said second tour of three months his company was commanded he thinks by one Colonel Tillman but he cannot say in what County he lived – he did not know the man except from sight. That during said tour his company was not attached to the regulars but were attached to other bodies of the militia – during his [illegible word] of that tour he remembers Cyrus Harriss of Louisa County intimately [see endnote] – also Gedson Cogwell and others from Orange all of whom have died. Mr. Harriss departed this life about 10 years since. That many circumstances occurred during said tour which he has forgotten – does not think of sufficient importance to name. That his Lieutenant of said company was he thinks named James Jenkins of said County of Orange during said second tour, as above named. That he returned home after being discharged from said second tour and some time in the month of July 1781 he was again drafted in the militia in the same company under Cap. White with said Jenkins as Lieutenant and marched to the Counties bordering on York River that said marched was a fast one and the enemy it was thought were then landing their forces. But his company went to Gloucester County and remained sometime thereabout and marched from there to near Williamsburg and were then marched under General Weedon of the regular army to the Siege of York Town which he distinctly remembers for at that battle he received two wounds in the Leg which can be seen at this day. Generals Washington, Weedon & others were with the militia during his last tour and he knew them all by sight. That his reasons for a delay in asking a pension are embodied in another piece of paper and herewith enclosed. He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present and declares that his name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any State in the U. States.

Dabney hisXmark Freeman

And the said Court upon the oath of the applicant that it is inconvenient for him to procure the certificate in Court of a Clergyman in regard to his services and being informed that his services could be proved by Mr. Snow of Albemarle County now living, doth dispense with the necessity of conforming to the rules laid down by the Department and certify the declaration and interrogatories to the war office without expressing any opinion itself in the case from the fact of having no acquaintance with the applicant who lives in a remote part of the County. The court being also of opinion that in all cases it would be better to have the proof of living witnesses than the opinion of the truth of the statement of applicants from individuals.

And this order is made at the request of the Atty for the Applicant Coleman Payne. which is ordered to be Certified to the war department. Teste –

Henry J. Gambell Clerk Circuit  
Sup Court Law & Cha'ry Rockingham Va.

Interrogatories and answers of Dabney Freeman taken before Hon. Daniel Smith [sic] Judge.

C. Payne [9 Oct 1845]

Upon the application of Dabney Freeman for a Pension under Act of June 1832 the following questions and answers were received in open Court.

1 Where and in what year were you born

Ans. I was born in Oranbge County Virginia in 1760 a I was always informed by my father Isaac Freeman deceased

2. Have you any record of your age and if so where is it?

Answer. I have no record myself of my age but am of the opinion my age was set down in the Church book when I was Christened. I always understood that my age was then recorded – but have never seen it and do not know that the book is now in the keeping of any person whatever. The Church was Called “Bellew Chapel” and I think was in the County of Orange Virginia

3. Where were you living when called into service where have you lived since the Revolutionary

War and where do you now live?

Answer. At the time of my services in the Revolution I was a resident of Orange County Virginia – after the war I came to the Valley of Virginia and for the period of about 37 years past have lived in Rockingham and Augusta Counties and at this time I reside in the County of Rockingham on the Shenandoah River and am boarding at Mrs. Catherine Grimm’s a friend of mine.

4. How were you called into service; were you draughted did you volunteer or were you a substitute and if a substitute for whom?

Answer. I was a drafted soldier in White’s Company, & my father Isaac Freeman was also in said company as a private. my father was with me the first second and third tours all of which was under Capt. White. I was not a substitute for any one.

5<sup>th</sup>. State the names of some of the Regular soldiers & officers who were with the troops where you served, such Continental and Militia Regiments as you can recollect and the general circumstances of your service?

Answer. According to my memory during my first and second tours there was none of the regular army attached to our company & consequently cannot name any of the officers of the Continental line. During third tour there was Captain Isaac Davis Company of the militia attached to ours and he was from Orange. And there was also during the first two tours Captain John Tyler & his company from Caroline and also Cap. Sutton from James [City] County and another militia company from Louisa under Cap. Gordon all of whom I remember very well. As to the circumstances of my first tour of six months I remember that soldiers two or three were convicted of violating orders by getting drunk and were punished by standing on “Spaketts”[?] – being two sharp rods of iron fastened to a pumkion[?] over which they were suspended from a kind of scaffold – the punishment did not last over two minutes I think. And I also remember that several men were “shaved dry” for not keeping themselves clean of beard – and various other misdeeds which I do not consider necessary to mention. During my third tour our & other companies were under General Weedon whom I knew. I also knew General Washington by sight – and whilst in that last tour the Siege of York commenced & I was in it all – and my father being a very strong man held me on his shoulder to see Cornwallis give up his sword. and in that way I saw the ceremony. At the Siege of York I received two wounds which can now be seen and at times almost disable me from walking. I remember before the Siege of York commenced one Peters had taken[?] a [illegible word] for some officers and I gave him a wips[?], but I thought it cruel punishment, for he had liked to have died in consequence of the stripes inflicted on him.

6<sup>th</sup>. Did you ever receive a discharge from the service and if so by whom was it given and what has become of it?

Answer. I never called for a discharge from either of my tours – other soldiers however receive them but I did not think it worth while to get a discharge after the companies were disbanded and told to go Home. Inded my anxiety to return was so great that I do not think I would have taken one had it been offered to me. My father received his discharge I think.

7. State the names of persons to whom you are known in your present neighborhood and who can testify to your standing for veracity and their belief of your services as a soldier of the Revolution.

Answer. I know Gen’l. Lewis – Cap. Dundon, Mager Eddins, Col. Givins & others all of whom may speak of my character. I have time after time visited my old neighborhood in search of proof of my services – but found the old soldiers had either died or moved off and recently found old Mr. Snow who remembers to have been in service with me.

My reasons for delaying an application till this late day are set forth in an accompanying papers and I hope they will be satisfactory.

Dabney hisXmark Freeman

Virginia Rockingham County towit:

This day personally appeared in open Court before the Court of said County Dabney Freeman and made oath in due form of Law to the facts set forth herein as reasons to the Department for his delay in not applying for a pension till 1841.

That up to the year 1840 he was under the impression that militia men could not obtain a pension and being one himself never applied and that impression was not removed till the date of '40 when being poor he resolved to make enquiry and get whatever he might be entitled to. accordingly in 1840 he consulted Mr. Kinney of Staunton and he gave his opinion in my favour – that thereupon he went to Washington and made himself known at the Pension office and he was handed the enclosed paper A. with directions to return home and put the case into a Lawyers hands. He returned home and went to Orange Court to see Lewis B. Williams a Lawyer of that place in order to have his declaration drawn up before that Court being the County from which he went into service. Mr. Williams wanted time he said to examine the pension Laws and requested me to come again – in the Spring of 1841 I again attended Orange Court and was informed by Mr. Williams that upon examination of the Pension Laws he could not get my case through without proof and directed me to visit old soldiers and get the necessary evidence and he would then draw up my declaration – accordingly I endeavored and spent month after month in visiting old men but found none by whom I could prove my services & did not return to Orange on that business any more. Not being able to find proof he had abandoned the case untill last fall he resolved to make another effort and more recently has ascertained that he can prove his services by Mr. Snow of Albemarle County. That his declaration would have been made many years ago – but he went according to directions of Counsel and did not know one syllable of the regulations himself. That he hopes these reasons will be satisfactory to the War Department. Dabney his Xmark Freeman  
Sworn to and subscribed in open Court the 9<sup>th</sup> day October 1845.

A.

Old Mr. Thornton/ montimme mills

The above endorsement was made thinking old Mr. Thornton might know something of Freeman services – but upon examination he does not. C. Payne/ Oct. 1845

State of Virginia

At a court held for Albemarle county the 5<sup>th</sup> of Nov 1845.

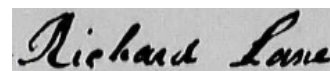
Affidavit of Richard Snow in open Court. I Richard Snow of Albemarle County Virginia aged ninety three next June hereby certify under oath I am a Soldier of the Revolution and a Pensioner under the General Government. I was raised in the said County of Albemarle, near the dividing line between Orange and Albemarle, and my services in the War were performed under various captains, in the Virginia Malitia, the names of whom from memory were Capt Tucker Woodson, Capt Robt Jouett [Robert Jouett], and Capt [John] Hudson, and probably others, all of which my papers will show, at the War office. I served altogether two years in the virginia Malitia. And the principal portion of our time was spent in lower Virginia between Williamsburg, Norfolk, Richmond, and Fredericksburg. Whilst in the latter part of the war I remember we were in the lower counties below Fredericksburg, and were joined by various malitia Companies from the uper Counties among them I remember very well Captain Whites Company from Orange County near the neighbourhood in which I was raised came down, and his company were with us for six months and a few days more and then returned home In his Company there were various acquaintances of mine and among them, I distinctly remember, Dabney Freeman Henry and Jno Lucas, and several of the Fergisons. All of whom I knew before they came down and they served their six months out, for we were raised not far a part. I will not be positive as to the time when Whites Company joined us except that I know it was sometime before my Company was under General [Anthony] Wayne, which was in the Summer of 1781. We were at the “Big Springs” in Caroline or Essex, I think Williamsburg Norfolk and other places whilst our companies were associated together during that tour I think, and am almost positive that Whites Company was with us in the winter and Fall

of 1780. among my associates in my Company, which was called out, I think by Captain Hudson in the year 1780 were Roger Thompson [R10552] William Maupin Steward Owens James Harris William Freeman and several of the messrs Shiflletes [sic: Shifletts] – all of whom are dead I remember that Whites Company were again with us in the lower country, sometime before and at the surrender of Lord Cornwallis at York Town, and Freeman and the Lucas' were in his Company again; After the surrender I saw nothing of Whites Company. I knew him very well. We lived in the same neighbourhood – he on the Orange side and I on the Albemarle side. His company was with us at various places on York River; and were in Lancaster and other Counties. Altogether Captain Whites company was with ours over nine months – and I knew that Freeman and the Lucas were in his company for I saw them almost daily. I knew they were at the Surrender of Cornwallis for I was there myself and marched with the prisoners to Hanover Courthouse. Our Colonels were I think Dandrige [sic: William Dandridge], Tillman & Bew[?]; – This statement however is made from memory I have not seen Freeman for 20 years or more

A Copy                      Richard Snow./ Teste/ Ira Garrett CC

Virginia Spotsylvania County towit”

I Richard Lane [pension application R6136; see endnote] of said County certify under oath I am a soldier of the Revolution and served three tours in the Virginia militia from Orange County. I remember that in the Spring of 1781 Captain White raised a company of men and myself the two Heslers Isaac and Dabney Freeman and several Lucas' joined his company and served a full tour in the lower country in and about Williamsburg and the Counties on James River. I knew Dabney Freeman before this time because my father settled in the neighborhood in which the said Freeman and his father lived – during that tour we passed through Louisa, Hanover, New Kent and Henrico and other Counties and was at Mobin Hills [sic: Malvern Hill 15 mi SE of Richmond]. Of Dabney Freemans services I am positive and I also remember that we afterward served another tour together under the same Captain which begun in July '81 I think and lasted till the surrender of Cornwallis at York Town and during said second tour I remember our company was stationed at a place below Richmond called I think the “Large field” – this second tour lasted rather over three months according to my memory and we were discharged in the lower Country and Dabney Freeman and the Heslers and the Lucas came home together – of this tour I am positive but I do not think Isaac Freeman was with us during that second tour under White. If he was I have forgotten it. Dabney however was with us and I suppose he was about my age. I think that I understood at this time Dabney Freeman had served a tour under White before I went under him, but of that I know nothing. all that I know being two tours which he served with me from the Spring till the fall of 1781. After the war I left that County and have since resided in Spotsylvania and do not remember to have seen the said Dabney Freeman for the last 50 years and supposed he was dead for he moved from Orange to the back Counties in Virginia. Nor do I know that said Isaac Freeman was the father to Dabney. I was at Dabney' house a few days before we marched under White the first tour – [four illegible words] he afterward married & deceed. I always though him a brave soldier and I am of the opinion he was shot at the Siege. I know and am positive Dabney Freeman and myself served six months under Captain White and also did the Heslers' and Lucas'. On that I cannot be mistaken for my memory is good in old matters.



N.B. The words “Dabney” interlined four times & “under” once, before signed.

Virginia. Spotsylvania County towit

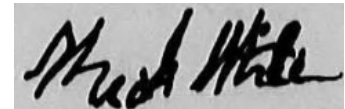
On this 26<sup>th</sup> day of November 1845 personally appeared before us Richard Lane and made oath to the facts set forth in the foregoing affidavit. And we certify to the Department at Washington that said affiant is personally known to us and is a highly respectable citizen of our County and any statement he may make may be implicitly relied on, being a man of strict veracity, and high standing.

As witness our hands and seal the day and date above.

Claiborne Duvall/ James Hart/ James D Dillard

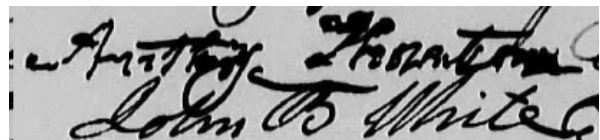
State of Virginia/ County of Greene S.S.

I Richard White [pension application S6371] of said County hereby certify under oath I am a soldier of the Revolution and a Pensioner under the general government. I was raised in my present neighborhood then called Orange County but since divided and Greene taken from it. I remember that Dabney Freeman was a soldier in Cap. James Whites company of militia men raised in said County of Orange and according to my mem- said Freeman marched to the lower Country under White in the fall of 1780. Cap. White was a relation of mine and his company was attached to ours and I am positive Dabney Freeman served a six months tour under him the fall and winter of 1780 for our companies were together more or less the entire winter of 1780. [See endnote.] during that tour I remember our companies were together in Caroline, Essex King and Queen Counties and I also remember I saw the said Freeman at Port Royall in Caroline and after staying there for some time our companies marched to the lower Country and went to Williamsburg and from that place towards Norfolk. I am positive of said tour because Freeman was an acquaintance of mine as was also Isaac Freeman his father Henry and John Lucus and Robert Ham all of whom were privates in Whites company and none of them are alive that I know of except Dabney Freeman. I also remember the time of Whites men expired in the lower Country shortly after we heard of the Battle of Guilford Court House [15 Mar 1781] and Cornwallis having come to Petersburg [20 May 1781] & it was thought advisable to return the men to meet any emergency in the lower part of Virginia. White did return his men a week or so after their times expired and they complaining heavily were discharged. I also remember that Dabney and his father served another tour under White in the Spring of 1781 and being from the same County Orange our companies kept together. I think that tour began early in April 1781 and it lasted for three months – during the same we were at Hampton and many other places in the lower part of the State. I afterwards saw Dabney Freeman of the surrender of Cornwallis but I cannot say under what officers he came – he had a musket and was with me once or twice during the Seige.



Virginia/ Greene

On this 15<sup>th</sup> day of January 1846 personally appeared before us the above affiant Richard White and made oath to the facts set forth in the foregoing affidavit and we certify that said Richard White is personally known to us and is a man of strict and unquestionable veracity – all which we certify to the Department at Washington City. Witness our hands and seals the day and date above, being justices of the Peace for our said County.



Freemans reasons respecting the six months tour – And evidence in his case./ C. Payne

Taken before a justice of Greene County for convenience of applicant./ C. Payne

Virginia/ Greene County towit:

On this 15<sup>th</sup> day of January in theyear 1846 personally appeared before me in my said County Dabney Freeman a citizen of Rockingham County adjoining the said County of Greene and made oath in due form of Law to the facts herein stated to be filed in his application for a Pension under Act of June 7<sup>th</sup> 1832, before the War Department at Washington City.

That the letter of the Commissioner of Pensions rejecting his claim because of the known service of the Virginia militia being in tours of three months instead of six has been shown him and for answer thereto sayeth that he cannot be mistaken of the length of his first tour under Captain White for he well remembers it was generally undertood in his neighborhood to be a six months tour – that it was furthermore the only six months tour of which he had any knowledge during the Revolutionary War. That before said tour under which of six months there was a company raised for a three months tour and on

that occasion he together with others drew blank [illegible word] and in that way was exempted from a three months tour preceding the one for six months herein before mentioned. That when the individuals had drawn in the six months tour Captain White he well remembers charged them particularly to equip themselves for a six months tour and in view of the winter then approaching went so far as to specify what amount of clothing each man was required to carry with him. Of this fact he is positive because he remembers that after joining the rest of his company his knapsack was so heavy that he was compelled the 2nd and 3rd days march to leave behind him a portion of his apparel which afterward in Camp he greatly needed. That he has forgotten the name of the gentleman at whose House said clothing was left but that on his return home, he called by and carried them back with him.

That of the length of said tour he cannot be mistaken but as to its precise day he may – it was however to the best of his memory a short time after the news of the Battle of Camden [16 Aug 1780] reached the neighborhood in which he lived. That at that time fear was entertained by the people in the County of an invasion of Virginia by the British and so understood the company was raised to march South in keeping them back.

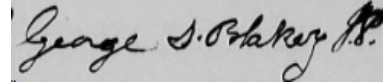
That his company under the said Captain White – for six months – marched to the lower Counties in Virginia and he remembers they passed through Spotsylvania Caroline, Essex, Westmoreland &c and were stationed for a considerable time at a place in the lower country called the “Big Spring” – that from their his company took up quarters in “Port Royall” a village in the lower counties [sic] and whilst stationed their made frequent excursions through the adjoining counties in search of the enemy then in bands committing depredations on the property of the inhabitants of the country. that in one of those marches in Middlesex he thinks his company were in close pursuit of the enemy and reached several fine plantations whilst the buildings were still in flames. That at that time his company suffered very much from the severe weather and that on their return all hands together with various other companies of militia were marched to Williamsburg. That at that place their were several [illegible word] soldiers and he supposes it was the Head quarters of the Virginia forces. That at Williamsburg his company remained for some time – does not remember how long – but whilst their the news of the Battle of the Cowpens [17 Jan 1781] reached camp and he well remembers there was much joy felt on the occasion. the commanding officers ordered a “Rejoice fire” & the next day the entire force assembled at Williamsburg were marched out for that purpose and the “fire” was made. That his company did not remain at Williamsburg long as the news of said battle of Cowpens before they were marched in the direction of Norfolk as he heard to watch the movements of a protion of the enemy then under [Gen. Benedict] Arnold. That a good deal of damage had been done on the coast by Arnolds men as he heard at the time but he saw nothing of them. That said tour had not then expired and his company nearly up to Norfolk and remained in that section some three or four weeks to the best of his memory – but that they were in no engagment. That at that time a good deal was said of Arnold among the soldiers and each one with whom he was acquainted seemed anxious to take him – it was ascertained however that he had not left the waters in person. That the sufferings of his company for food and raimint was almost indescribable and their necessities were such that for a while each man had to shift for himself and obtain provision in the best way he could. That said tour expired in the lower Country about the time news was received of the defeat of the Americans at Guilford C. H. as I think. That he came home in company with a good many others, among whom were Charles Thomas, Henry Strode, John and Henry Lucus and his father Isaac Freeman all of whom were privates in whites company and are now dead. That on his return home from said tour of six months he was again drafted under the same Captain for a three months tour which he served out, as also a third tour for same term of three months which he served and during which was at the surrender of Cornwallis at York Town Virginia.

That this statement is respectfully submitted to the Commissioner as embracing reasons why he cannot be mistaken respecting his first tour of six months: – and that the same is made before me a justice of the Peace for the County of Greene adjoining Rockingham for the convenience of the affiant Dabney Freeman who is old and infirm.

Dabney hisXmark Freeman



Sworn to and subscribed before me the day and date above written  
George S. Blakey J.P.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "George S. Blakey J.P.", written in dark ink on a light-colored background.

NOTES:

Coleman Payne was the agent in several suspicious pension claims, which are listed in the notes of the transcription of the pension application of John Gibson (R3996). As in the case of Gibson, Freeman and those whose names are on supporting affidavits may not have been involved in the attempted fraud. Most of the documents in this file are in Payne's handwriting, and the signatures may be forged.

Militia drafts in Virginia were set by law at three months, although they were sometimes extended.

I could find no record of a Capt. White of Orange County or of any other officer Freeman was said to have served under. There was a Capt. Isaac Davis of the Orange County Militia.

Lord Cornwallis did not surrender his sword in person, although many pension applicants thought they saw him do so. It is highly unlikely that Dabney Freeman was held on his father's shoulders for a better view, since the soldiers were under strict orders to maintain decorum.

Richard Snow of Albemarle County in his pension application S14540 did not mention the first tour claimed in the 9 Oct 1845 application of Freeman.

Cyrus Harris of Louisa County who filed pension application S37977 stated that he was in Continental service at the time Freeman's application claimed that "Cyrus Harriss" was with him in the militia.

On 4 March 1835 in an affidavit supporting the pension application of Carter B. Chandler (S8198), Richard Lane signed with an X rather than his full name.

Richard White of Orange County in his pension application S6371 did not claim any service in 1780 or in the spring of 1781.