

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Michael Freeman S30426

f34NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

1/9/09 rev'd 6/18/15 & 9/22/20

[Methodology: Spelling, punctuation and/or grammar have been corrected in some instances for ease of reading and to facilitate searches of the database. Where the meaning is not compromised by adhering to the spelling, punctuation or grammar, no change has been made. Corrections or additional notes have been inserted within brackets or footnotes. Blanks appearing in the transcripts reflect blanks in the original. A bracketed question mark indicates that the word or words preceding it represent(s) a guess by me. The word 'illegible' or 'indecipherable' appearing in brackets indicates that at the time I made the transcription, I was unable to decipher the word or phrase in question. Only materials pertinent to the military service of the veteran and to contemporary events have been transcribed. Affidavits that provide additional information on these events are included and genealogical information is abstracted, while standard, 'boilerplate' affidavits and attestations related solely to the application, and later nineteenth and twentieth century research requests for information have been omitted. I use speech recognition software to make all my transcriptions. Such software misinterprets my southern accent with unfortunate regularity and my poor proofreading skills fail to catch all misinterpretations. Also, dates or numbers which the software treats as numerals rather than words are not corrected: for example, the software transcribes "the eighth of June one thousand eighty six" as "the 8th of June 1786." Please call material errors or omissions to my attention.]

State of Kentucky Caldwell County: SS

On this 15th day of October 1832 personally appeared in open Court before us, James C. Wellers, Morton A. Rucker, Wm Mitchnsson & John Weeks, justices of the peace for the County and State aforesaid, now sitting Michael Freeman a resident of the County of Caldwell and State aforesaid, aged 68 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 Act of Congress passed June 7th, 1832. That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers, and served as herein stated; That he first entered the service as a militia man, a volunteer, in the company commanded by Captain Polk [Charles Polk], about the first of March 1780.

That he was, at the time of joining the Army, about Sixteen years old, and an inhabitant of Mecklenburg County, North Carolina.

That he was attached to a troop of horse, shortly after he entered the service aforesaid, attached to a troop of which troop of horse was under the command of one Colonel Davie [William Richardson Davie], and found his own horse.

That the first duty assigned to the Regiment to which he belonged, was to observe the motions of the enemy in South Carolina, and to Garrison or guard different fords of the Catawba River.

That about the middle of May 1780 Charleston surrendered [May 12, 1780] to the British, at which Surrender, two uncles and a brother-in-law were taken prisoners, shortly after this time Colonel Buford [Abraham Buford] was defeated in the Waxhaws [Battle of Waxhaws or Buford's Defeat, May 29, 1780], not far from where he lived, at which time he was in the service as above stated, in consequence of the surrender of Charleston, the Tories in the neighborhood became very bold, and began to embody themselves in Lincoln County, under the command of one Colonel John Moore, who were stationed at a place called Ramsour's Mills.

That he the said Freeman was detached on an expedition under the command of one Captain Barnett to dislodge these Tories or loyalist (as they were sometimes called) in which they succeeded, but at the loss of Captain Falls [Galbraith Falls], who was killed in the engagement,¹ but the Troop to which he belonged still continued to reconnoiter and watch the movements of the enemy, to prevent them from embodying, Shortly after this time, his term of service expired, and he returned home, having served six months on this Tour.

That in August of the same year, he entered the service under command of Captain Lagert

¹ June 20, 1780 <http://gaz.jrshelby.com/ramsours.htm> & http://www.carolana.com/NC/Revolution/revolution_battle_of_ramseurs_mill.html

[James Ligert], and they were but [sic, put] under the command of one Colonel Irvin to hold Lord Cornwallis in check, but they were too weak to do anything more than annoy the enemy, and cut off their foraging parties, until Cornwallis succeeded in taking the town of Charlotte. [September 26, 1780].²

Some time after this, Lord Cornwallis left Charlotte in pursuit of General Morgan [Daniel Morgan], who had previously defeated Colonel Tarleton at the Cowpens [January 17, 1781], under the command of General Davidson [William Lee Davidson] we hung on the rear of Cornwallis for the purpose of annoying his rear, and cutting off his supplies, at which time they had a skirmish with the enemy, in which General Davidson was killed at a place called Tools Ford³ on the Catawba River -- after which they joined General Green [sic, Nathanael Greene], and continued to pursue Cornwallis, and overtook him at Guilford Courthouse,⁴ where a severe engagement was fought with the enemy, but he was not in that battle, being then attached to the infantry.

But that the Corps, to which he belonged pursued on, after the Battle, as far as Alamance River, from which the troops to which said Freeman belonged, returned to Mecklenburg County some time in May 1781.

That shortly after this, he volunteered in a troop of horse commanded by Captain N. Martin [Nathanael Marshall Martin] and Jonas Clark⁵ Lieutenant: for the Term of ten months and furnished his own horse, which company was attached to the Regiment of Colonel Polk [William Polk], and under the command of General Sumpter [sic, Thomas Sumter], and during this term of Service he was in the Battle at Friday's Fort [Friday's Ferry, May 1, 1781]⁶, on the Congaree River, and also at the Battle of Orangeburg Court house [May 11, 1781]⁷ and at the Battle at Shubrick's plantation [July 17, 1781].⁸


That he continued in the Army, until his term of service had expired, and that he was then regularly discharged, (which discharge is now lost) about the last of March 1782. After having served in all upwards of two years, eighteen months of which time is proven by the Certificate of Jonas Clark, whose affidavit is hereto annexed.

That during his first term of service of six months the said Clark was absent on a campaign in Georgia, and therefore knew nothing of his said Freeman's first term of service; and he further states that he knows of [no] living witness by whom he can prove his Services, during the said term of six months -- The discharge for ten months was signed by Captain Nat Martin, as to the other Terms of service, he does not recollect by whom the discharges were signed, but is very well satisfied that he always took one, as he was apprehensive of being called a deserter.

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.

S/ Michael Freeman

² http://www.carolana.com/NC/Revolution/revolution_charlotte.html

³ 

Normally referred to as Cowan's Ford. February 1, 1781.

<http://gaz.jrshelby.com/cowansfd.htm>

⁴ March 15, 1781. http://www.carolana.com/NC/Revolution/revolution_battle_of_guilford_courthouse.html & http://www.carolana.com/NC/Revolution/revolution_cowans_ford.html

⁵ **Jonas Clark W1386**

⁶ http://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_fridays_ferry.html

⁷ http://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_orangeburgh_2.html

⁸ http://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_shubricks_plantation.html

Michael Freeman

Sworn to, and Subscribed, the day and year aforesaid before me

S/ Ja L. Wallam, D Clk

[F. R. Cossitt, a clergyman, Enoch Prince and Jeremiah Rucker gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

Question 1st Where and in what year were you born?

Ans: I was born in 1764, March 1st in Bertie County North Carolina

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

Ans: I have, and is at my house.

3rd Where were you living when called into service: where have you lived since the Revolutionary War and where do you now live?

Ans: In Mecklenburg County, North Carolina. The most of the Time in this State, & now in Caldwell County

4th How were you called into service; were you drafted; did you volunteer or were you a substitute, and if in substitute, for whom?

Ans: I volunteered.

5th State the names of some of the regular officers who were with the troops when you served, such Continental and militia regiments as you can recollect and the general circumstances of your service.

Ans: I am not certain of any knowledge of any of the officers being in the regular Service, except General Greene, and General Davidson, I do not recollect of any of the Continental regiments, but of the militia, there were Davie's, Pickens' and Sumter's Regiment and Marion, was also at that time a Colonel. I served 6 months in the cavalry with Captain Polk and others 8 months with Captain James Lagert, and 10 months with Captain Nath Martin under General Sumter.

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

Ans: I have, it was given by Captain Martin for 10 months Service, but about any others I cannot now recollect, I left it in North Carolina with my father, who is since dead, and I suppose it is now lost.

[OMITTED 7th State the names of persons to whom you are known in your present neighborhood and who can testify as to your character for veracity and their belief in your services as a soldier in the revolution.]

[p 19]

State of Tennessee Madison County: SS

On this twenty third day of August 1832 personally appeared before me John M. Johnson an acting Justice of the peace for said County Jonas Clark Senior a resident of said County who being first duly sworn according to law upon his oath says, that he is well acquainted with Michael Freeman now a citizen of Caldwell County Kentucky, they were raised together and lived in the County of Mecklenburg North Carolina, before and during the Revolutionary War and until the year 1806, in said Freeman left that County, and that he has not seen him, from the time he left North Carolina, until they accidentally met lately in this County. That the affiant

after the defeat of General Sumter on the 18th of August 1780, in which he was returned home and the said Michael Freeman volunteered in the service in the company commanded by Captain Ligert, and was in the service, from about the 20th of August until the 15th of March 1781, to the personal knowledge of this deponent, and from information this affiant believes he continued in the service after the Battle of Guilford Court house until sometime in the month of May following a period of about eight months; after the battle of Guilford this affiant returned home and said Freeman continued in the service in pursuit of Lord Cornwallis after his retreat from Guilford. A few days after his return home after the before mentioned campaign he the said Michael Freeman volunteered in a troop of horse raised by Captain Martin and this affiant has Lieutenant, for ten months, attached to Colonel William Polk's Regiment, he immediately marched and joined General Sumter at Brown's Old fields near where Columbia South Carolina now stands, That said Freeman was in the battle at Friday's Fort on the Congaree, at Orangeburg Courthouse, and at Shubrick's plantation, and at the battle of the Eutaw Springs [September 8, 1781]⁹, said Freeman was detailed, as a guard to go with General Sumter home and was not in the battle, But returned shortly afterwards -- After the battle of Eutaw Springs, this affiant left General Greene and joined General Wayne in Georgia, leaving said Freeman who could not go in consequence of his having no horse, when this affiant returned and joined General Greene in Marched 1782 at Brown's old fields he found said Freeman still with the Army and from information believes said Freeman continued in the Service while this affiant was absent in with General Wayne in Georgia. Said Freeman was discharged after the expiration of his term of service with this affiant at Brown's old fields and they both returned home to Mecklenburg County North Carolina together. This affiant states from his personal knowledge, and from contemporary information which he cannot now said Freeman served in the Revolutionary War, during the two campaigns before mentioned a period of 18 months at least.

S/ Jonas Clark, Senior, X his mark

Mr. Clark is unable to write from a dislocated shoulder

S/ J. M. Johnson, JP

[Facts in file: the veteran died February 9, 1842, place not stated. This file contains no family data other than the references made by the veteran to his uncles and brother-in-law (unnamed) contained in the veteran's pension application.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$95.82 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for service as a private in the infantry for 5 months and as a private in the Cavalry for 19 months in the service of North Carolina.]

[Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters](#)

South Carolina Audited Accounts¹⁰ relating to Michael Freeman AA4
Audited Account Microfilm file No. 2573A

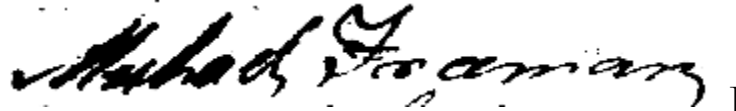
Transcribed by Will Graves 9/22/20

⁹ http://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_battle_of_eutaw_springs.html

¹⁰ The South Carolina Audited Accounts (AA) are now available online at <http://www.archivesindex.sc.gov/>. To find the AA for a specific person, click on the [Just take me to the search page](#) link, then enter the person's surname first in the "Full name" box followed by a comma and the person's Christian name.

[p 2 : Printed form of Indent No. 634 Book M dated first of October 1784 “delivered to Mr. Michael Freeman late Private in N. Martin’s [Nathaniel M. Martin’s] Troop, Polk’s [Lt. Col. William Polk’s] Regiment Sumpter’s [Thomas Sumter’s] Brigade this our Indented Certificate for the Sum of Ninety-four pounds Sterling being amount pay and bounty due him for Services in that Troop Together with Interest thereon from the first April 1782 to date hereof Agreeable to Resolution of General Assembly of the Eleventh March last.”]

[3: Reverse of the above Indent bearing endorsements by Peter Bocquet, Commissioner of the South Carolina treasury, G F Newman, Jonas Clark and Michael Freeman whose signature appears as follows

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Michael Freeman". The signature is written in black ink and is enclosed in a pair of square brackets. The first name "Michael" is written in a larger, more prominent hand than the last name "Freeman".