

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of Samuel Freeman S8529

VA

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris.

State of Ohio } Ss

Richland County }

On this 24th day of October eighteen hundred and thirty two in open Court in the Court of Common pleas of Richland County personally appeared before the Judges thereof now sitting Samuel Freeman a resident of Clear Creek Township in Richland County Ohio aged 70 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 7, 1832

That he entered the service of the United States in April in the year 1779 [sic: 1781] at Rogers Fort in Monongahela county in Virginia [sic: usually called for Dinwiddie, at present Stewartstown, Monongalia County, now in WV] under Capt. Robert Ferrell (John Gruer was Lieutenant) was marched to what was called Old Fort [possibly Redstone Old Fort at present Brownsville PA] where they staid two or three weeks recruiting from thence was marched by Fort Pitt to the mouth of Cat Fish creek staid there some two or three weeks does not remember the precise time. From thence we were marched by Big Beaver (where there were some troops stationed) to Wheeling – Staid at Wheeling some weeks recruiting. From thence went down the Ohio River in boats under command of Gen. [George Rogers] Clark landed on an Island below the mouth of the Big Canauga [probably Kanawha River at Point Pleasant] and staid there all night and part of the next day waiting for Laughery [sic: Col. Archibald Lochry] who was following the army; as he did not arrive Gen Clark left a Sergeant by the name of John Stackhouse [possibly pension application S38409] with a boat and Sergeant's guard with letters to Laughery containing directions for following the army; the Sergt. after staying there as long as directed and Laughery not coming on followed the army to the mouth of the mouth of the Big Miami [Great Miami River] and he and his eight men were taken prisoners by the Indians. We then proceeded down the River to the falls of the Ohio [at present Louisville KY]. Laughery in following the army down the River was killed and all his men were either killed or taken by the Indians at the mouth of Big Miami [24 Aug 1781]. After Laucherys defeat the older Indians took the prisoners and booty and went home and the younger ones crossed the River and attacked Col. Boon [sic: Daniel Boone] upon the left hand fork of Salt River – After the Indians had attacked the fort for two days in succession about half the people in the fort left it, to go further down the river where the country was more thickly populated, accompanied by 40 of the light horse they were way-laid on the road and almost all the settlers men women and children and thirty or the forty light horse who accompanied them as a guard were killed by the Indians. Gen. Clark hearing of this massacre ordered five hundred men to proceed up Salt river to attack the Indians & also to take care of the dead. He was one of the party. We were marched up the river and in a day and a half came to the place where the massacre had been committed – they buried the dead; and followed the Indians a Northerly course until it was discovered that the Indians had recrossed the Ohio: and then returned to the fort at the falls our party being so small that it was thought imprudent to follow them over the River. In our way back we removed Col Boon and those that were with him down near the falls. From the falls the whole body were marched to the Spring Station from thence to the Crab Orchard from thence to Englishe's Station [Charles English's Station on Dix River SE of Crab Orchard KY] thence to the head of Cumberland thence to Powells Valley [Powell Valley in VA] from thence to New River thence to Greenbriar [sic: Greenbrier River] thence to the Clover Licks [in present Pocahontas County WV] thence to Tigers Valley [sic: Tygart Valley] thence to Rogers Fort from whence he started and received from Capt. Ferrell a discharge which he has lost. In this tour he served Eleven Months.

Again in April 1781 he entered into the service of the United States as an Indian Spy under Capt Thomas Chaney his comrade was Charles Harris who was then about forty years of age and who he supposes is now dead. His route was from Coons Fort [near present Enterprise or Killarm WV] across the

Harrison County V.a. where he formly lived for many years; and that there is no doubts existing there – I also think that I can find two or three men who are worthy of credit and who was personly acquainted with the man who served with Father when he was an Indian Spy and who will certify they have heard him related their servises which I think ought to be satisfactory enough with what has been all ready done please sir to send me a few lines and inform me whether these circumstances will not be evidence enough – your compliance Dear sir will oblige/ your friend and Humble servant/ Fred. T. Freeman

NOTES:

There is no explanation in the file for why Freeman was pensioned for only six months. It is known, however, that the Pension Commissioner often insisted that militia tours were for only three months each, and he often disregarded service on the frontier against Indians as not being military in nature. For details see my appendix in the pension application of David W. Sleeth S6111.

A Treasury-Department document states that the children of Samuel Freeman received the final pension payment up to the day of his death, 18 May 1846.

On 22 May 1853 Job T. Freeman of Hancock County OH inquired about an increase in the pension of his father, Samuel Freeman.