

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements

Pension Application of Obed Coffin: W14569

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS.

Barnstable SS.

On this 22<sup>d</sup> day of April 1818, before me the subscriber, one of the Judges of the Circuit Court of Common Pleas, for the Southern Circuit, personally appeared Obed Coffin of Barnstable aged [blank] years, resident in the said Circuit, who being by me first duly cautioned according to law, on his oath made the following declaration, by him signed, in order to obtain the provision made by the late act of Congress, entitled "An act to provide for certain persons engaged in the land and naval service of the United States in the revolutionary war."

I Obed Coffin of Barnstable in the County of Barnstable & Commonwealth of Massachusetts a resident Citizen of the United States, on Oath set forth & declare, that I enlisted at s'd. Barnstable as a private Soldier in Capt Robert Miller's Company in Col Joseph Vose's Reg't Gen'l Patterson's Brigade of Mass. line for the term of three years. during that time I enlisted during the War. I served in said Reg. in the State of N. York N Jersey & Virginia. Was in the Battles at the taking of Burgoyne [Saratoga, 17 Oct 1777], of Fort Montgomery [6 Oct 1777], & at the Capture of Cornwallis [19 Oct 1781] and was discharged at the conclusion of the War at West Point; had a written discharge but have unfortunately lost it. I have no further evidence of my services now in my power

Am now in reduced circumstances in life and stand in need of the assistance of my Country for support.  
Obed X Coffin

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS.

County of Barnstable, SS. Obed Coffin of Barnstable in the County of Barnstable

On this ninth day of August, 1820, before the Circuit Court of Common Pleas for the Southern Circuit, proceeding according to the course of the common law with a jurisdiction unlimited in point of amount, having a power also of fine and imprisonment, and keeping a record of their proceedings, personally appeared in open Court, being a Court of record for the said county of Barnstable aged sixty years, resident in Barnstable, in said County, who being first duly sworn, according to law, doth, on his oath, declare that he served in Colonel Joseph Vase's Regiment, Capts Thacher [illegible name] & Millers companies, in the Massachusetts Line. and that he has received a pension certificate dated September 9<sup>th</sup> 1819 and numbered 15,075. in pursuance of his original Declaration made April 22<sup>d</sup> one thousand eight hundred & eighteen and also takes and subscribes the following oath, viz. And I do solemnly swear that I was a resident citizen of the United States, on the 18<sup>th</sup> day of March, 1818; and that I have not, since that time, by gift, sale, or in any manner, disposed of my property, or any part thereof, with intent thereby so to diminish it as to bring myself within the provisions of an act of Congress, entitled "An act to provide for certain persons engaged in the land and naval service of the United States, in the Revolutionary war," passed on the 18th day of March, 1818; and that I have not, nor has any person in trust for me, any property, or securities, contracts, or debts, due to me; nor have I any income other than what is contained in the schedule hereto annexed, and by me subscribed.

Real Estate none

Personal Estate none.

My Occupation is a Labourer, I have a wife named Vilet who resides with me & dependant on me for support aged sixty years. I have no children able to contribute to my support. I have lost one eye and am not able to obtain much labor for my support, by reason of old age.

Obed Coffin X his signature.

State of Massachusetts}

County of Barnstable} SS.

On this fourteenth day of August in the year of our Lord eighteen hundred and thirty eight,

personally appeared before the Court of Probate in and for the County of Barnstable, Violet Coffin a negro woman of Barnstable in the County of Barnstable and State of Massachusetts, aged seventy nine years, who being first duly sworn according to law, doth on her oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the provision made by the act of Congress passed July 7<sup>th</sup> 1838 entitled "An act granting half pay and pensions to certain widows." That she is the widow of Obed Coffin, a negro, late of Barnstable in the County of Barnstable & State of Massachusetts, deceased, who was a private in the revolutionary war of America; that he enlisted as a volunteer and continued in the war three years and one half which she is sure of, and thinks it may be longer; that she saw him when he started from home to join the army, and it was not long after the beginning of the war; that after being gone about two years he came home and remained a short time, and then went back into the army again, and does not recollect of his returning again till peace took place; that he enlisted, at first, in the Company of Captain Elisha Thacker, but does not recollect under what other officers he served; that he marched from Barnstable to Boston, from thence to New York and from thence to Ticonderoga, that he was present at Saratoga at the surrender of Burgoyne, and has heard him tell of being in other engagements but cannot name them. that she lived in the town of Barnstable in the County of Barnstable and State of Massachusetts at the time he entered the service; that she has no documentary evidence relative to his services excepting what is now in the possession of the War Department; that he was a pensioner under the act of Congress passed 18th of March 1818 and drawed eight dollars per month till his death; that she depends wholly upon the declaration of her husband and the evidence accompanying it for proof of his services, which is now in the Pension Office at Washington and refers the Department thereto She further declares that she was married to the said Obed Coffin on, or near the middle of December in the year seventeen hundred and eighty four; that her husband the aforesaid Obed Coffin died on the 19<sup>th</sup> day of April in the year eighteen hundred and thirty eight and that she has not been married to any other man since; that she was not married to him prior to his leaving the service, but the marriage took place previous to the first of January seventeen hundred and ninety four viz. at the time above mentioned. Violet herXmark Coffin

Extract from the record of the Town of Barnstable Mass.-

Names of persons entered in order for marriage by Ebenezer Bacon Town Clerk -

"Obed Coffin & Vilot Cuff, both negroes of this town, December tenth Seventeen hundred and eighty four"