

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Howell (Howel) Freeman ¹ W19296 Hannah Freeman f54NC
Transcribed by Mary Gerber *supplemented by Will Graves*² 10/14/06 rev'd 6/17/15

[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.]

[Note: The quality of the image of the veteran's application transcribed below is extremely poor as posted on Fold3.com and Ancestry.com. Mary Gerber is to be congratulated on being able to read and decipher it in order to render the following transcript. Because the images are so poor (very faint), I was not able to proofread it against Mary's transcript.]

State of Tennessee, County of Dickson: Court of Pleas & Quarter Sessions: Oct. Term 1834

On this the 7th day of October 1834 personally appeared in open court, before the Court of Pleas & Quarter Sessions now sitting Howel Freeman a resident of sd. County of Dickson and State of Tennessee seventy four years [of age] 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 the 7th 1832. That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated - First he entered the service in Franklin County North Carolina [where he then resided] about March 1779 - as a substitute in the place of a man (he thinks by) the name of Perry for a tour of three months. He entered the service under Capt Brittain Harris [*Britton Harris*], Lieutenant Hawkins. They rendezvoused at what was then called Alford Cross Roads under the command of Col Eaton [*Thomas Eaton*] and were marched from thence to Tarborough where they joined some more troops. From thence they marched to Kingstown [*Kinston*] where they joined the main body of the militia under General Ash [*John Ashe*] they were then marched under the command of the aforesaid officer to what was called the White House about ten miles from Charleston South Carolina From thence they marched to Augusta upon the Savannah River where they crossed the river and marched to the mouth of Briar Creek in the state of Georgia-They were then in pursuit of the British who were supposed to be retreating from Augusta. He states that when they got to the Briar Creek the bridge across the creek had been destroyed in consequence of which they were detained several days. Whilst waiting at the mouth of Briar Creek they were attacked [*Battle of Briar Creek, March 3, 1779*] by the British who took some few prisoners and killed a few. They then retreated back to the White House in South Carolina where they remained until they were discharged. He took a written discharge but thinking it of no service he then lost or destroyed it long since - He then went back to his home in Franklin County North Carolina having served out his tour of three months - Sometime in the year 1781 he again entered the service as a volunteer in the Cavalry in Franklin County North Carolina under Captain Robertson [*John Robertson*] - Lieutenant Baily Robertson for a tour of three months. He marched under Capt Robertson from Louisburg Franklin County, N. Carolina through Wake County to Guilford County. He states that the company in which he served was employed in foraging for the army and that they had not joined the main army when the battle was fought at Guilford Court House [*March 15, 1781*]. Though they were on the way to join the army and got in hearing of the cannon before the battle was over. They marched on and joined the main army at Ramsay's Mill. The main army was then

¹ BLWt51885-160-55

² *in italics*

under the command of General Green [*Nathanael Greene*] - They were then marched with the main army from Ramsay's Mill to Camden in South Carolina where their term of service expired and they were discharged and went home a few days before the Battle at Campden [*sic, Camden, Battle of Hobkirk Hill, April 25, 1781*]. In this tour, he served three months as a Private under the above named officers. Before he got home he was drafted again as a Private for a tour of twelve months, but was allowed forty days to stay at home. When his forty days which had been allowed for staying at home had been expired he joined the army entered the service under a recruiting officer by the name of Capt Armstrong at Halifax in North Carolina. They were then marched by Captain Armstrong to the high hills of Santee where we joined the main army under Genl Green When we joined the main army under Genl Green he states that he was put under the command of one Capt Sharp - The Battle of the Eutaw Springs [*September 8, 1781*] had been fought a short time before he joined the army and little or no fighting of any consequence took place afterward He states they were marched about to different places in South Carolina but nothing of importance occurred. During this time he recollects that he was under Maj Donoho [*probably Thomas Donoho*] He further states that a short time after they joined the army his company was placed under the command of Capt Devard or Bravard [*perhaps Alexander Brevard*] - A short time before their time expired they were under Capt Bush during this tour The Regiment to which he belonged was under the command of Col Lytle [*Archibald Lytle*] and Maj Donoho. When the term of service had expired, his company was marched to Camden and discharged. In this tour he served twelve months as a Private which added to his two former tours of 3 months each making in all eighteen months he served as a Private. He received written discharges but has lost them. He has no documentary evidence and that he knows of no person whose testimony he can procure who can testify to his service He hereby relinquishes [all claim] 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 or territory.

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid

Interrogatories – 1st Where and in what year were you born.

ANS 1: I was born in the state of Virginia according to information - and in the year 1760

2 Have you any record of your age?

2 ANS: My father had my birth recorded in his family Bible but the same is lost or destroyed. I have no further record of my age.

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

3 ANSER I was living in Franklin County North Carolina as above stated in my Declaration. After the war I moved to South Carolina lived there 2 years. I then moved back into North Carolina where I lived till I moved to the state of Kentucky. From thence I moved into this state and settled in Humphreys County from there I moved back to the state of Kentucky where I lived till I moved back to this county where i have lived ever since.

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

ANSWER: I entered the service first as a substitute for Jno Perry. My 2nd tour I volunteered - In my third tour I was drafted.

5 State the name of some of the regular officers & co who were with the troops where you served

5 ANS In addition to the officers whose names are set out in the above Declaration I can recollect to have been with Genl Green's army the following officers to wit - Genl Marion [*Francis Marion*] who several times passed and re-passed by us - Col Washington [*William Washington*] of the horse - Col Lee [*Henry "Light Horse Harry" Lee*] of the horse - For further particulars refer to my Declaration.

6 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 received regular discharges but have lost them

7 State the persons to whom you are known in your present neighborhood and who can testify as to

your character for veracity and their belief for your services as a soldier of the Revolution
ANS Nehemiah Scott Howard W Turner Guilford Mills and all of my neighbors to whom my life has
been known I further state that there is no clergyman who can be procured to attend at this term of the
Court

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid

S/ Howel Freeman, X his mark

Test: S/ Field Farrar, Clerk

[p 16: On August 3, 1855 in Humphreys County Tennessee, Hannah Freeman, 68, filed for her bounty land entitlement as the widow of a revolutionary war veteran; she states that she married Howel Freeman in Dickson County Tennessee March 4th, 1830; that they were married by one Hurel Parrish; that her name prior to her marriage was Hannah Doty; that her husband died at his house in Dickson County Tennessee May 4th, 1836. She signed this document with her mark.]

[p 5: On December 3, 1856 in Humphreys County Tennessee, Hannah Freeman, widow of Howel Freeman gave testimony that she married him March 4th, 1830; that they were married by one Huel Parrish, JP, that they were married in Dickson County Tennessee; that her husband died at their residence in Dickson County Tennessee May 4, 1836. She filed this affidavit as an application for a widow's pension under the 1853 act. She signed this affidavit with her mark.]

[p 6: On December 3, 1856 in Humphreys County Tennessee, Sarah Walker and Milly Ann Crowell gave testimony that they were present at the marriage of Howel Freeman and Hannah Doty, now Hannah Freeman in Dickson County Tennessee on March 4th, 1830. They both signed their affidavit with their respective mark.]

[p 48: On November 14, 1867 in Humphreys County Tennessee, Hannah Freeman, aged 80, filed for the reinstatement of her pension as the widow of a revolutionary war pensioner. She signed this document with her mark.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$62.50 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for service as a private for 15 months in the North Carolina Infantry and as a private in the North Carolina Cavalry for 3 months. His widow was pensioned in a like amount.]