

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of John Freeman W3798

Phebe Freeman

VA

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris.

[Because the original document is very faded, the transcription should be used with more than usual caution. Capitalization partly corrected.]

County of Culpeper ss.

On this 21st day of March 1825 personally appeared in open court being a court of Record for the County of Culpeper Virginia John Freeman resident in said county aged sixty nine years, who, being first duly sworn, according to law, doth, on his oath, make the following declaration in order to obtain the provision made by the acts of congress of the 18th March 1818, and the 1st May 1820: that he the said John Freeman enlisted for the term of one year at or about the month of September in the year 1775 in the state of Virginia in the company commanded by Capt. John Green in the First Virginia Regiment on the Continental Establishment that he served out the term of one year and at the end of it reenlisted in the Company of Capt Richard Taylor – Regiment of Colo John Green in the line of the state of Virginia upon the Continental Establishment. That he continued to serve in the said corps for the full period of his enlistment until he was discharged by Col John Green at the Head of Elk [now Elkton] in the state of Maryland. That his discharge was destroyed by the burning of his House; that he hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension, except the present; that his name is not on the roll of any state except Virginia; and that the following are the reasons for not making earlier application for a pension, viz. that until within the last year he was not aware of the extremity of his situation and was doubtful whether his property was such as to bring him within the intent of the Law. And in pursuance of the act of the 1st May 1820, I do solemnly swear that I was a resident Citizen of the United States on the 18th 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. That since the 18th of March 1818, changes have been made in my property as follows: At or about the spring of 1818 the time of the passage of the act, I was possessed of a Farm consisting of 230 acres – six negroes and a compleat farm stock; but I was indebted at that time to a greater amount than the whole of my property was worth. My involved situation was essentially owing to protracted indisposition, which has now been upon me for more than 15 years and had then been for more than 8 years. Notwithstanding the weight of debt I strove hard but was at last obliged to give a deed of trust in favour of Presley Rixey upon my word & was then obliged to sell it, and did appropriate the proceeds to the payment of debts all of which were contracted before the year 1818. An amount of these debts still remaining [illegible word] another deed of trust upon all my property of every description whatever in favour of Presley Rixey, William Freeman Executor Richard Woods & others. John Shackelford Trustee – under this deed of trust there was sold in the month of November last all the property called for thereon – which included every thing of which I was owner except my wearing apparel & that of my wife & children

As my personal property was sold at auction under the order of the Trustee I can give no particular account of the sale or for the appropriation of the proceeds – but for that refer to John Shackelford esq’r. the trustee – a Gentleman of known respectability. My farm was sold in anticipation of the operation of the deed of trust to George Doyle for \$15 per acre making a sum total of 3450 every dollar of which went to the payment of debt bail to Presley Rixey 1500 & Interest to the same 500 to Samuel Gordon 500 to R G Ward 250 to George Doyle 300 all of which will be apparent by reference to these presents – of the whole sum I did not touch a single dollar but passed away the bonds immediately

John Freeman

I John Freeman mentioned in the within do declare that I own no property of any sort whatever except my daily wearing apparel – the few articles of household furniture in the service of my family are the property of persons who purchased them at the time of the sale of my effects, and who have kindly lent them to my destitute wife & daughters From this however is to be excepted one Bedspread[?] and one Table presented to my wife on the day of sale by John Shackelford esq'r I mention these articles merely because the law requires a schedule of property I likewise declare that I was brought up a Tailor but for the last twenty five years have been a farmer – but in consequence of age and great bodily infirmity I am incapable of any exertion of any kind whatever

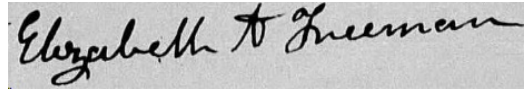
I likewise declare that my family consists of my wife now an aged woman & four children one Daughter aged 22 a son aged 18 a Daughter aged 16 and a son aged 14 my children may do something toward their own support but they are utterly incapable of assisting me or their mother

John Freeman

[On 22 August 1844 Phebe Freeman, 79, successfully applied for a pension stating that she married John Freeman on 27 Feb 1791, and he died 27 March 1844. On 25 Sep 1848 Phebe Freeman, 84, applied for an increase in her pension.]

dear Sir [“Zackariah Talor”: Zachary Taylor, US President March 1849-July 1850] I am unacquainted with your but still I think you have a genrous heart and I am about to unboursome to you that which if it is in your power you will not refuse For I am poor helpless olphan no kindred near me but aged mother who is afflicted so she cant walk a step nor has not walked for nearly 4 year My father was very wealthy at one time but from secureity and his own debts he became poor had nothing left he served in the old war and after he lost his property con Starrow got him a pension of 96 dollars a year he served 18 months he enlisted for 3 year at the end of 18 months he took sick my grand father hired one John batemen gave him 1 hundred dollars out of his own pocket to serve out the other 18 month in geting fathers pension mr Starrow mad a mistake and only enterd one year service which caused my father not to get [two illegible words] he was in the 1 virginia redgment my father died 5 year ago the 27 of this last march he was 88 year old he was very infirm when he died I had surported my father and mother on his pension for years but when he died we had no hous nor home nor any thing left and I was as so low at his death that I fainted when I heard he was dead I have bin affected ever since I was grown and I am ver delicate but for all that I strive to do the best I can my mother is in her 84 year she draws 40 dollars for her pension ever since my fathers death I had all the docters to pay for my self and father and nothing but my mothers pension and my mother and self I owe 1 hundred and 50 dollars I had directly after the death of my father 3 little blacks left me by a relation one I raised from the brest the others are one is 10 years old the others yonger I live at mr glasscock 5 miles from culpeper courthous my to oldest blackes are hierd out one for victuals and cloths the other for 4 dollars the other is small she lives with mother and myself and I have to pay mr glasscock board for mother and here and I do the sewing which they have a great deal of that pay for my eating and wasting [washing?] and cloths for me and mother and my little black girl and I allso wait on my mother whom I can leave my Father was married John Freeman my mother named phebe Ostin [Phoebe Austin?] before she was married to my father if you disbelieve me look on the pension my mothers pension is not enough to support I have no friend or relation and I concluded if you would send me the 1 hundred and 50 dollars or a check for that amount that I would take it as one of the greatest favio ever granted if you will it will save my little blacks from being sold now and after awhile if they live there hire will pay you off if sold now they are so small now they wou[edge of page] bring anything if you will send me that much and wait six years for pay you shall be certain of it at that time with out fail I hope that thou will befriend a poor helpless creature pity me sir who has allmost suffered death to suport a helpless parent pleas dont charge me any interest on it if you send it if you dont send it or if you do pleas try for mother pension to be enlarged you may think me a piece of deception but I am not I am a virtious noble mind that wont stoope to anything low, & I had rather beg than than to stoope to anything low and for that reason I have asked of

one who will pity a poor fatherless girl and her afflicted mother and I know that god will pour blessing on you for it if you will do it if you will do it send me a check upon a lette[r] direct it to me at culpeper courthous I will be true to what I say if the lord will aid me analey[?] I will pay before if not at that time for certain if you dont send it write to me and say if you think you can gain any more for mother write as soon as you get this that I may know my lote as I am a poor helpless creture oh pity though thou dont know me yet thou will find me honest and true if you grante me this faveour it will be granted & a poor child of grace god will ever remember you
Elizabeth A Freeman

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Elizabeth A. Freeman". The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored background.

[The following is among [rejected-claims in the Library of Virginia.](#)]

Culpeper County to Wit

Personal appear'd before us Reuben Moore and William Major justices of said county William Foster [VAS1414] and made oath that John Freeman of s'd County enlisted with him in John Green's Company for one year and serv'd out the full time – the Company was rais'd in 1775 – at the expiration of the time said Freeman enlisted for three years under Captain Richard Taylor. Given under our hands & seals this 9th day of June 1832 R. Moore/ William Major