

## Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Solomon Freer W8826

Elizabeth Freer

f55SC

Transcribed by Will Graves

1/17/09 rev'd 6/22/15 & 2/10/21

[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' or 'undeciphered' 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 8<sup>th</sup> of June 1786." Please call material errors or omissions to my attention. Researchers should not rely solely on the transcripts but should review the originals for themselves. These transcripts are intended as an aid to research, not to be used in lieu thereof.]

[p 10]

State of Kentucky Caldwell County

On this 20th day of May 1833 personally appeared in open Court before William Lander, John W. Marshall, M. Lyon, Jas. A. Cartwright, & Stephen Grove, Esquires justices of the County Court in and for said County and State, now sitting, Solomon Freer resident of 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 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: In the month of February 1781 I volunteered as a private, and joined a company of Light horse, under the command of Capt. Peter Youngblood, and Lieut. Isaac Youngblood then stationed at the Round O. Parish, near to Jacksonborough on the North Edisto River in the State of South Carolina: which company consisted generally of 174 men and was under the command of General Marion [Francis Marion]; and was a volunteer company of light horse. I entered this service for no definite time, but circumstances had rendered it necessary for me to leave my father's house (on St. John's Island near Charleston) and although then quiet young, it was by his advice and consent that I entered the service and with his aid I was enabled to equip myself for the service. I will mention some of the circumstances alluded to: I had an uncle, who was a Capt. in the British service at that time, stationed on the Island, and my father was confined by indispositions, and had been, for a long time. My uncle had made many attempts to persuade him to join the Royal cause, but he consistently refused. Though he was not able himself to enter the service of his Country, he was anxious for its success. Finally, he was told that if he held out beyond a given time, he would be killed, and his property taken. My father had but little uneasiness for himself, but feared that I might be prevailed on to join the enemy, or forced to enter their service, as I was then young, and even if the enemy spared him, his disease would soon carrying him off, and I would be left with my own counselor. Under these circumstances it was concluded between us, that I should immediately enter into the service of my Country, and accordingly he fitted me out, and I proceeded to join Capt. Youngblood as before stated. It may not be out of place to mention, that the enemy fulfilled his threats against my father, and he was murdered by them in a few days after my departure, and all his property destroyed, except a Negro man who accompanied me to where I joined the service, and a little girl who escaped by some means or other. From the circumstance of my father's death, and my recollection, that when I departed from home it was the commencement of listing for planting, has brought to my mind the month in which I entered the service. Shortly after entering the service, an American vessel called *Rattle Snake*, loaded with ammunition and stores for the American Army, came up Stono River, and grounded at Stono ferry. The British being

then on the Island, attempted to board her and to prevent this Marion ordered a redoubt to be raised, but those on board finding it impossible to defend the vessel, put a slow match to the magazine, and escaped to the opposite shore. A part of the enemy soon entered, and were destroyed, for the vessel directly blew up. Before the explosion an engagement was kept up across the River, but the number killed is not now remembered by me. The explosion caused the enemy to retreat to the Island. Major Latson [sic, Thomas Ladson] commanded us on this occasion as the superior officer, Marion being on the Horse-Shoe, higher up the country; but the whole was by his orders. Sometime after this transaction, the British General Patterson (as well as I remember his name) attempted to march his forces from Savannah to Charleston, and Marion, getting intelligence of the movement, detached about 300 men under the same Major Ladson to intercept him at Salt Ketcher river [sic, Saltketcher or Salkehatchie River]. The company to which I belonged was a part of this detachment. The expedition was most skillfully planned but its execution was most shameful: The enemy lay on the opposite side of the river, -- the owner of the ferry was a Tory named Patterson and had buried a barrel of rum in the road for his friend the British General, on the American side. A Negro man belonging to the Tory, being perhaps a better friend to us than his master gave notice that rum was deposited in the road and pointed it out. The soldiers drank without restraint, and became quiet ungovernable; in this situation the enemy came upon us suddenly, with drawn swords and bayonets, and charged before a line could be formed. The confusion was increased by the counter orders of the officers. -- the Major ordered a retreat, while the Captains ordered a line to be formed. Our loss was 29 killed, and a good many wounded. The detachment dispersed, and collected again as soon as possible at the Horse-Shoe where Marion was encamped. Here we remained some time watching the enemy's movements, with a hope to gain some advantage, and retrieve our recent loss and -- disgrace at Salt Ketcher river. It was not long before the enemy recommenced their march, and Marion now determined upon his measures. By a swift and secret march he reached North Edisto Swamp near Parker's ferry,<sup>1</sup> through which the enemy had to pass. Here he formed an ambush, and placed his men in order of battle, and gave strict orders of secrecy, and as soon as the enemy approached, the left were ordered to fire first, and then the right, after which the left should fall back and form a line below the right and continue the fire -- the horse (my Company) were ordered to charge back and forward as occasion required. Thus was the battle planned, and it was punctually obeyed. The enemy's loss was Considerable -- ours very trifling. From this situation of the ground, Patterson could not form before passing through the Swamp. On reaching the other side he formed in line of battle, but Marion chose to keep his position with the advantage he had gained. After this engagement, Youngblood's light horse was detached in search of one McGirt [Daniel McGirt] -- a celebrated Tory who had done much injury down towards Georgia, but we could never take him as he was uncommonly active and vigilant. Every possible exertion was used to suppress his ravages and to take him, but all that could be done was to check him. While detached from the main force under Marion, we received intelligence of a body of Tories under one Clayton, collected at a house not far distant from where we then were. This Clayton had been raised from a boy by my Capt. Youngblood, as soon as [he] arrived at age, he joined the Tories and became one of the most cruel and unrelenting scourges ever known. It was the anxious wish of the Capt. to take him alive if possible. Now was thought a good opportunity to accomplish the object. Accordingly our company was divided into 3 divisions, which were ordered [to] approach at the same time, and surround the house. These orders were strictly executed, and we came upon the Tories before they had any knowledge of our approach. A charge was ordered, and the Tories instantly fled with precipitation, leaving 9 dead on the ground. Clayton was not killed in the charge, but fled with the rest. He was on a

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<sup>1</sup> August 31, 1781, [http://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution\\_parkers\\_ferry\\_2.html](http://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_parkers_ferry_2.html)

fine nag, got from the British at Savannah as was said, and we scarcely hoped to overtake him, but Lieut. Youngblood & myself being on the fleetest horses in the Company, pursued him, until fortune came to our aid, and we came up to him. He had stuck fast in a morass, from which he could not extricate himself. We now waited until the Capt. came up, who accosted him, but Clayton remained stubbornly silent, nor could he be induced to speak a word, but desperation and defiance seemed depicted in his countenance. While in this situation he began to load his gun, and the Capt. told him not [to] do so, for he should be obliged to order his men to fire on him, but this made no impression on him, and the Capt. ordered a fire, upon which Clayton fell back, and seemed expiring; one of the soldiers approached to drag him from the mud, into the last agonies of death, Clayton raised his sword and slightly wounded the soldier. I mention this more particularly, because it made a lasting impression on my mind. I witnessed many affecting scenes in my service, but this was more dreadful than them all. During the year 1782 it was generally a partisan warfare in the South, and particularly so with us, and those under General Marion; for after the fall of Cornwallis at York in October 1781, the British begun gradually to draw in their posts, and concentrate at Charleston, which they finally evacuated in December 1782 as well as I remember. Though, during the most part of 1782 no very active operations were carried on between the British and American armies, and yet the Tories kept up, during all that year a constant and virulent hostility; and it was principally against them that our services were required, and during this year were you were employed almost entirely against them, ranging from one point to another over almost the whole state. It would be impossible to relate all the circumstances that happened -- the various skirmishes we had, and to describe particularly, the country through [which] we marched; for sometimes we had to march with great haste through the whole night. In the month of March 1782, while at the Round O. Marion ordered Capt. Youngblood with his light horse to proceed high up the Big Pedee [River], where nearly all were Tories, and order the wives of the Tories to leave that country and go to their husbands who were embodied near Charleston by the first of June following. The reason of this order was that these women were constantly engaged in driving stock to the British Army in Charleston, and the practice could not be allowed. We executed these orders, but they were not strictly obeyed for after the first of June some still remained, and Marion again ordered our company to return and destroy what grain as could be found, and to do whatever was necessary to force them away, and to quit supplying<sup>1<sup>st</sup></sup> Where and in what year were you born?

Answer. I was born in St. John's Island, about 20 miles from Charleston on the 19th day of September 1764.

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

Answer. I have in a family Bible at home.

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

Answer. I was living with my father in St. James Island when I entered the service; and I lived in South Carolina about 17 years after the War, and then moved to this County (where I now live) about 23 years ago.

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

Answer. I entered the service as a volunteer and continued so.

5<sup>th</sup> 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.

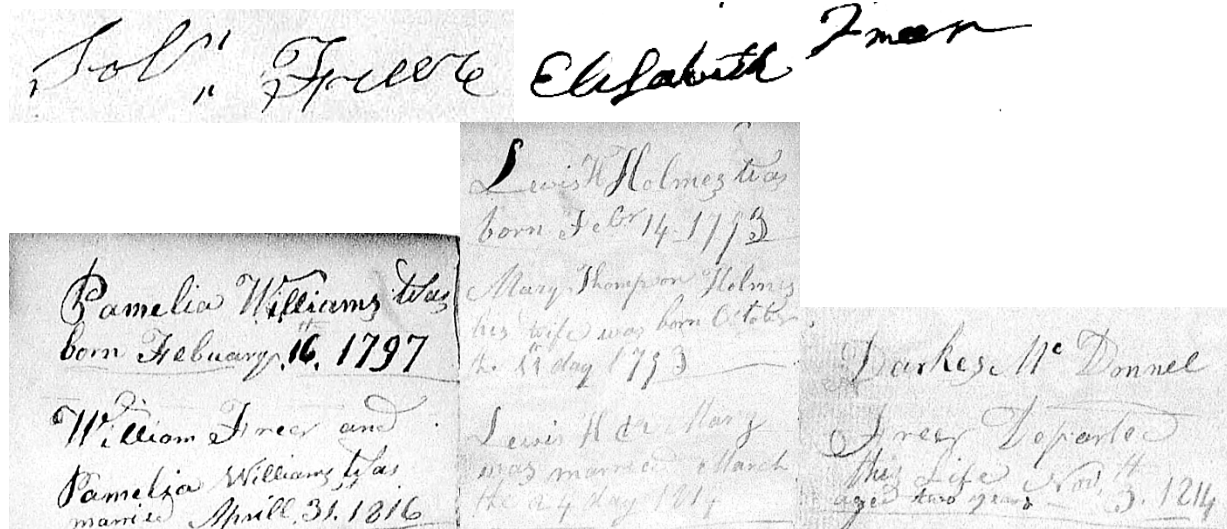
Answer. I served with no regular troops that I remember of. I knew General St. Clair and Col. Lee, but I was not acquainted with any regular troops I did not serve with any. I was also acquainted with General Morgan slightly and I saw him near Camden. I was well acquainted

with Col. Horry and Capt. Snipes, who commanded a company of mounted men under Marion. (Here again he detailed the general circumstances of his service, which were the same as detailed in his preceding declaration).

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

Answer. I did receive a discharge, given me by Capt. Youngblood, which has been lost or worn out many years.

7<sup>th</sup> 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.



Answer: John Jones, Honorable Rezin Dowidge, William Sander and many others are known to me and would testify as to my character &c.

S/ Solm. Freer

[John Barnett, a clergyman, Chittn Lyon & John O'Hara gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[p. 28: On April 30, 1847 in Caldwell County Kentucky, Elizabeth Freer, aged about 77 years, made application for a widow's pension under the 1844 act stating that she is the widow of Solomon Freer, a revolutionary war pensione and that she married her husband in South Carolina, Camden District in 1785 on the 3rd day of May but she has no other evidence or record of the marriage other than the family Bible; that her husband died July 6, 1846 in Caldwell County Kentucky and that she remains his widow.

S/ Elizabeth Freer (see signature above)]

[p 36: There is a sheet simply labeled "Family Record" but no record referred to by James S. Freer but no copy can be found in this file. The fact that this seat was inserted in the file 1 leads me to believe that the family record was removed from the file, but what became of it is not shown in the documents in this file. The few family records that are contained in the file (see above) are clearly not the family record referred to by James S Freer in his deposition.]

[p 24: On July 25, 1855, in Lyon County, Kentucky, Elizabeth Freer, 85, filed for her bounty land entitlement stating that she married Solomon Freer in Camden District, SC [on May 3, 1785, per another document in the file]; that her maiden name was Elizabeth Thompson; that her husband died in Caldwell County, Kentucky, July 6, 1837. She signed her application with her mark.]

[pp. 5-7: Family record of Pamelia Williams as shown above]

[p 6: Family record of Lewis H. Holmes as shown above]

p 7: Record of death of 2-year old Darkes McDonnel Freer as shown above]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$100 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for service as a private in the South Carolina cavalry for 2 years. His widow was pensioned in a like amount.]