

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of John Freeman ¹ W8832

Frances Freeman

f45NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

1/9/09 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.]

State of South Carolina Pickens District

On this the 14 day of February 1850 personally appeared before William D. Steel Judge of the Court of Ordinary for the district aforesaid Francis [sic, Frances] Freeman a resident of Pickens district and State aforesaid aged 80 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 provisions of the acts of Congress passed March 3rd, 1837, March 3rd, 1843, 17 June 1844 and February 2nd, 1848. That she was married to John Freeman who was (as this deponent has been informed by him and others and believes) a soldier in the war of the Revolution he was a native of and resident of Wake County North Carolina in time of the revolution and served several tours in the war under Captain Lewis Blethcer (or Lewis Blecher as it may be spelled) [sic, probably Lewis Bledsoe] with whom she was well acquainted. The said John Freeman was a 2nd Lieutenant in the company of the said Lewis Blecher. See will not undertake to state the precise time of his service, and does not remember them distinctly, but refers for evidence on this point to the records of the State of North Carolina as to the pay which her husband received for his services in which may sufficiently identify the nature of his services and their extent. But she states that she has been informed and believes that he was in the Battle of Eutaw [sic, Eutaw Springs²] at Lindley's Mill, ³(and in a contest with the Tories at Rath Swamp [sic, Raft Swamp⁴]) he was also at the surrender of Yorktown.⁵

This Deponent further states that she was married on the 25th day of March when she was in her 16th year having just completed her 15th year. She cannot state precisely the year, the record of the same being lost, or destroyed but thinks it was in 1786. She does not remember exactly the year that she and her husband moved to South Carolina, but it was more than 40 years ago. She has lived in the same neighborhood in Pickens district ever since her husband died about 24 or 25 years ago, she has remained a widow ever since. At her marriage there was a license I obtained but it has been lost or destroyed. She bore 15 children to her husband, her oldest a daughter was born about one year after the marriage.

This Deponent Francis Freeman would further state that she has been informed that her said husband first entered the service as a volunteer, but she is not able to state in what way he

¹ BLWt31424-160-55

² September 8, 1781. <http://gaz.jrshelby.com/eutaw.htm>

³ September 13, 1781. <http://gaz.jrshelby.com/lindleysmill.htm>

⁴ October 15, 1781. <http://gaz.jrshelby.com/littleraftsw.htm>

⁵ October 17, 1781.

afterward entered. She does not know what proportion of his time he served as a Lieutenant, but thanks one tour at least she refers to documentary and other evidence accompanying this declaration and the muster rolls of the revolution.

This deponent would further state she is not acquainted with any person now living who served with her husband in the Revolution, and the great lapse of time since his death has taken from her memory some other particulars once distinctly known.

Sworn to & subscribed before me In testimony whereof I have hereunto affixed my hand and seal of office the date above written.

S/ William D. Steele

S/ Francis Freeman, X her mark

[On June 30, 1855, in Pickens District, SC, in her claim for bounty land, Frances Freeman states that her husband served under Capt. Lewis Blutcher and Genl. Butler [John Butler]; that she was married to John Freeman on March 1, 1780 by one James Moore a Magistrate; that her name before her marriage was Frances Moore; that her husband died at his residence in Pickens District, SC on February 14, 1835 or 1836.]

["Facts" in file: in various filings, the widow states her husband died January 1, 1823; about the middle of January 1825, or February 14, 1835 or 1836; of the children of the veteran and his widow, the only one named in the file is a son (their second child) whose name was Noley, Urley or Uxley, who in 1850 is said to have been 64 years old.]