

Pension Application for Richard Freeman

W.19300 (Widow: Hannah)

State of New York

County of Schenectady SS.

On this twenty fourth day of April one thousand eight hundred & eighteen before me John Yates—one of the Judges of the Court of Common Pleas of the County of Schenectady personally appears Richard Freeman aged fifty seven years aforesaid, resident in the City of Schenectady, who being by me first duly sworn, according to law, doth on his oath make the following declaration 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—

That the said Richard Freeman enlisted in the State of New York County of Montgomery – Captain Christian Ritsman’s Company of Rangers in the year 1776 and served nine months—when he enlisted in Captain Giles Wolcots Company, Col. Seth Warner’s Regiment of United States troops or the establishment in the year 1777 in May.

That he continued to serve with said company until the 18th day of July 1779 when he was taken prisoner by the enemy on the fourteen mile Island in Lake George when the greatest part of our troops were killed, & scalped by the enemy.

That he continued till an opportunity offered to escape in the Month of October 1780 – when the Regiment was taken at Fort George and never after organized—and that he received his [?] money in the City of Albany and that he is reduced circumstances & stands in need of the assistance of his country for support and that he has no other evidence in his power of his services but what is annexed. (Signed) Richard Freeman

Sworn the 24th day of April 1818 before me. John Yates.

Letter in folder dated July 20, 1936, written in response to an inquiry.

The data which follow are obtained from the papers on file in Revolutionary War pension claim, W.19300, based upon the military service in that war of Richard Freeman.

The date and place of birth and names of the parents of Richard Freeman are not shown.

Richard Freeman enlisted in Montgomery County, New York, in 1776, and served nine months in Captain Christian Ritman’s [hand written note: *Could not identify this Capt. could find no acct of this engagement of Warner’s Regt.*] New York Company of Rangers; he enlisted in May 1777, served as a private in captain Giles Wolcott’s Company, Colonel Seth Warner’s Continental Regiment; on July 15, 1779 while on Fourteen Mile Island in Lake George, the regiment as attacked and soldier was taken prisoner and held in Canada until October, 1780, when he made his escape.

He was allowed pension on his application executed April 24, 1818, at which time he was aged fifty-seven years and resided in Schenectady, New York.

In 1819, he moved from Schenectady, New York, to Ogdensburg, Saint Lawrence County, New York, and lived one year, then returned to Schenectady and lived until 1830, when he again moved to Ogdensburg. It was stated that he lived, also, at Oswegatchie, Saint Lawrence County, New York.

The soldier married at Schenectady, New York, during his service in the Revolutionary War, Hannah Lighthall. The date and place of her birth and names of her parents are not shown.

Soldier's widow, Hannah, was allowed pension on her application executed August 13, 1844, at which time she was living at Morristown, New York or at Oswegatchie, Saint Lawrence County, New York and gave her age as eighty-nine years. In 1848, she stated that she was aged ninety-six years.

The names of the following children are shown:

Nancy Freeman (the eldest) date of birth not given, died when young.

Sarah Freeman date of birth not given, in 1820 living in Boston and age given as about 36.

Mary or Polly Freeman born July 25, 1786.

Elizabeth Freeman born July 25, 1786.

Elizabeth Freeman born March 20, 1788.

Catharine Freeman born January 25, 1790.

James Freeman born September 15, 1791.

Richard Freeman, Junior May 14, 1793.

Abram Freeman born December 31, 1795, in 1820, living in Ogdensburg, New York.

Anne Freeman born April 10, 1801.

In 1820, Sarah, Mary or Polly, Elizabeth, Catharine, and Richard Junior, were all married; names of the husbands of the daughters and the wife of Richard Junior are not given.