

## THE LEGACY OF AMERICA'S FIRST VETERANS

### Reconstructing the Life of Chatham Freeman, an African American Revolutionary War Veteran

*Using the five pension documents in the Chatham Freeman Pension File as primary source evidence, answer the following questions about his life. For each answer, note the number (1-5) of the pension document in which the evidence is found. If you find evidence in more than one document, note more than one number.*

1. In what year was Chatham Freeman born?

Source Document:

2. In what year did Chatham Freeman enlist in the Continental Army?

Source Document:

3. What regiment did Chatham Freeman serve in?

Source Document:

4. How long did Chatham Freeman serve in the Continental Army? When was he discharged?

Source Document:

5. What was the name of Chatham Freeman's wife? When was she born?

Source Document:

6. Could Chatham Freeman read and write? How do we know?

Source Document:

7. Is there anything in Chatham Freeman's pension file that indicates he was an African American? What?

Source Document:

8. In 1820, Chatham Freeman was required to list all his property to prove that he was poor. Did he own his own house?

Source Document:

9. What other land did he own and what was it like?

Source Document:

10. What was Chatham Freeman's house like? How was it furnished?

Source Document:

11. What was all of Chatham Freeman's property worth in 1820? Did he have any debts?

Source Document:

12. When he worked, what kind of work did Chatham Freeman do? Was he or his wife able to work in 1820? How do we know?

Source Document:

13. Chatham Freeman was able to prove he was poor and so received a pension under the Pension Act of 1818. How much did he receive?

Source Document:

14. When did Chatham Freeman die?

Source Document:

15. Using the Table of Retail Prices provided, consider what Chatham Freeman and his wife, Maria, could buy with eight dollars a month. Considering the fact that they owned their house and the land they lived on and did not have to pay rent, was eight dollars a month enough to live on? Explain your answer, describing how they might have spent the money: