

The Legacy of America's First Veterans

The Pension File of Chatham Freeman

Document 1: Cover

(2387)

Connecticut Rolls

Chatham Freeman

Col. Meigs

Private.

Connecticut Line

In the army of the United States during the Revolutionary War

Subscribed on the Roll of **Connecticut**

At the rate of **Eight** Dollars per month, to commence on the **6th** of **April 1818**

Certificate of Pension issued the **16th** of **Sepr 1818**

and **Sent to Simeon Baldwin Esqr.**

Newhaven

Arrears to 4th of Sepr. 4 Mos & 29/30	39.70
<u>Semi annl all'ee ending 4th Sepr 1819</u>	<u>48</u>
	<u><u>87.70</u></u>

Died Feb 13, 1834

Revolutionary claim,
Act 18th March 1818

3 years

Meriden, New Haven County

Note that that this is a printed form filled in by an employee of the pension office in Washington, D.C. The bold text is the portion written by hand. The rest of the document was printed.

Document 2: Pension Declaration

State of Connecticut — New Haven County

I Chatham Freeman a resident citizen of the United States, of Meriden in said County and State aforesaid, do on oath declare that I served my country as a soldier on the Continental establishment for the period of three years, during the Revolutionary war — that on the 2nd day of June 1777 I enlisted as a private in Captain Leavenworth's Company, in the fourth Regiment Connecticut Line, commanded by Col Meigs, in which company and Regiment, I continued faithfully to serve during the period of my enlistment viz. three years, at the expiration of which I was honourably discharged. But by time & accident, my discharge is lost and cannot now be produced. I further declare on oath that by reason of extreme poverty, I now need the assistance of my country for support. I therefore pray that I may be placed on the pension list, pursuant to the Act of Congress passed March 18th 1818

Dated at New Haven April 6th 1818

Chatham **X** Freeman

Document 3: Affidavits

New Haven County — New Haven April 6, 1818

Then personally appeared the win named Chatham Freeman, then made know to me by the oath of Samuel Paddock, Junr. & made solemn oath to the truth of the foregoing Declaration by him the said Freeman in my presence subscribed by his mark before me

Simeon Baldwin a Judge
of the Supr Court of Connecticut

I Samuel Paddock Junr. Of Meriden deposed say that I well know the above named Chatham Freeman that he is a free Negro man of good Character as to truth & veracity — and by reason of his infirmities, old age & reduced circumstances in life he now needs the assistance of his country for support.

April 6th 1818.
Samuel Paddock Junr

Sworn before me at the Date
Simeon Baldwin a Judge
Of the Supr Court

To the Hon. The Secretary of the Department of War

I certify that it appears to my satisfaction that Chatham Freeman the applicant served in the revolutionary war as he has stated, against the common Enemy. I therefore certify & transmit the testimony in the case

April 6, 1818
Simeon Baldwin a Judge
of the Supr Court of Connecticut

I certify that it appears to my satisfaction that the applicant Chatham Freeman is an old, infirm, poor negro man who needs the assistance of his Country for support.

August 21, 1818
Simeon Baldwin

Document 4: Property Inventory

At a **County** Court held in and for the **County** of **New Haven**, the District and State of Connecticut, on the **6th** day of **July** 1820, the same being a Court of Record, and have a Seal, by virtue of the laws of said State.

Personally appeared, in open Court, **Chatham Freeman** a resident in the town of **Meriden** in the County of **New Haven** in said State, and exhibited and subscribed the following Schedule, and made **Oath** that the same is a true and perfect Schedule of all his income and property, necessary cloathing and bedding excepted, viz.

One Old House barn some fourth of an acre land	\$20
4 Acres Boggy swamps	24
2 Do Plough land	20
4 Do bush Do	20
3 Old Chairs 75 1 Iron pot 50 1 pail 25	1.50
1 table 50 1 Chest 50	<u>1</u>
	\$106.50

And I am indebted to Amost white in the sum of **65**
\$41.50

his
Chatham X Freeman
mark

Note that that this is a printed form filled in by the court clerk, Henry C. Flagg, who recorded the information supplied by Chatham Freeman. The bold text is the portion written by hand. The rest of the document was printed.

In the list above, "Do" is an abbreviation for ditto, meaning the same. Thus the line "2 Do Plough land" means "2 Acres Plough land," and "4 Do bush Do" means "4 Acres bush land."

Document 5: Sworn Statement

District and State of Connecticut, ss.

Be it Remembered, That in the **County** Court, held in and for the County of **New Haven**, in the District and State aforesaid, on this **6th** day of **July** 1820, the same being a Court of Record, and having a Seal, under the Authority of said State, personally came and appeared in open Court, **Chatham Freeman** aged **70** years, resident in the Town of **Meriden** in the County of **New Haven** in said State, and being **Sworn** according to Law, doth on his Oath declare that he served in the Revolutionary War, as follows: **that he enlisted into the Revolutionary army at Meriden Connecticut into Capt Shalors Company, & Col Meigs Regiment in the month of June 1777 in sd Regiment until June 1780 when he was Honorably discharged** that the original Declaration made by him, for the purpose of obtaining a pension, under the Act of Congress of the 18th of March 1818, was dated the **6th** day of **April** 1818; that in pursuance thereof he was entered in the list of Pensioners, and received a Pension Certificate No. **2387** And I do further 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 hereunto annexed, and by me subscribed. And I do further declare that my occupation **is that of a labourer by I am so inform as to be unable to labour** and that I have **in my** family residing with me **my wife, Maria Freeman who is in her Eighty first year of her age & is quite inform & unable to but very little** all which is subscribed by me the day and year aforesaid.

his
Chatham **X** Freeman
mark

Sworn to, and declared in the Court aforesaid. Whereupon said Court is, on satisfactory proof exhibited in Court, of opinion that the total amount in value of the property contained in the aforesaid Schedule is **106** Dollars and **50** Cents, and doth order these proceedings to be entered in the records of the said Court.

Attest Henry C Flagg Clerk

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