

**Pension Application for John I. or J. Freer**

W.15767 (Widow: Margaret)

Declaration in order to be placed on the Pension List under the Act of 18<sup>th</sup> March 1818.

State of New York

Ulster County SS.

On this sixth day of June 1825, personally appeared in open court, to wit, in the Court of Common Pleas of the county of Ulster aforesaid, being a court of record for the said county which proceeds according to the course of the Common Law with a jurisdiction unlimited in point of amount and which keeps a record of its proceedings, John I, Freer, resident of the town of New Paltz in said county aged sixty seven years, then months, and twenty one days & who being first duly sworn, according to law, doth on his oath, make the following Declaration in order to obtain the provision made by the acts of Congress of the e18th March 1818, and the 1<sup>st</sup> May 1820:-

That he the said John I. Freer enlisted for the term of nine months on or about the twelfth day of February in the year 1776 in the State of New York in the company commanded by Captain Cornelius Hardenburgh, in the Regiment commanded by Captain Cornelius Hardenburgh, in the Regiment commanded by Colonel Ritzema, in the line of the State of New York, or on the New York Continental Establishment. That he continued to serve in the said corps until the first of January in the year 1777, or there about, when he was discharged from the service at a place called Verplank's Point, near Peekskill, in the County of Westchester, in the State of New York.

That he hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension, except the present. That his name is not upon the roll of any state:--

And in pursuance of the Act of the 1<sup>st</sup> May 1820, I do solemnly swear that I was a resident citizen of the United States on the 18<sup>th</sup> 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 being 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 18<sup>th</sup> 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 hereto annexed and by me subscribed.

That since the 18<sup>th</sup> of March 1818, the following changes have been made in my property: viz, the horse mentioned in my Declaration of Dec. 1822 to me and my son jointly died more than a year ago in consequence of a fall from a bridge; in April 1824, I sold my little cart and harness, both nearly worn out, to James H. Webb for five dollars, and my landlord, Noah Hasbrouch, at the same time took my old saddle for rent at five dollars.

My occupation was formerly that of a shoemaker, but owing to repeated violent attacks of rheumatism, I have been unable to follow it for several years past. I have also had four strokes of the palsy, the last on the evening of the of the 25<sup>th</sup> of May last;

it laid me helpless and speechless for four hours, and it was not until day light the next morning that by bleeding and blistering a physician restored me to myself.

My wife, Margaret, is now fifty nine years old, and being in pretty good health, she is our chief support; we live by selling [cake?] and beer which she prepares. My children are all from home except Hester, aged 17, who goes out to days work for her maintenance, but does not contribute any thing to the support of me and my wife.  
(Signed John I. Freer)

Sworn to and declares, on the 6<sup>th</sup> day of June 1825 before me Jonathan DuBois presiding Judge of the Court of Common Pleas of Ulster County in the absence of Lucas Elmendorph first Judge of said County.

Letter in folder dated July 31, 1939, written in response to an inquiry.

Reference is made to your letter relative to John freer, a soldier of the Revolutionary War.

The data contained herein were obtained from the papers on file in the Revolutionary War claim for pension W.15767, based upon the military service of John I. Freer in that war.

John I. Freer, the name is also shown as John J. Freer, was the son of John I. or John J. Freer. The place of his birth and the name of his mother are not given.

John I. Freer enlisted in Kingston, Ulster County, New York, February 12, 1776, served as private in Captain Cornelius Hardenbergh's Company, Colonel Ritzema's New York Regiment and was discharged January 1, 1777.

He was allowed pension on his application executed June 6, 1825, at which time he was a resident of New Paltz, Ulster County, New York, and aged sixty-seven years, ten months, twenty-one days.

He died September 16, 1828, place not given.

Soldier married the last of February or the first of March 1783, in Marbletown, Ulster County, New York, Miss Margaret Bennet, of said Marbletown.

Soldier's widow Margaret Freer, was allowed pension on her application executed November 21, 1838, at which time she was a resident of Marlboro, Ulster County, New York, and aged seventy-two years.

Soldier and Margaret had then children. Their oldest child, Solomon, was born June 5, 1785, and was baptized July 24, 1785, in the Dutch Reformed Church, in New Paltz, New York; their child, Hester, was aged seventeen years in 1825, no other names of children were designated.

In 1828 one John Freer, Jr., was of Ulster County, New York, his age and relationship not given.

In 1838 one Jacob B. Freer was residing in Marlboro, New York, his age and relationship to the family not stated.