

## **Chatham Freeman (1750-1834)**

### **Served 1777-1780, 6<sup>th</sup> Regiment**

Chatham Freeman served in the 6<sup>th</sup> Connecticut Regiment in a company led by Major Eli Leavenworth. Freeman's enslaver, Noah Yale, promised to emancipate him if he would serve as a substitute for Yale's son who had been drafted. Freeman enlisted on June 2, 1777, for a term of three years. He was discharged on April 25, 1780.

Upon his return to Wallingford, Freeman wanted to marry Rhea, a woman slaved by Yale. In exchange for permitting the marriage, Yale demanded seven years of Freeman's labor. In 1782 though, Yale emancipated Freeman, Rhea, and their infant son, Jube. The couple also had a daughter named Kate.

Freeman's family thrived and worked to buy their own land.

### **Sources:**

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