

Primus (Cobas) Coburn Narrative Transcript

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Below is a transcription of pp. 3-4 of Primus (Cobas) Coburn's Revolutionary War pension file (see document #11 in this collection). On these two pages is Primus's personal account of service. He mentions locations of service, being wounded, and his presence at the execution of British Major John Andre, an accomplice of Benedict Arnold.

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[page 1]

State of Maryland, Baltimore County Js

On the ninth day of April in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and eighteen personally offered before the undersigned Primus Coburn ^resident of^ the City of Baltimore a free person of color, aged fifty three years and upwards enlisted at Abington in the County of Plymouth in the State of Massachusetts in the summer of the year Seventeen hundred and eighty, marched with other recruits to West Point in the State of New York and mustered in the Company of Captain Miller of the first Company in the first Regiment of the First Brigade in the Massachusetts Line then stationed at that point, that he served as a private soldier in that line under said commander from that period for the term of three years - that he was slightly wounded in the leg at a place called "Morris Sena" below "Kings ferry" at the North River, while on procket guard; and that he was honorably discharged by "Paymaster Eagerston" as deponent believes, under general order - the Regiment being the command of Col. Vose & the Brigadier Genl. was named Pallerman - that the discharge which was stated to be "honorable" he last while in the service of Colonel William Lyles at Alexandria in the State of Virginia - Deponent states that he was frequently on guard at "Tatoway" where Major Andre was imprisoned, that he was present when the Regiment was drawn up and surrounded him at his execution at said places - that the Regiment to which he was attached were authorized at the time of discharge to wear as a badge of honor, on the left arm, something resembling

a "V" - that the wound received had latterly broken out and at one time the surgions were about to amputate [^][superscript illegible]^; but has since got so much better as to inable him to walk

[page 2]

but not to gain a comfortable sustenance by manual labor. That his name hath never been inscribed on any pension list - that from his extreme indigence & affliction, he needs the assistance of his country for support - and therefore xxxxx is an applicant for a pension under the act of Congress entitled " An Act to Provide for Certain Persons in the Land and Naval Service of the United States in the Revolutionary War -

Primus Coburn

Sworn to before me

N. Price Cheif of Judges
Balt City Courts.

State of Maryland City of Baltimore Courts

From the aforgoing declaration and [annex] declarations Laws satisfied that Primus Coburn served as private soldier for the term of three years in the revolutionary War against the common enemy - and is entitled to a pension under the Act of Congress above referred.

N. Price, Chief of Judges
of Baltimore City Courts
9th April 1818