Elijah Blackman was born 21 February 1739/40 in Stoughton, Norfolk County, Massachusetts to Thomas and Mary (Pitcher) Blackman. He married Elizabeth Hall, the daughter of Samuel and Abigail (Starr) Hall, on 20 Oct 1767 in Middletown, Middlesex County, Connecticut.

When Connecticut authorized several militia regiments to be formed in the aftermath of the alarm at Lexington in April 1775, Elijah joined the 4th Company, 2nd Regiment as a 1st Lieutenant. While serving with this regiment in 1776, he deployed to Long Island, and after the battle there, was involved in the evacuation from Long Island the night of 29-30 August 1776. He was again in harm’s way for the Battle of White Plains 28 October 1776. On 1 January 1777, Elijah was appointed a Captain in the Connecticut Continental Line, and served as a Company Commander from 1 January 1777 to 2 March 1779, during which time he participated in the Battle of Newport (29 August 1778). In 1779, Elijah felt compelled to request relief from active service to care for his wife (who was in “a very bad state of health”) and his financially strapped family, which included several small children. His Regimental Commander (Colonel Sherburne) in his endorsement to Elijah’s request, described Elijah as “a very worthy, good officer” and that he was “very unwilling to part with so good an officer”, but reluctantly supported Elijah’s request, which was then “consented to” by Major General Sullivan.

Sometime between 1781 and 1784, Elijah moved his family to Chester, Massachusetts, which would be their home for the next 20 plus years. He rejoined military affairs in 1794, having been appointed that year as a Major in the Massachusetts Militia.

In 1808, Elijah moved with his family (wife, children and spouses, and grandchildren) for the last time to Aurora, Portage County, Ohio, which would be his home for the next 14 years. His son Samuel died in 1813 and was apparently the first burial on Elijah’s property in what would become the family cemetery, and which is now known as Plainview (aka Mennonite) Cemetery in Aurora.

Elijah was granted a military pension 22 April 1818 based on his Continental Line service as a Captain, which helped ease his final years. Elijah’s wife Elizabeth died on 6 October 1820 and Elijah followed soon after on 15 May 1822. They are both buried next to their son Samuel and his wife Esther, on one side, and their daughter Polly and her husband Captain Abner Pease (also a Revolutionary War veteran) on the opposite side of their graves.