

Pension Application for Derick or Derrick or Richard Hilton

W. 3550 (Widow: Maria)

B.L. Wt. 14965-160-55

State of New York

County of Albany SS.

Derick Hilton (otherwise called Richard Hilton) of the town of Bethlehem in said county, aged eighty-four years and upwards, and a pensioner of the United States under the act of 7th June 1832, being duly sworn and examined, doth depose and say in order to obtain an increase of the pension now allowed him, that in the beginning of the month of September 1776, he entered the company of Captain Mathew Fisher (or Vischer) (1) in the Regiment of Jacob Lansing in the Brigade of Genl. Abm. Ten Broeck (2) as Orderly Sergeant of said company. That immediately thereupon on or about the tenth day of September in the year last named, he marched with his said company to Lake George, and at that place & Fort Edward performed garrison duty, and for about five days of this term of service he went out with a scouting party of which he this deponent had the command. There were as this deponent thinks & if he remembers right about five hundred soldiers at said fort or forts last named—General Gansevoort (3) then a Colonel had for the most of the time command of that garrison at Lake George, and General Ten Broeck of the garrison at Fort Edward aforesaid. The term of this his service at Lake George & Fort Edward, was at least sixty four days or until the 15th day of November 1776.—

On the 15th day of March 1777, he this deponent was promoted to the office of Ensign (4) in company aforesaid, there having been previously no ensign in said company—on the day following, viz, the 16th day of March 1777 he this deponent marched to Saratoga at which place and also at other forts and passes occupied by the northern American Army he performed duty as such Ensign until the 8th or 9th day of November 1777, being all the time during said term last stated from said 16th day of March 1777 following or for seven months and twenty-four days at least—on said eighth or 9th day of November 1777, he this Deponent was discharged at Saratoga foresaid—Isaac G. Lansing Lieutenant in said company had during said seven months & 24 days the command of said company, the captain thereof Mathew Fisher being too unwell to engage in active service.

In the latter part of the month of July 1778, he this deponent marched to the lower fort of Schoharie in the Capacity of Ensign as aforesaid and served as such from the 20th day of July or thereabouts until the latter part of September, and as near as this deponent can recollect until about the 20th day of that month the said James Lansing accompanied this deponent in said expedition also Nicholas Jeroloman at that time Captain Abraham H. Cuyler (5) then the Lieutenant Colonel, (6) or as this deponent thinks then Colonel of said fort. After this deponent had been at said fort a short time an express came giving information that the inhabitants of Cobleskill, (7) (which was situated about 14 miles from said lower fort) had been put to death or captured & the town laid waste—A volunteer company of about 25 was formed of the men from Albany County the fort to go55 in pursuit of the enemy—this company or

detachment was under the command of this deponent and after a short tour of about four days returned & resumed the performance of Garrison duty at said lower Schoharie Fort. This deponent thinks that the greatest part of the Regiment aforesaid was on duty at said fort at the time last referred to, he remembers that Captain's Roseboom, (8) Abraham Yates, Grosbeck --& others from said regiment were there with their companies.

On or about the fifteenth day of June 1779, he this deponent marched with his company aforesaid and as Ensign thereof to Fort Hunter & where he performed garrison duty for about two weeks, thence he proceeded with his said company to fort Plain where he remained on duty for three weeks when he returned home. The other officers of his said company who accompanied him, in this expedition were said Isaac Lansing Lieutenant & said Jerolomon Captain—Colonel Wemple (9) of Schenectada had the command of the whole garrison at said Fort Hunter, and General Robert Van Rensselaer (10) at Fort Plain aforesaid.

On or about the 15th day of September 1779, he this deponent performed service as Ensign at Fort Paris in Stone Arabia for at least fifty six days or until the beginning of the month of November following or about the 10th day of November 1779. General TenBroeck had the command of said fort, and said Jeroloman Captain & Lansing Lieutenant was aforesaid were the only commissioned officers on duty on this occasion except this deponent.

On the 20th or 25th day of September 1780, or thereabouts the, this deponent holding the rank of Ensign as aforesaid marched from Albany to Fort Hunter with the same company officers except Captain Jeroloman (who was too unwell to leave home). At Fort Hunter he served and did duty six or eight days, when they were ordered to march to Fort Plain where after remaining a day or two they marched to Fort Herkimer—at this time the enemy retreated—the whole length of this tour about forty five days or ended on the tenth day of November 1780, or thereabout—This was the last time this deponent performed during the war of the revolution.

And this deponent further saith, that on the fifteenth day of March 1777, as aforesaid he this deponent was chosen ensign of his said company by the unanimous vote of the members of his said company which was the practice at that time. (Signed) Derick Hilton.

Subscribed & Sworn this 3d day of Feby 1840 before me; and I certify that said Derick Hilton is a credible witness. Wm. Galligars, Com. of Deed.

Letter written asking for information, dated September Second 1911.

I am desirous if obtaining some information concerning the army service of my great grand father, Derick Hilton, who served as ensign and lieutenant in Colonel Abraham Cuyler's Regiment of New York Malitia, Revolutionary War.

From information at hand I am led to believe that Derick Hilton was a pensioner during the latter part of his life, and until his death which occurred in 1849. I think that the pension allowance was paid to him at the Albany (N.Y) Agency and that after his death, his wife Maria (or Mary) Van Deusen Hilton drew a pension until her death in 1863.

The information asked for is of especial importance to complete some family records, and I would esteem it a great favor if your office would let me know the date of his enlistment and discharge. If honorably discharged I would like to obtain a copy of the certificate, for which I am more than ready to pay any proper charge.

End Notes—W.3550—Derick Hilton

1. Mathew Fisher was the first lieutenant in Captain Thomas Barret's Second Company in Colonel Jacob Lansing's Jr's, First Regiment of Albany County Militia. It is possible there was a change in officers but so far a record of Lieutenant Fisher having been promoted to Captain has not been found.
2. Abraham TenBroeck was appointed brigadier general of the Albany County Militia Brigade and resigned on March 26, 1781 on account of infirmity.
3. Peter Gansevoort, Jr., served as major on June 30, 1775 in Colonel Goose VanSchaick's Second New York Continental Regiment. On March 19, 1776 he was appointed lieutenant colonel in Colonel VanSchaick's Regiment. This 1776 regiment was raised to reinforce the American Army that was still in Canada and was not numbered. Colonel James Clinton who had commanded the Third New York Continental Regiment in 1775 was appointed colonel of the 1776 Second New York. On November 21, 1776, Gansevoort was appointed Colonel of the Third New York Continental Regiment. He commanded this regiment until January 1, 1781 when the five New York Continental Regiments were consolidated into two regiments. Gansevoort retired from the Continental service and on March 26, 1781, he was appointed brigadier general of the first brigade of Albany County Militia.
4. In Derick's pension application file extracts from the Council of Appointment of the State of New York it reads as follows: *April 4, 1778 "Resolved that the following persons be officers of the Regiment in the County of Albany commanded by Colonel Jacob Lansing Junr to wit: Nicholas Jerolman Capt Isaac Lansing Junr. First Lieutenant, Bernardus Hallenback Second Lieutenant William Hilton Junr Ensign".*

October 20th 1779.

"Resolved that Richard Hilton Gentleman is hereby appointed Ensign of Captain Jerolmans Company in Colonel Lansings Regiment of Militia in the County of Albany vice [in place of] William Hilton heretofore appointed by mistake."

March 26, 1781

"Resolved that in Col. Abraham Cuylers Regiment of Militia in Albany County [formerly commanded by Col. Jacob Lansing Junr] the following appointment be and they are hereby made: Thomas Hunn Junr first Lieut and Richard Hilston Second Lieutenant Vice Hollenback resigned."

State of New York

Secretary's Office

I certify the preceding to be true extracts from the minutes aforesaid and that commissions were issued to the officers above named.

Given under my hand and the seal of this Office at the City of Albany the Eighth day of November A.D. 1833. Arch'd Campbell, Dep Secretary.

5. Abraham Cuyler was appointed second major on October 20, 1775 in Colonel Lansing's Regiment. On April 4, 1778, Cuyler was promoted to first major and to Colonel of the regiment on March 3, 1780 as Lansing had resigned.
6. Dirck TenBroeck was appointed lieutenant Colonel on October 20, 1775 and he served in that capacity until he resigned. On March 3, 1780, Harmanus Wendell was appointed lieutenant Colonel and John Price as major.
7. Cobleskill was destroyed by Captain Joseph Brant on May 30, 1778.
8. Jacob Roseboom, Abraham I. Yates and Gerrit Groesbeck were not commissioned captains until March 3, 1780.
9. Abraham Wemple was the colonel of the Second Regiment of Albany County Militia.
10. Robert Van Rensselaer was the colonel of the Eight Regiment of Albany County Militia. He was promoted to brigadier general on June 16, 1780 of the second brigade of the Albany County Militia. The Tryon County Militia was afterwards attached to this brigade.
11. On March 26, 1781, John Scott, Captain of the Company formed out of Abraham I. Yates' (Resigned), and Jeroleman's (cashiered) companies. Thomas Hun, Jr. 1st Lieut., Vice Scott Richard Hilton, 2d Lieut., vice Hellenbeck, (Resigned), and John Bogart, Ensign. Hilton's commission as second lieutenant was in his pension application file. In Derick's (July 29, 1832 declaration) he states *"In 1781 – he was promoted to a Lieutenancy, and served under Colo Abraham Cuyler, on different Expeditions, to Schoharie, Cobleskill, Turlock, and to Fort Herkimer, and other posts of the frontiers, during the whole of that Campaign—in 1782 – he was mostly confined on his services to doing duty in and about the City of Albany, during the whole of that year"*.