

**Pension Application for David Kniskern, Kneskern, Knieskern**

R.6035

State of New York

County of Albany

Town of Bern

On this Twenty-fifth day of January in the year of our Lord one Thousand Eight Hundred and Fifty one, personally appeared before me a Justice of the Peace duly authorized to administer oaths within and for the County and State aforesaid, David Kniskern aged eighty-four years a resident of the Town of Knox, County and state aforesaid, who being by me first duly sworn according to law, doth on his oath depose and say that he served in the War of the Revolution and did service as a private in Capt. Adam Dietz (1) Company in a fort that was Erected in Beaverdam Albany & the fort was known sometimes as Weidman's (2) Fort.

This deponent says that he served from the 20<sup>th</sup> day of March to sometime in the month of November seventeen hundred and eighty two. This deponent says further that the said company belonged to no regiment that he recollects of. The company was raised in his neighborhood for the defense of the surrounding Inhabitants, there had been many persons killed by Indians in the vicinity and the Company was raised and the fort built for the security of the neighborhood and to watch the enemy who traversed this County on their way from Esopus to Schoharie and Cherry Valley.

This deponent says further that Adam Dietz left this fort before the term of service of this deponent expired and that to the best of his present recollection Mathias Schuldus (3) had the command of said company and William Zimmer was Either Lieut. or Ensign and William Ball (4) was our drummer for which service said William Ball drew a pension during his lifetime. This deponent says that he performed service as above stated faithfully until he was discharged in the fall of 1782.

This deponent says further that the reason why he did not make application for pension until this time is that he has always had a sufficiency of means for his support until now he is reduced to such a degree that he is now living upon the charity of friends and as he verily believes and is advised that for the service he rendered he is entitled to a pension from the government of his country.

This application for pension is made under the act of Congress passed June 7<sup>th</sup> 1832 giving pensions to the militia who served in the War of the Revolution.

(Signed with his mark) David Kniskern

B. V. Gardner. Sworn to and subscribed before me the day and year above written.  
Benjamin V. Gardner. Justice of the Peace.

State of New York

County of Albany SS.

On the Tenth day of March in the year of our Lord one Thousand Eight Hundred and Fifty one, personally appeared before me, a Justice of the peace duly authorized to administer oaths within and for the County and state aforesaid Hannah Yager aged Eight[y] Five years, who being by me first duly sworn according to law, doth on her oath depose and say that she is well acquainted with the within named David Kniskern who was a soldier in the war of the Revolution. The said David Kniskern was a private in the Company sometimes Commanded by Adam Dietz, and in his absence by Mattias Schuldus, or William Schuldus who were both in the same fort, the said David Kniskern did duty as a private in said Company from early in the spring of the year 1782 to sometime in the month of November 1782 in a fort at Beaverdam.

The fort was sometimes known as the Whiteman fort. This deponent saith that she was in the said fort and knows positively of the said David Kniskern being on duty there for over six months as a private, this deponent recollects that the said David Kniskern was one night standing guard and he was found by one of the other of the guard asleep for which he was severely whipped by order of the Commanding officer in the presence of all the soldiers and people in the fort. This deponent said further to the best of her knowledge this fort was garrisoned some soldiers from Fox Creek, Schoharie and some from Albany County for protection of the surrounding Inhabitants by order of Col. Vroman (5) of Schoharie or Col. VanSchoick (6) of Albany. This deponent saith further that she is a resident of the Town of Bern County and State aforesaid, and is yet of sound mind of good memory and has yet a good recollection of the events of the war of the revolution as they came under her observation she says further that she knew of Wm Zimmer being there in said fort, and Wm Ball (7) as drummer and further saith not. (Signed with her mark) Hannah Yager

Witness Saml Schoonmaker. L Sworn to and subscribed before me the day and year above written. Saml O. Schoonmaker, Justice.

End Notes—R.6035—David Kniskern

1. Adam Dietz, Teats, Teetz, etc, was commissioned second lieutenant in Captain William Dietz's Company in Colonel Philip P. Schuyler's Third Regiment of Albany County Militia on March 4, 1780. Adam was never appointed Captain of his company and David may have confused Adam with William Dietz who had been the captain of the company until August of 1781. William had replaced Peter Dietz as captain who had died from being accidently wounded on October 18, 1777. Peter died on October 19, 1777. The company was then commanded by First Lieutenant Jost Shaver until William was appointed Captain and commissioned on March 4, 1780.
2. Peter Whiteman was commissioned ensign of Captain of Peter Dietz's Company on June 22, 1778, while Whiteman continued to serve under Lieutenant Shaver but declined a promotion of lieutenant in Captain William Dietz's Company. Hannah Yager in her supporting testimony calls the Fort Whiteman. Most likely the fort was around his home for the local protection of the nearby families. It may have been stockaded but none of the supporting testimony gives a description of the fort.
3. Mathias Schuyler, Shultes, etc., was commissioned the first lieutenant on March 4, 1780 in Captain William Dietz's Company and actually commanded the company after August of 1781.
4. William Ball did receive a pension. The pension application number was N.Y. S.28631. William's application was only 16 pages long and David also gave supporting testimony for William. There are no known muster rolls for any of the companies of the Beaverdam area. Surprisingly, William's application was approved, David's was rejected and so was the one of Adam Dietz. Pension application number NY R.2847. In the application it was stated he was the son of William Dietz. The biggest reason possibly for David's pension application rejection was the fact that he was not sixteen years of age until 1783. This was the legal age to serve.
5. Peter Vrooman was the Colonel of the Fifteenth Regiment of Albany County Militia also known as the United Districts of Schoharie and Duanesburgh Regiment. The regiments of Schuyler and Vrooman met near the Beaverdam settlement so militiamen from the Fox Creek area were stationed at times at the Beaverdam. Hannah maybe is referring to Captain Christian Stubrach's Company of Vrooman's Regiment. The Second Lieutenant of the company was Johannes Dietz and a William Zimmer served as a private in this company. Also a Henrich, Jacob, John, and Teunis Kniskern had served

in Stubrach's Company. Possibly this was Vrooman's closest company to the Beaverdam company.

6. Goose Van Schaick was the colonel of the First New York Continental Regiment. Colonel VanSchaick was several times during the war at Albany and would be the ranking Continental officer of the Northern Department.
7. On February 20, 1776 the following officers were appointed for the Beaverdam Company: Jacob Ball as Captain possibly William's father), John Warner as the first lieutenant, Peter Dietz as the second lieutenant and Jost Shaver as the ensign. Peter Dietz was appointed captain of the company on September 9, 1777. The following officers were appointed in his company and were commissioned on June 22, 1778; Jost Shaver was the first lieutenant, William Dietz as the second lieutenant and Peter Whiteman as the ensign. On March 4, 1780 the following were commissioned as officers of this company: William Dietz as captain because Peter Dietz was deceased, Matthias Shultes as first lieutenant as Whiteman declined and Adam Dietz, Jun'r as second lieutenant. There are no appointments or commissions issued for this company after March 4, 1780.