

**Pension Application for Jonathan Hilton**

W.21335 (Widow Catharine. Married 1788.)

State of New York

Albany County SS.

John Hilton of the City of Albany, being duly sworn, deposeth that he is seventy six years of age & upwards—He is a brother of Jonathan Hilton deceased, who was Lieutenant in Col. Willett's Regiment in the Revolutionary War—That his brother the said Jonathan was first married to Cornelia Van Antwerp and had only one child by her—This deponent was himself married in the year 1784 and he recollects that the said Jonathan was married before this deponent's marriage took place, to the said Cornelia, and that she died a year or two after this deponent was married—

This deponent further saith that his said Brother Jonathan Hilton was again married after the death of his first wife to Catharine Hanson, daughter of Philip Hanson within two or three years after the death of his first wife, but this deponent cannot recollect the year in which his said Brother was married the second time—but it must have been after the year 1786 and before the year 1790—That the said Jonathan has been absent from Albany & from his family about forty years & has not within that time, so far as this deponent believes, been hear of or from—and this deponent believes he has been dead many years.

This Deponent further saith that he recollects that the said Jonathan Hilton was engaged in the service of the United States, before he was a Lieutenant (1) in Col. Willett's Regiment. That said Jonathan served as a Sergeant in Capt. Jacob Lansing's (2) Company of Militia & under the command of Major Woolsey (3)—That he went with said company & served as a Sergeant therein at the Middle Fort in Schoharie, as this Deponent understood & believes—for the period of three months—This was, as near as Deponent can recollect, in the year before he was appointed an Ensign or Lieutenant in Col. Willett's Regiment.

This Deponent and the said Jonathan both resided at that time in Albany and Deponent [?] and said Jonathan marched away from Albany with Capt. Lansing's Company.

They first went on an expedition to the south of Albany, as Deponent understood at the time & afterwards went to Schoharie, & was stationed in the Middle Fort—

Deponent understood from his Brother & from others too that they were attacked by the Indians whilst stationed at the Middle Fort, (4) as above mentioned—but they beat off the Indians—

Deponent recollects when his Brother the said Jonathan returned from Schoharie, and according to the best of Deponents recollection, he had been absent three months.

Deponent is unable from infirmity to write his name. (Signed with his mark) John Hilton

Sworn and subscribed this 24<sup>th</sup> day of August 1838 before me. L. Jenkins Com'r of Deeds

State of New York

County of Albany SS

On this 26<sup>th</sup> day of July in the year one thousand eight hundred and thirty eight, personally appeared before the Justice Court of the City of Albany, the same being a court of Record, Catharine Hilton a resident of said city, aged eighty years & upwards, who being first duly sworn according to law, doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the provision made by the act of Congress, passed July 7, 1838, entitled "An act granting half pay & pensions to certain widows"—

That she is the widow of Jonathan Hilton, (5) who was an Ensign in the Regiment of Levies raised for the defence of the Frontiers of the state and served as such under the command of Lieut. Colonel Marinus Willett.

She further declares that she was married to the said Jonathan Hilton, in the year one thousand seven hundred and eighty eight; that her husband the aforesaid Jonathan Hilton has been dead, as she verily believes, more than thirty five years, but at what particular time he died she is unable to state.—

That she was not married to him prior to his leaving the service, but the marriage took place previous to the first of January seventeen hundred and ninety four—viz—at the time above stated.

She further states that her surname previous to her said marriage was Hanson or Hansen as it is sometimes spelled.

That she was married in the City of Albany and the ceremony was performed by Dominie Westerlo or Dominie Bassett, but which of these two ministers she does not recollect, as she is now old and infirm and her memory has very much failed her—She further states that her husband left here when his youngest daughter was a young child—she was then a nursing child and this declarant has never seen him since, but once and then he went off again and since then she has never heard from or seen him—which is now about thirty five years—and she is unable to write her name. (Signed with her mark) Catherine Hilton.

Sworn and Subscribed this day & year first above written in said county. John G. Wasson, Clk.  
State of Albany  
County of Albany SS.

Anthony VanSantvoort of the City of Albany, being duly sworn, deposeseth, that he is seventy six years of age & upwards & has resided in said City all his life time. He was well acquainted with Jonathan Hilton in his lifetime—This deponent has always understood that said Hilton was an officer in the Revolutionary Army—and served as such in Col. Willett's Regiment—This deponent was also well acquainted with said Hilton's family—The said Hilton married Catharine Hanson, about fifty years ago—This deponent recollects to have heard they were going to be married, and afterwards heard they were married—and has no doubt of the fact—but he was not present at the marriage.

This Deponent further saith that the said Jonathan Hilton has been absent from the City of Albany and from his family more than forty years, according to this deponent's best recollection and has not so far as this deponent has any knowledge, been heard of or from during that period—And this deponent believes that said Hilton is dead and has been dead for many years.

That said Hilton was several years older than this deponent and was a young man when this deponent was a boy.

This Deponent is well acquainted with Catherine Hilton who was the wife and is now the widow of said Jonathan Hilton, and so with Simon V. A. Hilton their son, who is now about forty [seven?] years old. (Signed) Anthony VanSantvoord.

Sworn & Subscribed this 25<sup>th</sup> day of July 1838 before me. L. Jenkins, Court of Deeds.

End Notes—W.21335—Jonathan Hilton

1. Jonathan was appointed ensign and lieutenant in Colonel Marinus Willett's Regiment of New York State Levies. Several of the officers were appointed on July 24, 1782 to recruit as ensigns and if they recruited their quota of recruits they would receive commissions as lieutenants. On September 29, 1782 declined his commission and Christopher Peak

(Peake, Peek, etc.) was appointed ensign in his place. Hilton had been assigned to Captain Peter B. Tearce's Company in Willett's Regiment.

2. Jonathan enlisted on August 1, 1780 and was appointed Corporal in Captain Jacob J. Lansing's Company in Colonel Morris Graham's Regiment of New York State Levies. He is listed as serving to October 30, 1780. FROM: Revolutionary War Rolls 1775-1783, Series M-246, Roll 74, folder 107, National Archives, Washington, D.C.
3. Melancton Woolsey was appointed major on July 1, 1780 in Colonel Graham's Regiment.
4. Sir John Johnson invaded the Schoharie Valley on October 17, 1780. Johnson attempted to capture the Middle and Lower Forts but his artillery was too small to breach the walls of either fort.
5. Jonathan also served as a private in Captain John Scott's Company in Colonel Abraham Cuyler's First Regiment of Albany County Militia at various times.