

Pension Application for Richard Hilton

S.13403

State of New York

Albany Justices Court SS.

On the twenty seventh day of November one thousand eight hundred and thirty five personally appeared before the Justices Court of the City of Albany now sitting (the same being a court of record) Richard Hilton a resident of the City and County of Albany and State of New York aforesaid aged seventy six years in the month of June last past who being first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the act of Congress passed June 7, 1832. VIZ

In the month of May 1777 I went into the public service as a private and volunteer and was placed under the command of one Major Smith who was stationed at Albany and had the charge of clothing and ammunition for Gate's Army then lying at Saratoga.

The ammunition was kept on board of vessels lying in the river in front of the City. I continued with Smith until about the first of September following when in consequence of orders which I received I accompanied Captain Nicholas Jeroloman's (1) Company of Malitia [militia] from the City of Albany to where the American Army then was at Saratoga. We marched to Saratoga on the West Side of the river until we came to Fort Edward when we crossed the river and continued our march on the East side until we reached our place of destination which was on the next day after we commenced our march. We continued here until the surrender of Burgoyne. (2) A few days after which event we returned to Albany and were there discharged from farther duty about the close of the month of November having been in the service six months. My company belonged to Col. Jacob Lansing's (3) regiment of Malitia and my officers who were on duty at the same time were to the best of my present recollection Col. Jacob Lansing Captain Nicholas Jeroloman & Lieutenant Isaac G. Lansing & Barney Hallenbake.

In the month of July 1778 I was drafted in Captain Jeroloman's company which was ordered to proceed to Schoharie in consequence of an apprehension felt by the inhabitants of that place that they were to be attacked by the enemy.

We left Albany and went to Schoharie and on our arrival there took up our quarters at the lower fort as it was then called. On our march we took the old Schoharie road lying on the south side of the Mohawk river. We remained at Schoharie until sometime in the Month of September following when we returned to Albany by the same route we had gone & where we were discharged..

We saw no troops at Schoharie in the American service and had no engagements with the enemy. We were absent on duty two months. Our officers were Major Abraham H. Cuyler (4) of the Malitia who had the command at the Fort. Captain Nicholas Jeroloman and Lieutenants Hallenbake and Hilton. (5)

In October of the same year I was again drafted and started with my said company from Albany for Stone Arabia. On our way there we passed through the City of Schenectady and were stationed on our arriving at our place of destination at fort Paris. Before we were drafted & left home it was reported that the tories and indians intended to attack & slaughter the inhabitants of that place. When we arrived the people had already assembled in considerable numbers for the purpose of defence. We remained there until sometime in the month of November following when we returned by the same road we had gone to Stone Arabia to Albany & in arriving there were discharged. We had no engagement with the enemy.

Gen Abraham Ten Broeck (6) had the command at the Fort. The officers of the company and Regiment to which I belonged & who us as I now recollect were Col. Jacob Lansing, Capt Nicholas Jeroloman and Lieut Hilton we were on duty at the time one month.

In the month of May 1779 I was again drafted in Captain Nicholas Jeroloman's Company and we were ordered to march to Fort Hunter. We left Albany accordingly [accordingly] for fort Hunter passing through the City of Schenectady and along the Mohawk river to the fort.

We found no troops here on our arrival and we remained until in the month of July following when we returned home to Albany & were discharge. Having been absent on duty two months we had no fighting with the enemy. The officers who accompanied us were Col. Wemple (7) of Schenectady, and Major Cuyler, Captain Nicholas Jeroloman & Ensign Hilton.

We had not been home and discharged but a few days before news was brought to Albany that the Tories and Indians under Brandt threatened to attack the people about Fort Plain. My company upon this news was again ordered on duty and to march to Fort Plain. We marched from Albany and took the same route through Schenectady & up the Mohawk until we came to Fort Plain.

We learned on arriving there that many people men women and children had been murdered & that the enemy had then left. (8) We remained here without being in any engagement until about the first of September following when we returned to Albany by the same way we came and were discharged. We were absent on duty one month. Genl Robert VanRensselaer (9) of Claverack Columbia County was at the fort with his regiment when we arrived. Col. Wemple had the command of the regiment to which I belonged and the only other officers who accompanied us whose names I now recollect were Capt. Nicholas Jeroloman and Lieut Hilton.

In the month of October in the year last mentioned I was again drafted and called into the service in consequence of reports of which were rife that Sir John Johnson intended to march from Canada with a body of Tories and Indians and lay waste the country. I accordingly left Albany with my company passing through the City of Schenectady and up the Mohawk river to fort Hunter a few days after our arrival at fort Hunter information was brought there that Johnson with his Tories and Indians was near by [by] and had burned & devastated the country in his march we immediately received orders to prepare to meet him. He did not make his appearance and we then in pursuance of orders went in pursuit of the enemy & continued the pursuit to Fort Plain.

When we arrived here we were told that the enemy were six miles off and we still continued the pursuit to the German Flats (10) and came up to him here about an hour before sun set. There had already been an engagement between him and Col. Brown in which Col. Brown (11) was killed and scalped. After we arrived a number of men were placed under Col. Duboise (12) of the regular army who was ordered to keep himself & men concealed from the enemy not to fire until Johnson & his came within two hundred yards of them. Dubois however disregarded his orders and his men by his directions fired upon the enemy at five times that distance. Johnson immediately after the firing by our troops under Col. Dubois retreated and was pursued by our troops to Fort Herkimer without being overtaken and the pursuit was then given over. Genl George Clinton (13) came to Fort Herkimer the same evening accompanied by his aide Le Roy and a Major Shanenet (14) a Frenchman. We remained at fort Herkimer two days afterwards and then returned to Albany and were discharged, having been absent on duty two months. My officers there were Col. Wemple. Major Cuyler (15) Captain Nicholas Jeroloman and Lieuts Johnson & Hilton (16) Gen. VanRensselaer accompanied us & had the command.

In the month of October 1780 (17) I was again drafted in my said company and marched with it from Albany to Saratoga. We were called into the service at the time in consequence of certain Scotsmen refusing to serve against the enemy & who it was ordered should be conducted to Montreal. After we arrived at Saratoga a draft of ten men. I think it was[,] was made from each company and then together constituted whose duty it was and who did accompany the said Scotsmen from Saratoga to Lake Champlane where they were put on board of boats and taken

to Montreal. I was not drawn n[or] did I accompany them as one of the guard but I remained at Saratoga until the guard returned to that place when I came back with my company to the City of Albany it being about the middle of November & was discharged having been absent on duty for one month.

And I do declare further that the whole time I was in the public service for which I hereby claim the benefit of the af[o]resaid act of Congress is one year and three months and I confine myself to that period for the reason that I have positive proof of its being rendered by me and in the hope that it will prove entirely satisfactory to the Department. And I do further declare that I served as af[o]resaid in the capacity of a private & never received any commission or warrant.

To the Interrogatories presented by the War Department the said Richard Hilton answers as follows.

First I was born in the City of Albany in the year 1759.

2nd The only record of my age of which I have any record of is contained in the handwriting of my late father William Hilton deceased in an old pocket book now in my possession.

3rd I was living in the City of Albany at the several times I was called into the public service as is mentioned in my preceding declaration.

4th I have lived in the City of Albany in since I was drafted in May 1777 when I volunteered.

5th I refer to my preceding declaration for an answer to this Interrogatory.

6th I did not receive any written discharge.

7th In an answer to this Interrogatory I refer to the annexed affidavits of Derick Hilton and Jonathan Kidney.

There is no Minister of the Gospel now residing in the City of Albany who knows of my having served as af[o]resaid. Mr. Vermylea whose church I attend has been a resident of this City but a few months. I have made by marke [sic] owing to a defect in my Eyesight. (Signed with his mark) Richard Hilton.

Sworn in open Court this 27th day of November 1835. John G. Wasson, Clk

Supplemental declaration or affidavit of Richard Hilton of the City of Albany to obtain a pension or have his Continued under the law of the United States of June 7, 1832.

That in the summer of seventeen hundred and seventy seven or seventeen hundred & seventy eight—though this deponent has always supposed it was in the latter year if not the year following Captain Jeroloman & this deponent were in the service of the United States at Fort Plain. That while there information was brought to Captain Jeroloman that one of his family was very sick that he then asked for leave of absence which was not granted & he left without it. That from that time Captain Jeroloman (18) was not in Command of his Company & not on duty as this deponent now recollects. That from the time Captain Jeroloman's (19) Command ceased until what was called the new arrangement was made in 1780. Lieutenant Lansing commanded the Company when it was united with Captain Scotts & then he Capt Scott took the command. That this deponent Cannot recollect in which of the above years Jeroloman ceased to command but it was one of them. That in the summer of seventeen hundred and seventy Nine he this deponent was again called into service of the United States in consequence of the threatened & actual depredations murders and Conflag[r] ations of the Indians and Tories and continued in the service from the period last af[o]resaid until later in the fall of that year and that he was on duty for three months at Fort Plain and Stone Arabia. (Signed with his mark) Richard Hilton

Sworn before me the 3d day of July 1838. The words "Capt Scott" & "This Deponent" on first page interlined &c. John G. Wasson Clk &c.

End Notes—S.13403—Richard Hilton

1. Nicholas Jeroloman was appointed captain in 1777 in Colonel Jacob Lansing's First Regiment of Albany County Militia. Jeroloman was commissioned Captain on April 4, 1778.
2. In 1777 Lieutenant General John Burgoyne had invaded New York via Lakes Champlain and George to the Hudson Valley. Following the valley and river Burgoyne continued his invasion until Saratoga. Two major battles were fought on September 19th and October 7th. General Burgoyne surrendered the remnants of his invading force on October 17th to Major General Horatio Gates.
3. First Lieutenant Isaac G. Lansing and Second Lieutenant Bernardus Hallenback and Ensign William Hilton were also commissioned on April 4, 1778. On October 20, 1779, Richard [Derick] Hilton was commissioned ensign as William Hilton was appointed by mistake.
4. Abraham H. Cuyler was appointed second major on October 20, 1775 in Colonel Lansing's Regiment and on April 4, 1778, Major Cuyler was promoted to first major and on March 3, 1780 he was appointed colonel as Colonel Lansing and Lieutenant Colonel Derick TenBroeck had resigned.
5. Ensign Derick Hilton Pension Application No. W.3550 was not appointed to lieutenant until 1780 and was commissioned as second lieutenant on March 26, 1781.
6. Abraham TenBroeck was appointed Colonel of the Third Regiment of Albany County Militia on October 20, 1775. By February of 1776 Colonel Ten Broeck was appointed brigadier general of the Albany County Militia Brigade. He served until March 26, 1781 when he resigned on account of infirmity.
7. Abraham Wemple was the Colonel of the Second Regiment of Albany County Militia. Detachments from the Albany County Militia were sent at various times to reinforce the militia in the Schoharie and Mohawk Valleys.
8. This raid happened on August 2, 1780 Captain Joseph Brant and Cornplanter had destroyed the area around the present day Village of Fort Plain and a part of the Town of Minden.
9. Robert VanRensselaer was appointed the Colonel of the Eighth Regiment of Albany County Militia. On June 16, 1780, he was appointed brigadier general of the newly formed second brigade of the Albany County Militia. Richard is mistaken as to General VanRensselaer being at Fort Rensselaer when they arrived under Colonel Wemple. General Van Rensselaer was to the west on the Mohawk River near the present day City of Utica. Richard is correct as to Colonel Wemple being present and in command of the detachment. General VanRensselaer arrived at the fort closer to the 4th or 5th of August.
10. Richard is again mistaken. Sir John Johnson was near the present day Village of St. Johnsville at this time.
11. Colonel John Brown engaged Johnson's forces between 10:00 A.M. and 11:00 A.M. on October 19, 1780. A second battle was fought at Klock's and Failing's Flats and Orchard as Richard states about an hour before sunset.
12. Lewis DuBois was appointed Colonel on June 25, 1776 of a regiment of Continentals which were designated on November 21, 1776 as the Fifth New York Continental Regiment. Colonel DuBois resigned on December 11, 1779 as Colonel of the Fifth New York. On July 1, 1780 DuBois was appointed colonel of a regiment of New York State Levies which were to serve for three months. It is unlikely of that being an order as a musket range is about 100 yards and 65 yards or closer would be better. A musket is a smooth bore and a very inaccurate weapon.

13. Governor George Clinton who was also the Commander-in-Chief of the New York State Militia, and Admiral, etc.
14. Francis Chandonnet was the Assistant Deputy Quarter Master with the rank of Major. So far I haven't found LeRoy's first name but he has been referred to as a brigade major. Governor Clinton and General VanRensselaer had several aide-de-camp's with the rank of major.
15. Abraham Cuyler was actually the Colonel of the First Regiment of Albany County Militia.
16. Lieutenant Johnson did not serve in Colonel Cuyler's Regiment and Derick Hilton was still an ensign.
17. The year for the incident may have been in 1781 or 1782. As Richard had gone to Fort Herkimer in the pursuit of Johnson he may not have returned home until October 25 or later. During Johnson's Raid which started on October 17 to Stone Arabia and Klocksfield on the 19th a party of the enemy had attacked Ball's Town on the 17th. Also a major raid at Lake George and the surrounding area under Major Christopher Carleton had taken place on October 10 and 11th. Forts George and Ann were destroyed and over 100 American troops, killed, wounded or captured plus the capture of the local inhabitants and the destruction of their property. This would not seem like a good time to move in that region to Lake Champlain.
18. This might explain why Captain Nicholas Jeroloman was cashiered. John Scott was commissioned Captain on March 26, 1781 of the company formed out of Captain Abraham I. Yates' (resigned) and Jeroloman's (cashiered) companies. Thomas Hunn, Junl was the first lieutenant, Derick (Richard) Hilton was the second lieutenant and John Bogart was the ensign.
19. Nicholas Jereoloman, Jeraleston, etc. also applied for a pension which was granted. No. S.23279. Captain Jeroloman in his pension application does not give any military service after 1779 which might be mean 1780 that he was court martialled and cashiered.