

Pension Application for George Hilts or George N. Hilts

B.L.Wt.15181-160-55. 160 acres of Bounty Land under Act of March 3d 1855.

State of New York

Herkimer County SS.

On this first day of May AD 1853 personally appeared before a Justice of the Peace within and for the County and State aforesaid George Hilt aged ninety three years on the 17th day of April last a resident of the town of Herkimer in the said County of Herkimer and State of New York who being duly sworn according to Law declares that he is the identical George Hilts who was a private in the company commanded by Captain Henry Harter in the Regiment of Infantry of the Militia of the State of New York commanded by Col. Peter Bellinger in Genl Herkimer's Brigade in the War of the Revolution.

That at the age of sixteen years, which was the age at which able bodied males were at that period subject to Military duty, and which was in the year AD 1778 at Herkimer aforesaid where he was born and where he then and has ever since resided he was enrolled in the said Company Commanded by Capt. Henry Harter and with the said Company en masse under General orders entered into service at Fort Dayton at Herkimer where the said Company except on occasional temporary absence on Military duty away from said Fort was permanently stationed both summer and winter from the time of his enrollment to the close of the said War in the year 1783.

That the service required of and performed by him and the said company at said Fort Dayton during the whole of the said period at said Fort Dayton during the whole of the said period he was stationed there from the said year 1778 the date of his said enlistment and entering into said service to the close of the said war is the year 1783, except temporary suspensions in the several winter seasons of those years was the ordinary garrison duty such as guard duty by day and by night and a regular daily attendance in the morning of each day except Sundays for the purpose of Roll Call and for occasional parades, that these services were attended and enforced by the usual penalties and punishments observed in garrisons, such as corporal punishment fines and imprisonment in the Guard House, that these services were rendered necessary and performed under general orders, as he always understood and believed and as he now understands and believes on account of the exposed condition of the place and settlement. Herkimer being at that time the most remote and extreme western settlement in the State of New York, that on account of its exposed situation and the continual depredations and murders of its inhabitants by a savage and Tory enemy.

A fort by the orders of the Government, called Fort Dayton was built where the Village of Herkimer has since been built and is now standing; that during the said period aforesaid, all their houses and dwellings having been burnt or rendered unsafe as a residence by the enemy, the entire population men, women, and children, such as remained and did not fly to other more settled and secure places were congregated and lived in said Fort Dayton and it was for them defense and protection and the protection and defence of the said Fort and to save from entire abandonment of the said settlement or place.

That the said Fort was built and the said military service was ordered and organized and kept up and enforced as aforesaid during the said period aforesaid, that from the time of the commencement of the building of said Fort which he thinks although he is not certain was as early as the year 1777. Small parties of Regular Soldiers were stationed at and Garrisoned in said Fort Dayton and with whom the said Militia Company acted in concert. That he remembers well that on the occasion of the murder of Isaac Skinner at Little Falls seven miles below Herkimer by the Indians and Tory's early in the Spring where the snow was yet so deep as to require snow shoes to travel in the woods the year he does not now remember and cannot state.

He and the members of the said company of Militia of Capt. Harter and party of said Regular troops under Lt. Duty or Dooty went in pursuit of the enemy and after abandoning the pursuit went to Little Falls and from thence on the second day after leaving Fort Dayton returned by way of Fort Herkimer at German Flatts where a party of Regular troops was occasionally stationed as well as at Fort Dayton that what pertained to the said military service of him and the said company of Capt. Harter whilst they were so stationed and garrisoned at Fort Dayton as Tories, and that at the time that the stockade around Fort Dayton was building Capt. Harters Company was divided into classes and each class were required to get out a certain number of sticks of timber or palisades as they were called and to dig the trenches, set them up and fasten them in the ground and that he with the said Class to which he belonged were employed in this service at least seven days has he believes, although he cannot state the precise number of days as he believes, although he cannot state the precise number of days, that at the time of the building of the Block House so called which was erected about a quarter of a mile north of Fort Dayton on a Hill or eminence from one hundred and fifty to two hundred feet above the level of Fort Dayton which Block House was also built by the Government as a work of defense and in which from the time of its erection to the close of the war a mounted cannon was kept.

He was again employed to labor with the other members of the said company in getting out the timber and in assisting in putting up the same and that in this particular service he was actually employed for the space of four days although from the great lapse of time and his present old age and consequent loss of memory he cannot state the precise number of days he was so employed, that besides the said number of days so employed in and about the getting gout of the timber and putting up the said Block house, he remembers that he stood as a sentinel in the edge of the woods at the top of a deep ravine about a quarter of a miles north from the said BlockHouse at the time the same was putting up to guard the workmen and to present an attack upon them by surprise from the enemy whilst they were thus employed in its erection at least one day as he now thinks and remembers the time and of which he has no doubt but cannot speak with precision. And that on the day he was there on duty, a party of enemy Indians and they actively approached said Blockhouse and before one of the enemies, Indians was shot and killed or a Mr. Phillips who was a regular soldier in the service of the United States about $\frac{1}{4}$ miles easterly of said BlockHouse.

And he further states that Capt Henry Harter several years prior to the close of the war, but at what precise time he cannot state, with his family left Fort Dayton and Herkimer and moved to the County of Columbia town of Claverack as a place of greater security and there remained with his family until the close of the war when he came back to reside at Herkimer and where he then continued to reside until his death and that during his absence the command of the said company devolved upon and as he thinks the said company was actually commanded by Lt. John Demuth who was the Lieutenant of said Company and by whom and in whose name as the commandant of the same the Rolls of the said Company may during the absence of said Capt. Harter have been made and kept.

And he further states that from the said time of his enrollment and entering into the service as aforesaid he was a true and faithful subject of the Government of the United States.

That he was at true and firm supporter of the cause of freedom and a true and faithful soldier in the service of the United States and that he at all times obeyed the orders and performed the military services imposed upon or required of him in the said War of the Revolution by the authorities and Government of the United States with alacrity and promptness and that although he cannot state how long he has actually served in said War taking his said service altogether yet he believes and has no hesitation to say and he therefore does say and declare that he served in the said War fourteen days and over.

He makes this declaration for the purpose of obtaining the Bounty Land to which he may be entitled under the act approved March 3rd 1855. He also declares that he has not received a warrant for Bounty Land under this or any other Act of Congress nor made any other application therefore, and he hereby constitutes and Charles C. Tucker of Washington City D.C., his attorney to prosecute his claim and receive his Warrant, hereby authorizing and empowering his said Attorney to obtain from the proper authorities at Washington City or elsewhere, certified copies of any Army or other records or documents in which his said service may be recorded and to procure any and all other evidence that may be necessary to establish his claim as fully as he might or could do if personally present; and revoking hereby all other authority that may have been given for the above specified purpose. (Signed with his mark) George Hilts

David Rasbach, Justice of the Peace