

William Van Pelt

(1760 - 1839)

Private, 2nd Sergeant, 1st Regiment Monmouth County Militia

By Daisy D. Orr

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W | 1 Monmouth Militia. | **N. J.**

William Van Pelt

Appears with the rank of on a
Roll
of Cap' Carhart's Men that Was at the Captering
of the Brigantine Bratany on the 30 Day of
December 1779.

Revolutionary War:

Roll dated *Monmouth N.J.*
July 23, 1780

Remarks :

Number of sheets: *21*
(655) *L. B. Berman* *Opposit.*

William Van Pelt was in the 1st Regt. Of the Monmouth County Militia. His duties included guarding the following areas: Cheesequake, Middletown Point, Brown's Point, Conaskonk, Waycake (Keyport), and the Bayshore.

He enlisted in the State Troops under Samuel Carhart in 1778 and became 2nd Sergeant in June 1780. While in the State Troops, he assisted Dr. Thomas Barber (1779-1780).

In 1782, he became a Horseman (Light Dragoon) under Capt. John Walton, Lt. David Rhea and Cornets Jonathan Forman/Jacques Denise. William Van Pelt supplied his own horse, saddle, bridle, carbine, pistols, holster and sword. Because of this, he was paid 20 shillings above the pay grade for a foot soldier.

His duties included watching the motions of the enemy and giving earliest intelligence of their movements to Gen. Washington at his headquarters.

He was involved in a raid that took a prize of a two-horse load of contraband from John Raltoone near Spotswood which were sold and divided among the company (Fold3 Pension records S6294).

He provided a deposition regarding the brutal injuries sustained by a man named Phillip Walling during a Revolutionary War skirmish, likely related to the Battle of the 1500 in Middletown. The

event is described below from Monmouth County Historical Association, *The Battle of the 1500 at Middletown*, by Michael Adelberg.

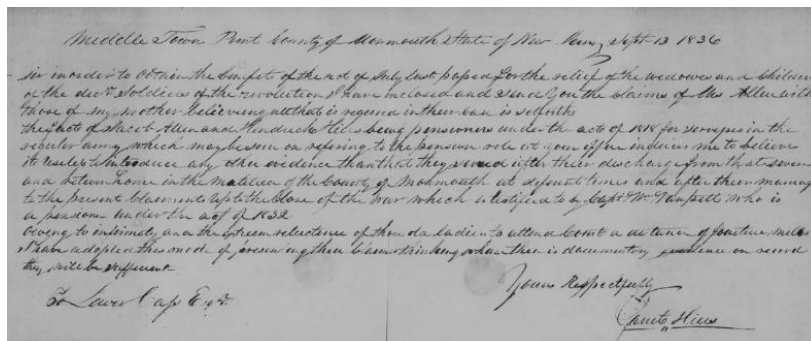
The Battle of the 1500 in Veterans' Pension Applications

*Including Hyer, the Battle of the 1500 was discussed in eleven Revolutionary War veteran pension applications (Henry Applegate, Samuel Carman, John Leyster, John Schenck, Walter Van Pelt, **William Van Pelt**, Joseph Walling, Phillip Walling, William Walling, Garrett Wikoff). Among all of Monmouth County's military clashes, only the Battle of Monmouth is narrated in more pension applications.*

John Schenck, a militia captain who had co-led a raid against Brooklyn in 1778, was the only officer to narrate the incursion. He recalled being targeted by the raiders: "They attacked the house of the said John Schenck... the British and Tories at New York had offered a reward of twenty-five guineas to the man would take or kill him." Schenck was out with the militia and not taken.

*Phillip Walling was wounded at the battle, and depositions were taken to confirm the fact. Samuel Cottrell deposed that Walling "was taken prisoner by the British at the battle, while a prisoner saw Philip Walling lying in a yard between the house and barn of Garret Schenck... Walling was taken from the yard and carried into the barn, & laid on the barn floor- said Walling was lifeless and was very bloody." **William Van Pelt** deposed that he "took off the hat of the said Walling and examined his wounds, which were on his head and appeared to be sword cuts -- he said Walling was very bloody and almost lifeless -- this deponent spoke to him and received no answer."*

Below is the testimony of William Van Pelt in a widow's pension claim.



Middle Town Point County of
Monmouth State of New Jersey Sept-
13 1836

Dear sir in order to obtain the benefit
of the act of July last passed for the
relief of the widows and children of the
dead Soldiers of the revolution I have
enclosed and since you the claims of
Mrs. Allen with those of my mother

*believing all that is required in their case is set forth the fact of Jacob Allen and Hendrick Hiers being pensioners under the act of 1818 for services in the regular army which may be seen on referring to the pension role at your office induces me to believe it useless to introduce any other evidence than that they served until their discharge from that seven and return home in the militia of the County of Monmouth at different times and after their marriage to the present claimants up to the close of the war which is testified to by **Capt. William Vanpelt** who is a pensioner under the act of 1832.*

Owing to infirmity, and the extreme reluctance of those old ladies to attend court a distance of fourteen miles, I have adopted this mode of presenting their claims, hoping when there is documentary evidence on record they will be sufficient. To Lewis Capt. Esq. Yours Respectfully Jacob Hiers

William Van Pelt family

William (Feb 1763 – March 28,1839) died at the age of 76 yrs 1 mo. 28 days. Note: he gave the birth date of February 29, 1760, in his pension testimony, S6294. Perhaps he gave this date to appear older because he joined the Milita, and then State Troops, when he was underage. However, the year listed on his tombstone is 1763.

William Van Pelt married Elizabeth Smith (1774 – May 7, 1851) they are both laid to rest at Mount Pleasant Cemetery.

They were married on Feb. 1, 1801.

They had a son, John, who died at the age of 14 years and 4 months.

The census taken the year before Elizabeth died (1850) shows that she is living with John Smith, age 70. One can only assume that this is her brother. William’s son John died in 1832. William died in 1839 and did not leave a will. Garrett Hier was made executor.

SCHEDULE I.—Free Inhabitants in *Mountain Township* in the County of *Monmouth*, State of *New Jersey*, enumerated by me, on the *22nd* day of *August* 1850. Union *of* *Monmouth* *County* *Married*.

Name of head of family	The Name of every Person whose usual place of abode on the 1 st day of Aug, 1850, was in this family.	SEX		Color	Profession, Occupation, or Trade of each Male Person over 15 years of age.	Place of Birth	Date of Arrival in this Country	Color of Skin (in the Territory of Canada)	Whether deaf and dumb, insane, idiot, pauper, or convict.
		M	F						
<i>French, George</i>	<i>46</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>W</i>	<i>White</i>	<i>Farmer</i>	<i>New York</i>			
<i>W. W. French, Elizabeth</i>	<i>40</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>W</i>	<i>White</i>	<i>Wife</i>	<i>New York</i>			
<i>French, Mary</i>	<i>44</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>W</i>	<i>White</i>	<i>Wife</i>	<i>New York</i>			
<i>French, Elizabeth</i>	<i>12</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>W</i>	<i>White</i>		<i>New York</i>			
<i>French, John</i>	<i>12</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>W</i>	<i>White</i>		<i>New York</i>			

Below is from the Mt Pleasant Cemetery Index:



Group No.	Gravestone No.	Name	Birth	Death	Age
113	107	William Van Pelt	b. 1763	d. March 28, 1839	age 76 yrs., 1 mos., 28 da.
	105	Elizabeth, wife of William Van Pelt	b. 1774	May 7, 1851	age 77 yrs.
	110	John S., son of William & Elizabeth Van Pelt	b. 1819	d. July 4, 1832	age 13 yrs., 4 mos.

Many Van Pelts are buried in the Mt. Pleasant cemetery, but the Van Pelts also created their own cemetery in the late 1700s. It is located in the F Section of Aberdeen Township (coordinates: 40.39296, -74.23038). It can be accessed via a path at 25 Faith Lane.

STATE OF NEW JERSEY :
 MONMOUTH COUNTY :
 SS
 (L.S.) I, Henry D. Polhemus, Surrogate of the County of Monmouth do certify that on the Twenty second day of April 1839 administration of the goods and chattels, rights and credits which were of William VanPelt late of the County of Monmouth who died intestate was granted by me to Garret Hiers of the County of Monmouth who is duly authorized to administer the same agreeably to law.
 Witness my hand and seal of Office the Twenty-second day of April in the year of our Lord one Thousand Eight hundred and thirty-nine.
 Henry D. Polhemus, Surrogate.