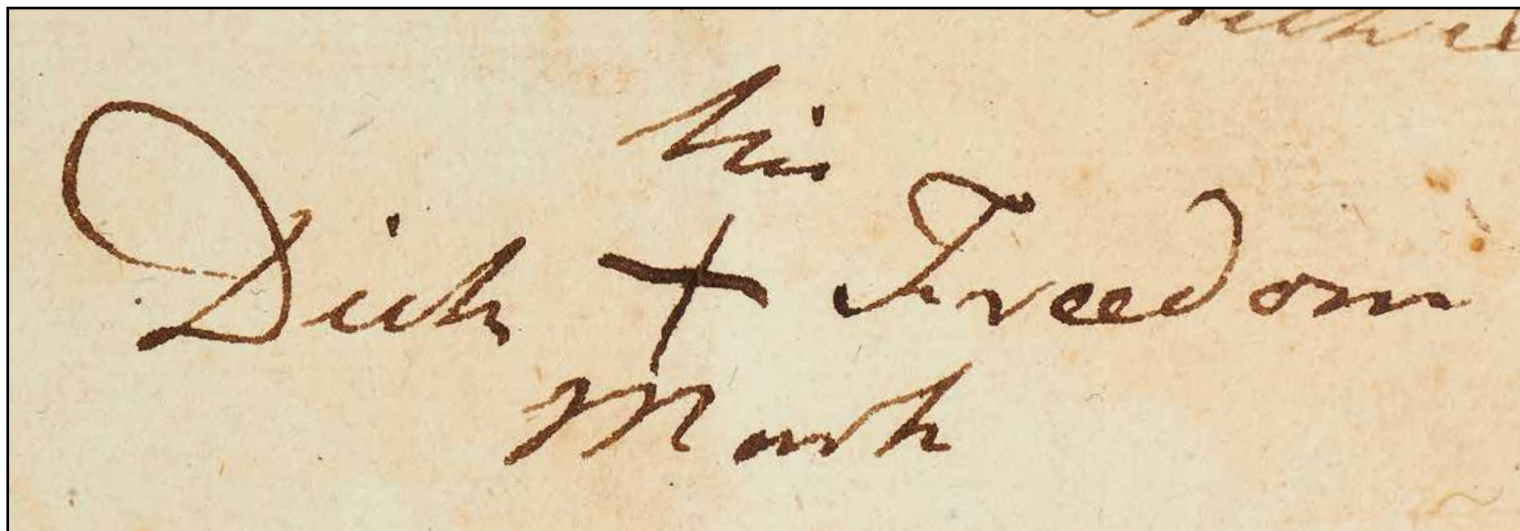


## Dick Freedom, Cuff Liberty, Col. Zeb Butler

*Holograph Pay Document to Black Connecticut Revolutionary War Soldier Cuff Liberty, received and signed for on his behalf by another Black Soldier, Dick Freedom. 1782*

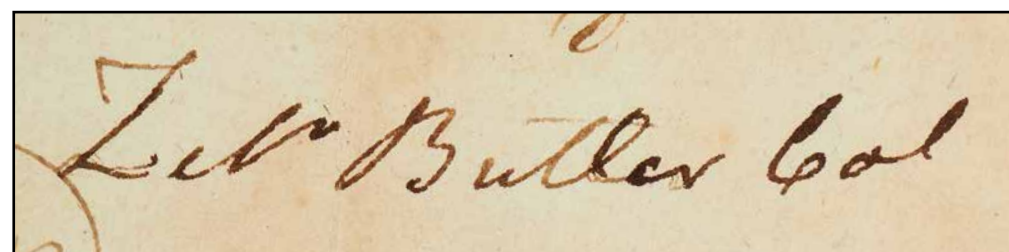
Camp Connt. Village: May 26th, 1782

\$3000



Dick + Freedom  
Mark

Approximately 9" x 7". Laid paper. Old folds, near fine. Payment order to Private Cuff Liberty which was paid out to Dick Freedom and signed for with his "x" mark. Signed twice by Col. Zeb Butler: the first time issuing the pay order; the second time certifying "...that Dick Freedom served in the 6th but now 4th Connt. Regiment before Jany. 1780 & still continues in service appeared



Zeb Butler Col

personally & signed the above order. in my presence." Revolutionary War pay documents were often paid out to a fellow soldier in the same unit, either out of convenience or because of previous debt. Dick Freedom was one of approximately 300 freeman or slaves from Connecticut who fought for the Continental Army, often for the promise of freedom (and thus they often adopted aspirational names, as was probably the case with both Freedom and Liberty). Freedom, from Wallingford, served in the all-black Second Company of the Fourth Connecticut Regiment. Liberty, from Middletown, Connecticut, served in the same unit. Both are listed by William Cooper Nell in his book *Coloured Patriots of the American Revolution* (1855). Moebis. *Black Soldiers, Black Sailors, Black Ink*: Freedom p.266, etc.; Liberty p.261, etc. Detailed image on following page. [\[BTC#423374\]](#)

Gentlemen Please to Deliver to M<sup>r</sup> Guff Liberty the State  
Securities found due to me as a Settlement with the Committee  
from the Com<sup>d</sup> Line & the Interest for the two years which I did  
Honorable Committee  
Payable Hartford

Dick<sup>his</sup> + Freedom  
Mark

L<sup>ieut</sup> Butler Col

This Certifies that Dick Freedom serv<sup>d</sup> in the 6<sup>th</sup> bus row<sup>th</sup>  
Com<sup>d</sup> Regiment before Jan<sup>y</sup> 1780 & still continues in  
Service appear Personally & sign<sup>d</sup> the above Order

In my Presence

L<sup>ieut</sup> Butler Col

Camp Com<sup>d</sup> Village  
May 26. 1782