



Dick Freedom, Cuff Liberty

Partially printed Pay Document to Black Connecticut Revolutionary War Soldier Dick Freedom, received and signed for on his behalf by another Black Soldier, Cuff Liberty. 1780

Hartford: May 26th, 1782

\$3000

on the Treasurer, of this State, to secure the Payment

of *Thirty two pounds, ten shillings and two pence*

it being the Balances due to ~~me~~ *Dick Freedom*, on the first Day of January 1780

~~left~~, as stated by the Committees of the State and of the

Army. *in behalf of Dick Freedom*

L. 32. 10. 2

Cuff Liberty

Approximately 7" x 6½". Laid paper. Old folds, near fine. Payment order to Dick Liberty, paid out to and signed for by Cuff Liberty. Liberty's signature is a bit clumsy, perhaps indicating that he was relatively new to literacy, but is easily readable. 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). Moebs. *Black Soldiers, Black Sailors, Black Ink*: Freedom p.266, etc.; Liberty p.261, etc.

Detailed image on following page. [\[BTC#423391\]](#)

Dick Freedom's —
Recpt. for L³² 10. 2
June 5th 1782
L¹ Recpt. L¹ 2.13

Hartford, June 1th — 1782.

RECEIVED, of Pay-Table-Committee, their Order
on the Treasurer, of this State, to secure the Payment

of *Thirty two pounds, ten shillings & two pence*
it being the Balances due to ~~the~~ *Rich. Freedom* on the first Day of January 1780
~~last,~~ as stated by the Committees of the State and of the

Army. *in behalf of Rich. Freedom*

L. 32. 10. 2

J. C. Liberty