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**Name:** James Clinton

**Years:** August 9, 1736- December 22, 1812

**Residence:** Little Britain, NY; Ulster County; New Windsor

**Brief Biography:**

James Clinton was the son of the farmer and army officer Charles Clinton and his wife Elizabeth Denniston, and the younger brother of NY Governor and Vice-President George Clinton. He enlisted in the Ulster County militia company in 1756; at the time of his retirement in 1763 he was the commander of four frontier guards. In 1765 he married Mary De Witt and they had seven children (one of them NY Governor Dewitt Clinton). In 1774, he returned to the militia, fought in the assault on Quebec, and rose in the ranks becoming brigadier general in 1776. When the Revolutionary War began he was given the responsibility of fortifying the Hudson River. However by 1779, he and Major General John Sullivan took on new duties including campaigns to drive the Indians out of New York, although these campaigns were unsuccessful Clinton continued his attempts until 1783 when he left the military. From 1788 to 1801, Clinton served on the New York State Assembly, as a state senator, and represented New York at the constitutional convention. He also remarried in 1797, after the death of his first wife, to Mary Little Grey, which whom he had six more children. Clinton died in Little Britain, NY on December 22, 1812.

**Major Achievements:**

In 1776, Clinton was responsibly for the construction of the forts along the Hudson River, which were there to defend the Highlands. After his retirement from the military he was awarded brevet Major General in 1783. Agriculturally, politically, and

militarily James Clinton is an essential historic figure in the shaping of New York History.

For More Information: Charles B. Moore, "Introductory Sketch of the Clinton Family," *New York Genealogical and Biographical Record* 13 (1882): 5-10, 139, and 173-80.

Resources: American National Biography Online