

Pension Application for Abraham Lightall

W.10,197 (Widow Katharine)
State of New York
Otsego County.

Abraham Lightall being duly sworn saith, that he is a resident of the town of Richfield in the County aforesaid, and has served as a private soldier in the war of the revolution against the common enemy, for the term of Nine Months and longer at a certain period of the war herein after mentioned, on the Continental Establishment, and is yet a resident citizen of the United States; and by reason of his reduced circumstances in life, he is in need of assistance from his country for support. And this deponent further saith, that he never has received any pension from the United States, and doth hereby relinquish his claim to every pension that may have been heretofore allowed him by the laws of the United States, excepting and reserving to himself the right of claiming, and he doth hereby claim a pension under an act entitled "An act to provide for certain persons engaged in the land and naval service of the United States in the revolutionary war," passed 18th March, 1818. And this deponent doth further declare under oath, that the time he entered the army of the United States in the war of the revolution aforesaid, on the Continental establishment, the officers under whom he served and the line to which he belonged, together with the time and manner of leaving the service, are all correctly set forth, according to the best of his knowledge and recollection, in the following manner; that is to say, he the said Abraham enlisted in Capt. Andrew Finck's Company in Col. VanSchaicks Regiment in the New York Line in the year one thousand seven hundred and seventy five in the year one thousand seven hundred and seventy five for the term of three yours—that he this deponent served the whole of said three years in said Regiment and at the expiration thereof was honorably discharged—that about seven years ago the house of this deponent was destroyed by fire and said discharge was consumed.—That before this deponent enlisted as aforesaid he served for nine months in the army of the Revolution and was at the siege of Quebec.—That afterwards & after he was discharged as aforesaid, he served as a volunteer a short time and was present at the taking of Lord Cornwallis.—That this deponent was seventy seven years old on the fourteenth day of September last—and further this deponent saith not. (Signed with his mark) Abraham Lightall

Sworn this 25th day of May A.D. 1818 before me. J. White first Judge of Otsego Com'n Pleas, State aforesaid.

District of New York

Otsego County SS. On this twenty-first day of June one thousand eight hundred and twenty personally appeared in open court being a court of record for the County of Otsego aforesaid Abraham Lighthall aged eighty years who being first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the provisions made by the Act of Congress of the eighteenth of March one thousand eight hundred & eighteen and the first May eighteen hundred and twenty that he the said Abraham Lighthall enlisted for the term of three years on the twelfth day of March one thousand seven hundred & seventy six in the State of New York in the company commanded by Captain Andrew Fink, Junr, (1) in the Regiment commanded by Colonel Goose Van Schaick in the Line of the State of New York on the Continental Establishment That he continue to serve in the said Corps about two years at which time he was attached to Captain Parsons (2) company in said Regiment and served the remainder of the said three years at the expiration whereof he was discharged at Rome in the State of New York aforesaid—That the the said Abraham before he enlisted in said Finks Company as aforesaid served nine months in Capt. Tilghman's (3) company and was present at the siege of Quebec. (4) The he stood at the left hand of Genl Montgomery (5) when he entered the second gate & saw him fall—that he felt the force of the cannon ball by which he was slain & assisted in carrying him from the field that after the expiration of the said three years he volunteered his services and was present at the taking of Cornwallis(6)—and I do solemnly swear that I was a resident citizen of the United States on the eighteenth day of March one thousand eight hundred and eighteen and that I have not since that time by gift or sale or any manner disposed of any property or any part thereof with intent thereby so to diminish it as to bring myself under the provision of an act of Congress entitled an act to provide for certain persons engaged in the land and naval service the United States in the Revolutionary war passed on the eighteenth day of March one thousand eight hundred and eighteen and that I have not nor has any person in trust for me any property or securities contracts or debts due to me nor have I any income other than what is contained in the schedule hereto annexed and by me subscribed. I have no real property whatever.

I have six sheep which is all the property I have except my wearing apparel and bedding by occupation I am a labourer but unable to labour. I have two daughters one of whom married Daniel Gibbs and the other of whom named Benjamin Huntly. I have a wife living who is about eighty seven years old and very much afflicted with the Rheumatism I am myself very infirm by reason of old age and Rheumatism and have nearly lost the use of one leg and one arm. My wife and myself live with our son in law Benjamin Huntly who as well as the said Daniel Gibbs our other son in law is poor & out of health. (signed with his mark) Abraham Lighthall

Sworn to & declared this 21st June 1820 before the court. Geo. Morell Clk.
Reply to letter of inquiry dated January 7, 1937.

Reference is made to your letter in which you request information contained in claims for pension S.23844 and R.17772, which you believe were granted Colonel Peter Bellinger, Revolutionary War, and in claim for pension W.10197, which, you state, was granted Barbara Bellinger Lighthall.

Because of the great demand for Revolutionary War data and the limited trained clerical force available for furnishing such information, it is impossible to comply in full with each request in regard to soldiers of that war. The record of Abraham Lightall is furnished you herein as found in pension claim W.10197 the claim cited by you. His widow's name, however was Katharine, not Barbara.

Abraham Lighthall or Lightall was born September 14, 1740; the place of his birth and the names of his parents are not shown.

He enlisted in 1775, in New York State, served nine months, as private in Captain Tilghman's company (possibly meant for Tillman's company) and was in the Siege at Quebec; he stood close to General Montgomery when he fell there and assisted in carrying him from the field. He enlisted March 12, 1776, served as private and corporal in Captain Andrew Finck's company, Colonel Goose Van Schaick's New York regiment, and later in Captain Parsons' company in the same regiment, length of service three years. He served a short time as a volunteer and was present at the surrender of Lord Cornwallis, length of this service and the names of officers not stated.

He was allowed pension on his application executed May 25, 1818, at which time he resided in Richfield, Otsego County, New York.

Abraham Lighthall, or Lightall, died December 31, 1831, at the home of his son-in-law, Benjamin Huntley.

The soldier married July 12, 1775, in Herkimer, Herkimer County, New York, Katharine Bellinger.

Katharine, the soldier's widow, was allowed pension on her application executed March 14, 1838; she was aged then one hundred and six years. The date and place of her birth and names of her parents were not given. She was living in the home of her son-in-law, Benjamin Huntley, in Sandstone, Jackson County, Michigan. She died there June 5, 1843.

Soldier's daughter, Margaret, married Benjamin Huntley prior to 1820; in 1820, both Abraham and Katharine Lighthall, Lightall, were living with this daughter in Richfield, New York. Another daughter, Magdalane, married Daniel Gibbs prior to 1820; she died during the year 1842. Reference was made to a child of the soldier and his wife who was born during the Revolutionary War period, but the name of this child was not designated, nor was it stated that said child was one of the daughters noted above. In 1854, Margaret Huntley, the only surviving child, was in Sandstone, Michigan.

In 1820, Daniel Gibbs of Richfield, Otsego County, New York, stated that he had been acquainted with the soldier about twenty years; it was not shown, however, that this Daniel Gibbs and the soldier's son-in-law Daniel Gibbs, were the same person.

End Notes—Abraham Lighthall—W.10197

1. Abraham enlisted as a private on March 12, 1776 in Captain Andrew Finck, Junr's Company in Colonel Goose VanSchaick's Regiment of New York Continentals. Muster Roll dated December 17, 1776 at Saratoga Barracks. FROM: Revolutionary War Rolls 1775-1783, Series-M246, Roll 77, folder 163, National Archives, Washington, DC.
2. Abraham enlisted as a private in Captain Finck's Company on October 31, 1776 for three years, in Colonel Goose VanSchaick's Regiment. On November 21, 1776 all the New York Continental Regiments were re-organized and VanSchaick's was designated the First New York Regiment. Abraham was appointed Corporal on July 5, 1777. FROM: Revolutionary War Rolls 1775-1783, Series M-246, Roll 65, folder 8, National Archives, Washington DC. In 1779, Abraham was in Captain Charles Parson's Company in the First New York. He was discharged on December 18, 1779. Same source as Finck's Company, documented above, Roll 65, folder 8.
3. I haven't found a Captain Tilghman but there was a Lieutenant John Tillman in the Second New York Continental Regiment.
4. Siege of Quebec, Canada was from the 8th of December with the Battle being fought on December 31st, 1775.
5. Major General Richard Montgomery of the Continental Army.
6. The Siege of Yorktown, Virginia was from September 28 to October 19, 1781. I found it odd that he didn't mention being at the Battle of Monmouth, New Jersey on June 28, 1778 as the First New York was engaged in that battle and on looking at Captain Finck's Muster Rolls for June and July I found the following:

June -18th - Sick at Cockolds Town

July - Sick in hospital Yellow Springs.

Aug - Joined August 31, 1778.

This explains his absence from the regiment and battle.