

Pension Application for George Lighthall

S.13341

State of New York
Oneida County SS

On this ninth day of October 1832, personally appeared in Open Court before Nathan Williams Vice Chancellor of the State of New York for the fifth Circuit at a Court of Chancery now sitting in the City of Utica. George Lighthall, a resident of the Town of Columbia in the County of Herkimer and there the said circuit, aged eighty five years, who being first duly sworn according to law in Open Court doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the act of Congress passed June 7th 1832.

That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated. Was born in the town of German Flatts now County of Herkimer and State of New York in the year 1747 that he has always during his whole lifetime lived in German Flatts aforesaid at Oriskany in the now County of Oneida and at Columbia & County of Herkimer except the two last year of the war of the Revolution which two years he lived in Schenectady in the State of New York—That in the year 1778 when this applicant resided in German Flatts aforesaid he was drafted and served in the Militia of the State of New York under Captain Robert McKean (1) this term of service lasted nine months and was performed at Fort Dayton now Herkimer—That he was a soldier under Capt. Getman (2) of German Flatts and under Capt. Van Patten (3) of Schenectady during the whole revolutionary War except as aforesaid and stood as a minute man ready to be called into actual service at all times and was frequently called out into actual service during that period and he verily believes that his whole amount of actual service exceeded two years but he cannot now particularize the precise times and places of such services—he recollects that he was with Col. Willett (4) when Butler (5) was taken on Canada Creek where the town of Russia is situate—That the was on duty for one length of time at Fort Stanwix and was frequently detached a guard to provisions of which were sent to Fort Stanwix and on one occasion he was employed to guard two officers from Fort Stanwix down the Mohawk River to General Herkimers (6) residence—the names of these officers he does not now recollect.

That his property was twice during the war destroyed by the enemy once at Oriskany and once at German Flatts—he has no record of his age—never had a commission never had any written discharge and has no written evidence of his service. Is acquainted with George Michael Weaver and Henry Apple the former of whom lives in Deerfield and County of Oneida the latter in the town of Minden in the County of Herkimer. He knows that this applicant performed some of the terms above mentioned.

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present and declares that his name is not on the Pension Roll of the Agency of any State or Territory whatever.

(Signed with his mark) George Lighthall

Sworn & subscribed this 9th day of October 1832, before me N. Williams, Vice Chancellor.

Letter in the Pension Folder

October 4, 1929

Mrs. Thomas D. Watkins

1521 Kemble Street

Utica, New York.

Dear Madam:

I advise you from the papers in the Revolutionary War Pension claim S.13341, it appears that George Lighthall was born in 1747 in German Flats, Herkimer County, New York.

While residing in said German Flats, he enlisted in 1778 and served nine months at Fort Dayton later Herkimer, as a private in Captain Robert McKean's New York Company.

He stated that during the entire war he stood as a minute man and was frequently called out into active service; he served as a private under Captain Gettman of German Flats, and under Captain Van Patten of Schenectady, a part of the time at Fort Stanwix, and that he was with Colonel Willett when Butler was taken on Canada Creek. The entire length of his service was a least two years, no dates are given.

He stated that during the last two years of the Revolution he resided at Schenectady, New York, and with the exception he had always lived in German Flats and Columbia, Herkimer County, New York and in Oriskany, Oneida County, New York.

He was allowed pension on his application executed October 9, 1832, at which time he resided in Columbia, New York.

There are no data concerning his family.

The above noted is the only soldier named George Lighthall under any spelling of the surname, that is found on the Revolutionary War records of this Bureau.

Very truly yours, Earl D. Church, Commissioner

End Notes—S.13341—George Lighthall

1. George is mistaken about the year as Captain Robert McKean's Company in Colonel Henry K. VanRensselaer's Regiment of New York State Levies was organized in April of 1779, unfortunately there is not a muster roll for this company. In 1778, George is listed on Captain Michael Ittig's (or Ittick, Edick, etc.) Company Payroll for February 28—November 30, 1778 in Colonel Peter Bellinger's Fourth Regiment of Tryon County Militia. George is listed as a private and served 13 days in July of 1778. He was owed £1..3..1 ¼ for his service. FROM: Revolutionary War Rolls 1775-1783, Series M-246, Roll 72, folder 78, National Archives, Washington, D.C.
2. George is listed as a private in Captain Frederick Getman's Company in Colonel Bellinger's Regiment. He is listed as serving 10 days in April and 10 days in May of 1780. He is again listed as serving 3 days in October of 1780. FROM: Revolutionary War Rolls 1775-1783, Series M-246, Roll 72, folder 78, National Archives, Washington, D.C.
3. George served as a private in Captain John VanPatten's Company (Third Company) in Colonel Abraham Wemple's Second Regiment of Albany County Militia.
4. In 1781, Marinus Willett was the Lieutenant-Colonel Commandant of a regiment of New York State Levies.
5. Captain Walter Butler was killed at West Canada Creek on October 30, 1781. Colonel Willett was in command of the Americans in this skirmish. Captain Butler was the second in command of the British raiding party that had raided and destroyed several settlements in October.
6. Brigadier General Nicholas Herkimer of the Tryon County Militia Brigade. His home is a New York State Historic Site and is open to the public. <http://www.littlefallsny.com/HerkimerHome/Page1.htm>