

Pension Application for Christian Van Vorst

B.L. Wt.1921-100

State of New York

County of Schenectady SS

John Lighthall (1) of the Town of Glenville in the said County, being duly sworn depose, that he enlisted as a private in the first New York regiment commanded by Colo. Goosen Van Schaick, about the commencement of the American Revolution, and served as such during the war.

That he this deponent was well acquainted with Christian Van Vorst (2) who enlisted [enlisted] for and during the war in the aforesaid Regiment as a private, and that the said Christian served as such in the said regiment from the time of his enlistment [enlistment], until he was slain by the enemy at the Siege of York Town, (3) about two or three days previous to the Surrender of Cornwallis.

That this deponent was with the said Christian in one of the redoubts taken from the enemy before and conversed with him but a few minutes before he was struck by a cannon ball of the enemy, which occasioned his death in a few hours thereafter, and that he this deponent was not more than a rod from the spot where the said Christian was engaged in the redoubt, when he was struck by the said Cannon ball.

This deponent well recollects, that but a few minutes before the said Christian was shot as aforesaid, This deponent spoke to him, and told him he had better come away from where he was, and that he had been there long enough, to which he replied, that he hoped he would not be shot in the position in which he was then engaged, in opening the said redoubt for the passage of the American Cannon and ammunition and in a very few minutes thereafter, while standing with his back to the enemy, he was struck by a ball which put a period to his existence, as above stated.
(Signed) John Lighthall

Sworn the 19th day of February 1833 before me. Abm. Van Ingen,
Commissioner of Deeds

State of New York

County of Schenectady

Surrogate's Office AA

Feb 20, 1833.

I certify that satisfactory evidence was adduced to me to prove, that Derick Van Derheyden (4) is the nephew & that Catherine Brocks is the only child of Nancy Stephens deceased which said Nancy was a niece and said Derick is a nephew of Christian Van Vorst late a soldier in the first New York Regiment Commanded by Coloneol Goosen VanSchaick, & that Margaret Wessells Eliza Tannahill, Eve DeNat & Deborah Shelly are all nieces of said Christian, and further that said Derick & Catherine, and the aforesaid nieces are the Only heirs at law in fu [or fee?] to said Christian Van Vorst deceased.

Given under my hand & seal of Office this twentieth day of February 1823.

G. F. Yates

End Notes—B.L.Wt.1921—Christian Van Vorst

1. John Lighthall enlisted December 5, 1776 as a private for during war in Captain John Copp's Eighth Company in Colonel Goose Van Schaick's First New York Continental Regiment.
2. Christian enlisted on October 26, 1776, as a private for during War in Captain David VanNess' Fifth Company in Colonel Goose Van Schaick's First New York Continental Regiment. FROM: Revolutionary War Rolls 1775-1783, Series M-246, Roll 66, folder 17, National Archives, Washington, D.C.
3. Christian would have also fought in the Battle of Monmouth, New Jersey, on June 28, 1778 and from about December of 1778 until about the 1st of October 1780 he was stationed at Fort Schuyler also called Fort Stanwix in present day Rome, New York. Christian was killed on October 16, 1781 at Yorktown, Virginia. At this time Christian was in Captain Henry Tiebout's Fifth Company in Colonel VanSchaick's Regiment. FROM: Revolutionary War Rolls 1775-1783, Series M-246, Roll 66, folder 15, National Archives, Washington, D.C.
4. Derick VanDerheyden made an application as one of the heirs of Christian VanVorst on February 20, 1833 for the Bounty Lands that had been issued for Christian under "Regulations for the heirs of Officers and Soldiers of the Revolutionary Army, who were slain by the enemy, or who have died since the War, and have not received land from the United States." Christian had been issued Lot 77 which contained 500 acres in the Township of Hector on September 13, 1790. The Balloting Book, and other Documents Relating to Militayr Bounty Lands, in the State of New-York, Packard & VanBenthuisen, Albany, 1825, p. 73.