

Pension Application for William Lighthall

S.42862

B.L. Wt. 1223-200 Lieut. Issued Aug 8, 1789 to John Doty Assignee no papers.

Continental – New York

Declaration of William Lighthall

State of New York

County of Schenectady SS.

William Lighthall formerly a Lieutenant in the service of the United States now a resident of the City and County of Schenectady in the State of New York, being duly sworn deposes and saith, That on the Twelfth day of June in the year of our Lord one thousand and seven hundred seventy six he was enlisted by Lieut. Walter Swits and was attached to a company of New York State Rangers commanded by Captain John A. Bradt (1) the seventh day of March 1777 he reenlisted under the said Lieutenant Walter Swits (2) to serve during the war—that he was attached to Captain Giles Woolcotts (3) Company in a Regiment on the Continental establishment commanded by Colonel Seth Warner that he remained attached to said company and regiment as a Sergeant until the Fourteenth day of November 1778—when he was promoted to the rank of Ensign in said Regiment and received his commission as such—That in the year 1779 he was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant in said Regiment and was on active service as such, until sometime in the month of October 1780—when at Fort George (4) in the State of New York he was captured and and [sic] taken to the province of Canada where he remained a prisoner of war until the month of November 1782 (5), when he was paroled and returned home, to remain until he was exchanged or otherwise ordered—That he was not exchanged but remained on Parole until the army of the United States was disbanded in the year 1783 after the close of the war—That his accounts were settled he finally paid by a Mr. John Peirce who was the paymaster of the United States Army—sometime in the month of May in the year 1784—All of which will probably appear by vouchers & which were at that time lodged in the War or other Department of government.

This deponent further says that he served in the War of the Revolution on the Continental establishments, as before stated, that is by reason of his reduced circumstances in life in need of assistance from his country for support and he further says that he has never had any pension allowed him for his services aforesaid by the Laws of the United States. He further says that he is now about sixty two years of age. (Signed) Wm. Lighthall

Sworn before me this 31st Day of March 1818. (signature cut off)

The next document pretty much is the same as the above except he lists his assets. Real Estate—none; Personal Estate, household furniture value \$30.00; Income-Occupation – none – unable to work.

Family-William Lighthall, myself aged 64 past; Sarah Lighthall – wife- aged 59 years.

Nicholas Lighthall – son 25 years [?]

Asasurus Lighthall—apprentice shoemaker, aged 19]

Ann Lighthall—daughter 17 years.

This document signed by Jelles A. Fonda, Clerk of the County of Schenectady, 15 May 1820.

End Notes—S.42862—William Lighthall

1. The only muster roll and pay roll for Captain John A Bradt's company of Rangers are all dated for October of 1776. FROM: Revolutionary War Rolls, 1775-1783, Series M-246, Roll 72, folder 81, National Archives, Washington, D.C.
2. Walter Swits after serving in Captain Bradt's Company was discharged on March 27, 1777 and was appointed Second Lieutenant on April 1, 1777 in Captain Giles Wolcott's Company in Colonel Seth Warner's Regiment of Additional Continentals.
3. William enlisted as a private on March 5, 1777 for "During War" in Captain Wolcott's company. He was promoted to sergeant and commissioned ensign on November 14, 1778. Then he was promoted to lieutenant in March of 1780.
4. Major Christopher Carleton with a large British force raided and destroyed a large area from Fort Ann to Fort George on Lake George. The forts were destroyed and the American garrisons were either killed or captured. William was taken prisoner on October 11, 1780.
5. If a soldier was paroled while waiting to be exchanged he was not supposed to take up arms and fight until the exchange could be transacted. This practice was used even as late as the Civil War.