

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Bounty Land Warrant information relating to Stafford Lightburn VAS918

vsl 17VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

10/6/13

[Methodology: Spelling, punctuation and/or grammar have been corrected in some instances for ease of reading and to facilitate searches of the database. Where the meaning is not compromised by adhering to the spelling, punctuation or grammar, no change has been made. Corrections or additional notes have been inserted within brackets or footnotes. Blanks appearing in the transcripts reflect blanks in the original. A bracketed question mark indicates that the word or words preceding it represent(s) a guess by me. The word 'illegible' or 'indecipherable' appearing in brackets indicates that at the time I made the transcription, I was unable to decipher the word or phrase in question. Only materials pertinent to the military service of the veteran and to contemporary events have been transcribed. Affidavits that provide additional information on these events are included and genealogical information is abstracted, while standard, 'boilerplate' affidavits and attestations related solely to the application, and later nineteenth and twentieth century research requests for information have been omitted. I use speech recognition software to make all my transcriptions. Such software misinterprets my southern accent with unfortunate regularity and my poor proofreading skills fail to catch all misinterpretations. Also, dates or numbers which the software treats as numerals rather than words are not corrected: for example, the software transcribes "the eighth of June one thousand eighty six" as "the 8th of June 1786." Please call material errors or omissions to my attention.]

[From [bounty land records in the Library of Virginia](#)]

Upon the Petition of the Heirs of Stafford Lightburn, Lieutenant – State Navy – for bounty land for his services

The facts which appear from evidence of public documents are – that Lieutenant Stafford Lightburn received his Commission August 2nd 1776 – that he was in service from that time until May 12, 1778, when he resigned his Commission. (See Journals of the Navy Board – pages 29 – & 394. He is not afterwards named in the Journals of the Navy Board. That Journal, from March 6th, 1779 to May 8th, 1779 shows by sundry entries that Lieutenant Lightburn (believed to be Richard) was in service in the *Hero* Galley.

Lieutenant Richard Lightburn received his Commission July 3rd, 1779 (see Remnants of minutes of the Board of War, volume 1st Army Papers, page 2. After July 1779, the Navy Journals did not speak of Lieutenant Lightburn.

The Army Register, of the State line & Navy, shows – that Lieutenant Stafford Lightburn received March 1st 1784 a certificate for £86.14 the balance of his full pay &c

The facts proved by living witnesses are that Stafford Lightburn Lieutenant &c entered the service about the beginning of the war, and served about 2 years – that he commanded a Galley, which was pursued by the enemy up Carter's Creek running into the Rappahannock River, and deserted by him & the crew – that he very soon afterwards resigned – that he again entered the service as Lieutenant and remained in service until the close of the war (according to one witness) – as long as there was any command for the Naval Officers – (according to another witness.) (See the affidavits of Rawley Crwell -- Lewis Hinton (a colored man) and Luke Ashburn.)

I ought to state – that on the day on which Lieutenant Stafford Lightburn resigned his commission – to wit – 12th May 1778 – there was an order of the Navy Board made in the following words – viz. – oh

"the proceedings of a Court-martial held on board the ship Carter, the 11th day of May 1778 for the trial of Lieutenant Stafford Lightburn of the *Lewis* Galley, for misbehavior, were this day laid before the Board, which having read, ordered that the same be filed." (See N. Journal page 394.)

The foregoing statement of facts, without,, is respectfully submitted
To his Excellency

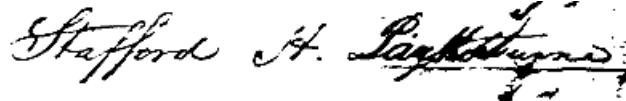
Governor Tazewell

respectfully submitted
S/ John H Smith, Commissioner &c.
December 20th, 1834

[p 4]

The Memorial of Stafford H Parker himself and as agent for his brothers John E Parker & Thomas Parker of the State of Kentucky, Anne, Lucy W & Mary E Parker of the town of Port Royal, Mildred Greer of Westmoreland County, Mary, Lucy Anne, Francis & Juliet Summerson, of Port Royal, Caroline County grandchildren & only heirs at law of the late Stafford Lightburn respectfully represents – That the said Lightburn entered the Virginia Navy early in the revolutionary war, and served therein to the close of the said war, as your memorialists have heard and believed; under the commission of Lieutenant – the said Lightburn was a citizen of Lancaster County Virginia & resided there he and when he entered the service – In what vessel said Lightburn served your memorialists are unable to say.

S/ Stanford H Lightburne



[Acknowledged in the Corporation of Richmond December 12th, 1834]

[p 5]

Heirs of Lieutenant Stafford Lightburn State Navy

I have had great difficulty in coming to a satisfactory decision in this case – Several witnesses swear positively to Lieutenant Lightburn's entering the service a 2nd time & continuing 3 years. The record evidence is unfavorable to the claim But I do not feel justified in disbelieving the witnesses.

Bounty land allowed for a service of 3 years as Lieutenant in state Navy.

S/ D. Campbell
16th May 1838

[p 8]

I Luke Ashburn a resident of Lancaster County and State of Virginia do hereby certify that I [was] well acquainted with Stafford Lightburn know to my own knowledge belonged to the State Service during the war of the revolution and know that he commanded the Galley that was chased by the enemy up Carter's Creek and into the mill from where he with his crew was compelled to leave the Galley to prevent being taken.

November 28, 1834

S/ Luke Ashburn, X his mark

[p 9]

In Council January 9th 1777

The Board agreeable to appointment now proceeded on the choice of officers for the three battalions to be raised in the service of this State – when all such officers in the Marine and Minute Service that under the act of Assembly were entitled to a preference and appearing to claim the same were accordingly appointed to the number of fifteen Captains, six first Lieutenants, eight second lieutenants and one Ensign.

[p 10]

Monday first March 1784

Navy

Warrant to Stafford Lightburn for 2 years Interest on a certificate dated this day No. 657 in full of the balance of his pay as a Lieutenant in the State Navy £6.16.10

The above is truly copied from the Auditors daybook.

Given under my hand at the Auditors Office Richmond this 15th day of May 1838

S/ James E Heath, Auditor

[p 13]

State of Virginia Lancaster County to wit

Lewis Hinton¹ personally appeared before me a Justice for the above named County and made oath that the above Certificate contains the truth to the best of his knowledge and belief –

I further state that the said witness resides in my neighborhood, that I have known him personally for many years and I have no hesitation in giving the fullest credit to his statements the said Lewis Hinton is a colored man But he is generally known and regarded as orderly truthful and respectful man and his services in the Revolutionary war have been a subject of general Notoriety. Given under my hand & seal this 22nd day of July, 1834.

S/ James Harding

[p 13]

This is to Certify, That it appears from a List in this Office of such Officers and Soldiers of the Virginia State Line, during the Revolutionary War, as settled their Accounts, and received Certificates for the balance of their Full Pay, according to an Act of Assembly, passed the November Session 1781, that a Certificate issued on the 1st day of March 1784, in the name of Stafford Lightburn, as a Lieutenant of the Navy for £86.14.0, which Certificate appears to have been delivered to ___ and was given for services prior to the 1st January 1782.

Given under my hand, at the Auditor's Office, Richmond, this
15th day of May 1838.

S/ Jas E. Heath, AUDITOR

[p 14]

I Rawley Courrell a resident of Lancaster County and State of Virginia do hereby certify that I was well acquainted with Stafford Lightburn in the revolutionary war. He entered the service in the Navy early in the war and acted as Lieutenant in a Galley which was stationed in the Rappahannock off the mouth of Carter's Creek. After being some considerable time in service he had to force his Galley up Carter's Creek and into a mill pond at the head of the Creek where he and his crew deserted the Galley to prevent being taken by the enemy – and after leaving the Galley the said Lightburn resigned his commission – but for a short time he soon entered the service again as Lieutenant on board the Ship *Tartar* and started on a cruise to Bermuda with two other ships the *Dragon* & the *Tempest* and after returning remained in the service until the close of the war and then settled himself as a resident either in or near Port Royal on the Rappahannock River and lived for several years and very often visited my neighborhood afterwards, – the above statements I know to my own knowledge for I was intimately acquainted

¹ Unfortunately, the affidavit of Hinton is not copied or included in this file—only the above attestation of his affidavit. [Lewis Hinton S10831](#)

with said Lightburn for from a considerable before he entered the war until his death –
November 29th, 1834

S/ Rauley Currell, X his mark

[p 17]

I Luke Ashburn² of the County of Lancaster & State of Virginia do hereby certify that I was well acquainted with Stafford Lightburn who was a Lieutenant in the State service in the Revolutionary war & that he commanded the Galley called the Lewis (as well as he recollects the name) the said Galley was pursued by the enemy into Carter's Creek, and there abandoned by the crew in order to prevent capture. This took place in the latter part of the year 1779 I believe that Lieutenant Lightburn remained in the naval service until the end of the war this affiant well recollects the [the balance of this affidavit is too faint to discern completely]

² [Luke Ashburn W5649](#)