

## Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Philip Lightfoot BLWt2220-200

f15VA

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 8<sup>th</sup> of June 1786." Please call material errors or omissions to my attention.]

Philip Lightfoot – Heirs of  
[To accompany bill H R No. 718]  
April 6, 1838

Mr. Taliaferro, from the committee of revolutionary Claims, made the following  
Report:

*The Committee on Revolutionary Claims, to whom the petition of Philip Lightfoot was referred,  
report:*

That the petitioner claims, as only son and sole heir at law of Philip Lightfoot, deceased, the commutation pay due to his said father for his services as a Lieutenant in the Virginia line on Continental establishment in the Army of the Revolution. Diligent inquiry has been made at all the Departments here and at Richmond, and no record evidence has been found to show that Philip Lightfoot was an officer. It does appear that on the 11<sup>th</sup> of July, 1835, Governor Tazewell allowed land bounty to Philip Lightfoot, as a Lieutenant in the Continental line, for three years service. (See the certificate of the register of land office at Richmond, Virginia.) This allowance was made by Governor Tazewell, on the evidence of two highly respectable and intelligent officers of the Continental Regiment of artillery commanded by Colonel Charles Harrison, to wit: Judge Francis T Brooke<sup>1</sup> and the late Colonel Edmund Brooke<sup>2</sup> – both in service to the end of the war, and both have received commutation pay and land bounty from the United States. By the testimony of these officers, it is proven that Philip Lightfoot, father of the petitioner, was a Lieutenant in Harrison's Regiment of artillery on Continental establishment; that he served in the campaign of 1781, in the Army commanded by General Lafayette; that he was in actual service in July, 1781, and at the siege of York; that in the summer of 1781, about July, nearly all the regular soldiers attached to the portion of Harrison's Regiment then in Virginia, were marched to the South, to join the Army under General Greene; that nearly all the junior officers in Harrison's Regiment were, by the forewarning detachment of the men, left in Virginia without regular command; that, to supply this, militia drafts and recruits were placed under their command, to aid in repelling the then invasion of Virginia; that after the siege of York, these militia drafts and recruits were discharged, and the officers were again without men to command, and so remained to the end of the war. Judge Brooke says he knew Philip Lightfoot well; that he was wealthy, and did not regard pay; that he never heard of his resignation; that he considered him in the condition of five-sixths of the officers of that Regiment – at home, having no troops to

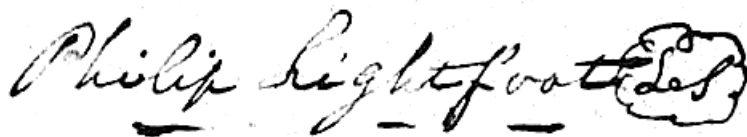
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<sup>1</sup> [Francis Brooke S8093](#)

<sup>2</sup> [Edmund Brooke S46423](#)

command, virtually in service, though not actually in the field. (For the foregoing statement of the evidence in this case, see the affidavits of Francis T Brooke and Edmund Brooke, and a certificate of John Taliaferro he oh.) In acting on these cases, the committee received with great caution parole evidence to show that the claimant was an officer in the Continental service, and, as such, entitled to commutation pay. In all cases, record evidence, when obtainable, is required to show – first, the claimant was an officer; secondly, that his service was such as to entitle him to the pay claimed. There is no rule, however, so general in his application, as not to require necessary exceptions, in order to do justice. And it has generally been the practice to admit secondary evidence, when the best evidence is not in possession of, or attainable by, the party claiming. As to the present case, there are circumstances arising out of the history of the then and past times, sufficient to create a strong presumption that the records as to Harrison's Regiment, from the time Lightfoot joined it to the close of the war, never were very perfect, owing to the reduced and scattered condition of its officers during that period; and that, in perfect as those records are, nearly all of them have been destroyed and lost. It is under these circumstances the petitioner offers secondary evidence to show that he was a Lieutenant in Charles Harrison's Regiment of artillery, and the evidence offered is that of the 2 officers of the same Regiment above referred to. The committee being satisfied, by the evidence in the case, that Philip Lightfoot was a Lieutenant in the Continental Regiment of artillery commanded by Charles Harrison; that he was, as such, in actual service in the campaign to its close in 1781; and that subsequent to that time he became supernumerary to the close of the war, are of opinion that he was entitled to commutation pay, and report a bill.

[p 4: Power of attorney dated May 5<sup>th</sup>, 1833 filed in Caroline County Virginia by Philip Lightfoot, son and sole heir at law of Philip Lightfoot, deceased, late an officer of the Army of the revolution.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Philip Lightfoot" followed by a circular seal or stamp.

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[p 8: certificate of the Caroline County Virginia clerk of court indicating that the last will and testament of Philip Lightfoot dated September 13, 1785, was admitted to probate June 8<sup>th</sup>, 1786 in Caroline County Virginia.]

[p 8]

May 23, 1834 I certify that Philip Lightfoot of Cedar Creek, Caroline County, Virginia, was a Lieutenant in Harrison's Continental Regiment of Artillery he served in the campaign of 1781 in the Army commanded by the Marquis Lafayette, after the battle of Green Spring sometime called the battle of James Town. I was ordered to join the Army commanded by General Greene and know nothing of the services of Lieutenant Lightfoot afterwards, though I understood from others and believed the fact, that he was with a part of Regiment at the siege of York. I knew him well he was wealthy and did not regard pay. I never heard that he resigned and considered him in the condition of five sixths of the officers of that Regiment, at home there being no troops to command, virtually in service though not actually in the field.

S/ Francis T Brooke

[above is a copy]

I hereby certify that the rolls of the United States will show that I was a Lieutenant of Artillery in the first Continental Regiment commanded by Charles Harrison; I accepted a commission in the said Regiment in the year 1780 – and continued in service to the end of the War, never having during the time gone without the limits of the State of Virginia. I well remember that Philip Lightfoot was a Lieutenant in the same Regiment in the year 1781, about the time of the battle of Green Springs; after which time the Regiment was considerably reduced by a draft of most of the regular soldiers belonging to the same, to join the Army of General Greene, which was in great want of men, leaving many officers here belonging to Harrison's Regiment without any command. The vacancy produced in the company of Captain Coleman to which I belonged was filled up of militia drafted for a short term, which I very well remember were recruited by myself. Between this period and the siege of York, our Army was much harassed by frequent movements, and the troops unavoidably too bad weather, this circumstance together with a scarcity and bad supply of provisions, brought on a spell of sickness by which I was compelled to retire about a week or 10 days before the siege of York and I remained extremely ill 6 or 8 weeks being incapable of rendering any service.

I do not recollect seeing Lieutenant Lightfoot after the battle of Green Spring. The company to which I belonged was detached from the other part of the Regiment and I saw none of the officers except those who belonged to the same company with myself after the separation took place by the draft aforesaid. I never did hear that Lieutenant Lightfoot did resign or intend to resign his commission, if such vacancy occurred I presume it must have come to the knowledge of some of the officers of the Regiment; and I think it highly probable that his name not being on the return roll of the Army at the conclusion of the war, must have resulted from the reduction of the Regiment by the draft aforesaid, which left him and others without any command. I know of no living testimony by which the circumstance of Lieutenant Lightfoot's service after the period spoken of above, can be ascertained – all the officers of said Regiment, with the exception of one Judge Brooke and myself being did.

Given under my hand this 21<sup>st</sup> day of April 1834

S/ Edmund Brooke

[a copy]

The undersigned was well acquainted in early life with Philip Lightfoot, to whom the foregoing affidavits of Francis T and Edmund Brooke relate. The wife of the said Philip Lightfoot was a relative of the undersigned and his mother was of the same name before her marriage. Her residence prior to and during the entire war of the revolution was in the neighborhood of the father of the undersigned. Being relatives and neighbors, the intercourse between the families was such as to produce an intimate acquaintance amongst the respective members of each. It was in this way, the undersigned became intimately acquainted with Philip Lightfoot, who was a young man of large and commanding fortune, and who to the knowledge of the undersigned entered the Army about the last of the year 1780, or early in 1781 as a Lieutenant in Colonel Charles Harrison's Regiment of Artillery – said Lightfoot, John T, Francis T and Edmund Brooke all joined the same Regiment about the same time as lieutenants. The 3 last went from the school at which the undersigned was. Colonel F Lewis, who wedded the sister of General Washington, was the guardian of the said Philip Lightfoot.

Certified by me this 2<sup>nd</sup> of April 1838

S/ John Taliaferro

[a copy]

Virginia

At a monthly Court held for Caroline County, on the 13<sup>th</sup> day of October 1834 Satisfactory evidence being produced to the Court they do hereby certify that Philip Lightfoot of Port Royal in this County is the only child and heir of Philip Lightfoot of Cedar Creek who was a Lieutenant in Charles Harrison's first Regiment of artillery of the Revolutionary War of the Continental Line.

From the records

a copy

In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my seal of office this 3<sup>rd</sup> day of November 1834 and 59<sup>th</sup> year of the Commonwealth

S/ John L. Pendleton, Clerk

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

28-page file

Report upon the claim of the air of Philip Lightfoot – Lieutenant, in the Continental line, for bounty land for his services

To the Governor

Sir;

The name of Lieutenant Philip Lightfoot was not found on any of the Rolls of officers of the Revolutionary Army it is not on the Army Register. There is no proof that he ever settled an account for his services, as a soldier.

The Petitioner relies upon the affidavit and letter of judge Francis T Brooke and the affidavit of Lieutenant Edmund Brooke; both of whom were officers in Harrison's Regiment of artillery, in which Philip Lightfoot served. They say, that Philip Lightfoot, of Caroline County, was a Lieutenant in Harrison's Continental Regiment of artillery – that he served in the Campaign of 1781 – and, after the reduction of Harrison's Regiment was probably supernumerary to the end of the war. (See the affidavits of Judge FT Brooke and Lieutenant Edmund Brooke, and judge Brooke's letter &c).

Respectfully submitted

S/ John H Smith, Commissioner &c.

May 27, 1835

[this file contains what appear to be the originals of the affidavits contained in the federal file as transcribed above.]

[Note: this file contains what appear to be several lengthy letters written by the heir and claimant in support of his claim, but the image quality is too poor to transcribe them.]