

# Daniel Lighthouse UEL

Submitted by Lynn McAlister UE | <https://lighthousefamily.wordpress.com>

Daniel Lighth(e)art was born about 1761 in Beekman's Precinct (Dutchess County), New York.<sup>1</sup> His grandparents, Johann Bernhardt and Anna Justina, had arrived in New York in 1710 as part of the Palatine immigration. The family name was originally **Lueckhard**, but early English records called them *Lickhard*, and their Dutch neighbours used *Lickhardt* and then *Leeghart*. By the mid 1760s, when the family settled in Stillwater (Albany County), the German name had morphed into *Lighthart*.

Living in Stillwater put Daniel's family right in the path of major military campaigns, first the American invasion of Quebec in 1775 and then Burgoyne's expedition in 1777. On the 20<sup>th</sup> of July 1777, he and his elder brother John enlisted in Joseph Jessup's company of the King's Loyal Americans. Shortly after this their father appears as a prisoner of the Continental forces. (I'm not sure if he was arrested because his sons had joined Burgoyne or if his sons joined Burgoyne because he had been arrested. Perhaps the two were unrelated.)<sup>2</sup> He was released in October after swearing an oath that he would not actively oppose the rebellious Americans – an oath he seems to have kept; but after the war he joined his sons in Canada. (A younger son, Barnabas, joined the Continental forces and his descendants remained in New York.)

After Saratoga, the Lighthart brothers fled north with the remnants of the King's Loyal Americans. In Quebec they appear at different times on the rolls of Leake's Independent Company and the Loyal Volunteers, both of which eventually became part of the Loyal Rangers under Edward Jessup. In July 1781 Daniel was 'on secret service'<sup>3</sup>; later he served in the engineers' corps under Jonathon Jones. He was stationed in Sorel, where he married Rachel Burk and they started their family.<sup>4</sup> It is in Canada that their Dutchified German surname was fully anglicised to *Lighthouse*.

Jessup's Loyal Rangers were disbanded at the end of 1783. In September of the following year, Daniel Lighthouse is one of the 'Disbanded Troops and Loyalists, Settled on the Seigniorship at Sorel'. Daniel seems to have purchased land in Sorel, and his family remained there until 1797, but the lands he was granted were in Adolphustown and the Lighthouses appear on record there later that year; by 1799 they had settled in Darlington. He was ultimately given lands not only for himself but also for his brother John (who died in 1783) and his father (who died about 1787). In Darlington, Daniel, Rachel, and two of their children were charged and convicted of rioting in what appears to have been an ongoing feud with a neighbour; although Daniel was said to be the instigator, only Rachel and the children were fined, and about this time Daniel disappears from the records entirely. He is believed to have died in 1804, the year his youngest son William (my great-great-great-grandfather) was born, but nobody seems to know where he was buried or the details of his death. Several of his sons were granted lands in Toronto, from where their families spread into Peel, Wentworth, Grey and Simcoe counties; William's son Vincent settled in Hamilton, where his family can still be found. The descendants of one of Daniel's sons moved west, and at least one of his daughters appears to have settled in Michigan.

---

<sup>1</sup> No birth record has been found, but military records say that he was 20 years old in January 1762.

<sup>2</sup> Because his father was also named Daniel, some published accounts have claimed it was Daniel the younger who was imprisoned. However, in a land petition of 7 June 1797, this Daniel stated that "your petitioners father, Daniel Lighthouse, was a loyalist & had suffered imprisonment".

<sup>3</sup> Gavin K. Watt, *The Burgoyne Expedition: Burgoyne's Native and Loyalist Auxiliaries* (Global Heritage Press, 2013), p. 229.

<sup>4</sup> Several published accounts confuse this Daniel with his father and insist that his wife was Marytje Heens (who was actually his mother). One expresses some doubt that Rachel Burk even existed. However, his military records make clear that he was too young to be the Daniel who married Marytje Heens, and all of the baptismal records found for Daniel's children identify their mother as Rachel Burk.