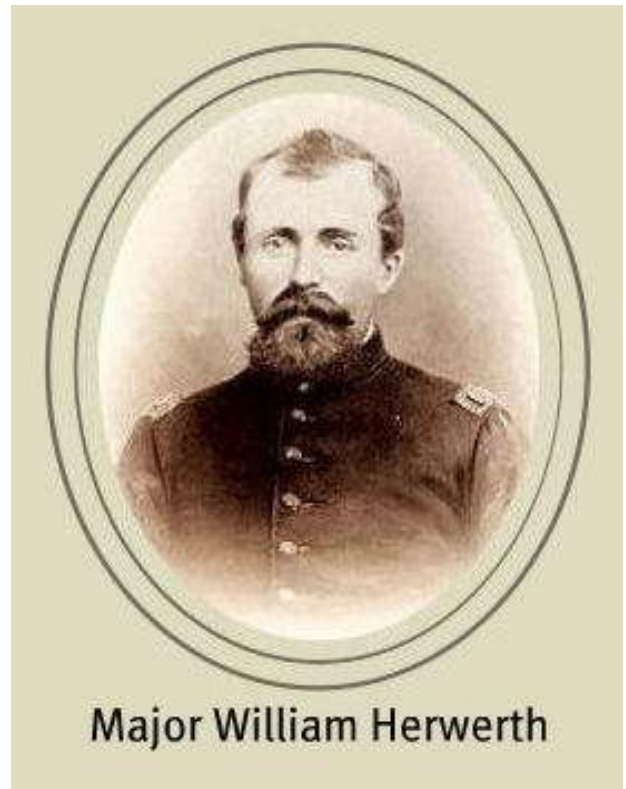




Valcour Lighthouse with Mary Hooey Herwerth



Major William Herwerth

After the Civil War, the government gave jobs to elderly or disabled veterans according to their capabilities. Some were given custodial jobs at government facilities, and, on Lake Champlain, positions as lighthouse keepers were often given. Major William Herwerth who was shot in 1865 after having served for nearly four years in the 91st NY Volunteer Infantry was one such person. After he was shot through the body, he was unable to ride a horse or do any heavy manual labor and so he and his wife applied for a pension. At the first opportunity, he was given the keepership of the lighthouse in 1876. When he died on February 17, 1881, his wife had taken over many of the duties at the lighthouse because of his increasing disability. His widow, the former Mary Hooey of Redford, was formally appointed keeper. She remained there until 1902.

HERWERTH, WILLIAM L.—Age, 35 years. Enrolled, September 12, 1861, at Redford, to serve three years; mustered in as first lieutenant, Co. C, September 18, 1861; wounded in action, April 14, 1863, at Irish Bend, La., and May 27, 1863, before Port Hudson, La.; mustered in as captain, Co. F, August 31, 1864; mustered out with company, July 3, 1865, near Washington, D. C.; major N. Y. Vols. by brevet.

Commissioned first lieutenant, December 20, 1861, with rank from October 3, 1861, original; captain, July 6, 1864, with rank from June 22, 1864, vice J. Cooke discharged.