On 17 May 1878, George Lilli made application to the U.S. Government to homestead 80 acres of land described as Section 8, Township 98 North, Range 43 West in Lyon County, Iowa. His Final Certificate was issued 25 September 1878.

The 1880 United States Federal Census shows George Lilli at the age of 79 years old, residing with his daughter and her family in Dale Township, Lyon County, Iowa.

The 1885 Iowa State Census shows George William Lilli at the age of 83 years old residing in Dale Township, Lyon County, Iowa.

George Lilli passed away on 19 November 1891 at the age of 90 years old. He is buried in the Lyon County First Presbyterian Church Cemetery in George, Iowa next to his daughter, Anna Barbara Lilli Roth (1839-1901), his son-in-law Joseph Anton Roth (1832-1893) and his 15 month old granddaughter, Barbara Elizabeth Weikert (1897-1898).