

[Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters](#)

Virginia documents pertaining to John Swan VAS2026  
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris.

[Original online images are barely legible.]

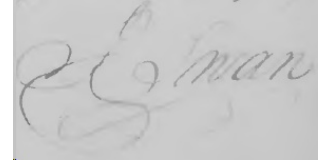
[From [Library of Virginia Legislative Petitions Digital Collection](#)/ Monongalia County]

To the Honorable the Speaker and Delegates of the State of Virginia Assembled

The petition of John Swan of the 3<sup>d</sup> Regiment Light Dragoons Humbly sheweth that your petitioner in conjunction with David Samuel Hughes did purchase three fourth of warrant for 20000 acres of Land granted by Lord Dunmore unto Lieut. Patrick Allison of Monongahela County [sic] for services done last war agreeable to his Britannic Magesties proclamation of 1763 that exclusive of that warrant your petitioner with Samuel Hughes bought a warrant of Jno Price [John Price] for 3000 acres granted upon the same account which was put into the Hands of Gen'l. Thompson then a Deputy Surveyor for Fincastle County who made returns to your petitioner (the acting partner) in 1775 who forwarded them to Col'n. Preston the County surveyor which your petitioner considered was all that was necessary to obtain grants for the surveys aforesaid, and upon this principle He bought the shares of Samuel Hughes & Patrick Allison for a considerable sum of money upon a firm belief that grants would issue on the same when the Assembly Opened in Office for the State. Early in 1776 the [undeciphered word] just and necessary was [two undeciphered words] to New York where Your petitioner joined the army as a volunteer and served as such untill 1777 when He was appointed by His Excellency Gen Washington to the command of a Troop of Light Dragoons in the Regiment raised by Colo [George] Baylor in which He continued untill the unfortunat surprize of that Regiment in Sept 1778 [at Old Tappan NJ, 28 Sep 1778] since which your Petitioner remained in Captivity untill December last which practically prevented his obtaining grants for those Lands in 1779 your petitioner was appointed by the Prisoners then on Long Island to apply to Congress for a sum of money to relieve their distresses and a parole obtained for him for that purpose, when that Business was executed He heard of an act of Assembly giving a limited time for surveys under these circumstances to be returned to the Office at Williamsburg

Your petitioner went to Colo Preston the surveyor General for that district when to his surprize and mortification the Colo refused to give him returns, altho General Thompson had made the returns in a regular and correct manner as [one or two undeciphered words] and certificate reference being had thereto will more at large appear Yet He had omitted to take the oath of a Deputy Surveyor agreeable to his appointment from the College of William & Mary and the Laws of Virginia which Your Petitioner was intirely ignorant of untill Colo Preston gave it as reason why He could not make the returns referred to. Your petitioner upon applicaiton to General Thompson was informed the reason why He omitted or rather refused to take the Oath of a surveyor was owing to his political principles and the part He had determined to take in the present War, the Oath of allegiance to his Britannic Majesty being blended with that of his Office, as a proof of the sincerity of this his declaration in six weeks from the date of these surveys. He actually raised and march'd a Regiment of Rifflemen to Boston the seat of War at that period. Your Petitioner in justice to himself is now compelled to trouble Your honorable House to [undeciphered word] the justice his [undeciphered word] situation merits, by granting him a patent upon the surveys and returns made by General Thompson upon his now taking an Oath of the legallity of the surveys according to the present Constitution Otherwise Your petitioner by spending his time and fortune and shedding his Blood in the service of his Country will be forever deprived of so much of his just right & property which He could and would have secured had He remained at Home instead of givin his attention to that in place of the more impotent soldier of his Country, Your petitioner relying on the justice and certitude[?] of his application hopes the Hnb'le House will give it due attention and grant him the [two or three undeciphered words] in the premises and Your Petitioner as in duty Bound will pary

&ca  
March 13<sup>th</sup> 1781



November 24<sup>th</sup> 1781 referred to propositions/ Nov'r. 27 1781 referred to the next Session of Assembly

[The following is from [bounty-land records in the Library of Virginia.](#)]

Baltimore Decemb 21<sup>st</sup> 1807

Sir Some misunderstanding have arisen as to the [undeciphered word] of Land Law [two undeciphered words] under an Act of Assembly of Virginia as an officer in the line of that State, [two undeciphered words] Mr Taylor has been good enough to offer his service to investigate my claim. A reference to the files in your Office will be necessary. I now flatter myself you will have the goodness to permit him to examine the papers [three undeciphered words] the Regm't returns of the 1<sup>st</sup> Reg't Light Dragoons from July 1782 untill peace, and a copy of the Officers arranged under the Act of Congress consolidating the first & 3<sup>d</sup> Reg't Light Dragoons [two undeciphered words] peace in November 1782.

It may also be necessary to see from what period I drew pay as a major [two undeciphered words] my commutation was settled as such. With great respect,/ I am Yrs/ Your most Obed't Servt



I hereby certify that on examining the books & records in the Department of war it appears that John Swan Esq'r. now of the city of Baltimore, was a Major of Dragoons at the close of the late revolutionary war, and as such received the bounty in Land which was promised by Congress to the officers & soldiers of the late army. War Office/ 30 Dec'r. 1807/ H. Rogers.