

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

Virginia documents pertaining to William Aylett VAS2324
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris.

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

Sir We have your Favor of the 5th Instant now before us, and observe the attention you have shew'd to the Business of your office and are particularly pleas'd at the Purchase you have made of Shoes and Watch-Coats [waistcoats?], as they are Articles which will certainly be wanted; We are also much oblig'd to you for the general Information you have given us respecting other Matters [illegible word] we have not leisure at present to attend particularly to them; We think it necessary however to direct that you will purchase a Quantity of the Oznaburg [osnaburg fabric] which you mention provided you can procure it for 18^d [18 pence] pr yard; and more than that price, we are determin'd not to give, for the present at least, that we may in some measure keep down the Price and prevent Extortioners from [undeciphered word] exorbitant Prices as they seem to attempt to do, for every Article that We are oblig'd to purchase. I am
for & by Order of the Commee/ Sir your mo. Ob't. Serv't.

Wm. Aylett Esq'r Edm'd Pendleton [Edmund Pendleton] P./ Wmsburgh March 16 1776

Richmond Oct 20th 1808 I certify that, living in Williamsburg at the time, I was call'd upon to visit, and did visit Col. William Aylett, during his last Illness at York, where I understood, & believ'd, he had gone upon public business, & was then in the public Service James McClurg

I was well acquainted with the late Colonel William Aylett of King William County and recollect that he acted for several years as Commissary General of Purchases in Virginia; I can say nothing respecting the date of his appointment, or the time of his death, or whether he Resigned, or died in service; but am very much inclined to believe that he was in office at the time of his death in October 1778 I recollect doing business with him in Williamsburg, as head of the Commissary department, I believe the Heads of Staff Departments ranked as Colonels.

Given under my hand at Richmond this 20th October 1808.

James Wood [BLWt2419-500] formerly
B. Gen'l. Cont'l. Line

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "James Wood" with a small "B. Gen'l." written below it.

Sir Richmond October 20 1808

In reply to the memorandum left [several illegible words] judge for me relative to the employment of your father in the public service during our revolutionary War, I have the pleasure of stating that in the begining of the year 1777 when I was a lad I was placed by my father at Williamsburg in what was then called the Public [illegible; probably "Store"] under the superintendence and management of William Aylett esq'r your father, who was also acting under a Commission of the Congress of the United States as Commissary General of purchases, I believe with the rank of Colonel. At what time your father was Commissioned either by the United States of the State of Virginia I have no knowledge or recollection. He was employed in both these Capacities when I went first to live with him. About twelve months after I was placed under his direction, he resigned the Office of Commissary of Stores which he had under an appointment from the State, but continued to act and kept an office as Commissary General of purchases for the United States in Williamsburg. Upon his resignation of the former officer William Armistead esqr [VAS1894] then his Chief Clerk was appointed in his place, and with this latter Gentleman I continued to live. It is perfectly in my recollection that Colo Aylett Continued a long time in his Office under the United States, but whether he ever resigned that office or not I have no certain knowledge, on the Contrary I have full confidence he never did resign, and that he was in Office at the time of his death, the particular period of which I do not remember – but I do very well remember that it was before the removal of the

seat of Government from Williamsburg to Richmond, which took place in the year 1780 [in April] and he died at York Town whither I believe he went on the duties of his Office.

I believe a more virtuous and meritorious officer was never employed during our struggles for independence. He was faithful, vigilant, and a patriot. I believe if the records of Congress were examined that a public manifestation of his merit and his Services in the thanks of the then president may be found. Sure I am that such are my impressions which could not have been formed without some foundation.

I know not that any opinions of mine can aid you in your object, but it affords me pleasure to give this testimonial of my grateful respect & regard for the Memory of one who was ever held in the highest estimation by/ Sir/ Your most ob't Servant
The Honble Wm Aylett

Jno. Hopkins

To the Executive of Virginia

The petition of Francis V Sutton Attorney in fact for the heirs at Law of the late Colo. William Aylette a part of whom are [several undeciphered words] King Wm of the Revolutionary army Respectfully presents to the Executive that Colo William Aylette he believes entered the State services early in the war of the revolution and if the testimony of some of the Heirs could be offered as evidence he would say William Aylette entered the service as purchasing commissary as early as September 1775. But the undersigned relying on the report of [undeciphered word] Smith who recognized said Aylette in service as early as April 27th 1776 as a Colo. in Continental establishment he would also ask attention to a Letter found amongst Colo. Aylette's papers from the late Edmund Pendleton Esq. which shews him to have been in service as early as March 5th 1776 Colo Aylette died in service in 1780 or 81 (see Gen'l Wood certificate on file in the Executive department) and as every probability induces the belief from so long and so active a service by said Aylette that had he lived he would have continued in service to the end of the war the undersigned respectfully asks that that Liberality which has he believes been without exception extended to the Heirs of all who died under similar circumstances may be extended to the Heirs of the said Aylette and that they may be allowed additional bounty land and the time of service be calculated from the 5th day of March 1776 till the end of the war.

Very Respectfully/ Francis V Sutton/ Atty in fact for the Heirs of Colo. Aylette

Journal of Congress Vol 2^d p.156 157

Commissaries are made subject to arrest and trial for neglect of duty as other officers but they are not spoken of as officers of the line or having rank as such.

Col Aylett was app'd Dep C. [Deputy Commissary] of purchasor[?] by Congress 27 Ap'l 1776 died in 1780

William Aylett elected Commissary Gen'l 27th April 1776 in Journal of Congress for 1776 page 152

Commissaries – their commissaries Jour. Con. 1777 p 263 Subject to arrest & trial as other commissioned Officers of the Army – ibid p 224 5 [rest undeciphered]

In addition to the evidence offered heretofore to the Executive of Virginia in behalf of the Heirs at Law of the late Col. Wm Aylett for additional bounty land, the undersigned attorney in fact for all the parties begs leave to make the following statement

That on Saturday the 27th of April 1776 said Wm. Aylett was elected by Congress as deputy Commissary General. see Journals of Congress Vol. 1 page 129

That in the United States Senate Dec'r 4th 1776 The Salary of said Wm. Aylett as Commissary is settled at seventy five dollars per month (the pay of a Col. See Journals of Congress Vol 2 pps 27 & 28

And that on Saturday July 6th 1777 said Commissary Aylett is recognized [two illegible words] order which passed Congress, as Colonel see Journals of Congress Vol 2 page 188 respectfully submitted to the Executive of Virginia by Fran's V. Sutton/ Atty for the Heirs

Heirs of Col Aylett

1839 Ap'1 23

Additional bounty land allowed in this case for a service of one year and six months and six days as a Col
in the Continental line

[Gov.] David Campbell

Registered 5 March 1838