

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

Virginia documents pertaining to Joseph Britain (Britton) VAS2651
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris.

[The following are from [bounty-land records in the Library of Virginia](#). One online document is almost entirely illegible.]

[Cover]

New London Va/ ap'1 27th

[to] Colo John Evans/ near Fredrick [sic: Frederick] Town/ Maryland/ to the care of Mr. [?] Ewings of that Place.

[Undeciphered] Bedford 26th April 1840

Your favour of the 6th Instant was received two days ago and in answer to your [two or three undeciphered words] will with pleasure answer them as far as my memory serves me at this period. The first answer is was [?] Colo George Baylor's [W5966] Regiment belonging to the Virginia continental line, in which Regiment William Washington was appointed a Major before this Regiment was raised he [Washington] was a Captain in the 7th Virginia Regiment and commanded the [undeciphered] at [undeciphered] where he distinguished himself was then appointed a Major to Baylors Regiment afterwards appointed a Lieutenant Colo to Moylands [sic: Stephen Moylan] Regiment raised in Pennsylvania and belonging to that line; afterwards removed to the 3^d Regiment Baylors and sent to the south where he was appointed to the command of the Cavalry of the 1st and 3^d Regim't. Colo. Baylor having served one Campaign and retired from Bad health and never rejoined the Army.

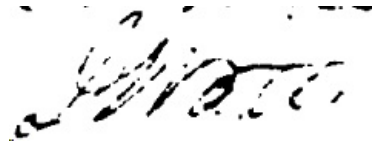
I have no precise recollection in which Regiment Captain Dorsey [Richard Dorsey BLWt584-300] served but it strikes me he served in Moylands the 3^d, I believe it was, but I am not certain, there lives a Captain Churchhill Jones [sic: Churchill Jones BLWt304-300] near Fredricksburg Virginia, who served in that Regiment and Carter Page [W2161] who was a Lieutenant in the same Regiment either of whom will recollect wheather Dorsey served in that Regiment Mr Page lives in Cumberland County who will either of them answer your enquiries about Dorsey, Colo. Baylor certainly did belong in the Virginia Continental line and I believe he received this appointment in the year 1777 after the battle of Trenton [26 Dec 1776], he had acted before as aid to the commander chief [George Washington], the Regiment to which he belonged was raised in 76 and commanded by Colo Theodorick Bland [VAS1849]

It certainly would give me great Pleasure to forward you such a certificate as you wish but my present impressions are that Dorsey belonged to Moylands [undeciphered] of Baylors, this difficulty can be easily removed by addressing a letter either to Capt Churchill Jones near Fredricksburg, or Mr. Carter Page Cumberland near Cared[?], Captain Jones lives much nearer Washington than Page and an answer might be sooner obtained from him they are both highly respectable any thing certified by either of them will no doubt be received as it ought; your second enquirie is the names of the several Officers who commanded Regiments of Cavalry. Colo Theodorick Bland the 1st Regiment from Virginia Colo Moyland the 2^d from Pennsylvania, Colo George Baylor the 3^d from Virginia, Colo Seldin the 4 from one of the eastern states, Colo. Armand [Charles Armand BLWt2291-850] a French Gentleman a Legonary core [sic: legionary corps] made up from diffent lines, Gen'l. Polaskie [sic: Casimir Pulaski Ga7] another Legion of no Particular line, and lastly Lees [Henry Lee BLWt1299-500] Legon made up Principally from the Virginia line and recognised as belonging to that line, as[?] of the Officers of it [who] received their land Bounties, [undeciphered], Rudolph Oneal [sic: Michael Rudolph BLWt945-300 and Ferdinand Oneal (O'Neal) R16846] and many others of my acquaintance Armands Legon nor Moylands Regiment never was considered as belonging to the Virginia Continental line.

I had like to have forgotten to refer you to Colo Phillip Stuart [Philip Stuart S20989] who lives now in the City of Washington he served in Washingtons Regiment was in the action at Eutau springs [sic: Eutaw

Springs SC, 8 Sep 1781] he is a Gentleman of high respectability he may be enabled to answer any further enquires you may be disposed to make should anything occur which may make a further Communication necessary Pray command me freely, I regret much that I had the Pleasure of seeing you when in Washington and had hoped that [several undeciphered words] rendered you some servises in Richmond, and [several undeciphered words], It certainly in unnecessary for me to say that any servises in my power to render you is very much at your command

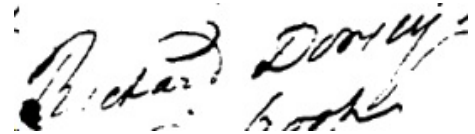
Your [undeciphered] & H Servant/
John Watts [BLWt2431-300]



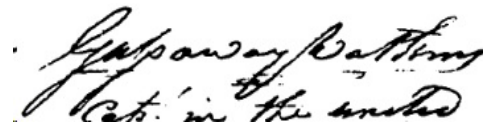
On this 10th day of May 1820 Personally appeared before the subscriber a Justice of the peace in and for Frederick County Richard Dorsey Jun. who makes oath that he believes to the best of his knowledge that the certificate on the other side of this paper is in the hand writing of Richard Dorsey now Colonel [other side]

I do hereby certify that Capt. Vachel Denton Howard [VAS2652] commanded a troop of light horse in the regiment of which William Washington of Virginia was Major in the United States service, in the year 1777 that being on duty he took a violent cold which caused his death in the spring of 1778 in or near Trenton in new Jersey

March 6th 1820 Richard Dorsey then Lieut
of said troop



I hereby certify that I new Capt Vachel Howard of the state of Maryland and he served under the command of Colo Baylor who command a Reg't of Horse in the united state services and Died 1778 in the services Gassaway Watkins [W15857]/ Cap. in the united State Services & in/ the Maryland Line



I hereby certify that I was personally well acquainted with Captain Vachel Denton Howard who was appointed a Captain and commanded a Company of Cavelry in the Regiment in which William Washington of Virginia was then a [undeciphered word] – Who afterwards was promoted to the rank of Colonel Which Regiment was in the Continental line in the year 1777 That the said Captn Vachel D Howard being on duty took a violent cold which cause his Death in the Spring of 1778 in or near Trenton in the State of New Jersey and that the Said Howard continued in the Service untill his may 11th 1820 Jos'a Howard [Joshua Howard]

May the 11th 1820

To the Executive & council I use this medium to apply for an allowance of the bounty in lands from the state of Virginia to the heirs or Representatives of Captn Vachel D Howard who served as a Captain of a Troop of Horse the year 1777 and till the Spring 1778 in Colo George Baylors Reg't of cavalry in the Virginia line on continental Establishment & when in Duty took a violent cold which caused his Death he Died in the Army near Trenton New Jersey in the Spring of 1778 while in the Service

The proof offers to show the services is Joshua Howards Certificate & affidavit Exhibit No 1 [several undeciphered words] in the Second Reg't at the time of his service & death. This together with Colo Richard Dorseys Certificate who was then a Lieut in said Captn Vachel D Howards Troop in said Reg't Exhibit No 2 Both go to show the Connection with Colo John Watts' Letter to me bearing date 26th April 1820 That the said Capt Vachel D Howard belonged to Colo George Baylors Reg't in the Virginia Continental Line.

First – Joshua Howard Certificate & affidavit No 1 and Richard Dorseys Certificate No 2 both agree in saying that said Captn Howard belonged to the Continental Reg't in which William Washington of Virginia was then a Major They both say that the Col of the Reg't was [undeciphered] seldom with the Regiment and with whome they had not an opportunity of being so well acquainted as they were with Major William Washington who was then the principal [one or two undeciphered words] officer and generally commanded the Reg't even when a Major[?]

Now the latter claim of their statement to me when added to the previous Certificate That part of the aforesaid Colo John Watts' letter Exhibit No 4 is contained between the 6th & 12 lines in the first page which says that William Washington when a Major Belonged to Colo George Baylor's Reg't in the Virginia Cont'l line.

Next Captn Gassaway Watkins certificate who is a Man of high Respectability proves the fact that Capn Howard belonged [several undeciphered words] in Colo Baylors Reg't Exhibit No 3.

I also present through the same Medium the Claim of Lieut Joseph Britton who served to the end of the war in Colo Nathaniel Gist [BLWt1874-500] Reg't in the Virginia Continental Line. This Is proved by the [one or two undeciphered words] Certificate of Colo John E Howard [John Eager Howard] of Baltimore of which proof there can be no doubt. Reference being [several undeciphered words] Exhibit No 5

These Claims I wish to be [undeciphered word] for the Bennefit of their legal Representatives for and in whose names I am authorized to transact the business

The short period of time which remains in which the Military Warrants can be [undeciphered word] is my apology which I take the liberty [several illegible words] of the Honorable Executive & Council [undeciphered] in order for the Bounty in Lands to be allowed to the Representatives of those [undeciphered] at their next session if their engagements or other business will permit.

I am your [undeciphered]/ John Evans

1820 June [?]

The heirs of Capt. Vachel D. Howard a Capt. in the Virg'a Con'l line allowed till end of war, if not already allowed.

Jos. Britton a lieut in Virg'a Con'l line allowed till end of war, if not already allowed.

See Vouchers for Military Warrant No 6408 issued to John Evans, ass[ign]ee &c the 31 July 1820 for the residue of the bounty in consideration of the services of Capt. Vachel D. Howard.

Wm G Pendleton Reg/ 15 Decem'r 1820

John Evans, ass[ign]ee of Wm Prince, & Mrs. Evelina Prince wife of William Prince & late Evelina Dorsey one of the heirs of Caleb Dorsey dec'd who was one of the residuary devisees of Capt. Vachel D. Howard, dec'd./ 666²/₃ acres/ No. 6428/ Iss'd 15 Decem. 1820