

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

Virginia documents pertaining to John T. Brooke VAS2675
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris.

[The following are from [bounty-land records in the Library of Virginia](#). The file also contains typed transcripts of the following documents.]

Note of H. L. Brooke esq

The Books in the Registers office will shew that there have been issued to Gabriel Maupin [R16058], Warrants for 4666 acres of Bounty Land. Maupin held the Staff office of conductor of military Stores with the rank of Captain in the state line but no commission.

It will also be seen by reference to the same source of information, that William Aylett [VAS2324] agent and commissary of Stores of Virginia received 6666 acres of land by virtue of his nominal rank of Colo. He held no commission in the line.

Edward Carrington [W6635], Deputy Quater Master General Southern Division, with the rank of Lt Col has received 8759 acres of Land by a resolution of the house of Delegates of Va. May 27th 1784.* The following extract from a report of the Committee of the House of Delegates of Va to whom was refered the petition of James Munroe [sic: James Monroe W26271; later Governor of Virginia and President of the US] is deemed applicable to the present question. "It appears to your Committee that the said James Munroe in Jany[?] 1776 joined the 3^d Va Regiment, in which he served in the character of a Lieutenant during the the said campaign, that at the close thereof he was promoted to the rank of a Captaincy in one of the additional regiments, ordered to be raised by Congress under the command of Col. Thruston [Charles Mynn Thruston X806]. That from that office he was appointed an aid de Camp to Maj. Gen. [William Alexander] Lord Stirling with the rank of Maj. which rank he held during the Campaigns 1777 and 1778 and to the latter end of Feby 1779, when he withdrew from the army in consequence of the arrangements at White Plains [14 Sep 1778]"

"Resolved that the said James Munroe ought to be entitled the same Bounty in Land as is by law given to a Maj. in the Continental army Jou H of D Va. June 25 [?] Vo 3: p 87)"

William Finnie [R14175] was appointed Quater Master General and was allowed land as Col. by a resolution of the house of Delegates Nov. 19th 1784. This officer seems to have been appointed Quater Master Gen. with the rank of Col. but was never in the line.

Simon Somers [Simon Sommers S9705] has received Bounty Land as a Captain. He does not seem to have ever been in the line. He received his commisson of Adjutant from Congress and was allowed the Bounty Land as a Captain by Gov. Wood [James Wood BLWt2419-500], upon the ground that as the resolutions of Congress of 1778 and 1779 has declared that Adjutants should receive the same pay and subsistance as captains it could not be wrong to allow the Land due to a captain This decision was afterwards confirmed during the administration of Gov. [James Patton] Preston who allowed additional Bounty to the same officer for an additional term of service (See Vouch. this case date 1st March 1817)

The case of Benj. Harrison [Benjamin Harrison VAS1410, Deputy Paymaster General] is also in point. Harrison held the commission of Captain in the line, but served a very short period. He was appointed D. Quater Master Gen. [sic] and as such held the nominal rank of Lt Col. His heirs have recently been allowed the Land Bounty due to a Lt Col.

Many other cases of a similar character might be cited, but the forgoing are deemed sufficient to shew that both the Legislative, and the Executive, have at various periods, and under circumstances similar to those which belong to the case of Maj. Brooke, placed that interpretation of the Laws on the subject of Bounty Lands which if sustained, will entitle his heirs to the additional bounty of 2666 acres of Land.

In regard to the cases above cited in which the Legislature have by resolution allowed the claim of the applicants, it might be supposed that that Body acted by virtue of its capacity to pass new laws, rather than on the interpreter and expander of old ones; but this supposition is completely discountenanced by

the fact that neither in the petitions presented in these cases, or in the reports of the Committees to whom those petitions are referred, are any acts of peculiar merit, stated to have been performed by the petitioners, which could possibly be regarded as calling for any such special Legislation. These resolutions may therefore fairly be considered as the judgments of the Legislature in cases deemed by it, to fall with the provisions of the existing laws and as such are certainly entitled to great weight as authority in the present case.

It may here be added that the Government at Washington have in all cases allowed staff officers, both Regimental and general, pay, and emoluments, according to their nominal rank and as the quantity of Land allowed tho. called a Bounty may fairly be considered as nothing but a different form of pay or at least an emolument there seems no reason why the same [undeciphered word] should not be dispensed by the same rule, especially when it is considered that that government has assumed the payment of these claims for land expressly upon the ground, that they stand upon the same footing as other claims for compensation for military services. That Government at least cannot complain at being bound by its own decision.

H. L. Brooke one of the heirs of Maj John T. Brooke

Having been requested to state what I know and recollect of the Military Services of the late John T. Brooke of Fredericksburg, and Francis Brooke [Francis T. Brooke S8093], now one of the Judges of the Court of Appeals of Virginia: Now, therefore, I Robert Saunders [Robert Hyde Saunders S6046], residing in the City of Williamsburg in Virginia, at the age of seventy years and upwards, do, on oath, certify and declare that, during the War of the Revolution, I joined the Southern Army then under the Command of the late General [Nathanael] Greene in the latter part of the month of february in the year seventeen hundred and Eighty one, as an assistant to the late Colonel Edward Carrington of Virginia, the Quarter Master General to that Army. That in the Spring, or early part of the Summer of that year, the said John T. Brooke and Francis Brooke came and joined General Greene's Army as Lieutenants of Artillery with Captain Gaines [William Fleming Gaines BLWt880-300] their superior Officer. Soon after their arrival at the Camp of General Greene, I became acquainted with them, and afterwards saw them often on duty, and continued to have an intimate acquaintance and intercourse with them during the years 1781 and 1782. That Lieutenants John G. Brooke, and Francis Brooke remained in that army, as I did, untill Peace was announced. I well recollect, that, besides the duties which Lieutenant John T. Brooke performed as an Officer of Artillery, he acted in the Capacity of Adjutant to the Regiment of Artillery to which he was annexed, having seen him at the Adjutant General's office, where it was often my duty to attend, copying the general's orders to the Army, into an orderly Book, which book I often saw and read at his tent. It is perfectly within my recollection also, that Lieutenant Francis Brooke, as above spoken of, in addition to his duties as an Officer of Artillery, acted as Quarter Master to the same Regiment of Artillery, having as I then supposed, the superintendence of the Park of artillery belonging to that Army. That he continued to perform these additional Services while he remained with the army. In this Service as Quarter Master, it was my duty to have frequent knowledge of his transactions: and I recollect that a horse was purchased, and allowed him by the Quarter Master General as was usual in that line of Service. My memory enables me to speak with some certainty as to the additional Services of John T. Buck [sic] and Francis Brooke, herein spoken of, in the Southern army; many facts and circumstances occurring to me in relation to them, owing to the intimate acquaintance and friendship which subsisted between them and myself.

All which I certify under my hand at Williamsburg aforesaid this seventeenth day of december in the year Eighteen hundred and thirty two.

Robert Saunders

I certify that on the 21st of January 1784 a military Land bounty Warrant for 2666 $\frac{2}{3}$ acres issued from this office to John T Brooke for his Services as a Lieutenant in the Continental Line to the end of the war.

W Selden B L off./ L. off. 17 Dec 1832

I hereby certify that Lieut John T. Brooke of Harrisons [Charles Harrison VAS1411] regiment of Continental artillery received his commission of first Lieutenant very soon after he was sixteen years of age that his first campaign was under the Marquis La Fayette [Lafayette] in Virginia in the year 1781 – that immediately after the Battle of Green Spring [26 Jun 1781] his Corps was ordered to reenforce Gen'l Green preparatory to the Battle of Eutaw Spring [sic: Eutaw Springs SC, 8 Sep 1781], that he was in the advance when that Battle began and with the exception of Lieut. Fleming Gains was the only officer of Harrisons regiment who was not killed or wounded, that in November I think 1782 after the fall of Col. Lawrence at Combee [sic: Lt. Col. John Laurens, Combahee River SC, 27 Aug 1782] he was ordered to join General Guest [sic: Mordecai Gist BLWt108-850] who commanded that detachment and with one six pounder from the park of artillery captured the British Galley [the *Balfour*, at Port Royal Ferry SC, 2 Sep 1782] laden with the plunder of the expedition, that from the month of Dec. 1781 he was Brigade major of the Park of Artillery, lived with General Harrison who commanded it, and continued in the service until that army was disbanded on James Island and Charlestown in the month of August 1783.
[19 Dec 1832]

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Thomas Brooke". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned to the right of the main text block.