

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

Virginia documents pertaining to Christopher Calvert VAS2852
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris.

[The following are from [rejected claims in the Library of Virginia](#).]

To His Excellency [the] Governor and Council of Virginia

I beg leave on behalf of the heirs of Christopher Calvert to present their claim for Bounty Land [one or two undeciphered words] by the General Assembly of Virginia promised on account of the services of the said Christopher Calvert rendered as a captain in the Virginia [illegible word] Navy during the Revolutionary War. From the [several undeciphered words] Journal [undeciphered word] in the Auditor's Office Christopher Calvert appears to have been appointed by the Navy Board to superintend the building of some Gallies at South Quay in County of Southampton [undeciphered word] before or immediately after the declaration of Independence, but which does not satisfactorily appear.

The [undeciphered word] notice taken of him in the proceedings of that Board, [undeciphered word] at a meeting held on the 16th July 1776 at which time a letter from Capt Christopher Calvert [several undeciphered words] of the Board [several undeciphered words] of Four hundred pounds, for the purpose of [undeciphered word] the [undeciphered word] building the Gallies at South Quay: From which time up to the 12th May 1779 various orders are issued by the Board to him, which prove him to have been in actual service for Two years nine months and twenty four days and furnishing from the language of the order and the subject matter of it proof that he continued in service after that time; all of which will more fully appear by a transcript from the Navy Journal (herewith filed. The claim of Capt Christopher Calvert to Bounty Land has been unfavourably reported by the agent, to whom the examination of military claims was referred; but upon what grounds I am unable to determine. If upon the ground that the books do not [undeciphered word] full three years service; I say, in the absence of all testimony to the contrary, & in the exercise of that liberal construction which a transaction involved in the lapse of so many years should bear, the books do establish the service most conclusively to my mind. On the 16th July 76, he the said Christopher Calvert is recognized as a capt. in actual service; on the 12th May 79, he is still recognized as such, and further orders are made by the Board, to be afterwards carried into effect by him so that in computing the time of service (unless something appears to the contrary which the books don't shew) we must necessarily take into calculation the time he was in service before he is noticed on the Journal of the Navy, as also the time he must have served after the last order in relation to him appears upon that Journal; and which taken into calculation will make upwards of three years. If upon the ground that he appears to have been the Superintendent of the Ship Yard at South Quay and not in command of any particular ship; I say, that his claim to Bounty Land cannot be [undeciphered word] to that state of [undeciphered word]. If it suited better the purposes of the State of Virginia to command his services as a [undeciphered word] suitable person to superintend the building of Two Gallies [two undeciphered words] she at that time stood much in need of) he was but obeying the will of his Country [several undeciphered words], and whose interest perhaps as was more effectively promoting them by [undeciphered word] his attention to services otherwise directed. Had he not [undeciphered word] been a Capt. bearing a commission from the authority of Virginia the Navy Board would have been guilty of the absurdity of recognizing as an official of the Gov't an individual who was the mere agent to superintend some publick work. That he was a capt. in the Navy appears from the station he filled & the control exercised over him by the Board. His case does not present the only instance of the kind of record in the Navy Journal. The case of Capt. Maxwell [possibly James Maxwell R73] who was ordered to superintend the Chickahominy Navy Yard (and whose claim to Land Bounty has been allowed) shows the necessity which at that time existed of making such appointments, with from the scarcity of vessels, or from the superior knowledge of the individuals, whose attention was thus directed, and from whom it could not have been the intention of Virginia by such a course, to take away any of the provisions or emoluments, which attached to such an official.

All of which is respectfully submitted. Simon L. Stubbs/ Atty for the heirs

Tuesday June 10th 1777.

Ordered that a Warrant issued to capt Christopher Calvert for four hundred pounds on account to furnish necessaries for the use of the Ship Yard at So. Quay./ from page 232.

Thursday 24th July 1777.

Ordered that a Warrant issue to John Rochell for the use of Christopher Calvert for three hundred pounds upon account to furnish necessaries for the building or fitting the Gallies at So Quay./ from page 253.

Friday the 19 day of December 1777.

Ordered that a Warrant issue to Mr Joseph Davis for the use of Capt Christopher Calvert for five hundred pounds upon account for the purpose of furnishing necessaries for the use of the Ship yard at S. Quay. from page 333.

Wednesday the 3 day of June 1778.

Ordered that a Warrant issue to Capt Christopher Calvert for seven hundred and fifty pounds on account for the purpose of furnishing necessaries for the use of the South Quay Ship Yard./ from page 409.

The foregoing are Extract from the Navy Journal/ James E Heath Aud/ aud off. March 6 1834

Wednesday the 12 day of May 1779.

Ordered that a Warrant issue to Capt Christopher Calvert for twelve hundred pounds on acco't to purchase necessaries for the use of the Navy.

Extract from the Navy Journal bound in Parchment page 36./ Jas E Heath/ aud off 6 Mar 1834

Petition for bounty land.

Captain Christopher Calvert – S. Navy.

The evidence relied upon in this case, is – a statement of entries in the Journal of the Navy Board, from July 1776 to April 1779, in which Christopher Calvert was Call'd Captain.

These entries all shew, that Captain Calvert was superintendent of Ship building, and not an officer of the navy. His being call'd Captain by the Navy Board does not prove that he was Captain in the navy, or army.

Charles Thomas, the superintendant of the Public Rope walk, [undeciphered word], was often, in the orders of the navy board, call'd Captain – it does not therefore follow, that he was Captain in the navy. He has not received bounty land.

Colo. Isaac Zane, who was a very useful man, during the Revolutionary war often call'd in the Navy Journals Colonel Zane; but this does not prove that he was Colonel in the Army. He has not received bounty land.

There is no proof furnished by the Navy Journals or Papers, that Christopher Calvert was ever commissioned an officer of the navy; or was ever in command at all as an officer of the navy.

Resp'lly submitted/ John H Smith Com'r &c

To his Excellency/ Gov Tazewell May 13th 1834