

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters

Virginia documents pertaining to John Calvert VAS2853
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris.

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

Saturday the 9th day of May 1778
A Letter from Cap Calvert rec'd read & filed
Friday June 12th 1778
Letter from Cp Calvert rec'd read & filed
Thursday the 25th of June 1778
A letter from Capt Calvert was rec'd, read & filed
Thursday the 21st day of Aug't 1778
A letter from Mr James Davis and Capt Calvert rece'd read & answered
The foregoing are true extracts from a book filed in this office, which appears to be a journal of
the Navy board Jos'h Jackson clk Au'ts/ Aud'rs Office 19 Nov 1830

1776

Thursday the 8th February
Mr John Calvert is appointed to employ proper persons to furnish necessary materials and superintend the
building of a sea galley according to plan intended to be employed on James river of which when finished
he is to have the command and is to engage the officers and seamen his certificates for the workmens
wages & necessaries will be paid, when produced and the utmost expedition is recommended to him
The foregoing is extracted from a book filed in this department which appears to be the journal of
the committee of safety Jos'h Jackson clk Au'ts/ Aud'rs Office 14th Dec'r 1830

Virginia Gazette June 14th 1776

Runaway from the Norfolk Revenge galley in Chickahominy river, John Cartright who shipped on board
said Galley as a gunner – I will give 30 S to any person who will deliver him to me on board said galley
Signed/ John Calvert

See 3^d Page of said paper.

Extract from an account Book in the Auditor's Office purporting to be, Rope Walk Ledger 1776, 77, 78,
79, 80.

April 1779 Cordage to Capt [Henry] Stratton £445.10

Nov 16 To Brig Betsey Capt Jno Archer [John Archer W5348] 1038.–

“ ” To Boat Alliance Capt H Stratton 6281

“ ” To 24 Coils Cordage to Capt Calvert 3614

“ ” To ship Tartar Capt Saunders [William Saunders R89] 2385

This Extract is to be found at Page 38 under the Account of Benj'a Day Agent Capt Calvert having been
appointed a Captain in the navy in July 1776 & having continued in service up to the date of this Entry
makes more than three years service/ May 9th 1832/ J W Murdaugh

See Petition of Eleanor Bowrey 1788 – Rolls Office

Extracts from the Petition

That the Petitioner enlisted her slave Cuffee in September 1777 on board of the Norfolk Revenge
Capt John Calvert for three years. That she applied to Capt Calvert for a Certificate of the service of her
man – which she could not obtain as Capt Calvert alledged that he had lost his books & could not
remember for what time Cuffee enlisted

Filed with the petition are two documents. One a certificate of Mrs Sharply & the other an account vs the Commonwealth for the pay of Cuffee

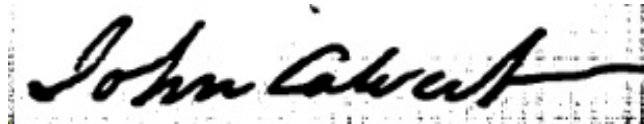
Mrs Sharply certifies on oath that Cuffee was enlisted for three years with Capt Calvert sometime in the year 1777–

The other paper – The Account is made out for the wages of Cuffee – beginning on the 2nd day of Sept 1777 being shipped by Capt John Calvert a for 3 years at 3/ per diem. The account is made out up to 2nd of August 1779 & is credited with sundry payments.

This petition & its accompanying documents shew that Capt. Calvert was in service in 1777 & in August 1779 being more than 3 years from the time of his appointment in Feby. 1776–

[The left hand side of the following document is missing.]

gro Cuff belonging to a
of Hampton was Ship
olk Revenge Galley.
by the said Mrs. Bowry
1777 and serv'd on board
amen at the time that
certain that the said
three years or less.
respecting the affairs
mislaid.



United States Navy Yard/ Gosport December 3^d 1830

I do Certify that I knew Captain John Calvert of the Virginia State Navy, during the Revolutionary War, and further that he commanded the “Norfolk Revenge Galley” during that period. I presume that Captain Calvert must have continued in the Navy during the whole of the war, or he could not have enjoyed the rank in society which he did – for, in those days it was not considered as suitable to withdraw from the public service before the termination of the War, or until after the Siege of York [19 Oct 1781].

James Barron [W12264]



J W Murdaugh on behalf of Albert Allmand & others the heirs of John Calvert represents that Calvert was commissioned a Captain in the State Navy on the 8th day of January 1776 and was ordred to [illegible word] a Galley & take charge of her himself. He [several illegible words] for building the galley. He also shews by a document marked A.B. that Capt Calvert was in the service as late as the 20th day of August 1778 as it appears by the record of the Navy commissioners, that sundry letters were sent to [several illegible words] day – The Journal extends only ten or twenty days beyond the last record of Capt Calverts name which is on the 20th of Augt. and the Journal stops on the 15th of Sept. From the time of his commission on the 8th January 1776 to the last accounts of him on the Journal the 20th of Aug't 1778 is to two years and nearly eight months, being only four months short of three years, which no doubt could have been proven by the record had the [several illegible words] of the Revenge. And also a certificate of Commodore Barron that he was in the service

J W Murdaugh very respectfully suggests to the Council, whether it would be too great [several illegible words] that Capt Calvert continued the full term of three years, when by a mutilated and imperfect record he is shown at the end of that record to have served two years and eight months. Capt Calvert was a man of great wealth & that circumstance might have prevented him from applying for his bounty in his lifetime

July 28th 1831/ J W Murdaugh

The claim of Capt Calvert is advised to be rejected there being no evidence going to shew when he was commissioned or how he was discharged from the Service D. A. Wilson

The advice above is concured w – May 23, 1832/ [Governor] John Floyd

July 1831

Resubmitted Nov'r 7 1832

1831 March Rejected

additional evidence of May 1832/ Rej'd 8 May 1832

Adv[ise]d to Reject 14 June 1832

1832 June 14 Rejected/ Rejected J. F. [Gov. John Floyd]

Service of more than three years is proved in this case by the record I therefore allow for a service of three years as Captain in the State Navy/ JB Floyd [Gov. John B. Floyd]

NOTE: The file contains a copy of accounts for John Calvert, but it is not legible enough to transcribe.