

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

Virginia documents pertaining to Francis Conway VAS3119
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris.

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

[The index card indicates that the following letter to Francis Conway is from his mother. Capitalization partly corrected.]

To Capt. Francis Conway of the Minute Battalion Stationed at Hampton
To the care of Mr. } Wmsburg [Williamsburg]
Purdie printer [Alexander Purdie, publisher of the Virginia Gazette] }
My Dear Frankey } Conways: Sept 22th 1776

I have long Been Very unEasy that I have never got a line from you since that informing me you were sick nor have I not since heard a word from you till last friday I saw John petty who told me you had Been very Ill I have been afraid that was the case as you have never sent me a line since, he told me he met you on the Road Between Wiliamsburge and Hamton on your way home in a Chair and that you were not got well of your feavers, I wish [undeciphered word] of the Journey may not make you worse, my Dear Child I hope the Almighty has Restor'd you to health before this. I wrote to you and was going to send it over to mrs Hansford[?] to carry it To you and was told he was to cross at our ferry and would call as I sent to desire he would and Expect he would till I heard he was gone another way, which disappointed me much John Pettey tells me he is sure you and your companions will be discharg'd by the 27 of the month that it may be so is very sincere wish but I am almost afraid to hope it will be so for fear of being disappointed as your year will then be out and the winter coming on I hope you will not think of staying any longer. gives me uneasiness to think how you will get up as you have no horse down with you I beg you will not think of traveling upon foot but hire a horse, I have this day heard that Betsey and the children are well and are still [several undeciphered words] little Alice was taken with the ague and feaver before they left home but are now quite well and little Frank is quite heavy [healthy?] and has not been sick at all, we are not set of to Orange yet, we have been detaind by sickness in the family tho I thank God I have not been worse myself than common I think we shall go up some time soon this week where we shall not stay but a very short time if you cant come up when I expect you [undeciphered word] let me have a line from you as soon as possible, [one or two undeciphered words] Franky except my love and best wishes for your health and safe [undeciphered word] and believe me [two or three undeciphered words]

P.S. affectionate mother

[the rest missing at bottom of image]

I was acquainted with capt Francis Conway in the war of the revolution. He lived in the county of King George & was appointed a captain and commanded a minute company in the year 1775. I enlisted in the navy, & in the early part of 1777, left this country on a cruize in the brig Musquito, was captured, & carried with all her crew, first to Barbados & then to England, whence I returned in 1779. I left Conway in service when I left the country and found him still in service on my return, and though I cannot say so positively, yet is my opinion & belief that he continued in service to the end of the war.

[Caroline County, 21 July 1837] William hisXmark Mitchel [William Mitchell S38221]

To his Excellency the Governor of Virginia

The memorial of John Conway, Lawrence Callett, Sarah T Thornton, Mary Conway, in behalf of her children of Caroline, respectfully states that they together with Edwin Conway of Albemarle, Eliza, Howard, George, & Sarah Conway of Alabama, are the only lineal descendants & heirs at law of the late Capt Francis Conway, who died about 40 years ago in Caroline County. The state that said Francis, resided in the time of the war in the county of King George, and entered the army as they have been

informed very early in the revolution, and served the whole of the war in the war in the infantry. They further state that before the death of their father, he sent the evidence of his services to Richmond by Judge Jones of Fred[erick]sburg, to be laid before your honorable body, but that Judge Jones lost his saddlebags and all the said evidence with them. They are informed that land bounty is due them on account of their farther's services, which they now ask may be allowed.

[signed] Samuel Callett/John Conway/ for our selves and the other heirs of Francis Conway
[Caroline County, 16 Sep 1837]

I certify that I was acquainted with Francis Conway in the revolution. He resided at Port Conway and entered the army very early in the war and served as captain at least four or five years.

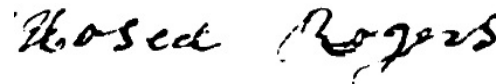
John Gray

[Caroline County, 21 Sep 1837]



The affidavit of Hosea Rogers [S38333] a resident of King George County, aged upwards of 79 States that he was born in King George County, and about ten miles from Port Conway, then the residence of the late Captain Francis Conway. About the year 1776 he joined the Continental Army under Capt Gustavus B Wallace and went to the North. After serving two years, the time of his enlistment he returned home. He further states that about the year 1780, or 1781, he is not positive which he became acquainted with said Capt. Conway & he was then in service and commanding a Company. How long he had served before he knows not, nor does he know when Captain Conway's service ceased

[12 Dec 1837]



[The following is mostly illegible.]

The deposition of George Strother [S18611] a citizen of King George County, aged 78. Said Strother states that he was born in the county of King George and his present residence [undeciphered word] about two & a half miles from Port Conway, the residence then of the late Capt Francis Conway. About the year 1775 he left King George County to reside in Pittsylvania County, where he acted as the Clerk of [undeciphered] Williams a lawyer in that county. That he [several undeciphered words] he returned to King George. On my return I found Capt Conway in service & commanding a company. Some time thereafter I joined the company of Captain Conway, and served under him in the years 1777, 1780 to April 1781, when I [several undeciphered words] company to the Siege of York [Yorktown, 28 Sep - 19 Oct 1781]. Captain Conway's company belonged [the rest undeciphered]

Executive Department/ January 5th 1838.

The following is an extract from the Council Journal of 10 September 1776 "Ordered, that Commissions issue, appointing "&c &c" Also that Francis Conway be commissioned first Lieutenanant."

W H Richardson Secy [undeciphered]

In Council 10 October 1776.

Ordered that a warrant issue to Captain Francis Conway for fifteen pounds nineteen shillings and five pence for the balance of his and his officers pay in the service of the minute men as pr. account certified by the Commissioners. a Copy W H Richardson Secy [?]/ Jan 5 1838

Summary of the evidence in the claim of Capt Francis Conway's heirs for land bounty.

From the direction of Mrs Taylor's letter to Capt. Conway, it would appear that he was then viz 22nd Sept

1776, a captain in the minute service and from an expression in the letter viz, “Jno Petty tells me he is sure you & your companions will be discharged by the 27th of the month” and just after she says “as your year will then be out” – it is to be inferred, that Capt Conway entered the minute service in Sept 1775. The Council Journal for 1776 & ‘77 shews that Francis Conway was on the 10th Oct 1776 captain in the minute service, & it shews also, that he was on the 12th of Sept ‘76 a first Lieutenant. This seeming contradiction in the record may be reconciled in one of two ways – 1st that Conway was appointed a Lt of the continental line on the 12th Sept ‘76, but continued to act as capt in the minute service to the 10th of Oct, thereafter. Or 2ly the clerk made a mistake in the year, & made the entry the “12th Sept 1776, instead of the 12 Sept 1777. It is well known that the officers generally of the minute service were transferred to the continental line, & took there, a rank, subordinate to that, which they had felled[?] in the minute service.

George Strother a gentleman of high character, states that he served in capt Conway’s Company during the years 1777-‘80 & to Apl ‘81, when his company marched to York. He further states when he returned to King George, which was in 1777, Conway was then in service. And he also states that Conway belonged to the 3rd Va Regiment. [see endnote]

Wm Mitchel states that Conway was a captain in the minute service in 1775, and that he was still in service in ‘79

Hosea Rogers was a soldier in the continental army, and a man of high respectability. He proves[?] that Capt Conway was in service in 1780 or ‘81 – and Jno Gray a man of unblemished character, says that he was acquainted with Capt Conway & that he served at least four or five years.

Thus four respectable witness unite with the records in proving the service of Capt Conway from the fall of 1775 to the fall of 1781 a period of five years of actual service.

NOTE: In his own pension application George Strother stated that he served under Capt. Francis Conway in the militia, not in the Continental line. Benjamin Berry (S30857) and Daniel White (S1268) stated that Conway replaced Capt. John Taliaferro, who was in the Third Battalion of Minutemen, not the 3rd Virginia Continental Regiment. Virginia law provided bounty land only for service of a least three years or until the end of the war in the Continental or the state line, not for service in the militia.