

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Bounty Land Application relating to John Thornton BLWt1870-450

f24VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

12/9/11 supp'd 4/27/15

[Methodology: Spelling, punctuation and/or grammar have been corrected in some instances for ease of reading and to facilitate searches of the database. Where the meaning is not compromised by adhering to the spelling, punctuation or grammar, no change has been made. Corrections or additional notes have been inserted within brackets or footnotes. Blanks appearing in the transcripts reflect blanks in the original. A bracketed question mark indicates that the word or words preceding it represent(s) a guess by me. The word 'illegible' or 'indecipherable' appearing in brackets indicates that at the time I made the transcription, I was unable to decipher the word or phrase in question. Only materials pertinent to the military service of the veteran and to contemporary events have been transcribed. Affidavits that provide additional information on these events are included and genealogical information is abstracted, while standard, 'boilerplate' affidavits and attestations related solely to the application, and later nineteenth and twentieth century research requests for information have been omitted. I use speech recognition software to make all my transcriptions. Such software misinterprets my southern accent with unfortunate regularity and my poor proofreading skills fail to catch all misinterpretations. Also, dates or numbers which the software treats as numerals rather than words are not corrected: for example, the software transcribes "the eighth of June one thousand eighty six" as "the 8<sup>th</sup> of June 1786." Please call material errors or omissions to my attention.]

The undersigned James Madison Thornton Winston one of the heirs at law (in right of his deceased Mother) of the late Colonel John Thornton presents this application to the Department of War of the United States for a warrant for the bounty land due & unsatisfied to his late grandfather for his service in the Revolutionary War as Lieutenant Colonel of Infantry in the Virginia line on Continental establishment in the war aforesaid. He respectfully refers the Department to the evidence on file in the House of Representatives of the United States which accompanied the petition of Mrs. James Thornton at the late Session of Congress & to the Report of the Committee on Revolutionary claims to whom it & the documentary testimony were referred. The undersigned represents that except Alfred a Thornton he is the only one of the heirs, now of lawful age. The children of Colonel Thornton being all dead.

Test:

S/ J. S. Barbour

S/ James M. T. Winston



[Attested April 19, 1830]

[f p 8]

Department of War Bounty Land Office  
November 28th 1831

It is respectfully reported to the Honorable Secretary of War that an application for bounty land has been filed in this office by the Heirs of John Thornton, deceased, who was a Lieutenant Colonel of the Virginia Continental line in the War of the Revolution; and this Department is referred to the files of the House of Representatives for the evidence upon which the applicants rely, for the establishment of their claim.

The papers containing the evidence referred to, had been furnished this office by the Clerk of the House of Representatives, and have undergone a careful examination from which it appears that Colonel John Thornton was appointed a Captain in 1775 in the 3rd Virginia Regiment commanded by Colonel Hugh Mercer; and that he received his commission as such from Congress in 1776. It further appears that, he was appointed a Major in 1777 in the Regiment commanded by Colonel Thurston [Charles Mynn Thruston], and was subsequently promoted to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel; and continued in active service until the summer of 1778, at which period, his Regiment, as well as some others, being incomplete, a consolidation

took place, which left him without a command in the Continental line of the Army. It further appears by the evidence of Captain Reuben Moore,<sup>1</sup> Thomas Vaughan,<sup>2</sup> and Reuben Rossen,<sup>3</sup> that in the year 1781, when the State of Virginia was invaded by Cornwallis, that Colonel Thornton was in command as an officer of the Continental line; and that he acted by, and under the orders of Major General Lafayette, in that character; that he discharged this duty in the year 1781. It is also proven by the testimony of Colonel Abraham Maury,<sup>4</sup> and other living witnesses, that the said Thornton never did resign his Commission.

The Resolution of Congress bearing date October 1780 promised half pay for life to all those officers who should serve to the close of the War, or who might become supernumerary; also grants of land at the close of the War, agreeably to the Resolution of the 16th of September 1776.

The doubts existing in this office in relation to the right to bounty land from the United States by Colonel Thornton grow out of the fact that, his name is not returned on the list of Officers of the Virginia Continental line, on file in this Department, among those, entitled to that County. This fact, although justly operating, is not deemed conclusive against his claim; inasmuch as, it is believed that our records are not altogether perfect in relation to supernumerary Officers –

The evidence adduced in relation to the rank and services of Lieutenant Colonel Thornton in the Continental line of the Army, up to the summer of 1778 is deemed incontrovertible: The facts in relation to his subsequent service in 1781 appear to be sustained by credible & respectable testimony, and necessarily leads to the conviction that, he never resigned his commission; hence, that he ought to be considered as a supernumerary or deranged Officer, as late as the year 1781, and therefore entitled to bounty land from the United States agreeably to the Resolves of Congress of September 1776 and October 1780.

The report of the Committee on Revolutionary Claims and the Bill predicated thereon (copies of which are herewith submitted) show that, that committee considered Colonel Thornton as entitled to the benefits of the Resolutions of Congress of October 1780 and of March 22nd 1783 by their reporting a bill declaring that, "the commutation of five years full pay is now due to his legal representatives." If this bill, which appears to have had two readings, be finally passed, then the right to commutation being confirmed, the right to bounty land from the United States follows, as a necessary consequence – Should the bill in question be, on the contrary, finally rejected or modified, the right of land bounty would remain unimpaired, if it is conceded that the applicants have satisfactorily proved that Colonel Thornton became a reduced or supernumerary Officer even as early as the year 1778, and that he did not at any subsequent period of the War, resign his Commission.

I have the honor to be with great respect &c  
S/ Wm Gordon

The Honbl.  
Secretary of War

At a Court held for Culpeper County on Monday the 16th day of January 1832.

The Court doth order to be certified that Colonel John Thornton late of the Virginia

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<sup>1</sup> [Reuben Moore W8466](#) His testimony does not appear in this file.

<sup>2</sup> [Thomas Vaughan S6298](#) His testimony does not appear in this file.

<sup>3</sup> [Reubin \[Reuben\] Rosson S6016](#) His testimony does not appear in this file.

<sup>4</sup> [Abraham Maury S5730](#) His testimony does not appear in this file.

Continental line, departed this life sometime since leaving as heirs at law, James Madison Thornton Winston, who departed this life on the 15th day of October 1831 in the 29th year of his age, only child and heir at law of his Daughter Mary Thornton, who was his Mother, and who intermarried with Doctor Isaac Winston, and departed this life before her Father, Frances G Thornton, Mary Francis and Elizabeth Thornton, only children and heirs at law of Jane W. Thornton who was a daughter of Colonel John Thornton, and who intermarried with Francis Thornton, but who departed this life before her said Father, and George W. S. Thornton, and they are the only heirs at law of said Colonel John Thornton at the time of his death, but that his daughter Frances G Thornton is since dead, leaving the following children, Alfred A Thornton, Matilda A. S. Thornton, Caroline H. Thornton, who has since intermarried with Francis Thompson, George W. Thornton and Aylatt H Thornton. That his son George W. S. S. Thornton is likewise since dead leaving one child named Jane W. Thornton that she is his only heir at law, and that Isaac Thornton (his father) is heir at law, distributee and devisee of said James Madison Thornton Winston. In Testimony that the foregoing is a true copy of the records, I Francis T Lightfoot, Clerk, have hereto subscribed my name and affixed the seal of said Court this 16th day of January 1832. And

Signed F. T Lightfoot

[Note: a letter dated 1931 purports to unscramble the heirs of Col. Thornton as follows:  
Col. Thornton had 4 children:

1. Mary Thornton who married Dr. Isaac Winston. Their son James Madison Thornton Winston died October 15, 1831.
2. Jane W. Thornton who married Francis Thornton. Their children were: Francis G., Mary Frances and Elizabeth Thornton. Jane W. died before her father died.
3. George W. S. Thornton who had a daughter Jane W. Thornton.
4. Frances G. Thornton, name of husband not stated, died leaving the following children: Alfred A., Matilda A. S., Caroline H. (who married Francis Thompson), George W. and Aylett H. Thornton.]

[Note: the Virginia State Library has posted a 104 page file relating to this John Thornton on its website at [bounty land records in the Library of Virginia](#) the posted material includes several pay rolls of Capt. John Thornton's Company in the 3<sup>rd</sup> VA Regt. Most of the images in this file are either illegible or posted in split-image fashion so as to render them very difficult and time consuming to transcribe. Those interested in this veteran should view the file for themselves.]

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[From [Digital Library of Virginia](#)] Culpeper County Legislative Petitions

To the honorable the Speaker and Gentlemen of the House of delegates  
The petition of John Thornton respectfully sheweth, that your petitioner in the year 1775 received an appointment of Captain in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Virginia Regiment – and immediately preceded to raise his Company and having completed it on the 17<sup>th</sup> [could be 12<sup>th</sup>] of February 1776 received a Commission from the Congress of the United States; that in this capacity he faithfully served his Country during the arduous winter Campaign of 76-77 and at the close of it in March 1777 he was appointed Major to Colo. Thruston's Regiment and was soon afterwards promoted to the Rank of Lt. Col. of the same, in that Station he was active in endeavoring to raise the said

Regiments and continued his exertions in that line until the summer of 78 after which he was not called into service as the Regiment was never entirely completed and there was no Command for him; your Petitioner was nevertheless at all times ready to perform services when his country demanded them and as a manifestation of this disposition in the year 1781 when the State was invaded he very cheerfully took the command of a body of Militia, although he was by no compelled to do so.

For these services your petitioner has received no Lands although other Officers whose terms of service have been much shorter and less arduous have found no difficulty in obtaining them. Very retired in his mode of life your petitioner has until very lately neglected to inquire into the means by which he may obtain his right, and being informed that the interposition of your Hon. body is necessary to do him justice, he request that his case may be taken into Consideration as your justice has been extended to General Stevens, Col. Parker, General Spotswood & other officers your Petitioner hopes & expects the same at your hands.

Circumstanced as he is he prays your Hon. house to grant him a Lieut. Col.'s proportion of land was such other quantity as you may think his services & merits entitle him to – and he will pray as he is in duty bound &c

[Reverse]

John Thornton's Petition

November 11<sup>th</sup> 1796

Claims

Reasonable Spec. [Special]

Report

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters

Addendum to John Thornton BLWt1870-450

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. 27 March 2022.

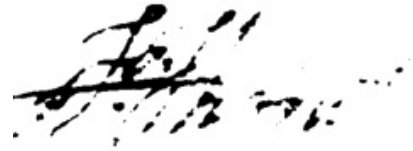
[From [bounty-land records in the Library of Virginia](#). Some items in this lengthy file are not legible enough for transcription or do not contain substantive information.]

Receiv'd May 2<sup>d</sup> 1777 from Maj. John Thornton Bounty money amounting to 720 Dollars for to enlist soldiers in the continental service. John Thruston [R18489]



Request being made by Reuben Earthen [VAS1168] I hereby do Certify that He Inlisted on the 5<sup>th</sup> of Feb'y 1776 in my Company of the 3<sup>d</sup> Virginia Regm't Commanded by Co. Mercer [Hugh Mercer BLWt1527-850] July 27 83 [signed] John Thornton

This is to Certify that George Johnston a Soldier was [illegible] in my Company in the 3<sup>d</sup> Reg't Febr'y the 2 1776 for two years & that He has discharged his duties for that term  
Octb'r 13 83 Jo. Thornton Lt. Col



Madison 24<sup>th</sup> of Feb'y 1794

S'r. I Shall Be Verry Much Obliged To you To Send Me Buy The Barrer from Under your had Certifying that you Inlisted John Tindsley in the County of Madison (formerly Culpeper) for the Term of During the War (or three years as the case Wass) for I Never have Reciv'd One penny for My Son's Service & I Believe he Wass in the service About three years Before [my] son Died. By his Letters which I have in My Possession your Compliyance Will Much Oblige y'r. Ob. S't. [signed] John Tindsley  
To Colo. John Thornton in Culpeper County

To the honorable the Speaker and Gentlemen of the house of Delegates. [11 Nov 1796]

The petition of John Thornton respectfully sheweth, that your petitioner in the year 1775 received an appointment of Captain in the third Virginia Regiment and immediately proceeded to raise his company and having completed it on the 12<sup>th</sup> February 1776 received a commission from the Congress of the United States that in this capacity he faithfully served his Country during the arduous winter campaign of '76-77 and at the close of it in March 1777 he was appointed Major to Colo Thrustons' [Charles Mynn Thruston X806] Regiment and was soon afterwards promoted to the Rank of Lt. Colonel of the same, in that station he was active in endeavoring to raise the said Reg't and continued his exertions in that line until the summer of 78 after which he was not called into service as the Regiment was never entirely completed, and there was no command for him; – your petitioner was nevertheless at all times ready to perform service when his county demanded them and as a manifestation of this disposition in the year 1781 when the state was invaded he very cheerfully took the command of a body of Militia, although he was by no means compellable to do so.

For these services your Petitioner has received no pay altho other officers whose terms of service have been much shorter and less arduous have found no difficulty in obtaining theirs. Very retired in his mode of life your Petitioner has until lately neglected to enquire into the means by which he may obtain his right, and being informed that the interposition of your honorable body is necessary to do him justice,

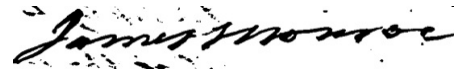
he requests that his case may be taken into consideration, and as your justice has extended to Gen'l. Stevens, Colo. Parker, Gen'l. Spotswood [Edward Stevens VAS1922, Josiah Parker VAS130, Alexander Spotswood R18089] & other officers, your petitioner hopes and expects the same at your hands.

Circumstances as he is, he prays your honorable house to grant him a Lt. Colonels proportion of land or such other quantity as you may think his services and merits entitle him to. And he will pray as he is in duty bound &c.

Oak hill Jan'y 23 1830

Dear Sir In reply to your application, for information, respecting the military service of Col. John Thornton, of Culpeper county in our revolutionary war, I state with pleasure, that he entered the service, as a Capt'n in the 3<sup>d</sup> Virginia reg't, which was raised & commanded, by Col. Hugh Mercer in the commencement of 1776, or before, and was a very gallant & [undeciphered word] officer. I entered that reg't at that period, as a cadet, with several other youths, from Wm. & Mary College, and very soon after appointed a Lieutenant in capt'n Thorntons company, in which I served with him, the whole of that campaign, & was present with him, in the battle of Harlem heights, on York Island [16 Sep 1777], in that of the white plains [28 Oct 1776], in the retreat through Jersey, & in the attack on Trenton [26 Dec 1776], in all of which he displayed the gallantry, & merited the character, which I have ascribed to him. Being myself, promoted afterwards by the commander in chief, to the rank of Capt'n in a reg't to be raised, and taken, into the family as an aid de camp of Lord Stirling, [undeciphered word] I was separated, from the Reg't, I have a distinct recollection of his service, but have always understood, that he [undeciphered] to his country, & was respected & honoured by the commander in chief – with great respect.

I am sir yours/ James Monroe [W26271; President of the US, 1817-1825]



Cap. Reuben Moore [W8466] of Culpeper County & State of Virginia being sworn says that in May or June 1781 he went with a Regiment of Militia who were called out to oppose Cornwallis who was at that time passing thro' the state of Virginia. Capt. Moore states that he was a Lieutenant in Capt Stantons Company. As the Regiment was marching to the lower Country he fell in with the late Colonel John Thornton of Culpeper either in this County or at a place called Collins's in Orange and that he continued with the Regiment (altho he had no command untill they had crossed the South branch of the Pamunkey [sic: Pamunkey] river at Ground Squirell Bridge [Ground Squirrel Bridge on South Anna River] and were within sixteen miles of Richmond. How the [several illegible words] the Marquiss Lafayette [several illegible words] Edmund Terrell. At this place the Marquis came up with us that Night, and it was here that the command of the Regiment was given by him to Colo. John Thornton a continental officer From Dandridges Old field [Col. William Dandridge's Oldfield Plantation near Vontay in Hanover County] the army marched next day to a place called Scotch Town [Scotchtown 20 mi NNW of Richmond] where they were exposed in the night to one of the most Dreadfull Thunder Storms Capt. Moore recollects ever to have witnessed. A severe flash of lightning alarmed the Artillery horses and caused them to run off with the Artillery. Cap'n Moore was in the rear and as his Platoon moved to the left to let the Artillery pass, he heard some person cry out, the British Light Horse [British Legion under Lt. Col. Banastre Tarleton] are upon us, and in consequence of the Alarm some soldiers and several officers threw down their arms and fled. The artillery was at the moment stoped by runing against a tree and the platoon returning to the road which they had left and continuing their march, he (Cap'n Moore discovered by the lightening which was incessant fourteen Guns & four Swords[?] which were taken up. Colo. Thornton riding up enquired if the Culpeper Regiment had run. Capt Moore answered the enquiry and delivered to him by his [undeciphered word] the Swords, and was directed to take charge of the Guns. Next morning the Soldiers of our Regiment who had run were tired and ordered to be whiped, and were excused by Colo. Thornton upon Cap'n Towles promising that they would do better in future. [See endnote] From Scotch Town the Army

moved to Andersons Bridge over the North branch of the Pamunky River [on North Anna River near present Hewlett] from which place he (Cap'n Moore) was sent as the officer of a Wagon Guard to Brocks bridge in Louisa [near Monrovia], whence he was ordered by express to return to the Army by the road leading to Fredericksburg. On getting to Corbins Bridges [near Spotsylvania] over the Mattapony [sic: Mattaponi River] he was ordered to remain there till the Army came up, which they did that night. Here Cap'n Moore Met with Colo. Thornton who enquired of him where he had been; and on being told that he had been four days and nights on guard without relief, said follow me, and I will give you a better birth. On their way to Corbins house where the Marquis Lafayette was, they were met by Brigade Major Toustal who demanded of him (Cap'n Moore) why he had left his post. Colo. Thornton peremptorily asked why he had not sooner relieved the Guard, and said, if you do not do it immediately, I will have you broke. Colo. Thornton conducted me to the Marquis and introducing me as Lieutenant Thornton recommended me as a proper person to remove the public stores from Orange Court house to Cap'n Conns near Chesters Gap in the County of Culpeper. The Marquis directed General Thomas Nelson to give Lieutenant Moore his orders, and I left the army, procured wagons, and moved the public stores as far as Culpeper Court house. At this time the Marquis Lafayette with the Army was at the Raccoon ford a cross the south branch of the Rappahanock waiting for General Wayne [Anthony Wayne, 10 Jun 1781], and it was thought proper (as the army was moving in a different direction) to proceed no further with the Public Stores. He (Cap'n Moore) went to the Raccoon ford for further orders, and was directed by Gen'l Nelson to send an express to Colo Thornton for orders he having the command of the public stores.

This he did, and was ordered by Colo Thornton to proceed no further but return to the Army, which order he Obeyed, and does not recollect to have seen Colo. Thornton again in the Army.



Reuben Resson of the County of Culpeper & State of Virginia being sworn says—That he was one of a body of troops called out the summer of the year 1781 to oppose Cornwallis. He was stationed at James River between Richmond and Norfolk and recollects that on his way down Col. John Thornton of Culpeper County was in command as a Continental officer; but after passing Williamsburg does not recollect seeing him again

He also states that he was acquainted with his Drummer who enlisted with him early in the war, and had served under him to the north whose name was Robin Horton [R5239]


[1 Dec 1830] Culpeper County

Signed



Thos Vaughan [Thomas Vaughan S6298] of Culpeper County & State of Virginia being sworn says. That he served in the Regiment of Militia that was called out in the Summer of the year 1781 to oppose Cornwallis who was then marching thro' the state of Virginia from the South and fell in with the late Colonel John Thornton on his march. He does not recollect when this happened, but recollects that at Dandridges Old field in Hanover County the Command of the Regiment to which he belonged was conferred on him by the Marquis Lafayette. He Thomas Vaughan was acquainted with Colo. Thornton's Drummer Robin Horton, who had enlisted under him early in the war & served under him to the north. He distinctly recollects being at Scotch Town in the County of Hanover when the soldiers were so alarmed by a dreadful thunder storm in the night that all were thrown into disorder & some threw down their arms & fled. Among them were two of Colo. Thornton's men, who were tried & sentenced to be whiped, & when they ware striped & the punishment about to be inflicted on them Colo. Thornton came up & had them

excused.  
[1 Dec 1830]



FEBRUARY 2, 1831.

The Committee on Revolutionary Claims, to whom was referred the petition of Jane Thornton, report:

The petitioner states that her late husband, Colonel John Thornton, entered the army of the revolution as a Captain in the third Virginia regiment, commanded by Colonel Hugh Mercer, on the 22d of February, 1776, and served as such until the 20th of March, 1777, when he was promoted to the rank of Major in one of the sixteen additional regiments, commanded by Colonel Thruston, and shortly after, in the same year, was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel; that he was in actual service more than three years, and never resigned his commission during the war. That the commissions and other papers, showing more fully the military services of Colonel Thornton, were entrusted, some years ago, to Philip R. Thompson, then a member of the Virginia Legislature, and were presented by him to that body, which decided that, as Colonel Thornton was an officer of the continental, and not the State troops, the application for his bounty land and half pay should be to the General Government. Those papers were unfortunately mislaid or lost by Mr. Thompson, and have never been recovered. That Colonel Thornton never received the bounty land to which he was entitled; and the petitioner [illegible] those lands may be granted to her, and such emoluments as other officers, similarly situate were entitled to receive. [The rest, summarizing the evidence, not transcribed here.]

[From [rejected claims in the Library of Virginia.](#)]

The COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA.

To John Thornton Esquire, Greeting:

KNOW You that from the special trust and confidence which is reposed in your fidelity, courage, activity and good conduct, our GOVERNOR, upon the Recommendation of the Court of Culpepper, doth appoint you the said John Thornton Colonel of the North Regiment of the Militia of the said county of Culpepper, to take rank as such from the tenth day of April 1781 IN testimony whereof these our letters are made patent. WITNESS his Excellency BEVERLEY RANDOLPH Esquire; our said Governor, at Richmond, this Thirteenth day of August 1789.

(REGISTERED. [illegible] Coleman

[signed] Beverley Randolph

[This file also includes John Thornton's commission as Captain, signed by John Hancock.

I certify that Colo John Thornton was a Captain in the 2<sup>d</sup> Virg'a Reg't in the Revolutionary War but the length of that Service I can't possatively say but suppose it to have been about three years. Given under my hand this 20<sup>th</sup> day of July 1814.

Wm. Campbell [William Campbell] late a  
Capt in said Army



To Major John Thornton

Dear Sir Whither to impute my not meeting with you since I have been in the state to mere chance or some unlucky genius w'h seems to prevail, not only in this instance but also in every step I have taken since I left the 3<sup>d</sup> Reg't, I must confess I am totally at a loss to determine. I have been repeatedly at Fredricksburg [sic: Fredericksburg], once at Colo. Champs, and twice made a circuit of the back Country; in the course of w'h time fortune has neither thrown me in your way, or more than six men, who are willing to enter in the army, in mine. I am very unhapy in finding myself incapable of raising a sufficient proportion of men to take the field; for altho I am [illegible] of the inconveniences that attend [illegible]



part of the army than most people, [illegible] proper that most of life attended no [illegible] fatigue and danger to the one in w'h I [illegible]. Independent of the labor, the [illegible] and extravagant expense to w'h a recruit[ing] officer is subject, [undeciphered] to the character, the Idea of [illegible] and indolence, to make it an agreeable [illegible].

The Officers of my Company & my [illegible] in all, I believe about 15 men; [illegible] thoroughly convinced nor shall not [illegible] man without using more arts [illegible] wo'd avoid and which no man [illegible] should use. I shall however still [illegible] myself for a month longer, at the [illegible] of which time if I neither have [illegible] get a significant number to come [illegible], I shall desire yours & Colo. Thruston's [perm]ission to go to the Northward with Mr Jones, leaving the other officers of my company still recruiting (or rather still endeavouring to recruit) as you will direct.

I am Dear Sir with the greatest respect your very affect'e humble serv't.  
Fredrickburg July 3<sup>d</sup> Jas. Monroe [James Monroe]



Dear Colo.

The late inactivity of the army, the enemy quietly possess'd of Phil'a and we determin'd not to attack them, has render'd it unnecessary for me to write you. Their repeated efforts to clear the river, their several attempts to possess themselves of Fort Mifflin, and more particularly their endeavour to storm Fort Mercer, although they are not without importance have however proved ineffectual but in the loss of the prior Post [surrender of Fort Mifflin, 15 Nov 1777]. That while we possess the latter [Fort Mercer surrendered 20 Nov 1777] will not be eminently prejudicial. From an intire conviction of this, their [undeciphered] of late have principally tended to against against it. Lord Cornwallis a few days ago cross'd the Delaware below the City with, as the best information we have says, about 3000 men to invest it. Every step we take is to counteract some manœuvre of theirs we have not force to act decisively. The whole army was order'd under arms at 9 this morning intending to march at ten. The order was countermanded and only Gen'l [Nathanael] Greene's division march'd with a view (as Lord Stirling tells me) of crossing the Delaware with such orders as the obvious circumstance of things points out. The Remainder of the army moves on toward the River in the morning early. It is expected they will exert their collected force to possess themselves of that post.

We must of course collectively oppose them. They say themselves (we are inform'd) if they do not command the River they cannot continue in the City; If they do not take fort Mercer they cannot [part missing from bottom of page] from New York beginning of this month have arrivd and join'd the rest of the fleet. It is also said they are landing men on the Jersey Shore, we suppose to act under Cornwallis.

The army under Gates have not arriv'd yet. It is s'd they are on their way and that shortly they will be down. when a report first prevail'd that [Gen. Henry] Clinton intended sending a part of his army from York the Gen'l in order to divert them order'd two Brigades down to the White Plains; this tho' the view prov'd abortive retarded their march. Gen'l Burgoyne's army we are told diminishes fast; they desert in numbers to such an excess that out of several companies not one man remains. [Burgoyne's army surrendered at Saratoga on 17 Oct 1777.] This information seems tollerably well authenticated. we often receive papers from the City w'h are replete with falsity and Conceit

Lately the attention of our Gen'l Officers has been much taken up with trying each other. Sullivan, Wayne, Maxwell and Stevens have been severally call'd on to vindicate their Conduct. Today the Commander in Chief approv'd the sentence of a gen Court Martial, by which major Gen'l Stevens [sic: Adam Stephen] was discharg'd the army.

The Campaign to me has been a very expensive one. If you find it requisite tho' a journey to Virginia will be in point of expense almost ruinous. I will come immdiately and settle with the Regiment. The army is to me infinitely more disagreeable than ever. I most sincerely wish that Officers of reputation wo'd continue in the service. The principles on which the war is carried on [part missing from bottom of page] without some of their own favorites is the subject, is [undeciphered] from the scene.

I hope to hear from you soon and believe me Dear Sir your very affectionate humble  
Servant  
recreated from [undeciphered word].  
Richmond July 23 1814  
Nov'r 21 1777

Jas. Monroe

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "James Monroe". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned to the right of the typed name.

NOTES: The scattering of horses and men by lightning is humorously referred to by several pension applicants as "the running tour." It occurred during a nighttime march on or about 7 June 1781.