

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

Pension Application of John Montgomery R16522

VA

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

[The heirs of John Montgomery applied for half pay for life under an act providing for officers who had not resigned but were supernumerary (without troops to command) at the end of the war. The act was passed by Virginia, but the obligation to pay was later assumed by the US government. The following are from copies of documents offered by the heirs as proof of Montgomery's service. Not all the 101 pages in the file are transcribed here.]

August 20, 1782.

This may certify to all whom it may concern that when I met Philip Barbour on the Mississippi in November 1780, that he informed me he had his batteau loaded with goods, and wished to give the state of Virginia the refusal of the; I then knowing the great want we were in of them, I examined into the kind of goods and found they would answer to purchase provisions for the troops; I wrote a letter of advice to the agent or Captain George, who was commanding officer of fort Jefferson [on Mississippi River at the mouth of Ohio River], to purchase them, directing them to give bills on the State of Virginia for the payment; and at my return from New Orleans I found that part of the goods had been applied to purchase provisions, and the other part to clothe the troops; and had not the purchase been made a great part of the troops must undoubtedly have perished, as so many of them were so sick that it was impossible for them to have evacuated the place without those supplies

John Montgomery/ Colonel of the Illinois Regiment.

Copy of Doc. marked D & filed in the case of Joseph Calvit [Joseph Calvert (Calvit) R12980] for a Balance of Half pay under the act of Congress of 5th July 1832 which balance was allowed in December 1844. "Rank of the Officers of the Illinois Regiment and dates of their respective commissions Louisville 28 Jany 1782.

Names	Rank	Dates of Commissions.
John Montgomery	Lieut Col.	14 December 1778
Thomas Quirk [W5958]	Major	17 Augt. 1779
Robert Todd [R18517]	Captain	17 March 1780
Isaac Taylor [W601]	Captain	18 March 1780
Abraham Kellar [Abraham Keller R15580]	{Capt. killed}	19 March 1780
	{ Dec 12 81}	
John Bailey [John Baley R19354]	Capt.	29 March 1780
Richard Brashear [R12756]	Capt.	30 May 1780
John Girault [John Gerault]	Capt.	3 June 1781
Michael Perrault	Capt.	10 October 1781
Joseph Calvit	Lieut	1 June 1780
James Montgomery [R16521]	Lieut	2 June 1780
Abraham Chaplin [Abraham Chapline R13134]	Lieut	3 June 1780
Richard Clark [X149]	Lieut	4 June 1780
Jarrat Williams	Lieut	5 June 1780
William Clark	Lieut	6 June 1780

This certifies that the above is a true Roster of the Illinois Officers.

G. R Cark [sic]

It appears by the returns of Col Montgomery's Regt. that there were raised in May 1779 350 effective men August 1780 Reduced to 130 men.

At present with recruits 130 men

John Montgomery Lt. Col./ Comd't [Commandant] Illinois

NOTE:

A muster roll (<http://revwarapps.org/b81.pdf>) indicates that Col. John Montgomery was at least nominally in command of the Illinois Regiment in Dec 1781. Other rolls also mention Col. John Montgomery.

On 8 June 1830 David Brown deposed that he had heard that in 1796 Lt. Col. John Montgomery was killed by Indians while hunting, and that he had often seen the grave near Montgomerys Fork of Clay Lick. Others stated that Montgomery was killed the last of December 1796 while a resident of Clarksville TN.

A typed report in the file provides the following summary of documents identifying the heirs of John Montgomery. "This officer had two sons, William and Joseph. William died, date not given, in Livingston, Kentucky, leaving the following children: Joseph B., John s., James M., Margaret, William, David, Jonah and Elizabeth. Joseph died, date not stated, in Illinois, leaving the following children: Joseph and Elizabeth. In 1849, the following were the only living heirs of Lieutenant Colonel John Montgomery: Jonah H. Montgomery, who was the only surviving grandchild of the officer, was appointed April 10, 1849, by the court of Fulton County, Kentucky, guardian for Margaret, James and William Montgomery, orphans of William A. or William W. Montgomery, deceased (late of Livingston County, Kentucky), and was appointed November 13, 1849, by the same court, guardian for William and Alexander Calhoon, children of A. A. Calhoon and Margaret E., his wife, deceased, and formerly Margaret E. Montgomery."

On 24 Dec 1849 James W. Gibson of Fulton County stated that his grandmother and Col. John Montgomery were siblings.

The file also contains correspondence regarding the alleged receipt of John Montgomery's pension by unauthorized persons. A letter by the heirs' attorneys dated 29 Jan 1845 reads in part: "In the War of the Revolution two brothers served as officers in the Va line upon Continental establishment on named John the other James Montgomery."