

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

Pension Application of James Monroe W26271 5th President of U.S. [1817 - 1825]
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. Revised 29 Oct 2020.

District of Columbia. SS

On this seventh day of June 1844. personally appeared before me Samuel L. Gouverneur¹, a resident of the District of Columbia aged 45 years who being first duly sworn according to law doth make the following declaration in order to obtain for the legal representatives of James Monroe deceased the benefits of the provision made by the act of Congress passed July 4, 1836. That Elisa K Hay, & Maria H Gouverneur, are the only two surviving children of the said James Monroe, who died on the 4th day of July 1831. That the said James Monroe was a Revolutionary officer whose services this Deponent believes are correctly set forth in the accompanying document marked D [copy of the first document below under bounty-land records] – being an extract from the proceedings of the House of Delegates of the State of Virginia. That the said Elisa K. Hay has departed this life, & that Richard Smith of said District of Columbia has been duly appointed her Executor & that the said Maria K. Gouverneur is wife of Sam'l. L. Gouverneur & now living.

Sworn before me W. Cranch June 7th 1844

[From [bounty-land records in the Library of Virginia](#). The file includes a letter by R. M. Heath to Gov. John Floyd dated July 1850 that is difficult to decipher, but the contents are summarized in another letter in the rejected-claims file transcribed below. Some other images also could not be deciphered.]

House of Delegates, Virginia./ Tuesday, May 27th 1783.

“A Petition of the Hon’^e James Monroe was presented to the House & read, setting forth that in January 1776 he entered the third Virginia Regiment as a Lieutenant; at the close of the campaign he was promoted to a Captaincy, & from that post advanced to the rank of Major in Lord Sterling’s family², in which he continued till the latter end of February 1779, & then withdrew from the army in consequence of an arrangement which deprived him of any further prospect of promotion: that he was afterwards [July 1779] appointed Lt. Col commandant of a Regiment in the service of this State & acted some time in that capacity [until Dec 1779], & praying that he may be allowed a Bounty in Lands, & the depreciation of pay while he was in service”

Thursday, June 19th 1783.

“Resolved, it is the opinion of this Committee that the petition of the Hon’^e James Monroe is reasonable. Resolved &c. That the said James Monroe, ought to be allowed the same Bounty in Lands, as is by law given to a Major in the Continental Army.

Resolved &c that the said James Monroe ought to be allowed depreciation on his pay

Ordered to be recommitted.

Thursday, June 26. 1783

Mr. Mann Page reported from the Committee of Propositions and Grievances, that the Committee had according to order, had under consideration the Resolution respecting the Hon’^e James Monroe, & come

¹ Monroe's nephew and son-in-law, with whom Monroe lived in the final years of his life.
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Samuel_L._Gouverneur

² According to E. M. Sanchez-Saavedra, *A Guide to Virginia Military Organizations in the American Revolution* in July 1777 James Monroe became captain of a company in the regiment commanded by Col. Richard Mynn Thruston [pension application X806], but having raised only 15 men in the company he became a major on the staff of Major-General William Alexander, Lord Stirling, of New Jersey on 20 Nov 1777.

to several resolutions thereon which he read in his place, & afterwards delivered in at the Clerk's table, where the same were again twice read, & agreed to by the House, as followeth.

It appears to your Committee that the said James Monroe in January 1776, joined the 3^d Va Regiment, in which he served in the character of Lieutenant during the said campaign; that at the close thereof, he was promoted to the rank of Captaincy in one of the additional Regiments ordered to be raised by Congress, under Col Thruston: that from that office, he was appointed Aid de camp to Major General Lord Sterling with the rank of Major, which rank, he held during the campaigns of 1777 & 1778, & until the latter end of Feb'y 1779 when he withdrew from the army in consequence of the arrangement at White Plains.³

Ordered that Mr. Mann Page do carry the Resolutions to the Senate & desire their concurrence.

Resolved that in the opinion of this Committee that the petition of the said James Monroe is reasonable

Resolved that the said J. M. ought to be allowed the same bounty in land as is by law given to a Major in the Continental army

Warrenton, Va. 24th February 1847

This case of the late President Monroe, is respectfully submitted to the Honorable, the Executive of Virginia to decide whether the heirs of Col. Monroe ought not to be allowed a Lieutenant Collonel commandant's bounty in land for his Revolutionary services, deducting what he received in his lifetime for such allowance. I have the honor to be, most respectfully &c

Wm. Helm
Atto. in fact for the heirs

[Punctuation partly corrected.]

Extracts from a Memoir, in his own handwriting, prepared by James Monroe, late President of the United States, a short time before his death, which occurred July 4th 1831.

“Mr. M had now served three campaigns, those of 1776, 7, & 8, in the first as a Lieutenant, in the 3^d Virginia Regiment; and in the two latter, as Aid de Camp to Major General Lord Sterling, & in which, he had been a party in those grades to the most interesting occurrences of our revolutionary conflict.

“In the line of the army, no commission could be granted to him, for no new regiments were to be raised; and many officers of merit were deranged, in consequence of the loss of troops, in the action, & otherwise; the inability to supply their places by recruits and the want of command. Thus circumstanced, he conceived the idea of applying to his native State for authority to raise a corps & take it to the South, in which quarter the war then pressed with great force. Gen'l. Washington & Lord Stirling approved this project and gave him strong letters of recommendation to the Legislature of the State, in support of The Legislature adopted the plan & passed an act for raising a force with a view to the Southern war, to the command of one Regiment of which he was appointed with the rank of Lt. Colonel. Of the favorable opinion entertained of his previous conduct, a just idea may be formed when it is recollected that this appointment was conferred on him before he had attained the full age of 21. He made the most active efforts to raise the Regiment but failed, & was in consequence thrown out of the service.

“On the fall of Charleston [12 May 1780] and the loss of our army in it in 1780, the Executive of the State was desirous of obtaining a correct knowledge of the actual state of affairs in that quarter; of the amount of our force; of that of the enemy; and of the resources and measures adopted by the Southern States for their defence. An invitation was given to Mr. M. by the Executive to perform that service, which he promptly accepted and executed to the satisfaction of the Government.

“Soon after his return, a detachment of the enemy landed at Norfolk under General Leslie [Alexander Leslie, 20 Oct 1780] in sufficient force to menace a more general invasion of the State. A large body of militia was called immediately into service, & the command of one of the Regiments given to him, in which his friend Col Mercer [John F. Mercer VAS647] was associated with him with the rank of

³ See <http://revwarapps.org/b138.pdf>

Lt. Colonel, and Robert Goode with that of Major. The force thus promptly collected, assuming under the command of Gen'l. Muhlenberg [Peter Muhlenberg BLWt1495-850] an imposing attitude, had the desired effect. The enemy abandoned the idea of penetrating into the interior & soon withdrew [15 Nov 1780]"

I hereby certify that I am well acquainted & familiar with the handwriting of James Monroe late President of the United States, deceased; that I have personally compared the above extracts with a memoir in his own handwriting now in the possession of Samuel L. Gouverneur son in law & Executor of the said James Monroe, and they are true & literal extracts from the same.

Washington 18th Feby 1845/ J. S. Barom[?]

This is to Certify, That it appears from a List in this Office of such Officers and Soldiers of the Virginia Continental Line, during the Revolutionary War, as settled their Accounts, and received Certificates for the balance of their Full Pay, according to an Act of Assembly, passed the November Session, 1781, that a Certificate issued on the 8th day of August 1783, in the name of James Monroe as a Major of Infantry for £253.11.4, which Certificate appears to have been delivered to himself and was given for services prior to the 1st January, 1782.

[undeciphered] Pay as Lt. from 1st Jany 77 till March following, and as Capt from 10 May 77 to 21 Aug following & as Maj from 20 Aug 77 to 1st Jan'y 79.

Given under my hand at the Auditor's Office, Richmond, this 27th day of November 1846.

Jas E. Heath AUDITOR.

Advised to reject this application. [undeciphered]
1848 Sepr. 30. Rejected

[See the endnote for the circumstances under which the following letter was written by Abner Nash, Governor of North Carolina (20 April 1780 - 26 June 1781) to Thomas Jefferson, Governor of Virginia (1 June 1779 - 2 June 1781).]⁴

(Copy) Cross Creek [present Fayetteville NC] June 25 1780

Sir I received your favor by Colo Monroe, three days ago at this place, where General [Richard] Caswell is posted with about 1500 militia & shall be very happy sir in the correspondence you propose. The enemy's operations in So Carolina and their practices among the country people on the So. borders of this state are not a little alarming. Their nearest post to this place is at the Cheraw Hill on Pedee [sic: Pee Dee] River, about 60 miles distant in a south west direction. From the best intelligence we have, their numbers are about 600 regulars, and a considerable number of new recruits from amongst the inhabitants. Here they are collecting magazines of provisions; the river lands affording grain & forage, and the barren country between that river and this, the greatest abundance of cattle. Their party and ours at this post are equally concerned in the important object of collecting cattle, and with this material difference however in their favor that Pedee river is rich in grain for the support of their party, and this quite the reverse; and that the inhabitants between the rivers 9/10^{ths} highlanders, and well affected to the British. In short they do all in their power to distress us by concealing all the cattle and horses that they do not drive into the enemy's Camp. The enemy's next post, and indeed by far the most dangerous to us is at Cambden [sic: Camden SC] on the Wateree River. This place lies still higher up the country, and points directly to Charlotte, the richest and finest part of our back country; at this place the enemy are said to have upwards of 4000 regulars; at Charlotte about 60 or 70 miles from Cambden and westward militia to the number of about eleven hundred are assembled under Brig'r Gen'l [Griffith] Rutherford; and the Baron de Kalb with his little army is still no farther advanced than to Hillsborough and is there exceedingly distressed for provision and forage. An express went off to him four days ago advising that it would in our opinion be

⁴ This letter is also transcribed with slight differences in *The Papers of Thomas Jefferson*, Vol. 3 beginning on p 462.

best for him to direct is course south westwardly towards Charlotte in order to support Gen'l Rutherford and to prevent the army of the British by all possible means from turning the right of our armies, thereby cutting off from us the fertile hilly and thick settled back country whose inhabitants at present are well attached to us, but who under circumstances so unfavorable, 'tis to be feared, would fall off. It appears to us of so much consequence to counteract and defeat what we conceive to be the intention of the enemy in penetrating so far into the interior part of the Country, that I have determined that Gen'l Caswell also shall march to the westward, tho' I must thereby expose the middle and lower country to devastation, should the enemy posted at Cheraws, Mars Bluff, and still lower down Pedee parallel with the County line think proper to invade us. the injury in the latter case I conceive will be only temporary provided we can be successful to the westward; but should we by endeavouring to guard the long and indeed indefensible line that parts us from So Carolina, suffer the enemy to possess themselves of the rich and thick settled backparts of our Country with the mountains in their rear, such an advantage in its consequences might prove fatal to us and indeed to the neighbouring states. This however can never happen but from a want of firmness and public virtue in those states; and the enemy from the boldness of what seems to be their present enterprize must suppose either that we want those qualities, or adequate resources; or like desperate gamesters they are putting their last stake in the wheel of fortune; for 'tis evident that ruin must attend a failure in the execution of such a project. In short it seems to me the enemy are hurrying on the conquest to a crisis, and that our fate either favorable or unfavorable is at hand. I am doing all in my power for the gen'l defence. I came here to visit the armies, and to enable me the better to judge of the designs of the enemy. I did not intend to return until the fate of the campaign had been decided, but finding that your militia are not yet arrived, nor even on their march that I know of I must not depend any longer on their coming in time to check the enemy. I have therefore determined yesterday to call out a further aid of 4000 men, and have issued orders for this purpose. This measure obliges me to return to Newbern [New Bern NC] to [undeciphered word] a sum of money adequate to so vast an expense as it will occasion. Before I conclude I am to acquaint your Excellency of the intelligence we have from C. Town [Charlestown]. I believe Sir it is to be depended on that our embarcation of about 5000 [British] troops has taken place from thence, their destination only to be guessed at. If the arrival or expectation of a French army and fleet in america dont control the operations of the enemy. I shall suppose their destination to be for Virginia. In this case you too Sir will have some trouble but the aid intended for us I make no doubt will still come . I shall depend on you for such intelligence as you may obtain from the northward. Your letters directed to Newbern will come safe. I shall not fail on my part to advise you constantly of the occurrences this way. With the highest respect and regard I have the honor to be

Sir/ Yr Excellency's most Ob't Serv't/ A Nash

Department of State/ Washington Oct'r 26 1848

I certify that the foregoing is a true copy from a paper filed in this Department in vol 1 no 71, page 371 entitled "Virginia State papers." W Hunter, Jr./ Acting Chief Clerk

(Copy) Cross Creek June 26 1780.⁵

Sir [Jefferson] Some few days since I [Monroe] arrived here I trust I have so arranged the line of communication between us, that whatever alternation the course of event may effect in my own situations, I shall have it in my power to make it subservient to my wishes. I expected I should more effectually put in execution your Excellency's orders, by coming immediately here the source from which Governor Nash at Newbern, or Baron de Kalb at Hillsborough get their intelligence, than by taking my route to either of those posts & I have had the good fortune in meeting Governor Nash here to approve my determination. The Governor was on his route to Baron de Kalb & called upon General Caswell here with a view of

⁵ This letter is also transcribed with minor differences in *The Papers of Thomas Jefferson*, vol. 3, 18 June 1779 – 30 September 1780, ed. Julian P. Boyd. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1951, pp. 464–467. Founders Online, National Archives, <https://founders.archives.gov/documents/Jefferson/01-03-02-0541>.

making himself acquainted with his force & object, in order to concert some regular and connected plan of either offensive or defensive action as circumstances might admit for the protection of the country. I have it not in my power to give your Excellency at present, information upon all the points you required, but an event we are informed has taken place of such importance in its probable consequences to the State of Virginia as to make it necessary I should immediately inform you of it. We have it from authority we cannot doubt that an embarkation has taken place at Charlestown and sailed some days since under the command of General Clinton, consisting of about 6000 men – the remainder of their army, supposed upwards of 4000 with their cavalry forming a corps of 600 under Colo Tarleton⁶ are left behind under Lord Cornwallis. General Caswell has repeatedly had information they had embarked but never till today that they had sailed; & today I examined myself the men of Woodfords [Gen. William Woodford of the Virginia Continentals] Brigade lately escaped from Charlestown, who confirm it. A garrison of about 600[?] and said to be left at Charlestown, 2500 at Camden; the cavalry are stationed about 40 miles above Camden; about 600 of the 71st regiment on the river Pedee between long bluff and Ansons C. House [Anson Courthouse, now Wadesboro NC]. What may be the object of those who have sailed or of those who remained is uncertain and must depend on the part of the Court of France means to take this year in our favor; but if we may judge from the view which has hitherto evidently influenced their council, (if no internal event has happened to their prejudice) provided they act on a consistent plan, we must conclude they mean to land somewhere in Virginia, and by directing their armies to the same object endeavor to conquer all these southern States. Upon this principle, I am inclined to think their operations have of late been taken and that upon this principle they will determine. What again wou'd induce this belief & with me it is only an inferior circumstance (for upon principles of expedience they shoud act thus) is the universal scarcity of all kinds of provisions, except meat, which prevails in this country. Upon this account the army under General de Kalb at Hillsborough and that under General Caswell here, are no longer able to hold those stations and are in that dilemma, that they have only the alternative of advancing shortly on the enemy or retiring to Virginia. This, however, will in a great degree be remedied when the harvest comes in. What plan General de Kalb may take to oppose them I cannot determine, but as that which the enemy have adopted creates a division of their force, ours also mst necessarily be divided and in that case rather than hang or temporize between them, I doubt not he will take a decided part against this body. I mean, I hope he will keep on their left flank and harass and retard them in all their movements as much as possible. Their forces have been pointedly directed against the Continental troops and to get the Country and throw them down on the sea coast would necessarily be a great object; a considerable advantage also arising from the position I have suggested would be that the troops who oppose this army & those who oppose that which may land in Virginia might act on a common principle & when the enemy effect a junction they might join also, still keeping the command of the country. This plan has not the protection of any particular spot but is on a larger scale and has independence for its object. Acting on any other principle and taking particular positions for particular purposes may lead the respective corps into danger & perhaps ruin. Gen'l Clinton previous to his departure issued a proclamation discharging all who had taken them from their paroles and requiring their immediate attendance to swear allegiance and bear arms in favor of his Sovereign declaring that all who refuse to comply with these reasonable terms who shall be found in arms hereafter in favor of the rebellion shall not be treated as soldiers and prisoners of war but as banditti and robbers. I have not seen the proclamation but Gov Nash, who has, tells me this is the purport of it; only 1500 militia are collected here under General Caswell & about 1100 under Brig'r Rutherford west of the enemy, who hold the position I could wish B de Kalb to take with the Contin'l troops at least. At Charlotte, Salsbury [sic: Salisbury NC] or Chatham the country is better able to support an army, and when harvest comes in will be more so, while that near here or towards the coast is much exhausted. Between here & Halifax it is so much so (and I am told by the inhabitants on the road that want is not

⁶ Lt. Col. Banastre Tarleton was notorious after his troops massacred surrendering Virginia Continentals at the battle of Waxhaws SC on 29 May 1780.

confined to them alone but extends considerably to the right & left) that I could scarcely get provisions for myself & men, and in many instances could not procure corn for my horses at any rate. The Governor of this State has extensive powers & except where it affects the life the advice of Council he knows no restraint on his will. He also seems well disposed to act with that firmness & decision in most instances which the unhappy state of this country requires, without regard to any local or personal enmity which may arise against him in the discharge of the duties of so important a trust. He is constrained to emit money constantly as occasion requires & has now ordered out 4000 militia in addition to those I have mentioned as already in the field. At Gov'r Nash's request, I shall attend him tomorrow to where B. de Kalb may be, or if the Gov'r does not go himself, shall perhaps go upon the business I have referred to, & in my next shall have it in my power to inform your Excellence of the plan B de Kalb may take for his future operations with the probability of success, or what effect it may have on the movements of the enemy. I have the honor to be with the greatest respect & esteem, yr Excellency's

Very humble serv't/ Jas. Monroe

P.S. I cannot inform you where Porterfield [Lt Col Charles Porterfield (BLWt1145-450) commander of a Virginia detachment] is but expect somewhere near the Baron. Colo Armands corps [Charles Armand (BLWt2291-850) Legion] are here under command of Gen'l Caswell. We have had reports a French fleet was off C. Town but not from such authority as to gain assent.

Department of State/ Washington Oct'r 26 1848

I certify that the foregoing is a true copy of a paper filed in this Department in volume 1 no 71 page 375, entitled "Virginia State papers" W Hunter Jr/ Acting Chief Clerk

Richmond June 28 1780 9 oclock PM.⁷

Sir [Samuel Huntington, President of Congress] The want of intelligence of the Southern movements of the enemy, and the anxieties we have felt on that account, cannot have been less experienced by Congress, having just now received a state of things as they are at present in that quarter from Governor Nash & from Colo Monroe (the gentleman whom in a former letter I had informed Congress I had sent to hang as near as he could about the enemy's principal post and inform me of their movements by riders posted between us for that purpose. I take for granted Congress will be glad to have it communicated I therefore have thought the occasion sufficient to set in motion the line of riders established from hence to Philadelphia with orders to them however to return immediately to their first stations, that they may not be out of the way to receive the particular communications for the conveyance of which they have been established.

The embarcation spoken of by Gen'l Nash and Colo Monroe cannot have been destined for this state, or they would have been here before this; had they reached our Capes by yesterday I must have known it at this hour

Governor Nash, at the time of writing his letter seems not to have heard of the motions of our militia. It is certain however that some of them were at Roanoke [River] on the 20th and that the whole have got that far by this time; being 2500 in number.

I have been greatly mortified at the detention of the important supply you had called for, so much longer than I had expected. I had every reason to believe it might have been sent from hence by the 19th. It does not however go off til tomorrow. It will I hope be nearly what I had given you reason to expect in my letter on that subject.

I have the honor to be with every sentiment of esteem & respect

Your Excellency's most Obedient & most humble serv't/ Th. Jefferson

PS The Quarter master has provisions on board vessels ready to proceed to the Head of Elk [present Elkton MD] which however he dares not send into our bay that having been for some time occupied by

⁷ This letter is also transcribed with minor differences in *The Works of Thomas Jefferson*, Vol. 3, pp 25-28. http://oll-resources.s3.amazonaws.com/titles/801/0054-03_Bk_SM.pdf

from seven to eleven privateers the largest of 20 guns who take whatever goes out of our rivers, our provisions when collected whether destined for the northward or southward will be effectually blocked up. land transportation cannot possible be procured

Endorsed as follows: "Letter from Gov'r Jefferson – Richmond June 28 1780 – Read July 3.

Department of State/ Washington Oct 27th 1848

I certify that the above is a true copy of a letter from Thomas Jefferson, on file in this Department among the papers of the Continental Congress/ W Hunter, Jr./ Acting Chief Clerk.

March 10th 1780

Army D'r to G. B. Treas.

Warrt. to James Monroe Esq'r for his services as Lt Col Commandant of a Regt. from 15th Aug to 15th Decr last £552 per Cert. Board War

The above is truly copied from the Auditors Day Book.

Given under my hand at the Auditors Office Richmond this 8th day of May 1850.

Ro Johnston/ Aud Pub Accts

June 15th 1780 Thursday

Colo. James Monroe D'r Warrant to defray expenses on public business on account pr order Gov. and Council £4000

The above is truly copied from the Auditors Day Book

Given under my hand at the Auditors Office Richmond this 8th day of May 1850.

Ro Johnston/ Aud Pub Accts

[Punctuation partly corrected]

The Hon. J. Floyd/ Governor of Virginia.

Sir, Dr. William Helm has been a long time collecting evidence in support of the claim of the late James Monroe, 5th President of the U.S. for revolutionary service, of the grade of Lt. Col. in the Virginia line. He states that the matter is now before you for official action. After a careful examination of all the evidence I have satisfied myself, that it fully sustains the justice of the claim as presented; and I consider it my duty, as the legal Representative of Col Monroe, to solicit for it an early, and I trust, favorable decision.

Mr. Monroe left two daughters – the elder, the widow of George Hay Esq'r of Va; the younger, my wife. Mrs. Hay died some years since, leaving three grand-daughters, all still under age, her heirs at law. Mrs. Gouverneur, his surviving child, has been deeply afflicted by three attacks of paralysis & is entirely prostrated, both in body & mind. Mr. Monroe's eldest grandson was born deaf & dumb, & although educated, became utterly insane some years since & is now sustained at heavy expense in the Asylum near Baltimore. I do not state these melancholy details with any view to affect the merits of this case, but I solicit indulgence in presenting them as furnishing motives, should the claim have a just foundation, to induce an early consideration & decision.

Washington 10th May 1850.

With great respect/ Your ob't Servant
S. L. Gouverneur

Upon a full examination of the original papers again, and of the additional papers filed in spring[?] last I am satisfied that this claim ought to be allowed I therefore allow land bounty to the heirs of Coln Munroe for his services as Lieut Coln in the State lines from May 1776 until the close of the war deducting any land heretofore allowed him [signed] John B. Floyd

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

To his Excellency Gov. Floyd

On behalf of the heir of the late James Monroe I herewith present a petition praying the allowance of

land bounty due him as a Colonel in the Virginia State line.

In the month of July 1850 I filed an argument before the Executive in which it was attempted to be shewn, that Monroe having been appointed Lt Colonel under an act of Assembly, which prescribed that such officers should have the rank of "a Colonel of Militia," he was therefore entitled to the land bounty appertaining to officers of that grade. The Executive however only allowed him land as Lt Colonel, deeming, I presume, the proof filed insufficient to entitle him to the bounty of a full Colonel. Since then I have discussed the following additional evidence which proves conclusively that he received at the time from the state the allowance of Clothing allotted to a Colonel. It seems to me therefore that if Monroes appointment as Lt Col. conferred upon him by legislative enactment the rank of full Colonel & he received the emoluments due to that grade, he is justly entitled to the bounty of a Colonel. The various acts of Assembly in relation to this subject give the allowance of land according to rank.

There is another point to which I beg leave to [part missing at bottom of page] Excellency. Lt Colonel in the State line; there was deducted from this allowance what he had previously received as a Major in the Continental line. It does not plainly appear that this was directed by the Executive. If so, I am confident it must have resulted purely from inadvertence. There is no authority of law that I am aware of which prohibits distinct & separate allowances to officers who served both in the State & Continental lines; and there are numerous precedents which show that the practice has time and again been sanctioned by the Executive. It is only necessary to refer to the following.

In the month of Nov'r 1782, Capt Thomas H Drew [R13852] was allowed by the Executive 4000 acres of land as a Captain in the Continental line for a service of 3 years; and in the following month of the same year he was allowed an additional bounty of 4000 acres for a service of 3 years in the State line. This allowance, it will be perceived, was made shortly after the passage of the bounty land laws, when it is to be presumed, the intention of their framers was better understood than at any subsequent period.

In May 1783 John Marston [R16031] was allowed 2666 $\frac{2}{3}$ acres as a Lieutenant in the State line for a service of 3 years; and in 1848 he was allowed the same bounty for a service of 3 years in the Continental line.

Other precedents could be adduced, but these are deemed sufficient.

It is therefore respectfully submitted that [part missing at bottom of page]
as Lt Colonel.

R M Heath

Richmond October 1780

Sundry officers of the Virg'a Line For part of allowance of clothing &c./ Octo. 23 1780

Colo. James Monroe per ord'r Executive/ Lt Gibbs

Auditors Office Nov 6th 1851

I certify that the foregoing is truly copied from an old Journal in this Office page 107

Ro Johnson/ F. Audr

Dec'r 27th Advised to be rejected.

1837 Dec'r 31. Rejected J B Floyd

NOTES:

Letters copied below from sources other than pension and bounty-land records detail Col. James Monroe's assignment to assess the situation in the Carolinas following the surrender of Charlestown on 12 May 1780. In June of 1780 at the time Jefferson gave Monroe the assignment, the British under Gen. Henry Clinton had consolidated their control of South Carolina with a chain of posts at Camden, Cheraw, and other places. Virtually the entire Continental army from Virginia and the Carolinas was imprisoned at Charlestown, and the militias were taken out of service by their paroles (promises not to fight again unless exchanged). Continental troops from Maryland and Delaware had joined militias from Virginia and North Carolina to form a new southern army under Gen. Baron de Kalb, and they had proceeded as far as Hillsborough NC. On June 6 Clinton with several thousand troops had taken shipping from Charlestown,

leaving Gen. Cornwallis in command of troops in South Carolina. In July Gen. Horatio Gates would succeed de Kalb in command of the new southern army. After marching through the eastern part of North Carolina that afforded scant provisions, Gates's southern army was routed by Cornwallis at the Battle of Camden on 16 Aug 1780.

On 15 June 1780 Gov. Jefferson informed the President of Congress of a plan establish a "line of expresses" to the Carolinas: "I am forming a like line from this place to the neighborhood of the enemy's army in Carolina, sending thither a confidential and judicious person [Col. James Monroe] to collect & to convey intelligence of their movements and to continue there so long as their operations shall be so very interesting as they are at present." *The Works of Thomas Jefferson*, Vol. 3, pp 24-25.

http://oll-resources.s3.amazonaws.com/titles/801/0054-03_Bk_SM.pdf

On the following day Jefferson wrote to Monroe detailing his assignment:

Sir, Richmond June 16th 1780

You will proceed with the riders provided for you, stationing one at every forty miles or thereabouts from hence to the vicinity of the British army in Carolina where you will continue yourself, observing the movements and when their importance requires it, communicating them to me. Instruct your riders to travel by night and day without regard to weather giving and taking way bills expressing the hour and minute of their delivering and receiving dispatches, also direct them to engage in the neighbourhood of their station, some able and trusty person to take their place in case of their becoming sick or otherwise unable to perform their duty. Important events also tho they should not be attended by any movement, which respects us, I would wish you to communicate. The state and resources of our friends, their force, the disposition of the people, the prospect of provision, ammunition, arms, and other circumstances, the force and condition of the enemy, will also be proper articles of communication. Inform Governors Nash [Abner Nash of North Carolina] and Rutledge [John Rutledge of South Carolina, in exile in North Carolina] from time to time of your station, also the commander of the american force and of the particular troops of this commonwealth; that may through you be enabled to correspond with me. I must leave to your own discretion tho to decide when the importance of their communications may render it proper for you to put your Line of riders into motion as it is of consequence for the quick conveyance of important Letters that the horses be kept fresh. I shall expect as soon as you shall have obtained knowledge of the present state of things that you communicate it to me and afterwards only from time to time as before directed. Indeed should a fortnight at anytime have intervened without any occurrence worth communicating it might not be amiss to write that that is the Case, as the Horses cannot be injured by performing their stage once in that interval of time.

Th. Jefferson

The Papers of Thomas Jefferson, vol. 3, 18 June 1779 – 30 September 1780, ed. Julian P. Boyd.

Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1951, pp. 451–452. Founders Online, National Archives,

<https://founders.archives.gov/documents/Jefferson/01-03-02-0525>.

On the same day Jefferson wrote a letter of introduction to be given by Monroe to Nash at Newbern:

Sir Richmond June 16 1780.

The tardiness and uncertainty of intelligence from the Southern states, and the very interesting situation of things there at present have induced me to send Colo. Monroe, a sensible, judicious, and confidential person, to the neighborhood of the hostile army, for the purpose of collecting and communicating notice of their movements. He is attended by a sufficient number of expresses to station one at every forty miles distance from hence to the termination of his line, where he will keep with him a serjeant and single horseman. These having instructions to bring on his letters by night and by day, without regard to weather, intelligence will come to us at the rate of 120 miles in the 24. hours. I thought it proper to inform your Excellency of this measure, as well because it might afford you a ready and safe conveyance for any communications with which you may please to honour me, more especially if you should think proper to establish a similar line of communication with Colo. Monroe, as that I might recommend that gentleman

to your patronage, aid and confidence, should any circumstance arise in which the general good would be thereby promoted. Colo. Monroe will inform your Excellency of the stations he shall take from time to time and will take pleasure in communicating to you any intelligence he shall obtain, if you have no better means already established. The same difficulties of correspondence with Genl. Washington have induced me to take the liberty of suggesting to the Genl. the expediency of his establishing a like communication with this place.

The situation of the Convention troops in our country, has rendered it necessary on every occasion to be watchful of every movement of the enemy which might terminate in an attempt to rescue them, which with large bodies of cavalry, and by rapid marches they might suppose practicable.⁸ I have therefore directed Colo. Wood [James Wood BLWt2419-500] to form a line of communication from the barracks to the enemy's army in the same manner I do from this place and to send a trusty officer to watch their motions. I do not know who this gentleman will be, but beg leave to recommend him also to your excellency's protection when he shall be made known to you.

Since writing so far, I have received a requisition of Congress in conjunction with Governor Lee [Thomas Sim Lee of MD] to form a line of riders from Cape Henry to Philadelphia. This I have accordingly done, conducting the line thro' this place.

I have the honor to be with the greatest esteem Your Excellency's most obedient & most humble
servt,

Th: Jefferson

The Papers of Thomas Jefferson, vol. 3, 18 June 1779 – 30 September 1780, ed. Julian P. Boyd. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1951, pp. 452–453. Founders Online, National Archives, <https://founders.archives.gov/documents/Jefferson/01-03-02-0526>.

⁸ The "Convention troops" were Hessians and British captured at Saratoga NY on 17 Oct 1777 and brought to Albemarle Barracks 4 miles NNE of Charlottesville VA in January 1779.