An unreadable Virginia widow’s certificate

Department of War
Bounty Land Office
Jany 2\textsuperscript{nd} 1834

I certify that Land Warrant N\textsuperscript{o}. 1949 for 450 acres, issued on the 28\textsuperscript{th} June 1833 to the heirs at law of Lieut Colonel William Fontaine of the Virginia Continental line.

Wm Gordon First Clerk

To the Governor of Virginia,
The memorial of James Fontaine, for himself & the other heirs of Col\textsuperscript{o} William Fontaine, respectfully states:

That his father was one of the first who entered the service in the Revolution. He raised a company of men in Amherst in September 1775 from which time he was either actively engaged as an officer or liable to be called on as such until the end of the war 3 Nov 1783 - say 8 years & 2 months. The bounty for 3 or 6 years has been received.

The affidavits of Col. David Johnson, James Bowling, John Thomas, & others show that Col Fontaine entered the service at the commencement of the war and was from the time the Charlottesville reg’t was disbanded a supernumy [sic] – to the end of the war.

After he became a supernumy – he raised a company and marched to York Town and was engaged at the siege.

The additional bounty is respectfully solicited by

Thos. Green
Atto. For the petitioners

Lt. Col. Wm Fontaine

Former allowance Feb, 1834

Col. F. in the fall of 1775 raised a company in Amherst, the men that enlisted rendezvoused at Charlottesville, subsequently at Williamsburg, and thence to Portsmouth where he was engaged in the battle of long bridge on the 9\textsuperscript{th} Dec 1775.

He was afterwards with the army to the north & subsequently was Lt. Col. In Regt of guards and so remained to the end of the war.

The bounty for 6 years has been received. The heirs now claim from 1 Oct 1775 to 3 Nov 1783.
The precise date of the commencement of his service does not appear, but the affidavit of James Bowling filed when the claim was allowed before shows that Captain Fontaine must have been in service as early as 1 Oct. Altho not proven he was no doubt appointed Captain September ’75 when the other officers of the 2nd regt were appointed, pursuant to the ordnance of August 1775.

The evidence filed is believed to be sufficient to show a service the autumn of ’75.
See affidavits of Col David Jamison, Jos Bowling, John Thomas &c.

Thomas Green
Atto: for the petitioners

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http://revwarapps.org/w5863.pdf James Bowling

On 21Sep1775 Books in
Auditors office show advances for
His company  T.G.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1775</th>
<th>Dr</th>
<th>Captain William Fontaine</th>
<th>Cr</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sept 21</td>
<td>To cash advanced for Recruiting service</td>
<td>230.0.0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov 11</td>
<td>To sundry disbursements by yourself, Lieuts Marks and Hughes for your Company in pay, provisions, bedding, arms, necessaries, &amp; recruiting expenses as per accounts rendered</td>
<td>499.4.9</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov 11</td>
<td>To warrant on the treasury</td>
<td>34.14.5</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov 11</td>
<td>To warrant to Lt Hughes for Balance of his account</td>
<td>144.18.10</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov 11</td>
<td>To warrant to Lt Marks for Balance of his account</td>
<td>63.11.6</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov 11</td>
<td>By balance due – carried to list of balances folio 132</td>
<td>£8.12.6</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Decm 13</td>
<td>To cash paid miss Chiles for leather Breeches furnished t' company</td>
<td>£8.12.6</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Pay</td>
<td>141.11.6</td>
<td></td>
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<td>Provisions</td>
<td>73.13.6</td>
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<td>Express hire</td>
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<td>Arms</td>
<td>114. 1.9</td>
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<td>Blankets</td>
<td>48.17.6</td>
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<td>Waggon hire</td>
<td>4. 9.0</td>
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<td>Gen expenses</td>
<td>115. 1.6</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>£499.4.9</td>
<td>£499.4.9</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

The foregoing is truly extracted from the Account Book of the Committee of Safety Page 18. Given under my hand at The Auditor’s Office Richmond this 21 Day of March 1838

Jas E Heath Aud P Acc

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Executive Department
Richmond Va January 22 1846

I do hereby certify that this & the five pages prefixed contain true copies of papers on file in this department.

Wm H Richardson, Cm"
John Marks widow and other witnesses were to his rank of captain in 1777 and later service. He is most likely the 1775 lieutenant of Fontaine’s 1775 company names by James Bowling as the 1st Lt from Albemarle. http://revwarapps.org/r5357.pdf is a different Lt Thomas Hughes from the 2nd Lt named by James Bowling.]

State of Virginia
Hanover County to wit: On this 20th day of August 1838, personally appeared before the subscriber, a justice of the peace in and for said county, Ann Fontaine, resident of said county, aged seventy two years and upwards, who, being first duly sworn according to law doth on her oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the provision made by the act of Congress passed July 7th 1838, entitled “An Act granting half pay and pensions to certain widows” That she is the widow of William Fontaine who was a Lieut Col in the Virginia Continental Line in the War of the Revolution. And for proof of his commission & services in said war, she refers to the Reg’l Military records. She further declares that she was married to the said William Fontaine on the twenty seventy (27th) day of December in the year seventeen hundred and eighty seven (1787) which she believes the records of the county court of Hanover County will show, but if Lost or mislaid, she reserves the privilege of showing the fact & date of her said marriage by reference to the family register now in her possession. That her husband, the aforesaid William Fontaine dies on the 6th day of October 1810. That she was not married to him prior to his leaving the service but the marriage took place previous to the first of January seventeen hundred and ninety four, to wit, at the time above stated.

Sworn to and subscribed on the Day and year above written
Before the subscriber, a justice Of the peace as aforesaid
M. M. Brown JP

County certification and supporting statements
Edmund Fontaine, no relation stated
Milton M Brown, JP
Philip B Winston, clerk]

James Fontaine, son of William Fontaine, deceased, power of attorney to A.M. Green,.

08Jun1833
James Fontaine, son of William Fontaine, deceased, power of attorney to A.M. Green,.

Dear sir, Albemarle Barracks, June28, 1779
I am happy to have it in my power to congratulate you on the arrival of the better past of our soldiers’ clothing – viz 400 & odd blankets as many suits of clothes, stockings, shoes, &
some linens, the quantity of the latter has not been communicated to me. It is come at a critical
conjunction. Our lads had got into a very strange humour, this I think I can assert that it was
supposed before we had any intention of the approach of the clothing. This is nothing for offense
that I have yet heard of. The invoice I have not seen. Given & nd on the colonies of the soldiers
doth. Col. Bland is in a way to have us furnished with some very good blue & white, but perhaps
you would wish to conform to the soldier’s uniform. The Col. Is of opinion you or I should go to
Williamsburg on the subject of the officers’ various wants. Now that the soldiers are
supplyd [sic] I expect still less attention will be paid to us. I presume in your present state of
health, you would not be fond of such a travel. It would consist exceedingly well with my
conscience [?] & inclination. I have disclosed my particular situation to you & hope it may have
some insight in your decision on the subject. With your return I am promised permission to be
abreast [?]. I assure you any time has been disagreeably spent since you left us. This situated [?]
meeting gave me some little trouble which incurred [?] the indisposition I felt ______. The
fellows were more easily checked than one would have imagined too when it was represented
that there was in general a discontent. Sergeant Goodall1, Sergeant Snow2, Corporal Kidd, & five
privates are under guard & to be freed today. They are terribly alarmed. I think the little _____
will be of infinite service to us in future. Every man that was found in the villainous design
which was to lay I am this _____ & go home till their clothing came, some now
to shudder at the mention of the horrid consequences this would have attached its insu__tion. A
certain officer who was formerly tried, perhaps the first in the garrison is inspected to have
encouraged it, tho I can not believe with design. This by the by. He will be arrested today. No
militia are come in. The men plague me terribly for furloughs. I should be glad to hear from you
should you have an opportunity of writing. I hope your Orange and Quails [?] &c have produced
good efforts on your contributions. Be pleased to offer any complements to your brother &
accept my best wishes for your better health.

Your most obd1 humb. Serv1

Commissary Foster wants to give you 600 +/- for your men.

1 http://revwarapps.org/w5284.pdf contains the application by the widow of Sgt. John Goodall
2 http://revwarapps.org/s14540.pdf perhaps Pvt Richard Snow of Albemarle County

[p22]

Dear Sir

The Marquis De La Fayette to promote the service in the State of Virginia has thought
proper to give me orders to purchase sixty twenty horses to mount the Corps under Major Nelson
and the field officers in the detachments under his command. He has been induced to authorize
me in this business upon the promise of the Governor of this state for the payment of them, & to
avoid impressions which have been very bothersome to the people and destruction to public
credit. Relying therefore upon your diligence & zeal for the public good and your knowledge in
this business, I have thought proper to commission you for this purpose. You will proceed
immediately and purchase sixty twenty horses, young and strong, suitable for Cavalry, and in
good order. The height must be four feet and an half and every parts complete for service. You
are to have them all delivered at my office as early as possible, and in the exact manner described, for which you shall be rewarded. You are to have them appraised by two reputable gentlemen under oath and take certificates agreeable to the enclosed form the appraisers, and transmit them to me with the bill of purchases. You may in case you should see where you can make a purchase more for the benefit of the public than by appraising, do so, but to have as many of them valued as you can. Saddles and bridles are to be purchased, and you will be generous in these articles by the strict meaning of the instructions with respect to the horses. These orders you will strictly adhere to, but should you not fully comply with them you will be answerable and the horses shall be turned upon your hands. As fast as you purchase, you will make entries of the horses and saddles agreeable to the inclosed form and give certificates conformable to the form enclosed and direct them to me. Be careful that the certificates issued and the bill of appraisements perfectly agree, as all that are not comprehended will not be received at the time of settlement. As soon as you have executed this business, you will attend at my office and close the accounts.

The above instructions and orders are to govern you in purchasing, but should you find that the plan will be ineffectual, you have full power to impress and see that the horses perfectly correspond with the description stated.

Relying upon your diligence in this business, I am with much esteem & regard
Your mo: ob †
Hble servant
Rd Claiborne
Dhn † S.T.

http://revwarapps.org/blwt470-200.pdf Richard Claiborne’s Bounty Land Warrant file in which Alexander Spotswood says Claiborne came from William and Mary College and became a commissary officer.

[p29]
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The deposition of Mrs. Ann Taylor of the County of Hanover, State of Virginia taken this 5th day of January 1833. This affiant do declare that Col. William Fontaine of the County of Louisa, did in the war of the revolution march his company to Yorktown to be part in the engagement between the American & British forces at that place. This affiant well remembers many little circumstances that made lasting impressions upon her mind. She well recollects Col Fontain’s breakfasting with his men at her house in said County of Hanover. It was his choice to breakfast on that occasion with his company.

After remaining a short time Col. Fontain marched on his way to York Town. He was considered a valuable and meritorious officer and much respected by his men under his command. And further this affiant saith not.

Given under her hand and seal this day and year above written. s/ Ann Taylor

I do hereby certify that I was a Captain in the war
of the revolution from the County of Hanover State of Virginia. That I am now receiving the benefits of the “act of June 1832” granting pensions to the surviving officers of the war of the Revolution. That I was at the siege of York Town in the month of Oct 1781 and that Col. William Fontain late of said county was also there. He was considered a brave and meritorious officer and much respected by all who knew him.

Given under my hand this 18th day of May 1833.

Tho: Price

[routine county certification by P.H. Price JP]
http://revwarapps.org/s5954.pdf Thomas Price FPA

It appears from the minutes of the Committee of safety in this office (page 67) that on the 26 March 1781 comm’s were directed to be issued dated Jan: 28 to Captain Fontaine & subalterns of the 2d Regiment.

Given under my hand at the Auditor’s Office Richmond this 10th day of June 1783.

Jas. E. Heath Aud’t

Dept of War, Bounty Land Office
June 28th 1833

Sir,

At the request of A.M. Green, Esq’r you are informed that Land Warrant No 1949 for 450 acres has this day been issued to the heirs of Lt. Col. Fontaine, and the same has been deposited in the Genl Land Office, subject to your order as Attorney for the warranties.

Respectfully yours

Wm Gordon

Tho’s Green Esq’r

[p31 contains an accounting spread sheet for the expenses of Captain Fontaine of the 2nd regiment of Virginia from Nov 1775 copied from Continental Ledger No 1 page 29.]

[p32] I David Jameson of the County of Culpeper and State of Virginia, aged eighty one years, do certify that I became acquainted with William Fontaine in the latter part of the year 1775. That he was then a captain and commanded a company in the second Virginia Regiment of regular troops commanded by Col William Woodford and that on the 9th December we fought together in a Battle at the Great Bridge against a party of British troops and that said Fontaine (in my view) conducted himself as a brave officer. Bit I know not how long he continued in regular service nor under what circumstances he left it. I heard afterward (and do believe it a fact) that he was appointed a Major and promoted to be a Lieutenant Colonel of a corps raised to guard Burgoyne’s troops taken as prisoners at Saratoga and stationed in Albemarle County. But of this I know nothing personally. Given under my hand this 26 day of Sept 1833.

D. Jameson

[p32] Wmsburgh April 23d 1779

Sir,
Upon receiving yours, I have written in the most pressing manner to congress for the clothing of your corps, and as they have resolved to take the guards into Continental service and to clothe them, I have no doubt your wants will be supplied by them according to their engagement.

I have given your letter to Col° Finnie & desired him as Q'Master to supply you with the articles you want from his Department.

I send another Commission for Col° Fontaine, as he has not received that formerly sent to him.

I am sir
Your most obt. Servt
P. Henry

Col° Francis Taylor
At the barracks
Albemarle

Mr. Nicholas states that Col William Fontaine a native of Hanover County Va was a master and taught the ___ ___ ___ in Col. William ___ School in 1774. Early in 1775 he was appointed a captain in one of the two first continental regiments raised in Virginia and raised a company in that county & marched them to Norfolk. At the same time two of Col Cabell’s sons and myself went to William and Mary College where we heard duly of the operations of the armies just us. The burning of Norfolk and the battle of the Great Bridge near Norfolk were the first actual assaults on Virginia in which said hand fought battle. Fontain was reported (& I never doubted the fact) to have behaved gallantly. Since when often but when I have no distinct recollection he resigned. In 1778 Genl Nelson raised a company of volunteer horse comprised entirely of ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ____

[p35]
Madison County
State of Virginia This day Churchill Gibbs of said county who was an officer of the Virginia state line in the war of the Revolution made oath before me a justice of the peace for the county & state aforesaid that he well remembered the late Colo Wm Fontaine in the second state regiment of the state line in which line said Fontaine was a captain in the said regiment & was never in higher grade than a captain in that regiment, that said Fontaine continued in said office of Captain in that regiment for more than two years and resigned his commission of captain the late of the year 1777 or early in 1778. The said Gibbs also knows that the men were at first enlisted & recruited for the term of two years according to law by ordinance of convention of convention [sic]. Given under my hand and seal this 30th day of March 1846.

Burwell Melone JP

[p36 certification by Belfield Cave, Madison County Clerk that Burwell Melone is a magistrate] http://revwarapps.org/s5607.pdf Churchill Gibbs FPA file

[p40 contains a ledger of accounts contained in an earlier page]
test. William Fontaine a native of Hanover County in Va was a tutor & taught the dead
languages in Col William Cabell’s family in Amherst County in the year 1774. I was one of his scholars. Early in 1775 he was appointed a Captain in one of the two first continental regiments raised in Va & raised a company in that county & marched them to Norfolk. At the same time two of Col Cabell’s sons & myself went to William & Mary College where we heard daily of the operations of the armies just below us. The burning of Norfolk & the battle of the great bridge near Norfolk were the first actual assaults on Virginia in which said hard fought battle Fontaine was reported (& twas doubtless the fact) to have behaved gallantly. Some time after (but which I have no distinct recollection) he resigned. In 1778 Gen. Nelson raised a company of volunteer horse composed entirely of young gentlemen of the first standing & character in Va & marched to Philadelphia where they were discharged. I have been informed for reason which I have heard their journals will show that General & some of his men came on to Washington’s Camp at the White Plains in New York. Fontaine from his great intimacy with me sought me out & staid with me all the time he was in camp. Soon after that the assembly of Va raised a Regt to guard the convention troops taken at Saratoga & established the Barracks in Albemarle Va. Col Francis Taylor was the Col. The said Fontaine Lt Col & John Roberts of Culpeper the Major. I visited Col. Fontaine there in 17180 either on my way to join the southern army in June of that year or in the winter after my return. I then saw Col. Fontaine in said guard command in that corps but how long he continued I have no personal knowledge. I have had one Cap. & three soldiers of the same corps placed under the act of 1828 approved U.S. land bounties for them as Continental troops & understand that Major Roberts has obtained for himself the same benefits.

John Nicholas Lt
& full Col. R.A.

At the request of the heirs of Col. William Fontaine, deceased, I certify that the said Fontaine entered the army of the revolution as a Major in or about February 1779 and served as Major until March 1779 when he was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel in the regiment of guards that guarded the convention troops of Burgoyne’s army at the barracks in Albemarle County State of Virginia and that the said Fontaine continued in service until said Regiment was discharged which was in or about May 1781. Col. Fontaine returned as myself and the other officers for want of command. I further state that I believe Colonel Fontaine would have been ready to have joined the army at any time if he had been required so to do. Given under my hand this 9th day of May 1832.

Jno Roberts Secy
Cab of the War of
The Revolution

[p69] John Nicholas FAP file

[p73] Virginia certificate 1329
Ann Fontaine, widow of
William Fontaine, deceased on 06Oct1810
Of Hanover County, a Lt Col
Under Col Taylor for 2 years
Issued 07Dec1838 @ $600/annum
w/1500 arrears

[p75] Virginia certificate 2158
Ann Fontaine, widow of
Lt Col William Fontaine
Issued 08Jun1843 @ $600/annum

[Ed. Note: The seventy six pages of this file contain other notes of potential interest to a serious study. For such, a complete fresh copy from the archives is suggested. The file interweaves pieces from three distinct veins. First, and appeal by the heirs for additional bounty land beyond the initial warrant which ended by act of congress as shown above. Second is a routine widow’s pension application with supporting documents. Third is a repeat widow’s application which was required to extend a widow’s pension beyond five years.]
Addenda to William Fontaine W7319
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. 15 Feb 2014.

[The following is from bounty-warrant records in the Library of Virginia. These records also contain the original statements by Thomas Price, David Jameson, and Patrick Henry transcribed above.]

Your petitioners James & Edmund Fontaine for themselves and the other heirs of their father the late Colo Wm Fontaine of Hanover, Pray that the land bounty due for his services in the Revolution may be allowed them. The testimony of Major Roberts and the copies from the record they hope will be sufficient to establish their rights which are presented to the consideration of your excellency

[signed] Edm Fontaine  [signed] James Fontaine

[The rejected-claims in the Library of Virginia also include the original petitions by Thomas Green transcribed above.]