

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Fontaine William

VA
(Ann)

W7319
BLWt1949-450
Va. half pay
10 Aug 2013

Transcription by FA Weyler

[Supplemented and revised by Will Graves 10/16/22]

[p 2] an unreadable Virginia widow's certificate

[p 4]

Department of War
Bounty Land Office
Jany 2nd 1834

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

W^m Gordon First Clerk

To the Governor of Virginia,

The memorial of James Fontaine, for himself & the other heirs of Col^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 *Jamieson*, 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, *supernumerary*] – 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. W^m 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 9th Dec 1775.

He was afterwards with the army to the north & subsequently was Lt. Col. in Reg^t 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.

[p 5]

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 2^d reg^t 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 Jamieson, Jos Bowling [sic, James Bowling],¹ John Thomas &c.

Thomas Green
Atto: for the petitioners

On 21 Sep 1775 Books in
Auditors office show advances for
His company T.G.

1775	Dr	=====	Captain William Fontaine	Cr	
Sept 21	To Cash advanced for the Recruiting service	230.0.0		Nov 11 By sundry disbursements by yourself, Lieuts Marks and Hughes for your Company in pay, provisions, bedding, arms, necessaries, & recruiting expenses as per accounts rendered	499.4.9
Nov 11	To cash received of Sampson Matthews	30.0.0			
	To warrant on the treasury For balance of his account	34.14.5			
	To warrant to Lt Hughes for Balance of his account	144.18.10			
	To warrant to Lt Marks for Balance of his account	<u>63.11.6</u>			
		<u>£499. 4.9</u>			<u>£499.4.9</u>
Dec ^m 13	To cash paid <i>Mic.^a</i> Chiles for leather breeches furnished f ^r company	<u>£ 8.12.6</u>		By balance due – carried to list of balances folio 132	<u>£8.12.6</u>
				Pay	141.11.6
				Provisions	73.13.6
				Express hire	1.10.0
				Arms	114. 1.9
				Blankets	48.17.6
				Waggon hire	4. 9.0
				Gen expenses	<u>115. 1.6</u> £499.4.9

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

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^{sr}

¹ [James Bowling W5863](#)

[[John Marks W4542](#) 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 named by James Bowling as the 1st Lt from Albemarle.

[Thomas Hughes R5357](#) is a different Lt Thomas Hughes from the 2nd Lt named by James Bowling.]

[p 6]

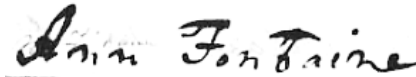
State of Virginia

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^t Military records. She further declares that she was married to the said William Fontaine on the twenty seventh (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

[p 7]

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.

S/Ann Fontaine



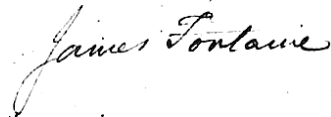
Sworn to and subscribed on the
Day and year above written
Before the subscriber, a justice
Of the peace as aforesaid
M. M. Brown JP

[pp 8-9 County certification and supporting statements
Edmund Fontaine, [relationship, if any, not stated]
Milton M Brown, JP
Philip B Winston, clerk]

[p 10]

08Jun1833

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



[p 12: Copy of marriage bond dated December 24, 1787 issued in Hanover County VA to William Fontaine Batchellor [sic] for his marriage to Ann Morris Spinster]

[p 17]

Gentⁿ

Charlottesville June 3rd, 1779

I have the pleasure of informing you by order of Col. Bland that the men sent him under guard was Examined & set at liberty there being nothing found Illegal in their Conduct – but that of their wanting to depreciate our paper Currency, which is a very atrocious Crime, & in future all such persons taken in & about this Garrison will be taken Cognizance of by the Civil Power.

I am Gentlemen Your Obedient Servant

[To] Col.^s Taylor & Fountain [sic]

S/ W. Porter Secry [?]



[p 18]

Dear Sir,

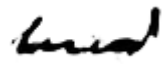
Albemarle Barracks, June 24, 1779

I am happy to have it in my power to congratulate you on the arrival of the better part of our Soldiers' cloathing – viz 400 & odd blankets as many suits of cloathes, 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, tho' I think I can assert that it was *suppressed* before we had any *intimation* of the approach of the Cloathing. *There* is nothing for offense that I have yet heard of. The invoice I have not seen. *Green & red are the colours* of the Soldiers *cloth*. 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

[p 19]

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 *convenience* & inclination. I have disclosed my particular situation to you -- & hope it may have some *weight* in your decision on the subject. *On* your return I am promised permission to be *absent*. I assure you any time has been disagreeably spent since you left us. This *threatened* meeting gave me some little trouble which *increased* the indisposition I felt [*undeciphered word*]². The fellows were more easily checked than one would have imagined too, when it was represented that there was in general a discontent. Sergeant Goodall, Sergeant Snow, Corp. Kidd, & five privates are under guard & to be *heard* [? 'tried'?]³ today. They are terribly alarmed. I

² 

³ 

think the little [undeciphered word]⁴ will be of infinite service to us in future. Every man that was found in the villainous design, which was to lay *down their arms* & go home till their cloathing came, *seems* now

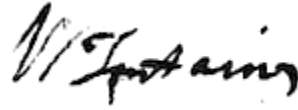
[p 20]

to shudder at the mention of the horrid consequences *that* would have attached its *execution*. A certain officer who was formerly tried, perhaps the first in the garrison is *suspected* 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 air [?]⁵, *Friends* &c have produced good effects on your *constitution*. Be pleased to offer any compliments to your brother & accept my best wishes for your better health.

Your most obd^t humb. Serv^t

W. Fontaine



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

[p 22]

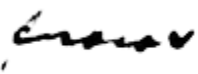
Richmond 1st May 1781

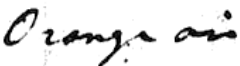
Dear Sir

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

[p 23]

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.

4 

5 

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 [p24] be ineffectual, you have full power to impress and see that the horses perfectly correspond with the description stated.

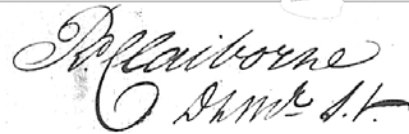
Relying upon your diligence in this business, I am with much esteem & regard

Your mo: ob^t

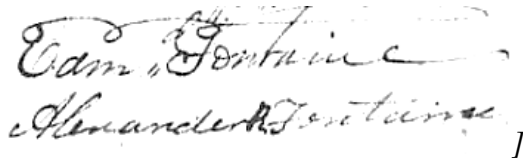
Hble servant

R^d Claiborne⁶

Dhm^r S.T.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "R. Claiborne" with "Dhm^r S.T." written below it.

[p 28: Power of attorney dated July 11, 1832 executed in Hanover County Virginia in which it is recited that Edmund Fontaine, Alexander Fontaine, James Fontaine and Sarah F Rose are the heirs-at-law of Colonel William Fontaine. The document is signed only by Edmund and Alexander Fontaine’.

Two handwritten signatures in cursive script, one above the other, reading "Edmund Fontaine" and "Alexander Fontaine".

[p 29]

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 Fontain 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

⁶ [Richard Claiborne BLWt470-200](#) Richard Claiborne’s Bounty Land Warrant file in which Alexander Spotswood says Claiborne came from William and Mary College and became a commissary officer.



[certification Jno J Taylor]

I do hereby certify that I was a Captain in the war [p 30] 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 Fontaine 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: Price⁷



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^r

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 N^o 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

[p 31 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.]

[p 32]

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. *But* 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

⁷ [Thomas Price S5954](#)

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. Jameson⁸

[routine certification by Edmund Broadus JP]

W^{ms}burgh April 23^d 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^o Finnie & desired him as Q^r Master to supply you with the articles you want from his Department.

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

I am sir

Your most obt. Servt

P. Henry

Col^o Francis Taylor

At the barracks

Albemarle

[the above documents are certified to be true copies of the originals in the Office of the of the Dept. of War, Bounty Land Office Sept. 26, 1833]

[p 35]

Madison County

State of Virginia This day Churchill Gibbs⁹ 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

[p 40 contains a ledger of accounts contained in an earlier page]

[p 46]

To the Honorable Speaker and Members of the House of Representatives and Senate of the United States

Your petitioners' the Representatives of Lieutenant Colonel William Fontaine of the Continental Line of the War of the Revolution respectfully state that their ancestor in the fall of

⁸ [David Jameson S5607](#)

⁹ [Churchill Gibbs S46002](#)

the year 1775 raised a company of Minutemen in the County of Amherst Virginia and marched to Williamsburg and was at the battle of the Great Bridge in which engagement he acted the part of a brave and valiant officer. He was soon thereafter promoted to the command of a company of Regulars in the Regiment commanded by Colonel Woodford.

In the year 1778 he marched to the north and joined the northern army. On his return from thence he was appointed Major of a Regiment at Charlottesville viz. – on the 24th December 1778 raised for the purpose of guarding the convention troops taken at Saratoga, belonging to Burgoyne's Army, and in March 1779 he was appointed Lieutenant Colonel of said Regiment in which Capacity he acted until May 1781 when his Regiment was disbanded and he became a Supernumerary officer and remained in that Capacity until the end of the War.

He was the Commanding Officer of Major John Roberts, to whom has been extended the benefits of the Resolutions of October 21st, 1780 which was commuted by resolution of 22 March 1783 to five years full pay in lieu thereof. Your petitioners' father was in the service from the Commencement to the end of the War. The regiment which he commanded was considered a Continental Regiment by Congress and was paid as such. He like many others never received the commutation promised by the Resolve of March 1780 and the expiration of the time allowed for the payment of these claims (say 1790) was the cause perhaps why their father never applied for it after that time. They now come forward and ask that the same allowance may be extended to him as to many others of the same line and that a Bill may be passed allowing them 5 years full pay with six percent Interest thereon as Lieutenant Colonel of the Virginia Continental Line.

S/ Alexander F Fontaine

S/ James Fontaine

for themselves and the rest of the heirs

Department of War

Bounty Land Office

January 4th, 1834

I certify that Land Warrant No 1949 for 450 acres issued at this office on the 28th June 1833 to the heirs-at-law of Lt. Col. William Fontaine, of the Virginia Continental line.

S/ William Gordon

First Clerk

State of Virginia

Corporation of Lynchburg to wit:

James Bowling of Lawful age this Day personally appeared before the undersigned, Mayor of the Corporation aforesaid, and made oath that he was well acquainted with William Fontaine who was an Officer in the Army of the Revolution – that in the fall of the year 1775 he enlisted in the County of Amherst, in State aforesaid as a private in a Rifle Company attached to the Second Virginia Regiment, which Company was commanded by the said Fontaine as Captain, John Marx [sic, John Marks] of Albemarle was the First Lieutenant, Thomas Hughes of Augusta the Second Lieutenant, and William Robinson of Augusta the Ensign of the said company of the Second Virginia Regiment Col. Woodford was the Col. Commandant, Charles Scott was Lieutenant Colonel, and a man named Hardiman was the Major – After the affiant's enlistment as aforesaid, the said company rendezvoused at Charlottesville and were thence marched to Williamsburg where it joined the Regiment – Shortly afterwards the Regiment was marched from Williamsburg across James River at James Town, then Portsmouth to a place called the Long

Bridge where it met with the enemy commanded by Captain Fordyce. At this place a battle was fought in which the said Fontaine acted the part of a brave officer – After a severe conflict Captain Fordyce the British officer was killed, and the enemy were defeated, driven from the field into the town of Norfolk, whither they were pursued by the American troops, and were compelled to evacuate the town and go on board their shipping. The American Army remained in possession of the town for some five or six weeks when it was set on fire by the enemy, and about one half of the town was burnt down. Shortly afterwards the enemy sailed out of the part of the Norfolk, and the Legislature of Virginia then directed that the balance of the town should be burnt to prevent it being taken possession of by the enemy which order was carried into execution by the American troops – After burning Norfolk, the Army to which the affiant belonged was marched back to Williamsburg, where it remained until the twelve months for which the troops had enlisted had expired, when they were discharged. The said Fontaine thereupon returned to the County of Amherst, and recruited another Company and marched off with them, and the affiant afterwards learnt that he was promoted, and became a field officer of the Army of the Revolution – this affiant further stated that he never knew, or heard of said Fontaine resigning his commission, and that he always considered him a brave and valuable officer.

S/ John R. D. Payne Mayor

[p 49]

At the request of the heirs of Colonel William Fontaine dec'd 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, 1779 [sic] when he was promoted to the rank of Lieut. 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 other officers for the 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

S/ John Roberts Major
of the late Regiment Guards

I John Thomas of the County of Albemarle and State of Virginia do hereby certify that in the year 1774 that I went to school in the County of Amherst in the aforesaid State, to a certain William Fontaine and that in the year 1775 he was appointed Captain and raised a company in Amherst, and was afterwards ordered to Norfolk where he marched with his company and I understood was at the battle of the long bridge, and understood further that in the year 1778 he went to the north, and in the year 1779 was Lieut. Colonel – Afterwards he came to the barracks in the County of Albemarle and State of Virginia where he served until the end of the War, or until his Corps was disbanded when he became a [undeciphered word]¹⁰ officer for the want of Command. As given under my hand this 24 April 1833

S/ John Thomas

[p 53: Order promulgated by the Circuit Superior Court of Law and Chancery for Henrico County May 20, 1833 stating that Colonel William Fontaine late of Hanover County died testate in the year 1810 leaving eight children viz.: Sarah F (now the widow of Alexander F Rose), Peter F, William, James, Edmund, John M, Charles, and Alexander R Fontaine, his daughter Louisa Elizabeth having died before her father; Peter F subsequently died of legal age intestate without issue; William departed this life of legal age having left his entire estate to his mother Anne Fontaine for life remainder to the children of Mrs. Rose, four in number, viz. Edmund F Rose, Louisa Rose, Lawrence Berry Rose, and Charles Rose all of whom are now infants;¹¹ John M died of lawful age intestate and without issue; Charles died intestate and without issue.]

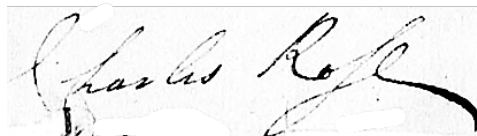
[p 72: The following appears to me to be a letter written to Col. Fontaine during the war regarding a charge of desertion against a soldier named Warren under the command of Captain Allen [perhaps Capt. John Allen] urging leniency in his punishment. Unfortunately the date of the letter cannot be ascertained but the envelope indicates it was addressed to Colonel William Fontaine at the Barracks.]

Dr. Sir,

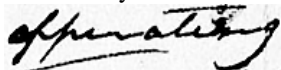
In my last I forgot to mention poor Warren one of Capt. Allen's men. His case I assure you is attended with particular circumstances alleviating [alleviating] his Guilt. He is the father of Six Children the oldest not twelve Years old all of whom now by the scarcity of Corn (not the consequence of his laziness) are in real want of bread (As I am informed). The principal cause for his enlisted was the agreement between him & Allen. If he got such a number of men he was by A. to be discharged. He got the men & was kept. His want of Knowledge makes him think that a Day or two would make no odds with his officers, as formerly they were not very strict in such cases; therefore he stayed two or more days over his time without the least intention of never returning. Far be it from me to pretend to direct you in your duty which I know nothing of, but give me leave to recommend Mercy with Justice & prevent if you can the Faults of the Capt. in operating [?]¹² too much against the Common Soldier.

Apply to Col. H. the bearer hereof for the truth thereof

I am wt. Sincere Affn
Yr. Hble Srvt.
S/ Charles Rose



¹¹ This merely indicates that they were under the age of their majority; not that they were really infants

¹² 

25th CONGRESS,
2d Session.

[Rep. No. 429.]

HO. OF REPS.

LIEUTENANT COLONEL WILLIAM FOUNTAIN—HEIRS OF.

[To accompany bill H. R. No. 348.]

JANUARY 18, 1838.

Mr. MUHLENBERG, from the Committee on Revolutionary Claims, made the following

REPORT:

The Committee on Revolutionary Claims, to which was referred the petition of the heirs of Lieutenant Colonel William Fountain, report :

This case was examined at the 1st session of the 24th Congress, and favorably reported on, with a bill for the relief of the petitioners. That report the committee adopt, and ask that it may be considered as part of this. In accordance with it, a bill is again reported for the relief of the petitioners.

MAY 17, 1836.

The Committee on Revolutionary Claims, to which was referred the petition of the legal representatives of Lieutenant Colonel William Fountain, report :

It satisfactorily appears to the committee that William Fountain was the lieutenant colonel of the regiment of guards raised to guard the convention troops, and served as such until the regiment was disbanded, in May, 1781. This fact is established by the certificate of Major John Roberts, of that regiment. It also appears that said Fountain was in active service at an early period of the Revolution, before said regiment was raised. There is no evidence that he resigned his commission after the regiment was disbanded.

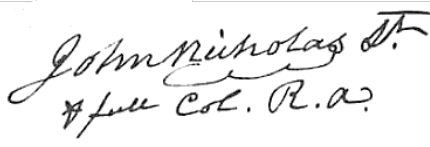
Commutation has been conceded to Colonel Taylor, the commandant of the regiment, by a favorable report from the committee during the present session, and we perceive no ground of difference between him and Lieutenant Colonel Fountain. We therefore report a bill for the relief of his legal representatives.

Thomas Allen, print.

[p 68]

Col. 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 [Thomas 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 1780 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 Nicholas¹³ L^t
& full Col. R.A.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John Nicholas Jr." followed by "& full Col. R.A." on a separate line.

[p 69]

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.

Jn^o Roberts Sec^y
Cab of the War of
The Revolution

¹³ [John Nicholas S46397](#)

*Gen. Robert's case
Case of the War of
The Revolution*

[p 73] 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

[p 75] Virginia certificate 2158
Ann Fontaine, widow of
Lt Col William Fontaine
Issued 08Jun1843 @ \$600/annum

[Veteran's widow was pensioned at the rate of \$600 per annum commencing March 4, 1836, for her husband service as a Lieutenant Colonel in the Virginia Continental line.]

[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, is an 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.]