

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

Virginia documents pertaining to John Dorton VAS1023 Mary Dorton
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. Revised 9 May 2015.

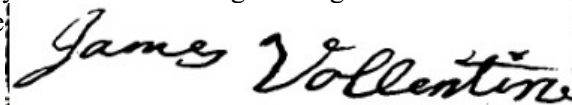
[From [Library of Virginia Legislative Petitions Digital Collection](#)/ James City County]

To the Honourable the Speakers and Members of the General Assembly
The Petition of Mary Dorton humbly begs leave to represent that your Petitioners Husband John Dorton, listed in the 5th Virginia Regiment in the year 1777: And when the Regiment Marched to the Northward, he was an Invalid, and in the month of November in the same year, he died in Williamsburg, leaving your Petitioner with seven small children; the oldest were no more than twelve years old, with little or no property to support them. That your petitioner has by her labour with a little aid of her oldest children supported all and raised several of them, that two or three years past, your petitioner was informed that persons in her circumstances were allowed by the united states, Pensions. That your petitioner has travelled a great distance on foot, to procure the certificates required by Congress, but never could get the Certificate to prove who was the Commanding Officer of the Regiment to which her said husband belonged, at the time of his death, by which means your Petitioner and her children have suffered greatly for want of the bounty intended for them by the United States. Therefore your petitioner humbly prays the General Assembly to take her case under their Serious Consideration, & to make her such allowance for the past sufferings of her and her children as they may think reasonable, and to put her and her children now with her on the list of Pensioners for the future, and she, as in duty bound will ever pray, &c.

17th Nov. 1788 Ref'd. to claims/ To be put on the pension list/ Reported

[From [pension records in the Library of Virginia](#)]

James Valentine of lawful age being first sworn before me a Justice of the peace for the County of Henrico deposes and saith, that he happened in Williamsburg sometime in the month of November 1777 where this deponent was informed by Nathaniel Crawley that John Dorton a Soldier in the Service of the United States had a night or two before then died on the road side in sight of Mr. Crawleys house, and this deponent was shown a grave and was told the said Dorton was buried therein, and in the month of January following this dep't. was requested by the widow of the said Dorton to apply for the said Dorton's cloathes which he did but the Captain of the Company to which he belonged being absent he failed to get them. And further saith not James Vollentine



The within deposition sworn to before me November 18th 1788 Nath. Wilkinson

In the House of Delegates.

the 4th of December 1788

Resolved. that the petition of Mary Dorton, praying to be allowed a pension as Widow and relict of John Dorton, deceased late a Soldier in one of the State regiments, is reasonable. And that the same be referred to the Executive to make her such allowance as to them shall appear [ju]st and reasonable. 1788

December 8th Teste John Beckley C.H.D.

Agreed to by the Senate./ H. Brooke C.S

(Copy) John Beckley C.H.D.

I do with the advice of the Council hereby Certify that Mary Dorton widow of John Dorton, who was a private in the first State Regiment and died in the Service of this Commonwealth, is allowed the sum of Eight pounds yearly, commencing the first day of January 1788

Given under my hand as Lieutenant Governor of the Commonwealth of Virginia (the Governor being absent) at Richmond, this 27th day of December 1788

T. Meriwether James Wood

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "James Wood". The signature is written in dark ink on a light background.

[The top part of the following is missing from the online image, and the rest is difficult to read.]
left at Williamsburg when the state troops marched to the northward, that I believe he died in the year 1776 or 1777 leaving seven Children the oldest of which did not exceed 12 years of Age That Mary Dorton the mother with a little assistance of her Children supported & raised them; Jno Dorton leaving little or no property that about two years ago the said Mary Dorton applied to me as an Overseer of the poor for some relief she having broke her Arm, I informed her she was Entitled to a pension from the United States, & directed her what course to pursue, & that she has travelled afoot a considerable distance to get the requested Certificates, all of which she never could obtaine, that she is extremely poor & has with her as I have been inform'd three Children she being an inhabitant of the lower end of this County Henrico. Given under my hand this 27th December 1788. Nath'l. Wilkinson

Henrico County September Court 1790

Ordered [three illegible words] pay unto Mary Dorton the sum of Eight pounds, being the amount of her pension for the year 1789. Copy Adam Ewing C.C.

1791 Jan'y 30th Rec'd. the above amount in full Mary herXmark Dorton

Test Tarpley White Ent'd 27th June 1792. [illegible initials]

Henrico County February Court 1793.

Ordered that Mary Dorton, Mary Ann Jolly [widow of Joseph Jolley VAS1264] and Mary Minton [widow of John Minton VAS701] be recommended to His Excellency the Governor and the Council to be replaced on the List of Pensioners they being persons in indigent circumstances and unable to support themselves by Labor A Copy Adam Craig Clk

NOTE: The file contains documents similar to the above showing annual renewals of Mary Dorton's pension, the last being dated 14 Jan 1803.