

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

Virginia documents pertaining to Francis Franklin Dunlap VAS2039
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. Revised 5 Nov 2018.

[The following are from [rejected claims in the Library of Virginia.](#)]

The heirs of the Rev'd Francis Franklin Dunlap decd. pray to be allowed the bounty of a Chaplain in the Continental line who died in service – see Virginia Gazette in the state library, May 10th 1776. The obituary notice of F F Dunlap chaplain to the 6th Va Continental Regm't.

Portsmouth 6th March 1834

J N Murdaugh

[From [Library of Virginia Legislative Petitions Digital Collection](#)/ Gloucester County – Robinson, Benjamin F.]

To the General assembly of Virginia.

The undersigned heirs at Law of Francis Franklin Dunlap, who was a chaplain in the Continental Line of the State of Virginia respectfully represent that they have presented a claim for Bounty Land to the Executive council of this state, which they believe to be well founded & sustained by unquestionable evidence but which the Governor & council thought proper to reject. Your petitioners being debarred, by a suspension of all actions upon revolutionary claims, from a reconsideration of their case from that justice to which they consider themselves entitled, beg leave to refer their case to your honourable body for that relief which has hitherto been denied them.

Their relation, the said Francis Franklin Dunlap was appointed Chaplain of the 6th Regiment on continental establishment early in the year 1776, & died in the service soon after his appointment. The evidence in support of their claim is the following.

1. An obituary notice in the Virginia Gazette, of May 10th 1776, from which it appears that the said Francis F. Dunlap died while chaplain of the 6th Regiment
- 2 The affidavit of Henry Buckhanan proving the above facts.
3. The affidavit of James Baytop [pension application S37701], to the same effect [not transcribed].

By reference to Hen. Stat. at Large, P. 375 Vol 9 [erroneous reference to [Hening's Statutes at Large](#)] it will be found that officers who died in the service are entitled to Bounty Land. Your petitioners therefore pray of your honorable body, that their case be considered & that they be allowed the usual amount of Bounty Land, by a bill directing the Register of the Land officer to issue the same.

And your petitioners, as in duty bound, will ever pray &c.

Benj. F. Robinson/ Holland Walker.

I resided in Gloucester county Virginia in the early part of the Revolutionary War, & knew parson William Dunlap who resided near the Boundary Line of Gloucester and King & Queen Counties and was parson of the parrish.

Said Dunlap had a son, Franklin Dunlap in the service of his country. He was appointed, while a young man Chaplain to Colo. [Mordecai] Buckner's Regiment and died soon after his appointment as such. His father, the said Parson Dunlap was never in the service to my knowledge – certainly not in the early part of the War, being then parson of the Parrish.

Given under my hand this 20th day of May 1835.

Henry Buckhanan

Virginia Gazette May 10th 1776

“Deaths) Mr Francis Franklin Dunlap, an amiable youth, son of the Rev. Wm Dunlap of Stratton Major Parish, in King & Queen county, and Chaplain to the 6th Regiment”

Virginia Gazette Sep. 20th 1776.

“Wanted in the 6th Regiment, a chaplain who will be allowed by congress 33a Dollars per month & 2 rations per day.
Mordecai Buckner/ Colo. of the 6th Regiment

Virginia Gazetter Sep. 27th 1776

“Deaths) Mr Benjamin Winslow, Ensign in the 5th Regiment, a youth who nobly stepped forth at the early age of 17" &c &c

The objection urged against this claim was the fact mentioned in the obituary notice, that F. F. Dunlap is styled and amiable youth. The inference seems to have been drawn that being a youth, he could scarcely have acted as a chaplain.

This objection may be readily answered in 2 ways.

1st In the revolution, persons entered the service at an early age. A natural presumption arises too, that the Rev. Mr Dunlap, himself a minister of the gospel, might have had sons educated for the ministry & of course fit persons to officiate as chaplains.

2. By reference to the Virginia Gazette Sep 27th 1776 Aug 30th 76 & June 7th 1776 it will be seen that the word youth was a common expression in obituary notices & seems to have been used in the common parlance of the day, to denote a young man, in contradistinction to middle age. Mr Samuel Hackley is mentioned as an amiable youth at age of 22.

3. Va. Gazette Sep 20th 76. It appears by an advertise of Mordecai Buckner, Colo. of the 6th Regiment, that a vacancy of Chaplain had occurred in that Regiment.

Janr’y 22^d 1836 ref’d to Rev’y Claims

[The following are from [rejected claims in the Library of Virginia](#) filed under the name Jos. Segar and Joseph Segar. Segar was not a soldier in the Revolutionary War but an agent working to obtain bounty lands for the heirs of the soldiers referred to below. For more on Joseph Segar see Corbin Griffin R56]

Eastville, Dec 29th 1834

Dear Sir [Gov. Littleton Waller Tazewell], I had intended, this day previous to my departure from Richmond, to call upon you in relation to certain claims for Bounty land, but upon hearing that you were indisposed, I declined the call & avail myself of this method of soliciting your attention to the consideration of the applications of the heirs of Captain Dohickey Arundel [VAS2967], & Chaplain Francis Franklin Dunlap.

I have to request of your excellency that you will reconsider the above cases, as early as your convenience will admit.

In the case of Capt. Dohickey Arundell, I find the case has ben twice acted upon & rejected. In the last action upon the case, it seems that the sufficiency of the evidence is admitted; & the rejection placed upon the ground that Capt. Arundell having died in 1776, could not be entitled to Bounty Land, there being at that time no law in existence which promised Land Bounty. On this point, permit me to suggest that the Law fixing the rate of compensation in land bounty, ([Hen. Stat. at large vol 10 PP. 160-61](#)) Land Bounty was given the representatives of those who died or were slain in Service, and at this date no officer was entitled to Land Bounty at all unless he had served during the war. The terms of this act were general & of course embraced all who should die in the service after the passage of the act. A subsequent act, (See Stat. at Large Vol. 10. P365 or 375 [sic: [p. 375](#)]) extended this provision to all who should have died in the service before the passage of any Land bounty laws. There is, then, a provision for those who died in service, as well before as after the passage of the Land Bounty Laws. The enquiry is whether all who died in service are not entitled to Land Bounty? Was it necessary that the officer sh’d have served any particular period before his death in the service in order to entitle his representatives to Land bounty. I think not. At the time the above laws were enacted, none were entitled who had not served during the war;

& it seems to me that to require any thing more than simple death in the service, would order unmeaning [?] & negating that provision of the Law which relates to those who died in the service. Permit me also to suggest that it has been the invariable usage of the executive to allow Land bounty to those who died in the service. I mention a few cases. Colo. Wm Crawford [William Crawford BLWt921-500], Capt John Blair [John Blair VAS2517], Ens. Wm B Bunting [William B. Bunting VAS2774], Ens Nathan Weer, Lt. John Shields [John Shield VAS1752], Capt. James Kaulderwood [James Calderwood VAS2846], Capt. Goodrich Boush [R19365], Lt. Rich'd Serrant [Richard Serrant], Lt. Wm Worsham [William Worsham VAS1736], Lt. Sam'l Campbell [Samuel Campbell VAS2872], Lt. John Giles, Lt. John Green, Capt. R Lipscomb [Reuben Lipscomb VAS950], Ens. Willis Pugh, Ens. Sam'l Phillips [Samuel Phillips], Capt. Sam'l Patterson [Samuel Patterson] & many others that could be enumerated.

In relation to the other case, that of Francis F. Dunlap, I have had a conversation with you heretofore, & you recommended to me to enquire into the case. I have done so & candidly think that F. F. Dunlap was the chaplain of the 6th Reg't & not Wm Dunlap. I respectfully suggest that the conjunction and, in the last clause couples the word Chaplain to the word youth & Son in the preceding clauses. Why, in stating the death of Francis F. Dunlap, sh'd it be stated that the father Wm Dunlap, was chaplain of the 6th Regiment? And how could Wm Dunlap be rector of a parish in King & Queen & Chaplain of the 6th Reg't in service? I subjoin a copy of the obituary notice.

“Virginia gazette, May 10th 1776. (Deaths) Mr Francis Franklin Dunlap, an amiable youth, son of the Rev. Wm Dunlap, of Stratton Major parish King & Queen county, & Chaplain of the 6th Regiment.”

I respectfully solicit of your Excellency the reconsideration of these cases in my absence from Richmond. And your early attention to the subject, will much oblige
your Obt Ser't/ Jos Segar

Richmond, March 9th 35

Sir [Gov. Tazewell], I present for reconsideration the claims of Maj. M. Donovan,[sic: Matthew Donovan, claim not found], Lt. James Conway, Capt. Dohickey Arundell, Ensign James Baker VAS2350], & Francis Franklin Dunlap, for Bounty Land.

All of these officers died in the service. Several of them, perhaps all of them, were unfavourably decided upon the legal ground that officers who died in the service, acquired for their Representatives no title to Bounty Land. In addition to the Laws to which I have hitherto called your attention, I beg leave to refer you to a provision upon this subject to be found in [Hen. Stat. at Large Vol 10. P. 51.](#)

I enclose additional evidence in the case of Lt. James Conway, which I handed in to Mr Richardson & which he refused to receive & [undeciphered word].

I have to request of your Excellency a particular reconsideration of the case of F. F. Dunlap & to call your attention to the suggestions contained in a letter addressed by me to your Excellency some time in Jany last. With due deference, my own correction[?] is clearly[?] that Francis F. Dunlap was the chaplain & not Wm. Dunlap. It seems to me to be rather irreconcilable with the ordinary nature of an obituary notice to mention the fact that the father of the decedent was chaplain of a Regiment – whereas it would be far from unnatural to speak of the deceased as the son of a particular person of a particular place. Nor do I think that the youth of F. F. D. should be alledged against his appointment as chaplain. It was common in the revolution to take into the service, persons of youthful age or rather I should suppose, from the nature of this case at that period, such a thing was not only common, but unavoidable. I take the liberty also of suggesting that the appellation of Mr, rather than Rev'd proves nothing unfavourable. I recollect no instances in the military records in which a chaplain is spoken of as Rev. A moral & educated youth might well have been appointed a chaplain in the service.

I submit also for original consideration the case of Wm Booth [William Booth R11], a Master of the State Navy. His name is enrolled on the depreciated pay list as a master of the navy & his services sustained by the evidence of Capt. John Thomas [R100], herewith enclosed [not found].

This is the case which I asked to have excepted from the Regulation of 18th August. The ground upon which I ask it is that the parties reside in the state of Maryland.

Intending to leave Richmond on Wednesday, I shall be much favoured by an immediate consideration of these cases. Very Resp'yly/ your Obt Servt/ Jos Segar

[The following are from [bounty-land records in the Library of Virginia](#). Some documents in the file are not transcribed here because they are redundant or illegible.]

[The following are extracts from a copy made on 25 Jan 1796 from an accounting ledger. Also mentioned are Rev. William Dunlap's wife, Deborah Dunlap, and three daughters, Fanny, Debby, and Sally Dunlap.]

[illigible date] To Cash advanced the Rev;d. Doctor John Witherspoon [John Knox Witherspoon, signer of the Declaration of Independence, President of Princeton University] by order of the Rev'd Wm Dunlap on acco't. of the Education Cloathing and Boarding his son Benjamin Dunlap at Prinston College as p Rec't

1775 Octo 25 To Cash advanced Wm. Semple in full of the Revd Doct Witherspoon's Draft on me for £47.10.9 being the whole of the Doct demand ag't. the Rev'd. Wm Dunlap for his son Benjamins Education Cloathing and support at Princeton College from November 3 1772 to May 4th 1774 as p the Doct's Act rendered

To Cash advanced for sundries Cloathing when Frank Dunlap sailed from this Port by order of his Father

To the Governor & Counsel of Virginia

I Benjamin Frankling Robinson one of the grand children of William Dunlap formerly of King & Queen County Virginia do hear by declair my belief that my Uncle Franklin Dunlap, sone of the afforesaid Wiliam Dunlap was appointed Chaplain of one of the Virginia Regiments in the Revolutionary War and died in the service of His Country son after his appointment It is the [undeciphered word] which has [undeciphered word] regulating dower to our Famaly that boath of our Uncles Francis Franklin & Benjamin Frankling Dunlap [Benjamin Franklin Dunlap] died [undeciphered word] in the Service of their County; I have frequently heard my Mother who was the daughter of Rev. William Dunlap Speak of them her two Brothers and that I was called Benjamin Franklin after them. From what I have allways understood [undeciphered word] from the conversation of my Mother, I have no hesitation in expressing my belief Sincerely and Confidently that my Uncle Francis Franklin Dunlap as well as Benjamin F Dunlap died in the service in the Revolutionary war

I will further state that from the examination recently made of old papers (which I file herewith) I find that my uncle Francis Franklin Dunlap was at College as early as 1774 from which I infur that he was olde enough to officiate as Chaplain in 1776. I have also heard my Mother say that one of her brothers was educated for a minister; ever since I colde recollect I have always herd that my Uncles ware in the survice and died therein.

I respectfully ask of the Governor & Council of Va. the usual allowance of bounty Land
I will further add that I have heard my Mother say that her Brother Francis officiated with her Fater in his duties as a Pator of his Parish

Benjamin F. Robinson

Sworn & subscribed to before me an alderman in and for the city of Richmond this 25 May 1835

Tho. B. Bigger

NOTE: A document dated 1 Dec 1837 lists the heirs of Francis Franklin Dunlap as Benjamin Robinson, Hallowell Walker, and John Robinson.