

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

Virginia documents pertaining to Mathew Donovan VAS3400
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris.

[The following are from [bounty-land records in the Library of Virginia](#) indexed as Donavan, Mathew. Some documents in the file are not transcribed because they are either illegible or not considered significant.]

To his Excellency David Campbell Gov. &c.

The petition of Richard D Rollins only heir of Maj. Mathew Donovan of the Va. Cont'l line, represents that said Donovan was commissioned 17th January 1776 as Major in the Va. Cont'l. line, & that he died in the service in the early part of the same year – that in August 1835 the Executive of the Com[monwea]lth allowed y'r petitioner Bounty land for 3 years only – that he considers himself entitled to additional Bounty for upwards of one year & three months & prays the allowance thereof. He refers to the papers filed & acted on in August 1835 & the references made therein to the record as well as to the Com'rs. report filed therewith [not transcribed], which he respectfully submits, will sustain the foregoing statement.
Richard D Rollins/ By Tho H Bayly his attorney in fact.

Case of Major Matthew Donovan.

In the journals of the Convention (in the Library) 12th Jany 1776 the following resolution appears. “Resolved – that Matthew Donnovan be appointed Major to the 9th Regiment” – Page 94.

In the 1st Vol. Virginia Gazette, appears the following obituary notice viz – “Deaths. Matthew Donnovan Esq. Major of the 9th Regiment. He was taken ill of a pleurisy, in Gloucester county & died in 9 days. He was a gentleman of great abilities, of much integrity & benevolence and a true friend to America, & no doubt would have made an excellent officer.” (Va. Gazette. Vol. 1st Feby 9th 1776.

In addition to the evidence of his appointment & death in the service, the affidavit of John Eyre Esq of the E. Shore [Eastern Shore] of Va. is filed, confirming the above statements of public history. A reconsideration of the claim for Bounty Land is requested.

Northampton County Virginia This day [13 July 1835] came before me [undeciphered word] of the Sup'r Ct. of Law & Chancery in said County John Eyre of same County aged sixty seven years who deposeth & sayeth that tho but lad at the time that the events took place on which he is requested to give testimony yet does distinctly recollect that a certain Matthew Donnovan was a private teacher in the family of this the deponents father that he [several undeciphered words] by the conversation in the family that the aforesaid Matthew Donovan upon the breaking out of the war in 1775 did leave the family in which he had resided some years & the county aforesaid & joined the american troops then collected near Norfolk he well recollects the pride he felt at hearing of [several undeciphered words; see endnote] at the Battle of the Great Bridge [9 Dec 1775] & the sorrow of hearing soon afterwards of the death of said Donavan while in the service of his adopted country
John Eyre

NOTE: The Commissioner's summary report for the governor paraphrases the last partially undeciphered passage as follows: “the said Donovan behav'd gallantly at the Battle of the great Bridge.”