

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

Virginia documents pertaining to William Ramsay VAS2030
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris.

[The following are among [rejected claims in the Library of Virginia](#) indexed as Ramsey, William]

To his Excellency the Governor of Virg'a.

Your memorialists respectfully represent that they are heirs at law of Doct'r William Ramsay late of the Town of Alexandria. That the said William Ramsay was a native born citizen of the said town which at the commencement of the American Revolution and for some years after, constituted a portion of the State of Virg'a. That during the s'd. American Revolution he the said William Ramsay was duely coms'd [commissioned] a Surgeon's Mate in the middle Department of the Army of the U. States and as such continued to serve till the end of said War. Your memorialists are advised that according to an act of the Virg'a. Assembly, Virg'a. land bounty is allowed in such cases, as if the officer had been coms'd. in the Va. Contl. or State Line. They therefore pray that the same may be allowed to them and that warrants may be issued for the same. They further represent that in consequence of an application before the congress of the U. States at their late Session for commutation pay due on account of said officer's serving, the original coms'n. of said officers and their original papers being filed with that [part missing] and your memorialists further represent that on their said application for commutation pay, a report was made by a committee of the Senate of the U. States by bill allowing the said Commutation to your petitioners.

They pray that their said claim be examined, and that they may receive such aids as their case may require & they will ever pray &c

Sarah R Cawood
Jane A. Ramsay
Eliza T. Blacklock
G. W. D. Ramsay

Dan'l. P. Porter
Elizabeth R Porter
Sarah R Porter
R. T. Ramsay
Jas M Stuart
R. T. Ramsay
Ann M Blacklock

To Mr. William Ramsay

Reposing special confidence in your fidelity, industry and knowledge in the profession of physic, We do, by virtue of the powers granted to us by Congress nominate, and appoint you a Mate in the military hospitals in the middle department under our direction. You are therefore dilligently [to] exercise the duties of said Station, and to obey all the commands you may receive from us, and other your superior Officers according to the rules and discipline established for regulating the military hospitals.

Philad'a/ April 22 1777

B. Rush S. General of the M. Department

paid until 8th Sep't 1777

Honord Sir Brookelyne [sic: Brooklyn] April 9th 1783

I fortunately in an unfortunate situation met my worthy friend Wm. Hunter, from whom I have receiv'd many civilities. I am happy to inform you that I am well and rejoice at the [several words missing from online image] happiness. [rest of page missing from online image] my Country free. I have contributed to it – a matter of great consolation. May heaven bless you the best Father in the World and my dear Mother the best woman in the world – & most worthy Brother and amiable sisters. Your dutiful son with every sence of gratitude/ William Ramsay
William Ramsay Esq'r./ Alexandria Virginia

Dist. of Columbia Alexandria County to wit.

Personally came before the subscriber a justice of the peace in and for the county and district aforesaid Daniel Payne of the said County, and who the subscriber believes to be worthy of credit and being duly sworn according to law deposed. That he was [rest of page missing from online image] -tered the service in the War of the Revolution as a Surgeon and he further saith that the said William Ramsay did not return home till the return of general peace to stay any length of time – and affiant is confident that he was in active service to the end of the said War. William Ramsay the father of s'd. Doct'r. William Ramsay lived in Alex'a at the time of said War Col'n Denis Ramsay was a brother of officer. His children to wit Jesse T. Ramsay and others of Alex'a and other persons residing in Washington and Maryland are the heirs of s'd. Doct'r. Ramsay. And further this deponent saith not. Given under my hand this fifteenth day of Jan'y 1835 Jon'a. Shillaber

The committee on revolutionary claims, to which is referred the petition of the representatives of Dr. William Ramsay deceased, respectfully report:

That the petitioners represent, that their ancestor William Ramsay was duly appointed and commissioned a Surgeon's Mate in the military hospitals in the Middle department of the Continental Army, during the revolutionary war, and served till the end of the war; and they ask, that they be allowed the compensation in land and money provided by the resolution of Congress for officers who served such service.

It is clearly proved, that Dr. Ramsay was appointed and commissioned a surgeon's mate, as stated in the petition; and there is, in the opinion of [this] Committee, satisfactory proof, that he served till the end of the war.

The merits of the claim for commutation &c depends on the question, whether a surgeon's mate was an officer to whom half pay for life or commutation of five years full pay, was given by the resolution of Congress; and the committee holds the affirmative, for reasons explained in its report on the petition of the representatives of Gustavus B. Horner deceased.

[From [Library of Virginia Legislative Petitions Digital Collection](#)/ Alexandria (City)– Ramsay, Jesse]

To the Senate and House of Delegates of the Virg'a. Assembly

Your petitioners Jesse T. Ramsay – Eliza Blacklock – Robert T. Ramsay – Ann McCarty Blacklock – Jane A. Ramsay – Geo. W. D. Ramsay & James M. Stuart of the town of Alexandria and Amelia Barry of Baltimore, & Daniel Porter – Sarah R. Porter – Betsey Porter & Sally Cawood of Washington City & Ann Allison & John Allison of Fedrick [sic: Frederick] County Maryland Respectfully beg leave to represent that the late William Ramsay of Alexandria D.C. was duly commissioned a Surgeon's Mate in the Continental Army, by Benjamin Rush Surgeon Gen'l. of the Middle Department – on the 22nd of Ap'l. 1777 and that he entered the service of the United States under said Commission, and continued to serve to the end of the War of the Revolution. The said William Ramsay was a son of William Ramsay of Alexandria, and was a native citizen of that town at the time that he entered the service and after the close of the war returned to & lived there till his death. For these facts our petitioners refer to a copy of said officer's commission herewith filed and of a letter addressed by him to his father William Ramsay, just after the close of hostilities, and the affidavits of Daniel Payne. The originals of these several papers having been filed with their petition before the Congress of the U. States they cannot exhibit said originals, and on which the committee of the Senate of that Body at its last session made a favorable report for the allowance of commutation pay equal to that allowed to a Captain of the Line. Your petitioners now respectfully say that as the said Dr. William Ramsay was a citizen of the Commonwealth of Virginia when he entered the service of the U. States, and was so after the close of said War, that he was entitled to the same land bounty from Virginia, as if he had served either in her state Line or on Continental Establishment (See Hen. Stat. at Large Vol. 10. 9. 537) [[Hening's Statutes at Large](#)] They therefore pray that a law may pass authorising the Register of the Land Office to issue

Warants to the heirs of said William Ramsay accordingly. Your petitioners further say by way of explanation, that the middle Department was composed of all the country extending from the Hudson to the Patomac [sic: Potomac] (see Journals of Congress Vol. 1 p 274 – and that Dr. Rush was duly authorised to make appointments to Surgeon’s Mates for that Department, see Jour. Con. 1st July 1777 Vol. 2 – and as it appears from the direction of the letter of said William Ramsay, that he was at Brooklin & within that Department, it is fair to be inferred that he was in service at the time that said letter was written. Your petitions believing themselves to be entitled to the land bounty thus promised by Virginia preferred their petition to his Excellency Governor Tazwell [sic: Tazewell] within the last year, and for some cause unknown to them he rejected their claim. They confidently believe that your Honorable bodies will see sufficient cause to grant to them the land prayed for & they as in duty bound ever pray
Thos. Hord agent & atto. in fact for the heirs of Dr Ramsay above named

Jan’y 23^d 1836 ref’d to Rev’y C[lai]ms

[The following are among [bounty-land records in the Library of Virginia](#) indexed as Ramsey, William.]

District of Columbia }
Alexandria County } To wit

Daniel Payne a respectable resident of said Town, and whose statement I believe to be worthy of full faith & credit has this day personally appeared before the subscriber a justice of the peace in & for said County & District & being first duly sworn according to law, deposeth & saith that he is now in his 80th year. That he was born & raised in the said Town of Alexandria. That he is now & has from his infancy been well acquainted with the Ramsay family in said Town. That the late Doctor William Ramsay was the son of William Ramsay of said Town – born & raised in said Town of Alexandria then being a part of the State of Virginia. That he was the same individual who served as a Surgeon Mate in the War of the Revolution & continued in said service till the close of said War – and returned home to his father’s residence in said Town of Alexandria – and died some years after his s’d return in said Town of Alexandria. He was never married. He was full brother of Col. Dennis Ramsay late of said Town, whose children are his heirs. They are as follows to wit – Mrs. Eliza Blacklock – Amelia Barry – Jesse T. Ramsay – Robert Ramsay – Washington Ramsay Mrs. Ann Blackclock dec’d. Mrs. Sally Porter lately dec’d – Mrs. Hannah Madden dec’d and their respective heirs are the heirs as aforesaid. And further he saith not. Given under my hand this 30th day of June 1837. Charles Scott J.P.

Heirs of Dr Wm Ramsey Surgeons Mate

This claim has been, as I understand rejected upon the ground that the laws of Va. have not given bounty land to Hospital Surgeons or mates. This I cannot believe These surgeons were as meritorious a class of officers as any others in the medical department – and I think intended to be provided for as well as others Unless they are included under the term of Brigade surgeons then that term has no meaning.

March 15th 1838.

This claim is allowed for a served from 22^d Apr’l 1777 to 3^d nov 1783 as a surgeons mate
[undeciphered abbreviation] DC [Gov. David Campbell]