

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Bounty Land Warrant information relating to Moses Rawlings VAS683

[vsl 18VA](#)

Transcribed by Will Graves

6/9/13

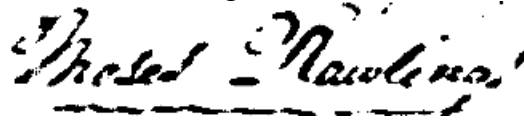
[Methodology: Spelling, punctuation and/or grammar have been corrected in some instances for ease of reading and to facilitate searches of the database. Where the meaning is not compromised by adhering to the spelling, punctuation or grammar, no change has been made. Corrections or additional notes have been inserted within brackets or footnotes. Blanks appearing in the transcripts reflect blanks in the original. A bracketed question mark indicates that the word or words preceding it represent(s) a guess by me. Only materials pertinent to the military service of the veteran and to contemporary events have been transcribed. Affidavits that provide additional information on these events are included and genealogical information is abstracted, while standard, 'boilerplate' affidavits and attestations related solely to the application, and later nineteenth and twentieth century research requests for information have been omitted. I use speech recognition software to make all my transcriptions. Such software misinterprets my southern accent with unfortunate regularity and my poor proofreading fails to catch all misinterpretations. Also, dates or numbers which the software treats as numerals rather than words are not corrected: for example, the software transcribes "the eighth of June one thousand eighty six" as "the 8th of June 1786." Please call errors or omissions to my attention.]

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

To his Excellency John Floyd Governor, and the Honorable Council of Virginia
The Petition of Moses Rawlings respectfully sheweth that his father the late Colonel Moses Rawlings was on the 22nd June 1775 commissioned a Lieutenant in the Army of the United States Continental establishment on the first day of October 1775 he was promoted to a captaincy, that on the 27th day of June 1778 he was commissioned a Lieutenant Colonel under the command of Hugh Stephenson Esquire, all of which will appear by papers No. 1, 2, 3 – that the said Moses Rawlings continued in active service from the date of his first commission until the capture of Fort Washington where he distinguished himself as will appear by reference to Marshall's *Life of Washington*. That he continued with the Troops at Fort Washington and was severely wounded, and had his leg fractured. That he remained a prisoner for nearly a year and upon his return found the Army [indecipherable word, possibly "reduced"?]¹, leaving him without a command. That on the 3rd January 1779 General Washington addressed a letter to him encouraging him to endeavor to collect the remnant of his Regiment and to raise recruits as will appear by paper No. 4. That on the 7th of March 1779 General Washington wrote to him upon the same subject and supplied money as will appear by Paper No. 5. That the said Moses Rawlings failing in his effort to recruit his Regiment and anxious to remain in the service of his country so that he could be useful to it, continued to hold his commission as Lieutenant Colonel and accepted in addition thereto an appointment in the staff of assistant deputy Quarter Master General. The various duties of which office were faithfully performed as will appear by paper No. 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, & 13. That paper No. 14 shows his service to the end of the war. Your petitioner would further state that the said Colonel Moses Rawlings performed the duties assigned him in the staff with an anxious desire at all times to resume his command in the line whenever an opportunity could offer and of engaging in active service. But by the force of circumstances over which he had no control, was prevented from doing so. Your petitioner conceives from the papers here with exhibited that he is justly entitled to the benefit of the resolve of Congress in favor of those officers who remained in service during the war, as well supernumeraries as others were.
Annual petitioner further shows that the said Moses Rawlings died in the year 1809, leaving your petitioner & a sister and brother (both of whom died without being married and leaving no issue)

his sole heir and legatee. That Roger Polley who was the guardian for your petitioner and his said deceased brother and sister and Executor of the last will and testament of the said Moses Rawlings deceased died some time ago; and as the estate of the testator was settled up, and all his debts paid your petitioner prays that your honor will grant him a warrant for such Bounty Lands as you may think him justly entitled &c – And your petitioner will ever pray &c.

S/ Moses Rawlings



February 17th, 1834

[p. 5: Commission dated October 2, 1779 appointing Moses Rawlings as deputy assistant Quarter Master General of the Army of the United States for Fort Frederick in Washington County in the Weston shore of Maryland with his paid to be at the rate of \$140 per month. The commission is signed by James Calhoun Quartermaster General by order of Major General Nathanael Greene, Quarter Master General of the Army of the United States.]

[p 7]

Head Quarters Philadelphia 31st January 1779

Sir

I transmit you a copy of a resolve of Congress authorizing you to recruit the three remaining companies of your Corps to the full establishment. You will therefore appoint an officer to repair immediately to head Quarters where he will be furnished with money for the purpose. If you have any fund which you could apply in the meantime to that service, it would be an advantage to enter on the business instantly.

I have only to add that the Bounty now allowed to Soldiers who enlisted for the war is two hundred Dollars, besides clothing and Land as before. And that I remain Sir

your most Obed. Sert.

S. G. Washington

PS Let me know the precise number of men you now have in the 3 companies
Colonel Rawlings

[pp 17-18]

Petition for Bounty Land²
Heirs of Moses Rawlings Col. Va. Cont. Line

The evidence in this case is voluminous, and it would not be proper to refer to & examine it minutely.

It appears that Moses Rawlings was Lieutenant of Rifleman in June 1775 - was commissioned Captain of Rifleman in October 1775 - was commissioned Lieutenant Colonel of a Rifle Regiment commanded by Colonel Hugh Stephenson on the 27th June 1776 - was wounded & taken prisoner in November 1776 at Fort Washington on York Island where he made

² My attention was drawn to this document by email from Michael Wood whose transcription of it appears below. Thanks to Mr. Wood for providing this valuable addition to the database.

a gallant defence against Genl Knickhausen's Division of Hessians. He was then taken to New York and imprisoned for 2 years. That after his return from captivity he was recognised by General Washington, by the Secretary of War and by the Board of War as Colonel.

That he was then urged by General Washington to collect the remnants of his regiment & raise recruits. That being without a command as Colonel in consequence of the dispersion of his regiment who were all made prisoners at Fort Washington and in consequence of a new arrangement of the Army whilst he was prisoner he was offered, and accepted a Staff appointment, to wit that of Adjutant Quarter Master General of the Continental Army at Fort Frederick.

In November and December 1781 he was in service and General Washington ordered him to assist in moving the British prisoners from Fort Frederick to Lancaster in Pennsylvania. That he was in service as Adjutant Quarter Master General until November 1783. That he lived before the Revolution in, and after it died in the State of Virginia. It is in proof also that after the close of the war he stood very high in the estimation of General Washington, & was in 1791 offered a Command in the United States Navy.

This claim seems to me to be sustained by the most satisfactory evidence; and I am of the opinion, that it ought to be allowed for a service from June 22, 1775 to the end of the war as Colonel.

John H. Smith 13 March 1834

[Note: Most of the documents referred to in this petition were copied in split images when posted online. I have elected not to try to transcribe those documents given the poor quality of the images.]

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

Col. Moses Rawlings

John Fudge	private
George Richardson	do
Robert Miller	do
John Hutt	do
James Braxton	do
Benj. Kidd [Benjamin Kidd]	do
Wm Willoughby [William Willoughby]	do
Valentine Cunningham	do

As I am about leaving Richmond for this I should be glad the Governor & Council would pass on the above claims, most of which have been presented 2 months since or rather filed with the clerk.

March 7, 1831

S/ Cadwallader Wallace
pr Matthew Bonner

Protunna [?], Near Martinsburg Berkeley County Virginia September 29th 1830

Sir

Your Letter of the 14th Instant was not received until this evening probably owing to its direction to Shepherdstown & neglected fording to Martinsburg near which I reside. I hasten to answer your inquiry.

The Surgeon of whose claim I mentioned to you is Garret Tunison.³ He was Citizen of this State in 1775, entered with Captain Hugh Stephenson with myself, served at the Siege of Boston until after the British left it – In 1776 Captain H. Stephenson raised a Regiment of Riflemen in which I was a Lieutenant. Tunison received an appointment as Surgeon in a mixed Regiment of US Artillery his Commission signed by Hanson [John Hanson] President of Congress early in 1779, was at the Siege of York & served to the end of the war. Received neither pay or bounty lands from Virginia but immediately retired to Pluckemin, Jersey [New Jersey] in the vicinity of which he has resided ever since, no doubt he received his pay & from the US but nowhere else, – as to Lieutenant Colonel Rawlings – Several inquiries respecting his said claim to Virginia lands have been heretofore made of me, – In July 1775 Captain Hugh Stephenson & Daniel Morgan Raised each a Rifle Company the first troops raised in Virginia at some time, Captain Michael Cresap & Thomas Price each raised a like company, I entered with Stephenson, we marched to the Siege of Boston, and just after the Battle of Bunker's Hill, those four Companies were stationed at Roxbury, Boston Neck, sometime in the fall or winter Captain Cresap returning to his home on furlough, died at New York and Moses Rawlings his first Lieutenant was promoted and commanded the company, until the year say 10th June 1776 expired, early in June 1776 he knew Stephenson of Virginia, Moses Rawlings and Otho Holland Williams the latter from Maryland were ordered & commissioned to raise a Rifle Regiment five companies from Virginia & four from Maryland –

[The image of this document as posted is cut off at this point]

[next page]

Middle of October we were ordered to cross the River to assist in the defense of Fort Washington, on the 16th of November 1776 the British Army under the immediate command of General Howe attacked Fort Washington with vastly superior numbers, and having killed or wounded most of our Regiment, we were compelled & did surrender by Capitulation, in that day's action Lieutenant Colonel Commandant Moses Rawlings & his Major Otho H Williams myself with many others were wounded, we were taken to New York and when our wounds were healed or nearly so, all the officers were sent to Long Island on Parole, Sometime after we were placed there, we were placed on board a prison Ship in Close confinement, of course, our paroles of honor were no longer binding, of course projects of escape were daily & hourly forming, Just after dark in a very hazy foggy time a small boat was procured which would carry but three persons, Colonel Rawlings, Colonel Livingston & Colonel John Stuart, those being the highest Rank on board, were set down into the boat, the rope cut they drifted through the British fleet unobserved, and made their escape – I have been thus particular, to do away with possible charge of dishonorable or suspicious conduct by my departed friend – I was an eye witness to the most I have related. Colonel Rawlings immediately resumed the command of the remnant of his Regiment was stationed at Fort Frederick &c. The State of Maryland did not provide for the Maryland part of his Regiment, as was done by Virginia, by taking it into the line; at the end of three years some of those Maryland Officers obtained Commissions in other regiments but Colonel Rawlings was not provided for, though his Major Otho H Williams, obtained a Maryland Regiment.

³ [Garret \(Garrit\) Tunison W1099](#)

I knew not that Colonel Rawlings had any command of Militia at any time – he was considered while in service a Maryland Officer & so were all those of the four Companies, & I do not recollect and instance of any of them applying for Virginia pay or bounty lands. If so it was certainly not granted.

I am perhaps the only person now living who knows the situation of Colonel Rawlings as an Officer, except General Samuel Smith of Maryland member of the Senate US from Maryland, who no doubt remembers the predicament in which he stood at the time I have been describing – I fear I cannot assist Rawlings heirs in obtaining their desire, the Colonel was [again, the image of this document is cut off at the bottom thereof at this point. It is not clear from anything I could find who authored this document.]

Addendum to Moses Rawlings VAS683

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. 13 July 2021.

[From [bounty-land records in the Library of Virginia](#). The file consists of copies of original documents.]

In Congress

The Delegates of the United Colonies of New Hampshire Massachusetts Bay Rhode Island

Connecticut New York New Jersey Pennsylvania the Counties of New Castle Kent and Sussex in

Delaware Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina and Georgia to

Moses Rawlings Esq'r.

We reposing especial trust and confidence in your Patriotism, Valour, Conduct and Fidelity Do by

these presents constitute and appoint you to be: Lieutenant Colonel of a Regiment of Riflemen whereof Hugh Stevenson Esq'r is Colonel, in the army of the United Colonies raised for the defence of American Liberty and for repelling every hostile invasion thereof. You are therefore carefully and diligently to discharge the duty of Lieutenant Colonel by doing and performing all manner of things thereto belonging. And we do strictly charge and require all Officers and Soldiers under your command to be obedient to your orders as Lieutenant Colonel; And you are to observe and follow such orders and Directions from time to time, as you shall receive from this or a future Congress of the United Colonies or Committee of Congress for that purpose appointed, or Commander in chief for the time being of the Army of the United Colonies, or any other your superior officer, according to the rules and Discipline of order, in Pursuance of the Trust reposed in you This Commission to continue in force until revoked by this or a future Congress

Philadelphia June 27th 1776/

By order of the Congress/ John Hancock President

Attest. Chas Thompson Secy

⁴ [Henry Bedinger S8059](#)

In Congress
The Delegates of the United Colonies of New Hampshire Massachusetts Bay Rhode
Island
Connecticut New York New Jersey Pennsylvania the Counties of New Castle Kent and Sussex
in
Delaware Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina & South Carolina to Moses Rawlings Gent.
We reposing especial trust and confidence in your patriotism, Valour, Conduct and
Fidelity Do by these presents constitute and appoint you to be First Lieutenant in Capt Cresaps
company of Riflemen in the army of the United Colonies raised for the defence of American
Liberty and for repelling every hostile
invasion thereof. You are therefore carefully and diligently to discharge the duty of Lieut....

In Congress
The Delegates of the United Colonies of New Hampshire Massachusetts Bay Rhode
Island Connecticut New York New Jersey Pennsylvania the Counties of New Castle Kent
and Sussex in Delaware Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina & South Carolina to
Moses Rawlings Esq'r.
We reposing especial trust and confidence in your Patriotism, Valour, Conduct and
Fidelity Do by these presents constitute and appoint you to be Captain of a company of Riflemen
in the Army of the United Colonies raised for the defence of American Liberty and for
repelling....

War Office. May 10th 1778
Sir If you cannot collect a sufficient number of the men of your Regiment to do the duty as
guards at Fort Frederick [now Ft Frederick State Park near Big Pool MD, you are authorized to
enlist a company for one year at the Continental Bounty and a Suit of Clothes These men are to
be stationed at that Post but react against the Indians if ordered. You will put this Company under
the command of some officers of
your Regiment.
I am to inform you that the [undeciphered word] have given permission to Mr. Joseph
Simms the [undeciphered word] Commissary of Prisoners to provide them with rations as usual
until the first day of June when the orders hereafter given you are to take Place.
Col. Moses Rawlings I am Your Obt. Servt./ Richard Peters/ By order

Head Quarters/ Middlebrook [NJ] 7th March 1779
Sir Your letter of the 15th ultimo was handed me by Capt Beale.
That you may not be embarrassed for want of money in reenlisting such of your men
whose times
of service have expired, or will soon terminate, I have given a warrant to Capt. Beale for fifteen
thousand dollars for this purpose and that of filling up the corps by new recruits. You will
proceed in re-enlisting agreeable to the terms and principles established in the general orders
which accompany this letter.
I make no doubt that you will appoint such officers for the recruiting service as may appear
best
calculated to answer the end and to such places as promise the greatest success. Every new
recruit is to receive two hundred dollars, besides the usual Bounties of Land and clothing. The
officers who go on this business will be entitled to twenty[?] dollars per head for every new

recruit; and [undeciphered] dollars a day for [undeciphered] expences. Under these encouragements I hope you will be able to fill up the Corps to the complement assigned by Congress.

Captain Beale has mentioned to me a degree of dissatisfaction among the officers respecting their rank. They must be satisfied it is not in my power to make any alterations. In placing the corps in its present state, every thing has been done which that would be prudently effected. And I would suppose that the officers after weighing the circumstances under which your regiment was first raised, and the disadvantages under which it has labored will be of the same opinion. However, should any of them decline the service on this account, you will take such measures with those who continue, so that the re- enlisting and recruiting may be kept up, and the corps attain its proper form, avoiding a new appointment of officers.

The terms in which you speak of the recruiting business is one reason why I have not sent you more money. But should it turn out better than you suppose, you may soon have another sum. In the mean while you should not lose a single recruit but, if possible borrow for this purpose till you can receive a further supply

When you send for money, I shall expect a particular return of the expenditure of what is drawn, to include the new recruits and the names and number of the re-enlisted.

You will use such precaution, as that the recruits may be collected, from time to time with the corps; and that the whole may be held in perfect readiness to march to Pittsburg at a moments warning.

I am Sir, Your most Obt. humble Servt./ G Washington

P.S. In case you find after trial, that the officers on the recruiting service meet with no success you

will [undeciphered word] them; as a needless expence to the Continent will be incurred by their continuance.

to Lt. Colonel Rawlings

Philadelphia September 29 1779.

Sir The Board of War having ordered a number of Prisoners to be stationed at Fort Frederick in Maryland, and Colonel Bland [Theodorick Bland VAS1859] having informed me you would be kind enough to undertake acting in our Department at that Post therefore in pursuance of the [undeciphered] of Congress of [undeciphered] January 1779 I do hereby nominate and appoint you Assistant Commissary of

Issues at the above mentioned post reposing special trust and confidence in the performance of your office. I hereby annex the Resolves of Congress which points out the method the Books are to be kept on the business [undeciphered] which I recommend strictly to be adhered to. You will also receive a form[?] after which the monthly returns are to be made out and I beg your attention in transmitting to this office regularly at the expiration of that month.

The ration now issued consists of the following Articles Viz.

½ lb of Soft Bread or Flour of 1 lb of Biscuits.

½ lb of Fresh Beef or 1 lb of Salted Beef Pork or Fish.

1 Gill of Liquor occasionally upon the the Commanding Officer's order.

5 lb soap & }
3 lb Candles } To every 100 man pr. week
1 Quart Salt to every 100 lb Fresh Beef
A Fatigue Ration, which none but Artificers have a right to receive consists of
½ lb of Flour or Bread.
½ lb of Fresh Beef or 18 Oz Salted Provision
1 Gill of Liquor
Soap and Candles as needed.
I remain Sir/ Your very hbl Servt/ Gustavus Risberg/ D.C.G. of Issues
Col. Rawlings A.C. of Issues

To Colonel Moses Rawlings

By virtue of the power and authority to me given by Major General Nathaniel Greene [sic: Nathanael Greene], Quarter Master General of the Army of the United States; I hereby do constitute and appoint you an assistant Deputy Quarter Master General of the Army of the United States for Fort Frederick in Washington County, and do authorize and empower you to contract for and purchase all such goods and stores in the Quarter Master Department, as shall be directed by the Quarter Master General, his assistant Quarter Master General or the Deputy Quarter Master General for the western Shore of Maryland, and generally to do and perform all things necessary to be done and performed by an assistant or Deputy Quarter Master General in said District, and for your trouble in the premises you shall receive at the rate of one hundred and forty Dollars per month, and the usual rations.

Given under my hand at Baltimore this 2nd day of October 1779.

Jas Calhoun D.Q.M.Gen'l

War Office Nov 6 1779

Sir We have been favoured with yours of the 29th ult. relative to the militia guard at Fort Frederick. As it has not been in our power (for want of a guard) to convey the prisoners to Fort Frederick it is not possible that you discharge the militia especially as they were so mischievous tho' this happened probably in part from their having nothing to do. We could now indeed send off the prisoners, a guard being offered by this State but we shall not send them until we hear from you again. At the same time [undeciphered] you it is absolutely necessary that a body of the prisoners should be sent from hence as speedily as possible, and we beg you to apply to your State for another guard immediately. We doubt the practicability of raising a standing guard in a short time; nor are we authorized to allow the Bounty you mention of two hundred dollars. If the Assembly shall agree to raise such a guard and furnish the men (the Continent giving the usual pays and clothing) we shall be very happy. In the mean time we must request a new guard from the militia. You will be pleased to inform us when they will be ready, that w may apply here in season here for a guard to escort the prisoners; and we trust we shall not be again disappointed.

We are not sufficiently informed in regard to the Boatmen at Conococheague [near Williamsport

MD], and therefore cannot order them to be paid; We shall be glad to know by whom they were raised, upon what terms, and for what special services.

Virginia raised the guard for the Convention Troops [captured at Saratoga NY on 17 Oct 1777], the Continent [undeciphered] clothing and pay. Some of this guard are enlisted for a year and others during the residence of the Convention Troops in that State. Perhaps an exemption from draughts for the Continental Army might induce your people to engage for a year.

Col Rawlings We are Sir with great regard and esteem,/ Your Most Obt. Servts
By order of the Board/ Tim Pickering

Philadelphia April 30th 1781.

Sir Having resigned my commission as Deputy Commiss'y Gen'l of Issues I am directed by Col Charles Stewart Commiss'y Gen'l to have my accounts settled with all possible speed. You are therefore hereby requested to make up your accounts from October 1st 1779 to this day inclusive with your Books vouchers and such returns that are wanting[?] and transmit them to my office without delay, that they may be examined and adjusted.

You will also send your account of Salary for self and persons employed by you, taking notice that no account will pass the Auditors Office without being properly supported with vouchers. Therefore; to avoid expense and trouble, you will direct your People to make out their accounts at the rate underneath mentioned, with an order from you to receive their pay, which accompanied with your account will serve for a proper voucher, were the people are unwilling to give a receipt beforehand.

About the first of June next shall be glad of your personal attendance, when I am to receive from the Commiss'y Gen'l a sum of money equal to three months pay, which is granted by Congress to the whole Department, and I am directed to give certificates for the remainder of the pay; that the Debits of the Department may be ascertained, and [undeciphered word] obtained for the Payment of the [undeciphered word].

I am Sir/ Your very humble Servant/ Gustavus Risberg

Rate of Pay in October 1779

A. C. [Assistant Commissary] of Issues . 90 Dollars }
Clerk 50 Do } in Continental Currency
Testeman 35 Do
} From the first of November 1779 to this day
A. C. of Issues [?] Dolls. }
Clerk 35 Do } In state money or the New Commission pr.
month

(undeciphered)]

Testeman 30
Do } To Colo Moses Rawlings

Sir, You will please take notice that on Col Risbergs resignation Col Stewart C. G. Issues was please to appoint me in his place until the Commissary Department would be properly

arranged you will therefore make the necessary returns to this office. When any necessary instructions respecting the Department is required, you shall be timely advised. Until then remain.

Sir, Your Obt. Hbl Servt./ Thomas Jones/ D. C. G. Issues

Philad'a May 1st

1781. Col. Rawlings

Baltimore Sept. 10th 1781.

Sir, The combined forces in Virginia will be in immediate want of flour. I must therefore now more earnestly entreat you not only to forward what of that article is already on hand either to George Town [Georgetown now in the District of Columbia] or this place; but that you will not lose a moment of time in getting the wheat in you County belonging to the public manufactured into good flour and waggons without delay to George Town. If wagons should not be attainable by hire, you will please to direct the enclosed impress warrant either to yourself or to some trusty hand in whom you can rely to obviate any difficulty that may arise on that head. I intended setting off for Washington and Frederick Counties this week myself, in order to hurry the execution of this business; but the great number of troops that are passing through here will prevent me for the present; however I trust that no endeavour on your part will be wanting to expedite so necessary of peice of duty, and so important and interesting an order.

I am sir Your very hble Servt./ Jas Calhoun Commissary

Col Moses Rawlings

Gen'l W. Shore

Baltimore 5th Nov 1781.

Sir There will be at least 3000 of the Prisoners that were taken at York [Yorktown VA, 19 Oct 1781] stationed at or near Frederick-Town [MD]; You will therefore please furnish to that place what provisions you can, both of Flour and Meat, instead of sending to George Town or elsewhere; and the wheat may be manufactured agreeable to act of Assembly and not into Fine Flour. As these Prisoners and the necessary Guards must be regularly and constantly supplied with provision you will please correspond with George [undeciphered] Esq'r who is appointed issuing commissary for this purpose, and to whom the provisions is to be delivered, and know of him the quantity that he will require of you; which please supply him with if in your power, taking proper receipts for the same.

I am, Dear Sir/ your very Hble Servt./ Jas Calhoun Com Gen'l W. Shore

Col. Rawlings

Philad'a 12 Decem'r 1781.

Sir I received your favor of the 2^d inst by Col. Thomas[?]

The secretary at war, Major Gen'l [Benjamin] Lincoln, under whose orders the Prisoners of war now more immediately fall, convinced that a strict hand would be necessary over the British in particular, is about removing all those to Lancaster [PA] and to this city, where they will be closely confined under continental guard. The Foreigners [Hessians], who are more tractable, will be left in the frontier towns

General Lincoln will write to you by Col. North on this subject of assisting in the removal of the

British prisoners. You will oblige me by giving every aid in your power.

I am Sir, your most obt. Servt./ Geo Washington

Col. Rawlings

Georgetown [SC] March 29th 1791.

Sir The President of the United States, who is now at this place on a tour through the Southern States, commands me to inform you that being favorably impressed by your former services, and believing in your disposition again to serve your country, he has appointed you to command the Battalion of Levies directed, in pursuance of an act passed in the last session of Congress to be raised in the State of Maryland, for the service of the United States – and to request if the appointment meets your acceptance that you would immediately repair to Philadelphia to receive your commission and instructions from the Secretary of War.

The President of the United States commands me farther to inform you that the rank of Major Commandant being the first grade of the Battalion Officers was of course the highest he could confer.

I have the honor to be, Sir/ Your Most Obedient Servant/ W. Jackson
Moses Rawlings/ Fort Frederick/ Washington County
[For context of the above letter, see <https://founders.archives.gov/documents/Washington/05-08-02-0010>]

Georgetown, March 30th 1791

Sir As it is of importance to the Public Service that the Secretary of War should be informed as soon as possible of your determination relative to your appointment to command the Battalion of Levies, The President of the United States requests that you will [undeciphered word] your decision to Gen'l [Henry] Knox immediately on the receipt of this letter.

I am, very respectfully, Sir/ Your Most Obt. Servt/ W.
Jackson

Baltimore 20th April 1791.

Dear Sir I embrace the favourable opportunity of Col. West (who will forward this) to tell you that I am now endeavoring to arrange the Maryland Battalion of Levies. The President of the U. States has [undeciphered] Col Darick of Va. to appoint all the officers to those Battal'ns of that State and I believe offered him the Command of the regt. but am told here by a gentleman of his neighborhood, that in all probability it will not be in his power to serve, in which case, it will be in my power to offer you the Regt.

This I shall do with great pleasure can I only have assurance of your acceptance. Will you then my dear Sir waive ceremony and as a friend be explicit with me on this subject. I have the [undeciphered] with me for completing the Regt. This matter decided by Col. Darick and yourself will enable me to meet you at Frederick Town to arrange every matter to facilitate the recruiting service in your quarter. I hear recruits engage fast about Shepherdstown it is brisk and [undeciphered] in Pennsylv'a and other places. Your old acquaintance Col. George Gibson has one Regt. It will give your friends great pleasure to see you at the head of another and to [two undeciphered words] them

Dear Sir Your Obedt Hubl Servt./ Richard Butler Maj Genl
Col Moses Rawlings

I shall hope to hear from you explicitly in a few days.

Cumberland Mary'd Jany 20 1834

In reply to enquiries made of me as to my knowledge of the services of Col. Moses Rawlings in

the Revolutionary war I answer that I know a Regt of Riflemen was called for by the Continental Congress very early in the war (1775) that Col. Stephenson of Virginia was appointed to the command of it that Dan'l Morgan [Daniel Morgan] and Mich'l Cresap commanded two of the Companies, and that Moses Rawlings was first Lieutenant in Capt. Cresaps company. I well remember the rapidity with which these troops were raised and march by companies to join Gen'l Washington at Boston, as well as the praise bestowed upon them, for their exemplary and Soldier like conduct which made impressions on my young mind at the time which can never be forgotten. I was then a Militia Soldier of 16 and joined the army myself the year following. Col Stephenson [fall of 1776] and Capt. Cresap [Oct 1775] both died the first campaign, and such were the changes by promotion and otherwise among the officers of the Regt, that Lieut Rawlings in the course of the second Campaign was promoted. I have seen his Commission, "Lieut Col. of a Reg't of Riflemen whereof Hugh Stephenson is Col in the army of the United States dated the [blank] day of June 1776. Jno Hancock President" and he was Lieut. Col. Commandant when opposed to Genl. Kniphausen's [sic: Knyphausen] division of Hessians in the hard fought battle at Fort Washington

on York Island, in Nov'r 1776, where (according to Gordons History) he killed 800 of them, and [undeciphered] the Fort before it Surrendered to the British Army tho' wounded himself He was then taken to the City of New York where he suffered a cruel imprisonment of two years. I well remember when he returned again to Camp expecting to find a command ready for him, but on the contrary, under the final organization of the Army, in the winter 1776-7 no provision was made for him. Each state had furnished its full quota of officers and none had thought of him tho' suffering in a loathsome prison.

For a time he was charged with the care of prisoners, at Fort Frederick. In the year 1781 he was

commissary of Supplies to the Troops marching to Virginia, and when I arrived at Frederick Town, with a part of the Prisoners taken at York Town, I found them [him?] in Nov. of the same year engaged in that business which he continued to do until the final close of the war in the fall of 1783.

After the war he lived and died on his Farm on Patterson Creek, Hampshire County [now in WV].

My residence was seven or eight miles from his. I saw him often in his own house, I visited him in his last illness, and I saw him buried with all the honors of War in the year 1809.

David Lynn [W9151]

Capt. 7 Mary'd Reg't Cont'l Army.

Richmond Feby 27th 1834.

Dear Sir, As for the question you asked me last evening concerning Col Moses Rawlings, Viz "If I was acquainted with him, and if he lived in Virginia." I can answer that I was well acquainted with him for many years, perhaps from 1784 to his death which was about 1809. That he lived in Virginia on the North Branch of Potomac at the mouth of Paterson Creek where he died and is buried; That I always have heard it said that Michael Cresap and he (Rawlings) raised a Company in or about 1775 and marched to New York; that Cresap died in the service and Rawlings was promoted finally to a Colonel, and that he was wounded in a Battle – perhaps at Fort Washington and I always did hear it said that he was a Virginian

when he and Cresap raised the Company; But this I do not know from my own knowledge, and my father moved to Virginia in 1752 and I was young at that time, and what I state I am ready above to testify if required.

I am yours with respect/ Wm

Donaldson

George McCulloch Esq

Virginia City of Richmond towit

This day William Donaldson Senator representing the Berkely [sic: Berkeley] District made oath

before me that the matters set forth in the within Document are true. Given under my hand this

12th March

1834.

Joseph Tate Mayor