

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Josiah Ramsay (Ramsey) S17036

f29VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

6/4/12

[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.]


State of Missouri Calloway County: SS

On this 15th day of February 1834 personally appeared before many one of the Judges of the County Court of Calloway County Josiah Ramsay a resident of the County and State aforesaid aged (as near as can be ascertained) about eighty-one years who being first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the act of Congress passed June the 7th 1832.

That before he was old enough to have a distinct recollection of things he was taken prisoner by the Shawnee Indians, and remained with them a number of years and when he was restored by treaty he was claimed by a family whose name he bears, but he has long since been well satisfied and knows well that he was not one of the family that claimed him, and owing to the above circumstance he cannot state certainly his age or the place where born, but believes he was born on Goose Creek in the state of Virginia sometime between the year 1750 & 1755, he has no record of his age, he is told & believes General Braddock was defeated in the year 1755 and he knows he must have been born before that period as he was old enough and well recollects seeing the French [indecipherable word]¹ the Ohio [River] when Pittsburgh was taken he being then a prisoner with the Indians.

He was living near the Long Island on Holston [River], and is told and believes the battle of the Conhawa [Kanawha, also known as the Battle of Point Pleasant, fought during the so-called Lord Dunmore's War October 10, 1774] was fought in the fall of the year 1774 (if [word written over and indecipherable] he served as a Spy from the Spring of the year 1775 until fall to state the precise day of commencing this Service or the precise date when it ceased for the years is at this late period of time impossible, but he will most positively state that in the year 1775, 1776, 1777, 1778, 1779 & 1780, he was constantly engaged as a Spy from early in the spring until fall and as he is told he must fix some certain period in each year, he will state that he has no hesitation in saying that he was regularly and [indecipherable word]² engaged each year from the 1st of May until the 1st of November he mentions those periods in order to be certain he is within the time but he well recollects of being out as a Spy as early as March & April but those and all acquainted with Indian warfare well know that the only time when the frontiers had any

¹  [perhaps, "descending"]

²  [perhaps, "steadily"]

piece was a few months in the winter season, The duty he performed in the above years was under the orders of Colonels Christy [William Christian], Shelby [Isaac Shelby], & Campbell [probably William Campbell], sometimes for one and sometimes another but which first or which last he is unable to say in the above periods of time he states he went several Campaigns against the Cherokee Indians and went over such Campaigns he always acted as a Spy consequently was in no particular Captain's Company, he states he went on campaigns under Christy, Campbell, Shelby and Sevier [John Sevier] all which were said to be Colonels, except Sevier and he does not know his grade, he has since been Governor of the State of Tennessee he states that when he acted as a Spy he sometimes had but one man with him and sometimes as many as four he says he could mention several battles he was in during the years above mentioned and a great many small engagements but is told that it is unnecessary as he is told there is but few of them (if any) that is mentioned in History and that all those that he knows of who participated with him in those severe times of trial have before this gone where they will be neither trouble or expense to the Government they labored so hard to establish, He states that when the rendezvous to plan to go to Kings Mountain [the battle of Kings Mountain was fought October 7, 1780] he met at the time and place appointed in order to go, but was ordered by Colonel Campbell to return and continue his occupation as a Spy on the frontiers as it was then greatly exposed to the depredations of the Indians, which order he obeyed, and faithfully performed his duty.

He states that from great bodily infirmity and his mind consequently impaired having been confined to his room and almost constantly to his bed for the last 8 or 9 years, and also his living entirely illiterate he cannot pretend to give an accurate detailed account of his [indecipherable word]³ but will again repeat that the periods herein before stated is certainly less than the time he was actually employed.

He states that he has no recollection that any regular written discharge was ever given to him or those that served with him and feels confident he never got one & that he has no documentary evidence of his services and from the great length of time he know him of no person now living who can testify to his services.

He states that he never received any compensation for his services but was told and promised at the time that he should have 5 shillings Virginia money per day that being the pay (as was said) of Spies, he never had any commission during the years aforesaid and considered he was acting as a private.

He states that he has never received any compensation for his services and he hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present and declares that his name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any state to his knowledge. He states that all the services he performed in the years herein before mentioned was as Spy, that he did not serve any of the time in garrison and that during the time he was thus employed he was not engaged in any civil pursuit but was constantly out except when he came in for provision or to bring word of the approach of the Indians which he frequently did. He states that in the beginning of the winter 1780 he removed from the Holston Country (where the services herein before mentioned were performed) to Kentucky & in the fall of 1781 he removed to Tennessee near where Nashville now is and he states that in the summer of 1782 and 1783 he performed several Tours of duty order and under the command of General James Robertson the time now not recollected, but

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most certainly 3 months during the 2 years aforesaid.

S/ Josiah Ramsay

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Josiah Ramsay". The ink is dark and the signature is written in a fluid, connected style.

[John S Ferguson & William B Scott gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[William W Redman, a clergyman, gave a separate standard supporting affidavit.]

[f p. 9, in 1834, the veteran son, Jonathan Ramsey, 59, was a resident of Jefferson City, Missouri.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$80 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for service as a private for 2 years in the Virginia militia.]