

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

Pension Application of Joseph Ramsey S7348

VA

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. Revised 25 Jan 2021.

[The following documents refer to an original 1833 declaration by Ramsey that was not found in the file, possibly having been removed as part of an investigation for a fraudulent claim of full pay for five years (commutation pay) or half pay for life, which was available only to officers who served to the end of the Revolutionary War, 15 Apr 1783 . Only the most informative of the 121 pages in the federal pension file are transcribed here.]

A true Copy. September 22^d 1834/ Harold Smyth

Note by Mr Smyth.

It will be observed that this declaration from these minutes was sworn to and forwarded to the War Office and returned for informality, that in January, February or March, the applicant having been induced to go for a different claim by the advice of Mr McCamant of Grayson County Virginia and perhaps Mr Price of Richmond, the applicant (Ramsey) asked to let Mr McCamant manage the claim. Mr McCamant applied to Harold Smyth for the declaration and he gave it up with the objections to Mr McCamant, who remarked that he was going to try get "old Ramsey his land." Harold Smyth afterwards learnt from Mr McCamant that he had obtained Scrip for Ramseys land. in the last of July or first of August 1834 a Mr Price from Richmond came to the County of Wythe to Ramsey's residence and paid him as was understood \$2,500 it being one third of Commutation pay obtained by the joint exertions of him Price and McCamant, and Price stated to Ramsey, as Ramsey said that he must allow two thirds to them McCamant and Price, which was retained. Price told Ramsey "I am the boy to manage these things" You would not give \$100 fee &c. &c. Mr Ramsey had no idea of obtaining half pay, he shewed a letter from Price to himself enumerating the many and great difficulties in the way as inducement to a large proportion to the claim if received; and in that letter expressly stated that his Ramseys name "appeared no where on the roll of the Virginia lineafter 1780 Nov 1st." McCamant in a conversation with Harold Smyth at August Court for WytheCounty 1834 stated that he yet had Ramsey's declaration and Harold Smyth charged him to preserve it

Signed Harold Syth [sic]

A true Copy W. G. Singleton [Washington G. Singleton, US Attorney, Western District of Virginia] W. G. Singleton whilst in attendance upon the Federal Court at Wythe Court House in September 1834 having heard through various sources of the imposition practiced by Joseph Ramsey and his agents upon the Government and that Harold Smyth of said County of Wythe was in possession of evidence touching said imposition, called on Mr Smyth who frankly and without hesitation gave him (W. G. S.) a written statement having reference to said imposition. the written statement furnished by Mr Smyth, or rather a Copy thereof is hereto appended.

On the 23^d of September W.G. Singleton called on Mr Ramsey from whom he received a full confirmation of the truth of the information furnished by Mr Smyth. Mr Ramsey stated emphatically that he had resigned on the 1st of November 1780 and he was surprised when he was informed by his Agents that they had succeeded in getting him commutation pay, "and that he had expected the Government would enquire into the matter." Mr Ramsey further stated that his declaration for a pension for Revolutionary Services, was then pending before the Commissioner of Pension

Monday morning September 29th

I this moment received from John H. Fulton M. C. [Member of Congress] a letter under date of the 23^d ins in reference to the Ramsey Case from which I give you the following extract.

Mr Ramsey called on me to day and permitted me to examine the letters from Price and McCamant. McCamant says in his under date June 29th 1834 "for God's sake keep the fact of your resignation a Secret, but a word to the wise is enough &c" upon my suggestion and advice Ramsey has deposited these letters with J. P. Matthews (this gentleman occupies a standing which few have attained)

for safe keeping, he persists in saying that he is wholly ignorant of the means by which his claim was allowed, that he never furnished any facts but those contained in his declaration in which he expressly stated that he had resigned. Ramsey is ignorant but honest and is entitled to the favour of the Government &c.

Mr Fulton writes me that he has recommended the appointment of a special agent to enquire into the pending claims from Wythe County and that Col Harold Smyth has been named to the Secretary of War. I saw Mr Smyth for the first time at Wythe Court and from the little intercourse between him and myself, I have reason to conclude that he is a gentleman and a man of integrity. W. G. Singleton

Whether Mr Smyth is competent to the discharge of the duty of Agent in the business above referred to I am not prepared to say, nor am I prepared to say whether it would be advisable to appoint an additional Agent. If I am permitted to employ Mr Goff [Nathan Goff of Clarksburg] upon the terms mentioned in my letter accompanying this, I have no doubt of accomplishing the investigation in due time. You however are more capable of judging in this matter than I am W. G. S.
[The following is with the preceding document.]

Minutes from which Joseph Ramsey's declaration was drawn in 1833 and which declaration was sworn to in the County Court at Wythe County at the [blank] term 1833 and by Harrold Smyth forwarded to the War Office through Mr Fulton Member of Congress from this District, and which was returned and by said Smyth given up to Samuel McCamant in February or March or January 1834.

Joseph Ramsey. 72 years old

Spring of 1778 enlisted in the Virginia line in the company of John Montgomery Capt in Montgomery County now Wythe, marched to Harrodsburg Kentucky thence to falls of Ohio [present Louisville KY], there joined Col George Clarke [sic: George Rogers Clark VAS269], Major Jos. Bowman [Joseph Bowman], thence to Illinois – Kaskaskias and was at the taking of that post [4 Jul 1778]. enlisted for the expedition, returned in the fall of 1778 in Company of Cap. Montgomery. Montgomery went on to the seat of Government. In January 1779 (he Ramsey) was commissioned Lieut. in a Reg't. authorised to be raised by Montgomery then appointed Col, and marched in the Spring of 1779 to join Gen Clarke, took water at the long Islands of Tennessee [Long Island of Holston River, now Kingsport TN] and went by water down the Tennessee and up the Mississippi to the mouth of Illinois and thence to Kaskaskia and there joined Clarke, thence started to Detroit, but the expedition failed at Vincennes, thence returned home, and after arriving at home commenced recruiting under instruction from Mr Jefferson then Governor of Virginia, for three years or during the war, was a while stationed at the lead mines [at Fort Chiswell in present Wythe County] with recruits and resigned 1st Nov'r 1780. gave up his commission to Gen Clarke, afterward in February 1781. went as a volunteer to North Carolina under Col William Preston, was in two warm skirmishes with the troops of Cornwallis on the Alamance [Battle of Clapp's Mill, 2 Mar 1781; Battle of Wetzel's Mill, 6 Mar 1781], does not remember when he left the service. [End of page.]

Copy Staunton Oct 5, 1834

Sir [James L. Edwards Esq, Commissioner of Pensions, Washington City]

In communicating to you in my last from this place, the facts touching the fraud that had heretofore been practiced upon the Government by Mr. Ramsey of Wythe County, Mr McCamant of Grayson & a Mr. Price of Richmond in obtaining for the former \$7,511 as commutation pay and asking instructions in reference to the frauds I omitted to point the double remedy (either of which might be resorted to) for the recovery of the money. They are first. An action of assumpsit [recovery of damages for breach or non-performance of a simple contract] against Ramsey alone. upon his power of attorney the money was drawn. the claim passed to his sole and separate benefit & therefore he is liable for the whole amount, and I understand is able to pay it.

Secondly, a bill in Chancery [sic] against Ramsey, McCamant and Price charging the Fraud and combination (which charges are susceptible of proof) can be sustained, a decree joint and several would be rendered against them and in this way Ramsey could recover from McCamant & Price the \$500

retained by them as compensation for prosecuting his (Ramsey's) claim

If it be true (as I really believe it is) that Ramsey has been imposed upon by his dishonest agents, then it is but fair, that the Government should afford him a chance of compelling them to disgorge, by pursuing the latter course for the recovery of the money some little delay might be produced, but the recovery would in all probability be rendered more certain, because they would be held jointly and severally bound

You will therefore please direct which of the two remedies pointed out shall be pursued for the recovery of the money. – I have been here five days engaged in the trial of one criminal against whom I have four verdicts two more remain to be tried, their trials will in all probability occupy some eight or ten days by the way McCamant is an ex member of the Virginia House of Delegates and clerk of the Superior Court of law and chancery for Grayson County, and a practising attorney at Law. Mr. Price I understand is one of the Pension Agents at Richmond, on a grand scale

Very Respectfully/ Yr. Obt.St
(S) W. G. Singleton

Clarksburg October 29, 1834

To the Honbl. Levi Woodbury/ Secretary of the Treasury

Sir/ Yours of the 21st Inst. has been received – on looking into the Virginia Resolutions of May 1779 I find that the officers claiming under the provisions therein contained have their option to take five years full pay or half pay for life.

In the case of Joseph Ramsey it is important that I should be informed upon what principle his claim has been settled – if he has selected to take the half pay for life, then I should be further informed whether his claim has been fully settled, and if not, whether he will continue to draw during life. that is in case his claim was a good one. – it is also necessary to have John H Price's receipt for the money drawn on Ramsey's Power of attorney, which you will please forward to this place, duly authenticated.

Very Respectfully/ Your obt. Serv./ W. G. Singleton

[The following letter is in the Washington G. Singleton Papers, 171 WFCHS, Stewart Bell Jr. Archives, Handley Regional Library, Winchester, VA, USA, transcribed by permission.]

Frankfort Ky. Dec'r 20th 1835

Sir [Singleton] Your letter of the 25th October was rec'd during the sitting of our Nov'r. Courts. I immediately thereafter saw the son of Col'n. Crockett [Anthony Crockett S10492], & sent by him your letter. It was believed that the Coln. would be able to come to town but his health prevented at the time agreed upon. since which time I have postponed answering your letter until now, waiting to obtain the information desired – Coln. Crockett has no recollection of the affidavit, he writes to me as follows.

“I have examined an affidavit purporting to have been given by me in September 1830 in Lieut. Jos. Ramsey case in the Illinois Regiment. [see under Virginia bounty-land claim below] I have no recollection of giving any statement to any one, but as occurrences of late years make but slight impression upon my mind, I would not say that I had not gave it yet the affidavit does not correspond with my recollections of Joseph Ramsy. I knew him in the service from the latter part of the year 1778 to the beginning of the year 1780 at which time we seperated and I knew no more of him in the service. I would not have stated that I believed that he served to the end of the war, though I never knew of his resignation. A man by the name of Northup frequently procured or called upon me for affidavits. I recollect that Northup read me an affidavit before Squire Coleman, but I do not recollect that it contained any thing varient from the truth of what I knew otherwise it would not have been given. I do not now recollect in what case that was given”

Coln. Crockett is in good health & has the possession of his mental faculties – is a gentleman of as much honor & integrity as any in our County, If his deposition is required, let it be taken at his house in the County of Franklin 3 miles south of Frankfort. It could be taken any [page torn] in February, a letter addressed “Sanders & Depew of this place requ[page torn] the taking of his deposition, will be promptly attended to. please state in such communication the points that you wish his testimony directed to – so if I

should happen to be absent my partner Mr. Depew may be enabled to attend to it.

I am very Respectfully/ Your Obt. Ser't/ L. Sanders Jr

W. G. Singleton Esq/ U.S. Dist. Atto/ Western D. Va.

[In spite of his assertion that he "would not have stated that I believed that he served to the end of the war, though In ever knew of his resignation," Anthony Crockett did make such an assertion on 12 Jan 1833 in support of the pension application of William Meriwether (Merewether) S47954, as follows: "That he has on this day examined a report made by a board of field Officers who convened at Richmond Virginia in 1782 & 1784 to report to the Executive of Virginia as to who was entitled to the benefits of half pay or commutation promised to the officers of the State and Continental Line of the State of Virginia passed by an Act of Virginia Assembly in 1779 upon which he finds the following persons named above and belonging to said Regiment of General George R Clarke's entitled to half pay – to wit... [list of officers follows] This affiant concurs in the opinion that all named in said list are entitled, but that there are others which are not joined on said roll that are likewise entitled to wit... Josep Ramsey [Joseph Ramsey] a Lieutenant... The foregoing persons served in Clark's Regiment as officers acting in the stations as officers and commissioned according to mark of title, attached to each of their names, until after the surrender of Lord Cornwallis in Virginia, after which time a number of the Officers were discharged by Clarke, and were supernumeraries [had no troops to command], and were not again required to go into the service by General Clarke, as this affiant understood."

Half pay or commutation was available for all officers who had not resigned before the end of the war, including supernumeraries.]

[The following letter is in the Washington G. Singleton Papers,171 WFCHS, Stewart Bell Jr. Archives, Handley Regional Library, Winchester, VA, USA, transcribed by permission.]

Winchester January 31,1837

To Samuel McCamant Esqr./ Richmond Va [addressed to Senate Chamber]

Sir in reply to your letter of the 25th Instant this moment received, I have to say, that in the record of the case now depending in the US District court for the western District of Virginia, in which the U States are plaintiffs, Joseph Ramsey John H. Price and your self are defendants, there is a paper (the affidavit of Col. Anthoney Crockett) which there are strong circumstances to induce the opinion is a forgery. this paper is undoubt the one refered to in the article in the Abbingdon [sic: Abingdon VA] paper, and also in your letter to me. In reference to the execution of that paper (the affidavit of Col. Anthoney Crockett) I have no hesitation in saying that so far as I know and believe, you had no agency in it, either directly or indirectly – It is however due to fair dealing to state farther ,that the paper above refered to was used by the agents of Mr. Ramsey (Jno. H Price & yourself) in the prosecution of his claim at the Treasury Department and that it is the one upon which the claim was mainly allowed – and the only one in the case above mentioned about which there is any suspicin of forgery

Very Respectfully/ Your Obt Serv't/ W. G Singleton

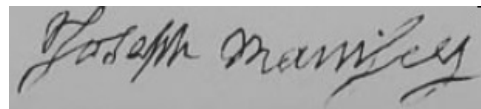
State of Virginia }
County of Wythe } S.S.

On this 14th day of October 1839 personally appeared in open court before Christopher Brown Thomas Sanders Robert Sayers and William Groseclose the court of Wythe County now sitting, Joseph Ramsay a resident of the county & state aforesaid aged seventy eight years & ten months 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 7 1832. That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated. That he enlisted in the service of the State of Virginia at that time called the colonial service under the command of Captain John Montgomery in the January of 1778. in the county of Montgomery & state aforesaid where he then lived and marched to Harrodsburg in the State of Kentucky which was at that period a part of the State of Virginia this declarant remained there but a short time & then marched to the Falls of the Ohio where Louisville now

stands, where the company to which he belonged joined the Illinois Regiment under the command of Col. George Rogers Clark. From there he marched with the Regiment to Illinois and was present at the taking of Kaskaskia [4 Jul 1778]. This declarant states that he does not recollect others of the field officers who commanded at that period than Major Bowman and Col Clark he having returned to [one or two illegible words] guard to Roseblack [sic: Gov. P F Rastel de Rocheblave] who was a prisoner taken at Kaskaskia under the command of Capt. Montgomery. This declarant remained in the county of Montgomery now a portion of which is Wythe County until the return of Capt Montgomery who went on to Richmond in Virginia in company with the Prisoner who was there promoted to the Rank of Colonel and directed by the Governor of Virginia who was Thomas Jefferson [sic: PatrickHenry, succeeded by Jefferson on 1 June 1779] to raise a Regiment in Virginia. In the month of January 1779. this declarant was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant in the company commanded by Captain Thomas Quirk [W5958] & detached to Colonel John Montgomerys Regiment. The regiment so commanded by Col. Montgomery marched in the Spring of 1779 to Illinois & was there commanded by Gen'l Clark who had been promoted from the rank of Colonel. After the regiment to which this declarant belonged reached Kaskaskia an expedition against Detroit was undertaken & the army under the command of Clark was ordered upon that Expedition. After they reached Opost now Vincennes a counsel was held & the Expedition abandoned. After the failure of this expedition against Detroit, this declarant and one Captain Jesse Evans [S15826] were sent into the settlements as recruiting officers. Evans went to Richmond in Virginia for instructions whether they should enlist soldiers for the period of three years or during the war when Evans returned this declarant commenced his recruiting service & was stationed at the Lead Mines in the now county of Wythe. he continued this service until the fall of the year 1780 when the recruits were sent to join the Illinois Regiment. This Declarant conducted the recruits on their way to the west and meeting with General Clark in the Wilderness of Kentucky on the 1st of November 1780. he there resigned his commission as Lieutenant & returned home. Soon after his return he volunteered under the command of Colonel William Preston on an Expedition into North Carolina against the English Army under the command of Cornwallis. Shortly after their arrival they had an engagement with the English at Whitsels or Wittels Mills in the County of Guilford & another skirmish on the Allamance river [sic: Clapp's Mill on Alamance Creek]. This declarant does not now remember the length of his services in this service, but he continued during the time Preston was on the Expedition. This declarant had until recently in his possession the pay rolls of this company to which he belonged under the command of Captain Quirk in the Illinois regiment & the commission or Instructions of the Governor to recruit for that service. He believes that his name is to be found in the Army Rolls for the State of Virginia. He further states that he does not know of anyone now living who can testify as to the length of time he served during the Revolutionary War, but he can prove that was in that service. This declarant further states that he was in the service from January 1778 regularly until the 1st of November 1780. being a period of near three years. That the term of his services under Preston was nearly equal to if not more than two months, but of this he is not certain.

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

Sworn to & subscribed the day & year aforesaid

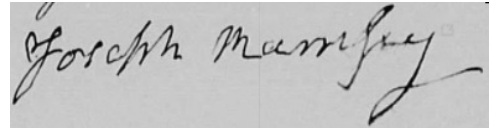


Wythe C. House Apl 22 1840

To the Commissioner of Pensions

Sir./ Some time since I made application for the benefit of the act of Congress passed 7 June 1832 but as yet have not been able to hear whether my claim has been passed upon. If it should be allowed I desire that the amount may be credited on a claim which the Government has recovered against my agents John H. Price & Samuel McCamant & myself for money said to have been fraudulently obtained from the Government by them on account of my services as a Soldier in the Revolution If the claim is allowed I desire as above noted that the amount may be credited on the said claim This letter will be

handed you or forwarded to you by Mr [James] Points who is the Marshal for this District [of Western Virginia]. Respectfully/ Your Obt Serv't/

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Joseph Ramsey". The ink is dark and the paper appears aged.

Ho. of Repr. May 22d 1840

Sir/ Will you inform me, how much is due to Joseph Ramsey of Wythe Co Va, under the act of the 7th of June 1832; and also how much land has been allowed him, not yet carried into grant, in consequence of an alleged fraud, in the prosecution and allowance of a claim for commutation in his name.

You are aware that a suit has been prosecuted in the Western District of Va, as Ramsey and his agents, (McCamant and Price) to recover Cash the sum which the agents obtained. It is admitted that Ramsey, was entitled to a pension under the act to which I have refered, though not to commutation, and I wish to ascertain what is justly due Ramsey, both in money and land, in order if necessary to have act passed to authorize a set-off in favor of an injured old man, who has been made the innocent victim of others.

Will you also inform me whether or not the government is not indebted to the voluntary disclosures of Ramsey, for a discovery of the fraud committed in the prosecution of the claim in his name, and any other facts which it may be in your power to communicate, touching the conduct of Ramsey in the premises

Your early compliance will much oblige Your friend/ G W Hopkins [George W.Hopkins]

AN ACT for the relief of Joseph Ramsey.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That Joseph Ramsey, of Wythe county, Virginia, be, and he is hereby, discharged from all further liability upon a judgment had and now outstanding against him, John H. Price, and Samuel McCamant, in favor of the United States, in the district court of the United States for the western district of Virginia, at September term, eighteen hundred and thirty-nine, of said court: Provided, That nothing herein contained shall operate to discharge the said John H. Price and the said Samuel McCamant in any way from their liability on said judgment./ Approved, February 27, 1845.

[8 Mar 1845] The petition of Joseph Ramsey of Wythe County in the state of Virginia

Respectfully states; that some years ago, he was allowed a pension under the Act of Congress of 7th June 1832 for services as a soldier and officer in the war of the Revolution – that he has never enjoyed the personal benefit of said pension, the same having gone to the satisfaction of a decree against this petitioner a certain John H. Price and a certain Samuel McCamant, some years ago obtained by the United States in the Federal District Court for the Western District of Virginia held at Wythe court house – that he is advised, that, according to the provisions of said Act of 7th June 1832, it was not proper to apply his pension in satisfaction of said decree, whether with or without the consent and approbation of the petitioner, it being the evident design of Congress, from the provisions of the said act, that the bounty given by it, should be exclusively for the personal use and enjoyment of the objects of that bounty. [See endnote.] The petitioner is also advised, that by a recent Act of Congress, he and his securities have been relieved from the payment of the balance of said decree; and he would respectfully submit the question, whether the relief, under this Act does not extend, under a fair and reasonable construction, to such balance of said decree as would exist after applying all payments made thereon, exclusive of the aforesaid pension. The petitioner has paid back, in satisfaction of the said decree, exclusive of his said pension a considerable amount in costs, every dollar he received of the Half Pay, which had been drawn by Price. He thinks, that, in justice, he ought to be allowed to enjoy his full pension; and under all circumstances he asks that the same be refunded to him, if it can be done under a fair construction of the said pension Act. The petitioner is also advised, that the length and character of his services aforesaid (as fully shown by

evidence on file in the War Department in Washington City, and to be found in the record of the papers and proceedings in the suit to which the aforesaid decree was obtained, entitle him to a larger amount of pay annually under the said Act of 7th June 1832, than has been allowed to him. He, therefore, prays, that his annual pay, or pension, under said Act, may be increased and allowed to the full extent, which the length and character of his services, aforesaid, will justify; and that the whole said pay, or pension, including such increase, be paid to him from the 4th day of March 1831 to the present time, and annually hereafter to his death. And as in duty bound he will ever pray &c.

Joseph hisXmark Ramsey

[The certification states that Ramsey was “unable to write his name, himself, from infirmity and something of paralysis.]

Office of the Solicitor of the Treasury/ April 15, 1845.

Sir [J. L. Edwards, Esq, Commissioner of Pensions]

I have received your letter of the 14th inst. requesting to be furnished with a statement of the Judgment in the Western District of Virginia, against Joseph Ramsey, a Revolutionary officer, and the several payments made thereon by said Ramsey, and in compliance with your request, have to state:

That it appears from the Reports of the U States Attorney for the Western District of Virginia to this Office, that Judgment was rendered against Joseph Ramsey et. al. at September Term, 1839, of the District Court for said District, for \$7658.96, with interest from 12th March, 1834, till paid, & \$153 24/100 costs; and that Execution issued upon the said Judgment, under which the Marshal of the said Western District of Virginia, has collected the following sums and accounted for the same to the Treasury, viz: Deposited to the credit of the Treasurer of the U States,

	Nov. 28, 1840.	\$1835.40
D[itt]o	Dec. 21, 1840.	84.66
Do	March 15, 1844	2300.—
Do	July 27, 1841	<u>84.—</u>

Total cash collected and paid into the Treasury \$4304.06

The receipts or Certificates of the depositories in which the above sums were deposited to the credit of the Treasurer of the United States were transmitted to your office; and the Third Auditor advised this office by letter dated 19th May, 1842, that he had adjusted the account of said Ramsey, and after crediting him with the said payments amounting to \$4304.18, there remained a balance due from him to the United States, exclusion of interest and costs, the sum of \$3354.78.

It is proper to state in addition to the above, that Washington G. Singleton, Esq. the Attorney charged with the prosecution of this suit presented to this office in March 1840, an account against the United States for special services in its preparation for trial, amounting to \$1000. this account was transmitted by W. Birchard, then Solicitor of the Treasury, on the 13th March 1840, to the Secretary of War for allowance, which letter was returned to Mr. Birchard, on the 13th March 1840, with the following endorsement by the Secretary of War. “The amount charged by Mr. Singleton for his expenses in the transaction has been allowed, and will be deducted from the sum recovered and now in the Marshal’s hands”— signed J. R. P., and at the foot of the account of Mr. Singleton, for \$1000. which was returned with Mr. Birchard’s letter, is appended the approval of the Secretary in the words “Allowed J. R. P.” On the 14th of March 1840, Mr. Birchard addressed a letter to James Points, Esq. Marshal of the Western District of Virginia, directing him to pay to Mr. Singleton the sum of \$1000, thus allowed him by the Secretary out of his collections on this execution and transmit his receipt to this office for the same, and on the 20th March, 1842, the marshal enclosed to my predecessor the receipt of Mr. Singleton for the said sum of one thousand dollars, which receipt bears date the 4th May, 1840 believing that it is proper in the adjustment of the account of Mr. Ramsey, that you should have the facts before you, I send the original correspondence in relation to them. When you shall have made such use of it as you may deem necessary and proper, please return the originals to this Office.

The papers enclosed are

1. Letter from Mr. Birchard to Mr. Poinsett, Secretary of War, dated 13th March, 1840, with account of

- Mr. Singleton and original endorsements of allowance by the Secretary.
- 2nd. Copy of letter from Mr. Birchard to James Points, Marshal, dated 14th March, 1840, directing him to pay the amount out of his collections.
- 3rd. Letter from James Points, Marshal, dated March 28th, 1842, enclosing receipt of Mr. Singleton for said sum of \$1000. Receipt dated May 4, 1840.

I am, with great respect/ Your obdt Servt/ T. Barton/ Solicitor of the Treasury

Wytheville Va. June 14th 1845.

Dear Sir [Col. J. L. Edwards, Commissioner of Pensions]

I learn that the Agent for paying pensions in Richmond refuses to pay to L. D. Crenshaw, of that city, Attorney in fact of Joseph Ramsey, the amount due Mr. Ramsey for his pension for the half year ending 4th March past, upon the ground, that an order had been given, some time previous to pay to no one except Mr. Points, the Marshal. Mr. Ramsey having been relieved from the decree ag't. him, Price & McCamant, prior to 4th March, I presume there can be no desire longer, with the proper officers of the Government, to restrict Mr. Ramsey to the appointment of the Marshal to receive his pension, and they will cheerfully allow him to consult economy & his convenience in selecting an Atty. To get his semiannual payment through Mr. Points will cost him some \$30— or \$40— but to get it through Mr. Crenshaw will cost him nothing but the postage incurred. I have been appointed Mr. Ramsey's Atty in fact (as the letters of Atty. laid before you, before this time by Mr. Crenshaw) to endeavor to procure an increase of his pension equal to the length of his service and the fact of my being his Atty. induces me to take the liberty to address you this note to ask that you will instruct the Agent in Richmond to pay Mr. Ramsey's half yearly payment to Mr. Crenshaw if the papers are in form &c. That payment will, of course be deducted from what would be received by Mr. Ramsey, if an increase shall be allowed. The old man needs the money, & I hope the amount will be paid to Mr. Crenshaw. I now write at the instance of the Deputy Marshal, Mr. Robert Gibborey, to whom Mr. Ramsey desires to pay a part of the amount for some advances made to him by Mr. Gibborey to buy the little necessaries of life.

with the highest respect/ Your mo. Obt. Servt./ Thos. J. Boyd

[On 14 July 1845 Mary Ann Ramsey, 71, widow and heir of Joseph Ramsey, applied for the increase in pension referred to above, and "for restoration of a portion of that part of his pension which had been withheld on account of his supposed indebtedness to the Government of the United States." She stated that Joseph Ramsey died on 16 June 1845.]

WAR DEPARTMENT./ REVOLUTIONARY CLAIM.

I certify that in conformity with the law of the United States, of the 7th June, 1832, Joseph Ramsay, dec'd, who was a private and a Lieut, was entitled to a pension at the rate of \$248.88 per ann. [illegible word] on the 4 March, 1831 and ending on the 16 June 1845, the day of his death; which will be paid on the production of the proper vouchers to Mary Ann Ramsay, his widow, after having deducted the amount already paid. this pension is increased from \$225.33 per annum.

To be paid at Richmond Va Given at the War Office of the United States, this 23d day of December one thousand eight hundred and forty-five

Sir

Washington City Feb 7th 1846

I have received a letter from Col Thomas J Boyd of Wythe County Virginia, to whom the Pension certificate of Mrs. Ramsey, widow of Joseph Ramsey late of that county was transmitted. He thinks the allowance is less than it should be, and insists that as Mr Ramsey was entitled to an increase of pension, the sum allowed to his widow ought to be larger than that mentioned in the certificate. He states from his recollection of the evidence found in the record of Joseph Ramseys case, that it is shown that Ramsey was certainly entitled as an officer to 22 months service, and as private, two months more, making altogether two years, which he thinks entitled him to something more than \$300 per annum.

Was any part of the pension, of Ramsey, accruing after the passage of the bill for his relief against the judgment of the United States, retained by the Government and appropriated as a credit upon that judgment?

Col Boyd also desires me to call your attention to the application of Mrs Ramsey for a Pension under the act of 1838. He contends that a reasonable construction of the law, would give the five year pension to the widow. He states what from the tradition of the country, I am satisfied is true, that at the time when Ramsey and his wife first cohabited together as man and wife, in a then remote western settlement, constantly liable to Indian invasion, that they would have to travel from 100 to two hundred miles, in order to obtain a marriage license, and as that cohabitation continued in all the relations of the married life, and was followed by an actual celebration of the marriage ceremony in due form and under due authority, by which the issues born prior to the marriage were legitimated, that an equitable construction of the law, entitles the widow also, to succeed to the rights of her husband. If this is the first case of the kind which has been submitted for adjudication, it claims I think, your very earnest examination, for I feel quite confident that the facts will turn out in [illegible word] to be such as I have indicated. By the law and adjudications of Virginia, the children born before the marriage are legitimated, and succeed to all the rights of those born after the marriage.

Col Boyd is a gentleman of high character, and as he is entitled to great respect, and entertains very strong impressions on the general points suggested in my letter, I will esteem it a personal favor if you will bestow upon them some reflection, and give me the results of your examination.

Very truly yours/ Geo W Hopkins

[A letter from Thomas Green to the Commissioner of Pensions dated 24 Oct 1846 indicates that Green sent “the original Rolls, from the Federal Court in Western Virginia – to sustain the application of Joseph Ramsays widow for the increase of Pension on account of his services from 29 May to 1 November 1780.” A Treasury-Department document dated 6 Nov 1846 states that Joseph Ramsay’s pension was increased from \$248.88 to \$300.66 per year, payable to his widow.]

[Excerpts from a long letter by Thomas Green dated 15 May 1851 to James E. Heath, then Commissioner of Pensions:]

“Joseph Ramsay was a Pensioner, under that act [of 7 Jun 1832] – but became indebted to the U. States, in another transaction which had no relation whatever to the pension laws. In that other transaction, his agents were charged and convicted of a fraud, by which he became legally responsible for money they obtained from the U. States, and applied to their own uses. And altho’ the court decided, he had committed no fraud and the various reports from your office to members of Congress, expressed the conviction that he had been the victim, of the frauds of others, in which he did not participate, – and altho Congress released him by special act, from the legal liability aforesaid, – reserving their right, nevertheless, to make the money, out of the alleged fraudulent agents, yet the Pension due under the act of 7 June 1832, is with-held from his widow, in order to diminish the balance, due in that other transaction by his agents. Is this consistent with the spirit of the Pension act of 7th June 1832? That Joseph Ramsay was a Lieutenant, entitled to a pension under that act is admitted. The 3rd section of that act, provides: ‘and the pay hereby allowed shall not be, in any way transferable or liable to attachment, levy, or seizure, by any legal process whatever....’”[see endnote]

[The letter then shows that pensions could not be withheld even as reimbursement for previous overpayments, and it continues as follows:]

“no one pretends that Joseph Ramsay perpetrated any fraud on the Govt: – He was the first to communicate the facts to the Govt. and to enquire how it was that so large a sum had been paid to him – it is admitted by the Court, which gave a decree against him,– by the Department and the congress that Ramsay had committed no fraud.”

[From [bounty-land records in the Library of Virginia](#) indexed as Ramsay, Joseph.]

Williamsburg Nov'r 9th 1779.

To Lieut Ramsey

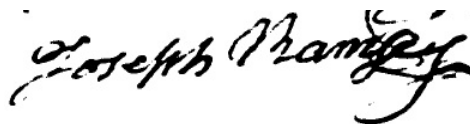
You are appointed, and forthwith are to proceed, to recruit men to serve in the Infantry of this Commonwealth. Each man is to receive at the time of enlistment a bounty of seven hundred and fifty Dollars to serve during the war, and the following articles of clothing, that is to say: A coat, waistcoat, a pair of overalls, two shirts, a pair of shoes, and a hat; to be delivered at the place of rendezvous, and with the like articles every year after during his service, to be delivered at his station, and will be entitled to the same pay and rations as are allowed by Congress to the like soldiers in continental service and during his continuance in the service will be supplied with goods by the state, at the following rates, viz. Osnaburgs at 1S.6d per yard, coarse hats at 7S.6d each, coarse shoes at 8S per pair, coarse yarn stockings at 5S per pair, rum or brandy at the rate of 10S per gallon, whiskey at the rate of 5S per gallon, and such other imported articles as may be necessary at the rate of 120 per centum upon the first cast. At the end of the war he will be entitled to one hundred acres of unimproved land, within this Commonwealth. All soldiers who may be disabled in the service will be entitled to receive pensions during life. You are to be allowed one hundred and fifty Dollars for each able bodied soldier you shall enlist and pass with the officer of review to be appointed for that purpose. You are to make return of your enlistments within two months from the date hereof, in person, or by letter and continue to make returns thereof afterwards.

The men you are to enlist are to be rendezvoused at such place as Colo Clarke of the Illinois Batallion shall direct, and are to be incorporated into that Battalion.

Th Jefferson

State of Virginia } Personally appeared before me the subscriber a Justice of the Peace in and for
Wythe County } said County Joseph Ramsey signed to the foregoing Power of Attorney [not
transcribed] and acknowledged the same to be his voluntary act and deed [several undeciphered words]
named, also being duly sworn saith that he is now seventy years of That he was a private in Capt John
afterwards Lieut Col John Montgomerys Company and joined Col Geo Clark in said Montgomerys
Company at the falls of Ohio in the month of April 1776 and descended the River thence to Wabash and
thence marched against and took fort Wabash and the posts in the Illinois Country. That the next year
when the said John Montgomery was appointed Lieut Col of the Illinois Regiment he the said deponand
was appointed a Lieutenant of Capt Thomas Quirks Company of the Illinois Regiment in which capacity
he ever afterwards continued to serve being principally employed in the recruiting service he further says
that he has never at any time received any land from the State of Virginia in right of his said services
neither has he ever at any time assigned transfered or disposed of the same to any one whatever
Sworn subscribed and acknowledg before me this 2 of December 1830 Robert Sayers JP

Know all men by these presents That I Joseph Ramsey of Wythe County and State of Virginia do hereby [undeciphered] and appoint Thomas Greene Esqr Attorney at Law of Richmond Virginia my true and lawfull attorney [the rest not transcribed] this Second of December 1830



State of Kentucky }
Franklin County } Sct

Personally appeared before me the subscriber justice of the peace in and for said county col Anthony Crockett, who being duly sworn says that he was a Capt of the Illinois regiment of the Virginia State line in the war of the revolution, and he says Joseph Ramsay was a Lieut of said regiment. He knows

not how long he served, but believes he served until the 31st of Dec'r. 1781, when the regiment was disbanded. Said Ramsay lived when last heard of a few years ago [in] Wythe county Virginia, and further saith not.

Given under my hand this 13th of Sept. 1830. Edw'd Coleman J.P.F.C.

The Petition of Joseph Ramsay Respectfully States that he was a Private in Capt John Montgomery's Company of the Illinois Regt from April 1778 to the Autumn 1777 when he was appointed a Lieutenant in the Regt and [undeciphered word] with Recruiting [undeciphered word] and directed to enlist men for the service. He was so engaged until the latter part of 1781 and received his pay, as such, but never drew any Land Bounty.

[two undeciphered words] the evidence of Col A. Crockett – his own affidavit and the Certificate from the Auditors Office are herewith forwarded to shew at least three years service. The Land Bounty is respectfully Solicited.

T. Green Atto for the Petitioners

NOTES:

Although the Pension Act of 1832 does prohibit the "attachment, levy or seizure, by any legal process whatever," a decision by Attorney General Roger B. Taney on 27 Oct 1832 appears to countenance a pensioner's pledging of his certificate of pension for debt, as Ramsey did on 22 April 1840.

On 14 July 1845 Mary Ann Ramsey could not recall the date of her marriage, but she stated that her eldest son, Thomas Ramsey, was then 54. The certification states that Thomas Ramsey had been a schoolmaster.