

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements

Pension application of Thomas Ramsey R8572

Transcribed by Will Graves

State of Virginia, County of Franklin

On this 6th day of February in the year A. D. 1854, before the County Court of the said County, now sitting, personally appeared Joseph Edds a resident of said County, age ___ [blank in original] years, who being first duty sworn according to law makes the following Declaration on oath in order to obtain the benefit of the provisions of the Act of Congress approved 7th June 1832, Viz:

That he is the Administrator of Thomas Ramsey, deceased, who was a Revolutionary Soldier, and resident of said County. That he has been informed that said Thomas Ramsey was engaged in the service of the United States or Colonies in the war of the Revolution and served in the Virginia Militia in said war for about two years and six months as follows:--That in the latter part of the year 1778 or first part of the year 1779 when the British General Mathews' fleet, and army, was expected to the Chesapeake and James River Country, and the cities of Norfolk, Portsmouth, Petersburg, and Richmond the Militia were called out and he volunteered for a tour of 9 [? text written over, difficult to read] months and marched to the protection of the cities and country on tidewater, which was kept on a constant State of alarm by threats of invasion by the British who had uncontrolled command of the Chesapeake and the navigable streams that entered into it. General Mathews' expedition did not reach the State as early as was expected, but appeared in the Chesapeake in the spring of the year, when he established himself at Portsmouth, and from that point sent out his forces, by land and water to sack the towns, murder and plunder the defenseless inhabitants, and destroy with fire and sword, every article of property, that he could not carry off. He has often heard Thomas Ramsey tell of his having marched to Portsmouth with the Militia which was collected as speedily as possible, and sent to drive Mathews from his position and of the calamitous condition of such of the inhabitants, of the Tidewater country as had not been able to fly at his approach. He said the British plundered everything of value; burnt their houses, with their contents and drove off their stock of every kind, or shot them down, in their presence. He said he had often wept at witnessing the sufferings and destitution of women and children whose houses had been burnt and then plundered of everything. The soldiers he said would strip the clothing off their own backs to cover the nakedness of those poor creatures. He declares that he has often heard the deceased Thomas Ramsey say that he then resided in the County of Pittsylvania, in the State of Virginia and when about the latter part of 1778 or first part of the year 1779, a portion of the Militia was called to march to meet the invaders, he volunteered his service, at the place of rendezvous called "the Widow McDaniel's" in said county, for a period of not less than 9 months and that he served for said term of 9 months as a private in the company commanded by one Captain Roberts, of Pitts____ [blank in original] in a Battalion commanded by Colonel Lucas [?]. That having faithfully performed this 9 months term of service, he was discharged and returned home in proof of which, he (the declarant) refers to the Certificate of Captain Smith, herewith annexed and to other proofs herewith presented.

That from what he has heard the said Ramsey say in his life time and from the information of others who had often conversed with him, he has heard and verily believes that he again entered the service and served as follows:-- in the year 1780 when the British Armies were invading the Southern States and carrying on a barbarous war in South & North Carolina & Georgia, threatening the subjugation of the whole country -- soldiers were again called for and very heavy draft made, at the rendezvous called "the Widow McDaniel's" from the Pittsylvania Militia early in that year (it is believed in February) who were held in readiness to join such force as it was understood and reported, would be marched from the North under the command of experienced officers. The draft was made, and the soldiers were placed under the command of Captains William Dix and John Wilson and ___ [blank in original] Perkins ___ and Col. _____ [blank in original] under whom they were marched to the lower country for the purpose of being armed and prepared to join the Northern Army, whenever it should arrive, on its march South. He joined those troops, being then under the command of Captain William Dix and Col ___ [blank in original] and Brigadier General Stephens. He was present in the unfortunate action at Camden South Carolina, Major Genl Gates [Horatio Gates] being commander in chief, where the Virginia Militia, harassed by sickness (Dysentery) and worn down by marching through the pestilential swamps of that country, and nearly famished for the want of food, found themselves suddenly confronted by the flower of the British Army led by Lord Cornwallis, and supplied with every necessary. They were unable to withstand the shock of battle. They broke and fled from the fields. A portion of them were rallied, and Thomas Ramsey among them, and were marched to a place in Halifax, Va. where there was a commissary's store and Rendezvous for troops. That place was near Dan River, but its name is forgotten. There they remained a considerable time, in the most miserable condition, their clothing having nearly all dropped off of them; at length they were ordered to march to a place then in Halifax, now in Pittsylvania, called "Old Town" and being on the march, they were overtaken at Banister River, in Halifax, by an express Rider, sent by Genl Lafayette, by whose orders they were discharged for that tour, about the last of Sept. or 1st October, having then been service upwards of nine months. It is believed that Thomas Ramsey, discharged the duties of Sergeant in this tour as he was often spoke of under the appellation of "Sergeant Ramsey."

That the said Thomas Ramsey, as he has very often heard him say when he was living and as he verily believes to be true, also served a third tour of duty with Captain William Dix a patriotic and gallant officer, who when carrying on the war, (after the defeat at Camden) in North Carolina, a call was made for troops, to join General Green [sic, Nathanael Greene], who had been sent by General Washington to take command of the Army, stepped forth and volunteered, with a company of about 80 men, who volunteered under him, and joined General Greene's army in the County of Halifax, Va., Thomas Ramsey volunteered under Capt. Dix, who marched with Genl. Greene into North Carolina about the last of December 1780 or 1st January 1781 and was with him, and fought bravely under the command of Genl. Lawson, at the battle of Guildford on the 15th March 17. That they saw Sergeant Ramsey continued with the Army until the 30th day of that month, when he as discharged, (at a place called Ramsay's Mills) in North Carolina, where Genl. Greene halted his army, and declined pursuing the retreating army of Cornwallis any further. This last tour could not have been less than 3 months so that adding the three services together it is evident the said Thomas Ramsey, served as a

Sergeant not less than the term of 18 months, from 1st Sept. 1778 till 15th June 1779 as a volunteer as is proved by the certificate of Capt. John Smith hereto attached; 2nd tour from 1st January 1780 till September 1780—9 months of which proof will be furnished and presented herewith. And also as a Sergeant 3rd tour from 1st January 1781 till 30th March 1781—proved by his discharge hereto annexed.

He (the aforesaid Joseph Edds) further declares that the said Thomas Ramsey deceased died at his own home in the County of Franklin Va., on the 24th day of October 1844—and that he has often heard him speak of his revolutionary services of his accidents and narrow escapes from death by starvation and the British bullets. He often expressed his intentions to apply for a Pension and for Bounty Land, but he was getting old and infirm and kept putting it off from time to time till death sealed his lips but he put it off principally he believes because he was separated from almost all of his old comrades, and because the "Oath of Allegiance" and the two Certificates of Capt. Smith & Capt. Dix were mislaid and supposed to have been lost. But he declares that they were recently found, among some old papers of his father's by his son Theodore A. Ramsey, in whose possession they were, and were delivered to him on the ___ [blank in original] day of March 1853.

He further declares that after the termination of the service above mentioned Thomas Ramsey did reside in the following named counties, viz: in Pittsylvania County in said state of Virginia &c; and that he finally died in Franklin, 24th day of October in the year 1844, leaving no widow surviving him, but that he left the following named children surviving him, viz: 1st Healey Ramsey, now dead, leaving children in Pittsylvania; 2nd Theoderic A. Ramsey of Franklin; 3rd Elizabeth Ramsey married Salisbury Williams, & residing in State of Missouri; 4th Frances C. Ramsey married Joseph Edds, the declarant, now residing in the county of Franklin.

He further declares that the name of the said Thomas Ramsey is not on the Pension List of any Agency whatever; that as his Administrator, he relinquishes every other claim to Pension; that this is the first and only application ever made in his name and that as his legal Administrator, he now applies for whatever Pension may have been due to said Thomas Ramsey, from 4th March 1831 to 24th October 1844 for the benefit of his surviving children above mentioned.

S/ Joseph Edds, Adm.

Sworn to & subscribed the day & year aforesaid, and it is hereby certified that the Declarant, Joseph Edds is a resident of the said County, and is worthy of credit.

S/ R. M. Taliaferro, J. P. and
Chairman of Court