

House of Reps 25 Jan[uar]y 1832

Sir.

Dick Violet, a private in Meigs Regiment of the Connecticut Line, and Pomp Liberty a private in Swifts regiment, both of them slaves at the time of their service, I presume were entitled to Bounty Land,¹ or their owners were entitled, to the land, for services in the Revolutionary army. The men are both dead.

Will you please inform me, whether the Bounty Land has ever been taken, and if so by whom?

Will the owner, or the heirs of the owners, of these slaves be entitled to the land on making out the necessary proof, and if so, what proof will be satisfactory?

Very respectfully

Your deputy

R. I. Ingersoll²

Wm. Gordon Es[quire]

Bounty Land Office

¹ During the Revolutionary War, the cash-strapped Continental Congress compensated soldiers with land. Privates or their descendants were entitled to 100 acres of land on the public domain, while a Major General could claim over 1000 acres. These warrants were transferable, and many were sold for cash. In the early 1800s, these tracts were allocated to bearers in present-day Ohio. Leslie Waffan, *U.S. Revolutionary War Bounty Land Warrants Used in the U.S. Military District of Ohio and Related Papers (Acts of 1788, 1803, 1806)*, (Washington: National Archives Microfilm Publications, 1972).

² Ralph Isaacs Ingersoll (1789-1872) was a Representative from Connecticut to the US Congress from 1825 – 1833. A lawyer from New Haven, he also served as mayor of that town and Minister to Russia late in his life. He died in New Haven and is buried in the Grove St. Cemetery. "Ingersoll, Ralph Isaacs," *History, Art & Archives*, U.S. House of Representatives, <https://history.house.gov/People/Detail/15639> (Accessed March 08, 2022).

War Department

War Depart. Bounty Land Office

Sir

Jan. 30 1832

In answer to the inquiries in yours of the 25th. I have to inform you that Land Warrant No. 1761 for 100 acres issued on the 3rd Aug. 1831 in the name of Dinah Freeman, daughter & only heir at law of Pomp Liberty who was a private of Swifts Regt Conn. Line & the same was sent to W. Elias P. Phelps Agent + Att. for the heir residing at Hartford, Connt.

The name of Dick Violet being returned on the records of the Connt. Line, among those, to whom land bounty is still due. I herewith send you "Regulations" necessary to be complied with by his heirs in their application for said Bounty, which when properly authenticated, & returned to this Department, the claim will receive due attention.

The claimants in this case, must furnish satisfactory evidence to identify their ancestry, as that Dick Violet, who served to the close of the war in Meigs Regt. Connecticut Line.

Those colored men returned in our records as entitled to bounty lands from the W. [Western] States, are deemed to have been Free, at the close of the Revolutionary War.

[2]

consequently, that bounty can only be granted to them or their heirs, or Assignees.

I have the honor etc

Wm. Gordon

The Hon.

R.J. Ingersoll

Ho. of Reps.

SOURCES

R.I. Ingersoll to W. Gordon, January 25, 1832, *Pomp Liberty*, Revolutionary War Pension and Bounty-Land Warrant Application Files (NARA microfilm publication M804, 2,670 rolls). Records of the Department of Veterans Affairs, Record Group 15. National Archives, Washington, D.C.

W. Gordon to R.I. Ingersoll, January 30, 1832, *Pomp Liberty*, Revolutionary War Pension and Bounty-Land Warrant Application Files (NARA microfilm publication M804, 2,670 rolls). Records of the Department of Veterans Affairs, Record Group 15. National Archives, Washington, D.C.

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