

Va. Sea Service

Chamberlain, George
or Chamberlaine

R 23

Va Half Pay

See also No. 837 Va State Navy
George Chamberlain, Lieut
of Brig Mosquito
U S File

SERVICE.

NUMBER

U.S. Sea Service Chamberlaine, George

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CONTENTS

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*See Acc. No. 837 - Virginia State Navy
George Chamberlaine, U.S. File
U.S. Half Pay*

Norfolk Feb 14 1845

Jas L Edwards Esq

Corn Law

I addressed you a letter in the 27th Jan^y last in relation to a claim for pensions due to my Grandfather George Chamberlaine who was a Lt in the Virginia State Navy during the War of the Revolution in which I informed you of the amt which had be paid you by a Mr John Wood who was my agent in the case & also expressing my fears that a larger sum had been paid than the rules now governing in the settlement of such claims demanded. This letter I erroneously addressed to Thos L Edwards Com^r of Pensions & only learned that I had made a mistake in your name yesterday. I beg to inquire if you have recd such a letter as the one above referred to, I am anxious to know that I may forward a duplicate if it has not reached you.

I am Very Respectfully Yrs
W^m Chamberlaine

Pension Office

December 22, 1862

Sir,

I have examined and filed the papers in the case of Lieut. George Chamblain, *de?* on account of whose service half-pay is claimed under the act of July 5, 1852. It appears from the Journal of the Navy Board that he was appointed a Second Lieutenant in the Virginia State Navy on the 2^d of December 1776; that on the 28th January 1777 he was recommended as 2^d Lieutenant in the brig *Musquito*, and on the 12th of August 1777 he was recommended as a First Lieutenant. No evidence of a positive character appears on the Journal relative to him after that date. The Journal shows that there was a Lieutenant Chamblayne (no Christian name given) in service in 1779. In September of that year he was ordered to take command of the brigantine *Jefferson*. George Chamblain received a certificate for the balance of his full pay in August 1783, amounting to £334:19:6, Virginia Currency. This amount, if for pay alone, would have paid him for more than three years service. Two witnesses, seamen on board of the brig *Musquito*, swear that Lieut. George Chamblain sailed in her in the Spring of 1777 on a cruise to the West Indies, in the course of which cruise the brig was captured, and the

officers and men sent prisoners to England. One of the witnesses swears that to the best of his recollection he left ^{England} by escape, the 25th January 1779, and that he left George Chamblain there, where he remained till peace. The account given by all the witnesses is that the Musquete sailed from Norfolk in the Spring of 1777 on a cruise to the West Indies; that in the course of the cruise the Musquete captured two vessels, one of which escaped, and the other was taken into Point Petre and sold. Here, the witnesses say, they took the small pox, and after recovering from it they sailed on another cruise, and were taken by the Ariadne and carried in Barbadoes, and thence sent as prisoners to England. Another witness makes a similar statement, but does not give the Christian name of Chamblain. This is all the proof in the case.

It appears by the acts of the Virginia Assembly that the Navy of the State was ordered to be reduced by an act passed October Session 1779, and that the Ships Tartar and Dragon, the Gallies Henry, Manly, Hero, Page, Lewis, and Safe-Guard were directed to be sold by public vendue; and further that the Ships Thetis, the brig Jefferson, the Actonmark and Diligence Gallies, the Liberty and Patriot Boats were retained in the service of the State. The Navy was again reduced at the November Session of 1781. If I were satisfied that George Chamblain was in the service at the last reduction I should have no hesitation in allowing his claim;

but it appears doubtful to me whether he was in the service till that time. My opinion is that the witnesses are mistaken in supposing that Chamblain was a prisoner in England to the end of the war. I should presume from the statements of the witnesses that the crew of the *Musquito* were in prison in August 1777, and if so, George Chamblain was not with them, because at that time he was promoted to a First Lieutenancy, and if he had been in captivity it is not probable that he would have been promoted. Such a course was not consistent with the practice in those days. The Navy Journal shows that there were two other officers of the name of Chamblain on board of the *Musquito*, viz. Byrd Chamblain, First Lieutenant, and Edward Chamblain, Midshipman. Probably they mistook one of those for George Chamblain. Byrd Chamblain was unquestionably a prisoner of war in England, but he returned from captivity in 1778, for it appears from the Navy Journal that on the 26th June 1778 Byrd Chamblain applied for a renewal of his commission, and the record shows that the application was made in consequence of the loss of the original commission while the applicant was in captivity in England. The same officer resigned on the 21st of August 1778. What became of Edward Chamblain we cannot ascertain. He was appointed Midshipman to the *Musquito* brig 21st November 1776; but there is nothing to show that he sailed in that vessel in the Spring

August 6, 1932

RA-J/MLB

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GEORGE CHAMBERLAINE

R. 23

Miss M. Lucille Wales
1427 Westover Avenue
Norfolk, Virginia

Dear Madam:

Reference is made to your letter relative to George Chamberlaine, a soldier of the Revolutionary War.

The data which follow were obtained from the papers on file in pension claim, R. 23, based upon the Revolutionary War service of George Chamberlaine. The papers do not state the date of his birth and names of parents.

He was appointed 2^d lieutenant in the Virginia State Navy December 2, 1776; on January 28, 1777, he was recommended as 2^d lieutenant on the brig "Mosquito", and on August 12, 1777, as 1st lieutenant. He was in service at the close of the Revolution in 1783.

He died January 10, 1792.

No reference was made in the claim to soldier's wife or children, but in 1845 Richard H. Chamberlaine, soldier's grandson (names of parents not shown), was a resident of Norfolk, Virginia, where he was still living in 1850 when he was appointed administrator of soldier's estate and stated that he was his only heir.

On February 28, 1843, Richard H. Chamberlaine, soldier's grandson, was allowed half pay due on account of the service of George Chamberlaine in the Revolutionary War.

It was stated that there were two other officers of the name of Chamberlain on board the Mosquito, namely, Byrd Chamberlain and Edward Chamberlain; their relationship to

George Chamberlains not stated.

There are no further family data in the claim.

For further information relative to George Chamberlaine,
it is suggested that you address The Old Records Division,
Navy Department, Washington, D. C.

Very truly yours

A. D. HILLER
Assistant to Administrator

*Did not use all data given in
letter dated Dec. 22, 1845, signed
by J. L. Edwards, Comr of Pensions,
as it was briefed from the Navy Journal,
the original of which is in the Navy
Dept, to which writer has been
referred, and much of the information
in said letter is not substantiated by
any positive proof - M.L.B.*