

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of Edward Pye Chamberlayne R21

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

To John Floyd Governor of Virginia

The Petition of William Byrd Chamberlayne, Lewis W Chamberlayne, Byrd Chamberlayne, James Edward Ruffin, sole heir of Elizabeth B. Ruffin formerly Chamberlayne and Robert B. Williamson & Mary A Williamson only heirs of Lucy Parke Williamson formerly Chamberlayne: which said W. B. Chamberlayne, L. W Chamberlayne, Bird Chamberlayne, Elizabeth B. Ruffin and Lucy Parke Williamson were children and heirs of Edward Pye Chamberlayne (entered by mistake in the Navy Roll as Edward Chamberlayne) an officer of the rank of Lieutenant in the Navy of the State of Virginia respectfully sheweth – That their ancestor the said Edw'd. P. Chamberlayne entered into the service of the State of Virginia as a Midshipman in the year 1776 served during the war, was promoted to a Lieutenantcy and as such was entitled to such compensation as by law was promised by Virginia, to the officers and soldiers in the land and naval service – and your petitioners pray of you to grant to them as his heirs, such compensation in land and money as you, on the testimony herewith submitted, shall deem best. And they &c. Will Byrd Chamberlayne for himself and the other heirs of E. P. Chamberlayne New Kent County to wit:

This day personally appeared before me a Magistrate of the county aforesaid William Chamberlayne of said County, and made oath that he was well acquainted with Edward P. Chamberlayne of the County of King William, from his deponent's infancy, to the day of the death of said Edward P. Chamberlayne, which took place in 1806. that he, the said deponent is now in his seventieth year, and has lived all his life in the said County of New Kent, and that the said Edward P. Chamberlayne was about six years older than this deponent. And further this deponent says, that he has always understood and believes that the said Edward P. Chamberlayne had been in the naval service at different periods of the revolutionary war, and that he was in service in the year 1781, and was present and bor a part during that year in taking two of the Enemies vessels off the coast of South Carolina, and was sent in one of them as supercargo into some Port of North Carolina. And further, this deponent says that he has no doubt but that the Edward P. Chamberlayne named above, is the same Edward Chamberlayne who, he understands is on the Naval Roll now in the Executive Department, of the state of Virginia, as he is the only one that was in the state, as far as he is informed, at that period, and that he has always understood and believed that at the periods to which he refers, that the said Edward P. Chamberlayne was a Lieutenant or acting as such.

This deponent further says, that the heirs of the said Edward P. Chamberlayne now are William B. Chamberlayne, James E Ruffin the only remaining child of Elizabeth B. Chamberlayne, who intermarried with Sterling Ruffin, both of whom are now dead; Lewis W Chamberlayne, Robert and Mary A Williamson the only surviving issue of Lucy P. Chamberlayne now deceased, who intermarried with Robert C. Williamson, and Byrd Chamberlayne, all of whom now live in the City of Richmond, or County of Henrico. And further this deponent saith not. Wm. Chamberlayne

[Certified 10 March 1834.]

The affidavit of Benjamin Figg of the County of King William aged 65 years taken and made this 27th day of March 1834. This affiant being first duly sworn according to law, by way of questions and answers deposeth and sayeth as followeth, and hereunder written.

Question. Were you acquainted with Edward P. Chamberlayne, formerly of this County, and did you know whether he was in the service or not during the revolutionary war, in what kind of service, and how long he continued in service, and the rank he held in such service, and particularly whether he was

in service in 1781 and what other years?

Answer. I was well acquainted with Mr Edward P. Chamberlayne, living as I did at the time, in the same neighborhood with him, and I perfectly remember his being in the naval service of the state of Virginia in the capacity of a second Lieutenant in the years 1777 & 1778, and that he continued in service up to the year 1781 the time of the siege of Yorktown [28 Sep -19 Oct 1781], and subsequently to that time having seen him in his uniform with other officers belonging to the public vessels lying at Frayzer's Ferry, after the siege of York.

Question. How long were you acquainted with the said Edward P. Chamberlayne?

Answer. I was acquainted with him from the time of my earliest recollection until his death, which took place in 1806 – and I lived nearly two years in the same house with him.

Question. Do you know or not of any other man being in the naval service during the revolutionary war by the name of Edward P Chamberlayne, besides the one herein before named?

Answer. No I never knew or heard of an other man being in Naval service, by that name, or any other by the name of Chamberlayne, except Byrd Chamberlayne [his brother, pension application R22], who was also in the Naval service.

Benjamin Figg

Thursday the 21st November 1776

Edward Chamberlaine is recommended to Capt Harris of the Brig Musquetto [John Harris, pension application R41, of the *Mosquito*] as a proper person to serve as Midshipman on Board the said Brig.

From page 113.

Friday October the 10th 1777

Letters from Capt Harris of the Brig Musquetto dated Point Peter [sic: Pointe-à-Pitre, Guadeloupe] 16th Sept last were received read & filed.

From page 296.

Wednesday the 15th day of April 1778.

Ordered that the keeper of the publick Store deliver to William Plume as many necessaries not exceeding thirty pounds in value for the use of Amelia the daughter of Captain John Harris late of the Musquetto, who is now a prisoner, on his paying for the same.

From page 383.

The above entries are truly copied from the Naval Journal, which ends the 5th March 1779.

Given under my hand at the Auditors Office Richmond this 13th day of March 1850.

Ro Johnston/ First Auditor

Washington 21st. March 1850

Dear Sir/ By the request of W. B. Chamberlayne, I present his claim for half pay, due to him, as administrator of his father, who was an officer in the Virginia State Navy His heirs have received the bounty land, and now claim his half pay. Mr Chamberlayne was taken in the Musquetto, with Capt. Harris [4 Jun 1777], was exchanged; entered again, in the service; was again taken, and confined in the Jersey, prison ship, at New York. When you shall have examined the claim, you will please, communicate with W. B. Chamberlayne, Richmond, Virginia.

I salute you respectfully

J. L. Edwards.

Richard Randolph

Saturday June 14th 1806

Also a commission issue appointing John Roane Jr. Sheriff of King William County in the room of Edward P. Chamberlaine deceased

Executive Department/ Richmond Va. Feby 23^d. 1850

I hereby certify the foregoing to be a true copy from the Council Journal of date above

Wm H Richardson