Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters

Virginia documents pertaining to John Barret VAS2402

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris.

[The following are from bounty-land records in the Library of Virginia.]

Mr. Richardson will please to let Mr Green have copies of the paper filed with the claim of Capt Barret & other presented by himself respectfully/ John Floyd/ Nov 3 1831

In Council, 8th March 1834

It is ordered that the Heirs of John Barret be allowed land bounty for three years service as a Captain in the Virginia State Navy.

John Floyd

[The following are from rejected claims in the Library of Virginia.]

The Petition of the heirs of Captain John Barret respectfully states.

That he was an officer in the Virginia Navy at an early period of the war. He was a Lieutenant in 1777 and early in 1778 was promoted to a Captaincy and commanded the Hero Galley. He remained in the service the whole war as they have been informed. Commodore Barron [James Barron W12264] knew him well and has furnished a statement which shews that he was a long time in service altho he cannot state the precise dates.

The Journal of the Navy Board shews that he was a Lieutenant in the Navy in 1777 and a Captain in 1778. But those Records are incomplete and without the aid of Commdore Barron's statement the claim would not be fully proved – with that – it is presumed the proof will be satisfactory for at least 3 years service.

Thos Green/ att'ney for the heirs of Capt. B.

10 Mar 1831

To the Governor of Va.

Sir, I heard it stated yesterday that Capt John Barret (whose claim to land had been allowed the day before, for 3 years service) had resigned his Commission before he had completed that length of service. I called to see Mr. Murdaugh, from whom the information came, and was referred to the Navy Board Journal of the 3rd Sept 1778. It was then after three oclock, & the examination could not be made.

On my return to my office, I refered to a minute taken by myself from the whole journal, (which I had taken for my own satisfaction in embodying as much information on the subject I could procure), and as I found under date of the 3 Sept 1778 no mention made of Capt Barret I doubted the accuracy of the information given me untill I examined the Journal of the Navy Board, a few minutes ago, and found that Capt. Barrett had resigned at that time. It is therefore proper to apprise the Executive of it as the proof now on file, taken in connection with the resignation does not establish the claim. But it is far from being certain, that the claim is not a good one.

Capt. Barret may have been in service from the 3rd of Sept 1775 as manny other officers were – or he may have returned again into service after the resignation. These facts however do not now appear. His Commission as Lieut. I believe was in the 12th July 1776 & if he shall have been 9 months in service as a mids. [Midshipman] or private before that promotion or appointment the claim would be fully proved. I will endeavor to ascertain the facts on the subject & communicate them – in the mean time I will request the Register [of the Land Office] to return the certificate.

I am Respectfully/ yr ob servt.

Thos. Green

P.S. The Joural of the Executive of the 12^{th} July 1776 shews that John Barret was then appointed First Lieutenant in the navy – now if it shall hereafter appear that he was a Mids. or in any capacity in service for ten months some The claim will be established by the highest evidence T. G.

I certify to the best of my belief that Capt John Barrat was in the Naval Services of this State during the whole of the Revolutionary War James Barron

Gosport Sept'r 27th 1831

James Barron

[The following are from <u>rejected claims in the Library of Virginia</u> in a separate file in the name of Barrett, John, assumed to be the same person as John Barret above.]

To his Excellency David Campbell Governor of Virginia [13 Sep 1838]

Your Petitioners, John and William Barrett, two of the Heirs of their Grandfather Capt. John Barrett deceased Respectfully represent that their Grandfather Capt. John Barrett served as a Capt. in the Virginia State Navy in the War of the Revolution, that he entered the service in 1775 or early in the year of 1776, and continued in service untill the end of the war, at the time he entered the service he resided in the Borough of Norfolk

Your Petitioners further represent that their Grandfather the aforesaid Capt. John Barrett was taken a prisoner in Company with his Brother and oldest son who were both on board of the same vessel with him and taken to New York, there placed on board of a Prison Ship, that Capt. John Barrett the aforesaid made his escape from on board of the said prison ship, and his Brother and son both died on board the said prison ship, of these facts your Petitioners have no personal knowledge other than that derived from traditionary accounts our aforesaid Grandfather Capt. John Barrett in his life time nor his kins since his death have never received bounty land as promised to the Officers and Soldiers of the War of the Revolution They pray that their Petition with the evidence herewith filed may receive the Consideration of your Excellency and that they may be allowed the land bounty promised etc

And your Petitioners will ever pray &c &c

John W Barrett

William H. Barrett

This is to Certify, That it appears from a List in this Office of such Officers and Soldiers of the Virginia State Line, during the Revolutionary War, as settled their Accounts, and received Certificates for the balance of their Full Pay, according to an Act of Assembly, passed the November Session, 1781, that a Certificate issued on the 30th day of April, 1785, in the name of John Barrett as Capt of the Navy for £169.7.6, which Certificate appears to have been delivered to himself and was given for services prior to the 1st January, 1782. Given under my hand at the Auditor's Office, Richmond, this 4th day of October 1838./ Jas E Heath AUDITOR.

Memorandum of evidence in the case of Capt. John Barrett

See John Paul Jones' life P361 – shows that Barrett was in service on the 1st of March 1775 [sic: see endnote] & very satisfactorily that he was in service from the Autumn of 1775 – see the Executive Journal of 1776 July 12th Commissioned see Navy list (in Executive Chamber) of 1779 Note 101 John Barrett certifies the death of [the rest missing]

I do hereby Certify that I was personally well acquainted with Capt. John Barrett who served in the Virginia State Navy in the War of the Revolution, he resided in the Borough of Norfolk as this Deponent believes at the commencement of the War of the Revolution and entered in to the service as Captain in the Virginia State Navy in the year 1775 or early in the year 1776, and from information received from old and respectable persons I believe that he served to the end of the War of the Revolution. This deponent further states that the aforesaid Capt. John Barrett died in the Borough of Norfolk in the year of [blank] intestate leaving the following Children his sole and only Heirs at Law. viz Alexander, Thomas, Amia, and Nancy Barrett Alexander Barrett the aforesaid died many years ago intestate and without issue. Thomas Barrett the aforesaid died many years ago intestate leaving Children Viz John, Ann the wife of Andrew Simmons, Thomas, William and Robert Barrett. Amia Barrett married my brother Frederick

Hennicke both of whom died intestate leaving one only Child, Frederick Hennicke. Nancy Barrett married Claudius Bricky both of whom died intestate leaving one only Child, Claudius Bricky who has been absent many years and has not been heard from, and is now believed to be dead. These facts I state partly from traditionary information, and partly from my own personal knowledge. Given under my hand this 8th day of September 1838

Sarah Latham

Commissions, this Day issued unto James Cocke Esq'r Captain and Commander of the Raleigh, a Brigantine in the service of this Commonwealth

John Barret first Lieutenant & Joel Sturdevant second Lieutenant; Also John Calven [John Calvert] Captain & Commander of the Row Galley Norfolk's Revenge, Argile Herbert [Argyle Herbert VAS1500] first Lieutenant, Robert Elam Second Lieutenant & James Tennant Master.

Executive Department/ Richmond Va Oct 2 1838

The above is a Copy from the Journal of the Executive of July 12th 1776

Wm H Richardson Sec'y Con'n

Saturday 13 September 1777.

Ordered that the keeper of the public Store delived Lieut John Barrett six yards of Cloth with proper trimmings

From page 285

Saturday October 11th 1777.

Ordered, that a Warrant issue to Lieut John Barrett for thirty pounds upon account for the purpose of furnishing necessaries for his family. From page 298.

Friday the 12th day of December 1777

This Board doth recommend to his Excellency the Governor and the Hon'ble the Council Lieut John Barrett as a proper person to be appointed Captain to the Hero Galley. From page 329.

Thursday the 23rd day of July 1778.

Ordered that the keeper of the public Store deliver to Captain Barrett seven Blanket for the use of the Men on Board the Hero Galley

From page 433

Thursday the 3rd day of September 1778.

Capt John Barrett personally appeared before the Boarrd and resigned his Commission, which is ordered to be filed. From page 262

The foregoing entries are truly Copied from the Naval Journal.

Given under my hand at the Auditors Office Richmond this 4th day of October 1838.

Jas E Heath aud

Captain John Barrett was Commandant of a Brig in the Virg'a State service on March the 1st 1776 – how long before that time does not appear – in the Life of John Paul Jones at page 361 a Biographical sketch is given of Comm'e Rich'd Dale [Commodore Richard Dale] who is represented to have been the mate of a Brig belonging to Colo Newton which was commanded by Capt Barrett It would seem from this sketch that Colonel Newton' brig was taken into the State service in the Autumn of 1775 – if so then Capt Barrett entered the State Navy at that time – he was afterwards on the 12 July 1776 commissioned in the Navy and is reported to have resigned on the 3^d of September 1778 – his accounts however as Captain were settled up to the 4th of Nov'r 1778 – this would make him in service three years save Four months

This case is rejected the evidence of three years service not being satisfactory/ DC [David Campbell] (Rejected Dec. 23 1839)

NOTE: The following passage appears on p 361 of *Life and Character of the Chevalier John Paul Jones* by John Henry Sherburne (1825):

"In March, 1776, Capt. Barrett, the commander of the brig, was engaged in the Virginia state service...."