



and effective point of view.

Your Memorialist therefore entreats that his situation and claims may be taken into consideration and that you will be pleased to direct the proper Offi[cers] to grant Certificates, upon the principles of the Law pass[ed] by the General Assembly in the year 1790, agreeable to his established Rank. And to Issue a Warrant in Amou[nt] of the claim discharged by his Assistants and to [page torn] such additional allowance as you may in your [page torn]ments deem him entitled to for [page torn] requisition of the Governor. And your Memorial[ist as] in duty will pray &c.

8<sup>th</sup> Nov'r. 1791 Ref'd to claims

reasonable as to compensation for documents & referred to Executive – for reconsideration  
other parts not properly to come under the decision of the State Legislature appearing [undeciphered  
word] Concur  
rep[orte]d 20<sup>th</sup> 9[?]; Nov] 91

[Most of the 122 pages in the federal pension file deal with a legal dispute explained in the following excerpt from a 13-page printed appeal from a decision of the Pension Commissioner, James L. Edwards. Edwards decided that in May 1779 when the Legislature of Virginia provided for half-pay for life to “general officers,” they meant only line officers holding the rank of General, and that Finnie was only a staff officer holding the rank of Colonel.]

CLAIM OF COL. WM. FINNIE'S ADMINISTRATOR FOR  
Half-pay under Act July 5th, 1832.

This Claim is for half-pay, as “Quarter Master General of the Virginia State Line,” promised by the act of Virginia Assembly of May 1779, and assumed by Congress in the act of July 5, '32.

The services of Colonel Finnie, are admitted by the late commissioner Edwards, and are undeniable, they being proved by record evidence; but the claim was rejected by Mr. Edwards, on the ground, that it was not provided for, by the act of 5th July, 1832. See his letter. An appeal was taken to the Secretary of the Interior, who, upon the appointment of the present Commissioner, referred the case back for a further investigation.

The present Commissioner suggests some doubts as to the construction of the act of July 5, '32, and also, as to the construction of the act of May, 1779, promising half pay, &c.

The first question to be disposed of is, “whether a “Quarter Master General,” is entitled to half-pay under the act of May, 1779? and the second question is, whether, if so entitled, the case is provided for, in the act of July 5th 1832?

Richmond Virginia the 22<sup>d</sup> May 1783

Sundry Accounts D'r to IAT

Army

Warrant to William Oliver for one years interest on a Cert. No 287 in part of the balance of his pay as a Captain Lieut of Art[iller]y State line £3

Warr: to Will Finnie for d[itt]o: No 290 dated this day in full of the balance of his subsistence as a Quarter Master Gen'l of this State 6.3.2

I certify that the foregoing is truly copied from the Specie Journal of 1783 now in this office.

Given under my hand at the Auditors Office Richmond this 17<sup>th</sup> July 1850

Ro Johnston/ 1<sup>st</sup> Auditor

THIS TO CERTIFY, That it appears from a list in this office of such Officers and Soldiers of the Virginia State Line 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, directing the Auditors of Public Accounts to settle and adjust the pay and accounts of the said Officers and Soldiers from the 1st January 1777 to 31st December 1781, (see Hening's Statutes at Large, vol. 10, p. 462,) that a settlement was

made on the eighth day of May 1783 in the name of William Finnie as Quarter Master Gen'l and evidence of the indebtedness of the State to him for £515.1.6 delivered to himself but as the original settlements or copies thereof are not to be found in this office, the term of service embraced therein cannot be stated.

Given under my hand at the First Auditor's Office, Richmond, this 17<sup>th</sup> day of July 1850  
Ro Johnston/ 1<sup>st</sup> Auditor

NOTES:

On 20 Dec 1830 it was certified that Richard H. Chamberlayne was the only legal heir of Col. William Finnie.

On 27 Feb 1850 Richard G. Broughton, one of the Editors of the Norfolk *Herald*, certified that an obituary published in that newspaper stated that William Finnie's died on 18 Oct 1804 at age 64.

The following was transcribed and annotated by F A Weyler

State of Virginia, City of Norfolk, to wit:

Know all men by these presents that I, Richard H Chamberlaine, of the said city, administrator of Colonel William Finnee deceased, formerly Quarter Master General in the Virginia State Line during the war of the Revolution, do hereby constitute and appoint Peter P. Mayo of the said city, my true and lawful agent and attorney in fact for me and in my name and head & behalf, as administrator of the said William Finnie deceased, to ask for, prosecute, and receive, any and all sum or sums of money due to or coming to me as administrator of the said Colonel William Finnie arising out of or resulting from the services of the said William Finnie as an officer in the Virginia State Line during the war of the revolution, whether the said services were rendered in the capacity of Quarter Master General, as in any other capacity, and whether the said money be due for the Half Pay or for commutation, and interest, or for any other cause, by whatever name it may be called or known. And it being fully my wish and intention to make this power of attorney as broad and as comprehensive as it is possible to be, so as to cover every demand that I have, or can have, as the administrator of said Colonel William Finnie upon the Government of the United States, or of the State of Virginia, and to authorize the said Peter P. Mayo to receive the same. I do hereby declare that this power of attorney shall be so deemed, construed, and taken, as to support and sustain him in any demand that he may [p3] make in my name, as the administrator of the said Colonel William Finnie deceased.

And I do hereby authorize the said Peter P. Mayo to appoint a substitute to act under him fully, and to every extent in the premises, and bind myself by these presents to ratify, confirm, and fully abide by whatever my said attorney or his substituted attorney, may do or cause to be done in my name in the premises and especially to grant all receipts or other necessary papers that he or his substitute may think proper to me.

In witness whereof I hereto set my hand and affix my seal this 26<sup>th</sup> day of February 1850.

R. H. Chamberlaine  
Adm<sup>r</sup> of Colo Wm Fennie dec<sup>d</sup>

Attest:

S.C. Whitehead

A. Tunstall

[routine certification

N.C. Whitehead, JP

John Williams, clerk of hastings court

[The 122 page file has records to prove that William Finnie was Quarter Master General of the Virginia militia and of the Continental Southern Army. A protracted case argued in the War Department, the

Department of Interior, and in the press was over the rank and thus the appropriate amount of pay due to the heirs of William Finnie.

Four Bounty Land Warrants to Finnie are mentioned totaling  $6666 \frac{2}{3}$  acres. No result of the case for his half pay or commutation is shown.]