

[Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters](#)

Pension Application of Benjamin Chapin R25 VA Sea Service
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. Revised 17 May 2015.

[From [Library of Virginia Legislative Petitions Digital Collection](#)/ Fairfax County]

To the Honorable the Speaker & Members of the General Assembly of Virginia.

The Petition of Hiram Chapin, Gurdin Chapin, Anne Chapin, Elizabeth Ashton and Margaret Ashton Humbly sheweth

That your Petitioners late Father Doctor Benjamin Chapin entered on board the Protector Captain Elliot [sic: George Elliott, pension application R38] a state Gally sometime in April 1776 as Surgeon to the said Gally and continued to act in that Capacity until the 10th of October 1777 when he was removed to the state ship the Tartar Captain Taylor [Richard Taylor S25873] also as Surgeon where he remained until October 1778 when he obtained leave of absence from his duty for two Months from Champion Travis the then Commander, during which time he was ill of sickness of which he shortly after died leaving his Family in a distressed scituation on account of the tender years of his Children your Petitioners who from this Circumstance have been unable to collect such papers & Vouchers relative to your Fathers said services as the Law requires for such said services your Petitioner have not since their Fathers death received any pay or Compensation & they are very confident that their said Father did not receive any during his Life.

Your Petitioners therefore supposing they have now gotten the necessary papers Vouchers & Evidences humbly pray that this honorable body will give them such Compensation & pay as they may be entitled to in right of their said Father & grant them such other Relief as the Nature of their Case may require and to the Honorable body may seem just and your Petitioners will ever pray &c

The service was performed prior to the establishment of the Board of Auditors and the Auditor now is not possessed of any documents that will enable him to say anything as to the propriety of this Claim.
Aud'r Office/ 11 Nov. 91 J. Pendleton

5th Nov'r 1791 Ref'd to Claims/ reasonable/ rep[orte]d 13th Nov'r 91

[The following is from the federal pension file.]

War Dept/ Pension Office/ June 18, 1838

Sir [Hon. Charles F. Mercer, House of Representatives], In answer to the enclosed letter I have to inform you that there is no evidence in this office that there is any amount whatever due to the heirs of the late Dr. Benjamin Chapin, dec'd. It appears that he was in the State Navy of Virginia in 1777; but the Books do not shew that he was in the service after that period.

The heirs, in order to avail themselves of any benefit which the evidence in relation to their land bounty may afford, should furnish copies of the affidavits upon which they obtained a Land Warrant from the State of Virginia. A certified copy of the Land Warrant should also be filed.

In case the Dept. should be satisfied upon an examination of the papers above required, that Dr. Chapin served to the end of the war, the heirs may then exhibit a claim under the act of July 5, 1832. Enclosed is a copy of that act, with the rules of evidence for substantiating claims under its provisions.

[signature illegible]

[The following are among the [Revolutionary Rejected Claims in the Library of Virginia](#):]

To the Hon'le the Executive of Virginia.

The undersigned begs leave most respectfully to submit the following statement, to your

honourable body – That by marriage, and in right of his wife, he has become one of the heirs of Dr. Benjamin Chapin dec'd, who was a Surgeon in the state navy of Virginia, in the War of the Revolution. That the said Benjamin Chapin, at least as early as March 1776, was appointed a Surgeon in the Navy aforesaid, and in April following was in that capacity on board the Protector Galley, commanded by Capt G. Elliott. That he was transferred to the Ship Tartar Capt Taylor in the same capacity of Surgeon where he served his country faithfully, until he was compelled by disease to retire on furlough to Alexandria in the year 1778, where he lingered for some time, and died, whilst in service; all of which will more fully appear, by a reference to the Vouchers on file in the office of the Secretary of State, & particularly to affidavit of Walter Brooke [R14] who was himself a Capt in the Navy. That Land bounty for 6000 acres was allowed the Heirs some years since, as for a service of three years. The undersigned is informed, that by the Laws giving Land bounty to the officers & soldiers of the Revolution who died in service, and by the recent decisions of your honourable body in similar cases, the allowance to Dr. Chapins Heirs ought to have been to the end of the War

He therefore in conclusion, not only for himself & wife, but on the behalf of all the Heirs concerned, most respectfully asks that their claim may be considered by your honourable body, and that Additional Land bounty may be allowed them from March 1776, to the end of the War on account of the services of their Ancestor as aforesaid, all of which is most respectfully submitted by – very respectfully
Richmond/ April 3rd 1838

your Hble Serv't./ James Gray in behalf of the heirs of Dr. Benj'n Chapin

[A note in the file reads; "Very few of the Navy officers were entitled to more than six years service – The Surgeons were not. Rejected]

To the Governor and Council of Virginia

The heirs of Benjamin Chapin respectfully represent that he was a Surgeon during the war of the revolution and died in service as appears by the evidence on which land was allowed in January 1792 – The allowance then was for a service of three years, but your petitioners are informed that officers dying in the service are placed on a footing with those who served to the end of the war; If this be the fact they are entitled to additional Land Bounty their ancestor having entered the service in April 1776, and they pray it may now be granted to them. Wm. Lambert/ Atto'y for the Heirs