Virginia documents pertaining to John Baynes VAS2433
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris.

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

I remember two John Baynes the one distinguished by the name of Crazy John on the Western Branch[?], who commanded a Vessel & was supposed to be lost at Sea. This is the man your enquireys should be directed to. The other John was from Craney Island who also went to Sea & was lost I think latter in the Rev’y War. If you will name this to Maj Wyatt he may have some recollection of him, who his relation are I know not. S. W.

Wmsburg June 9th 1777
Sloop Liberty
To Capt Jno. Baynes for the amount of his pay roll from the 1st of April to 1st Inst

1778 Capt John Baynes Dr
Dec’r 19 To Balance brought from Ledger A £107.14

Norfolk County to wit
I John Nash a Justice of the peace in & for the County of Norfolk hereby certify that Maj’r S. Wyatt made oath before me that he knew Capt John Baynes was lost at sea in the severe winter of 1779-80. Given under my hand & seal this 17th day of Nov’r. 1832 John Nash JP

John Baynes Jun’r Mariner leaves his estate to his wife Sarah & if she should have issue by him lawfully &c then after her death to that issue & in default of issue of his wife then to his nephew Alexander Baynes.

[Other side] Extract from the will of Capt. John Baynes Recorded in Norfolk County & dated June 6th 1779.

John Baynes of Norfolk County was appointed a Captain in the State Navy on the 9th of June 1777 and was drowned whilst in the service in the winter of 1779. His will bears date on the 6th of June 1779 he styles himself “Mariner” Maj’r Wyatt testifies that he died in that year – see the Executive Journal of 1777 June 9th & the accompanying Extracts from other old Account Books & Journals. Colo Stephen Wright of Norfolk in his note says that Baynes was lost at sea. February 15th 1833