Naval Journal
Friday 31st January 1777
Edward Lattimore is recommended to his Excellency the Governor and the Honorable the Council as a proper person to be appointed first Lieutenant of the Pilot Boat Molly
Extract from the naval Journals page 169
S/ Jas. E. Heath
Auditors Office March 28, 1834

The affidavit of Thomas Uzzell of the County of Isle of Wight in the State of Virginia taken at his own house the 25th day of February 1834. The affiant being duly sworn according to law saith that he is seventy-six years of age, that he was well acquainted previous to the Revolutionary War, with Edward Lattimore who was a native of Hampton in the aforesaid State, and who married the sister of Captain John Sinclair; and after his said marriage, sailed as mate in the Sloop Washington from Smithfield in the aforesaid County of Isle of Wight to the West in these – that this affiant went two voyages under said Lattimore as a foremast hand & that in the year 1776 the said Edward Lattimore obtained a commission of Lieutenant in the State Navy, and solicited this affiant to enlist, & go with him in the Navy, but this affiant being only about eighteen years old at the time, and bound as an apprentice, he could not enlist; he remembers to have seen the said Lattimore several times while he was in service; and he is confident that he saw him in the service in the latter part of the year 1780; that very soon after, he last saw him said Lattimore he was informed that the said Lattimore had been sent by Captains James Barron and Richard Taylor (who has command of said Lattimore) to the West Indies for guns & ammunition for the use of the Navy, and very shortly after this affiant was informed by Captain John Sinclair (to whom the affiant was bound) that the said Lattimore died in the island of St. Ustacia [sic, probably intended to be St. Eustatius], this affiant well remembers that in the year 1786 he commanded a vessel; and was at the aforesaid island, and saw the tombstone of said Edward Lattimore, on which was engraved his name & age, and that he was a Lieutenant in the Navy of the State of Virginia at the time of his death.

S/ Ths. Uzzell
The affidavit of James Johnson Senior taken at his dwelling house in this County of Isle of Wight in the State of Virginia on the 21st day of March 1838 the affiant being duly sworn, saith that he is in the 91st year of his age – That he was well acquainted with Edward Lattimore of the Town of Smithfield in the aforesaid County, before the Revolutionary War, that he the said Edward Lattimore was called Captain Edward Lattimore because he was a sea captain: that he commanded a vessel from Smithfield – that he was married and had 2 sons the oldest called James & the youngest called William, that the said Edward Lattimore died (as it was said, and which this affiant believes) in the West Indies: that he left a widow and the of 4 mentioned 2 sons that the eldest son James aforesaid, has been dead many years, that the said William the youngest son, is still living, & resides in the aforesaid County of Isle of Wight; and is the only child living & heir at law of the said Edward Lattimore: the said Edward Lattimore's widow married Colonel James Bridger [could be Bridges] of said County & been dead many years – that the said Edward Lattimore was an officer (and the affiant thinks a Lieutenant) in the Virginia State Navy, and died while in service of the said State – this affiant was Captain of a militia company & well recollects that Edward Lattimore went into the said Navy – & further saith not

S/ Jas Johnson, Senior

The affidavit of John H Purdie of the Town of Smithfield in the County of Isle of Wight in the State of Virginia, taken this 21st day of March 1838 – This affiant being duly sworn, says that he well remembers Edward Latimer [sic] who was an officer in the Navy of Virginia during the revolutionary war; that said Latimer resided in Smithfield aforesaid, before he entered the said Navy, was married and had two sons, called James and William; and this affiant was informed by Captain John Sinclair the brother-in-law of said Edward Latimer, that the said Latimer died while in service in said Navy; this affiant knows that said Latimer left a widow, and believes that she was afterwards married in said County of Isle of Wight to Colonel James Bridger, but that she has been dead many years; this affiant knows that the two aforementioned sons of said Edward Latimer (to wit) James and William were brought up by their uncle John Sinclair of the aforesaid Town; that James has been dead for many years, and this affiant has always understood, that he died unmarried, intestate and without issue, and that he died at sea near the island of Saint Eustatius.  This affiant is certain that William Latimer who still lives in the aforesaid County is the only lawful heir to the said Edward Latimer, who was an officer in the aforesaid state Navy – this affiant recollects that said Edward Latimer commanded a vessel belonging to this affiant's father at the time he got the appointment in the Navy aforesaid; and in consequence of getting the appointment he quitted the employ of this affiant's father – the said Edward Latimer and John [indecipherable name]¹ were both residents of Smithfield and both got appointments in the aforesaid Navy about the same time and further this affiant saith not.

S/ J. H. Purdie

¹ John Purdie
Norfolk County, to wit:

I Samuel Watts a Justice of the Peace for the County aforesaid hereby certify that Captain John Cox this day made oath before me that during the War of the Revolution he was the Captain and master of a merchant vessel, and that in the winter of 1780 – 81, on the arrival of Arnold [Benedict Arnold] in Virginia he ascended James River as high as Prince George County, where his vessel amongst other merchantmen as well as the vessels of the State were captured and destroyed by Arnold's forces – He further made oath that he knew Edward Latimer, who was a Lieutenant in the Navy, and that he knew the said Latimer was in the service at that time (in the early part of 1781). He states that he himself was in October of the year dispatched to provide you to with passports to be delivered to Colonel Tucker of that Island, to be given to English vessels friendly to the American Cause, for the purpose of enabling them to trade with this Colony.

I certify furthermore that Captain Cox is a gentleman of the first respectability in whose memory and veracity the utmost confidence may be placed.

Given under my hand and seal this 30th day of September 1833

S/ Samuel Watts, JP

[Note: In a different hand at the bottom of this affidavit appears the following: "Edward Latimer commissioned a Lieutenant on the 31st of January 1777 – see Journal of the Navy Board p. 169 – see also Journal of the Council Board of February 77 p. 317"]

The affidavit of Mary Ann House of the Town of Hampton in the County of Elizabeth City in the State of Virginia, taken this 22nd of February in the year 1834. The affiant being duly sworn, saith, that she is (according to the family register of her age) seventy-six years of age, that she was intimately acquainted with Edward Lattimore of the said Town before the Revolutionary War; that about the year 1775 he married the sister of Captain John Sinclair, that the following year a commission of Lieutenant in the aforesaid State Navy, that the said Lattimore was in the State vessel called the Liberty or Patriot and which was commanded by Captain James Barron; that after the said Edward Lattimore had remained in the state service for more than 3 years, he was ordered to go to the Island of Saint Ustatia to fetch in powder, balls, & cannon for the Navy – that she well remembers the day he started because she had a near relation who went with him; that after 2 or 3 months the puzzle returned & her said Relation informed her that the said Edward Lattimore died in the aforesaid Island while they were taking in the load they were sent for: this affiant said she has often heard her father in law William House, who was in the Navy at the same time, speak of said Lattimore's doing, while in the service and what a loss he was to the Navy and further saith not.

S/ Mary Ann House, X her mark

[Note: There is also a 3-page file under the Virginia records for rejected pension claims for a Lieutenant Edward Lattimore but the documents in that file as posted or illegible.]