

“It is a remarkable coincidence that as Barney was the first individual to unfurl the banner of the Union in his native State, in October, 1775, he was also the last officer to quit its service in July, 1784. He died December 1st, 1818, from fever, superinduced by the severe wound at Bladensburg.

William B. Barney, my father, the eldest son of Commodore Barney, was distinguished as Major and Adjutant in the battle of North Point, whilst his father, the Commodore, was in the engagement at Bladensburg, and often accompanied his father in his privateering depredations. In aftertimes, the Major's Troupe of Baltimore Cavalry was always called upon to successfully suppress mob violence in Baltimore.— He was a member of the Maryland Legislature, our Consul at Trieste, and in 1820 was appointed by President Monroe Naval Officer of the Port of Baltimore, from which office he was removed by General Jackson, in 1829, on the detestable doctrine “That to the victor belong the spoils,” which act called forth the ever memorable letter to General Jackson, (See Scharf's Chronicles of Baltimore, page 434, Chapter 6,) from my mother, Mrs. Mary Chase Barney, the youngest daughter of Judge Samuel Chase, who thus proved herself an American matron, worthy of being the daughter of Judge Chase, and daughter-in-law of the hero, Commodore Barney. This letter much affected General Jackson's political popularity, as it was used as an electioneering document by his enemies; and his personal better feelings were so much goaded by remorse and a desire for atonement, that in an interview with my mother a few years afterwards he besought her, exclaiming, “Mrs. Barney, what can I do for you?”— My mother replied, placing her hand on my shoulder, “Put this boy in the navy;” and I forthwith bore that order to that effect to the Secretary of Navy, Mahlon Dickerson. And now that boy is your memorialist, who refers with professional pride to Judge J. S. Black's accompanying summary of his own naval career, as submitted, under instructions, to President Buchanan, in review of the action of the “Memorable Returning Board of Fifteen” in 1855, dropping him from the navy, and from which report and recommendation of Judge Black, he was honorably restored by President Buchanan, and confirmed by the Senate, to the retired list U. S. Navy, on account of his acquired and confirmed deafness through his “hard and meritorious services. (See extract from Judge Black's report embodied in accompanying synopsis of petition to Congress.)

With this statement of facts, your memorialist prays the interposition of your Honorable Bodies in vindication of his character as a man of honor and an officer of the navy, whose