

Transcription of Documents for William Middleton

The memorial of Sarah Middleton now residing in the City of Baltimore, most respectfully represents to the Honorable General Assembly of the State of Maryland, that her late Husband was an officer during the Revolutionary War Commanding an armed Schooner Called the Dauphin, and performed various and important services, that in Discharge of those duties he was ordered to hold himself in readiness to abide (wait for and follow) the orders of the Marquis Lafayette. He took the General on board at the City of Annapolis. He was ordered to proceed to York in Virginia, the Chesapeake Bay being at time greatly infested with (full of) British armed vessels.

The Marquis thought it most advisable to take his barge at the mouth of Patuxent to prevent his capture and by the Husband of your memorialist (the person being recognized by the legislature), keeping his station – opposite and abreast of (alongside) the General from thence, he arrived safe in York river where he found his Brother Capt. Gilbert Middleton waiting the arrival of to take orders from Lafayette and who was immediately ordered to be in readiness to proceed to Annapolis with dispatches to the Governor of Maryland. The Husband of your memorialist William Middleton was ordered down the Bay with a French officer on board to the (a line of the letter is missing)

captured by a British frigate (warship) and for all treatment and a tedious voyage arrived and was Confined together with all the Crew of the Dauphin in Fortune prison England. When in absence of your memorialist with a suffering family he remained in Close and barbarous confinement for about 12 months, when by the kind aid of an American then in England he received by stratagem a small sum of money by which means was enabled to disguise himself, made his escape from prison and soon after arrived safely in France.

The Marquis Lafayette hearing of the Escape of your memorialist Husband wrote him a letter the original of which is presented to your Honorable Body for perusal as a voucher of the services and sufferings of the late Capt'n Middleton, by this kindness of the Marquis, our memorialist's Husband was enabled to return to his Distressed Family. Not needing it in his lifetime, no application was made for help of any description by your memorialist's deceased Husband. Your memorialist is far advanced in years; is greatly in need of Assistance. She therefore, prays that the Honorable Legislature, will take her Case into Consideration and grant such relief as is usual and magnanimous and in duty. UCEC (signature)

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I George Barber aged 57 years Do hereby Certify that on or about the year 1779 he was one of the Crew of the Schooner Dauphin commanded by Captain William Middleton, that on a Cruse down the Chesapeake Bay with the marquis De Lafayette on Board, the British being in the bay the Marquis took a barge and keeping the land made his Escape and arrived safely at York, that Dauphin fell into the hands of the Enemy together with all the Crew, and take to England and Confined in Fortune prison where the said Middleton remained in Confinement the Crew from 12 to 15 months. That Capt'n Middleton after about twelve months confinement made his escape and got over to France and from thence worked his passage to America. Our sufferings were extreme, and a more gallant and deserving or braver officer than Cato. Wm. Middleton never did live being with and having suffered in common with Capt. Middleton I give this memorandum without fear of apprehension of Contridiction.

George Barber

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Filed in the records of the House of Delegates of Maryland, at December Session 1821, —Given by my hand at the City of Annapolis, this 14th day of May 1832.

George G. Brewer, Clk House Del of Md

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Western Shore Treasury of Maryland
Annapolis 14 May 1832

The name of one Sarah Middleton of the city of Baltimore, appears on the Pension Roll of this State for the half pay of a Captain as a further Compensation for services rendered by her husband during the revolutionary War, in virtue of Res. No. 22 of Dec. Session 1821

George Mackubin, Treas'r W. S. Md