

# **Charles B. McQuin**

## **Action Ensign**

### **U.S.N.**



**Charles B. McQuinn**  
**Acting Ensign, 6 November, 1863**  
**Resigned 22 October, 1864**

**McNeil, Lewis W.**

Acting Third Assistant Engineer, 31 May, 1864. Honorably discharged 14 August, 1865.

**McNeil, D., Jr.**

Midshipman, 12 January, 1799. Dismissed 9 May, 1807.

**McNeilly, W. T.**

Acting Ensign, 31 October, 1862. Honorably discharged 4 October, 1865.

**McNellis, Thomas.**

Acting Third Assistant Engineer, 10 June, 1863. Acting Second Assistant Engineer, 18 October, 1864. Honorably discharged 7 August, 1865.

**McNelly, John.**

Boatswain, 9 April, 1833. Drowned 14 July, 1839

**McNier, John.**

Boatswain, 15 January, 1800. Warrant returned.

**McNier, Thomas.**

Midshipman, 9 June, 1811. Last appearance on Records of Navy Department, 1815. Furloughed.

**McNitt, James.**

Mate, 22 April, 1863. Died 11 August, 1863.

**McNutt, William F.**

Acting Assistant Surgeon, 24 December, 1862. Resigned 23 July, 1864

**McPherson, George E.**

Acting Assistant Surgeon. Resigned 26 May, 1865.

**McPherson, H.**

Master, 1 April, 1814. Last appearance on Records of Navy Department, 1815. Philadelphia.

**McPherson, John F.**

Acting Assistant Paymaster, 28 January, 1862. Resigned 5 March, 1862.

**McPherson, J. S.**

Midshipman, 20 June, 1806. Lieutenant, 26 May, 1812. Commander, 28 March, 1820. Died 28 April, 1824.

**McQuade, James.**

Acting Third Assistant Engineer, 27 June, 1864. Appointment revoked 15 September, 1865.

**McQuinn, Charles B.**

Acting Ensign, 6 November, 1863. Resigned 22 October, 1864.

**McRae, Archibald.**

Midshipman, 26 January, 1837. Passed Midshipman, 29 June, 1843. Lieutenant, 25 June, 1850. Died 17 November, 1855.

**McRea, John.**

Lieutenant, 10 September, 1798. Resigned 20 December, 1803.

**McReynolds, J. D.**

Assistant Surgeon, 3 May, 1810. Surgeon, 2 October, 1811. Last appearance on Records of Navy Department, 1822. Philadelphia.

**McRitchie, David G.**

Acting Master, 29 October, 1861. Ensign, 12 March, 1868. Master, 18 December, 1868. Lieutenant, 21 March, 1870.

**McRoberts, Jefferson.**

Midshipman, 3 March, 1841. Dismissed 27 June, 1850.

**McRorie, D. W.**

Midshipman, 1 February, 1814. Died 20 August, 1822.

**McSemple, Alexander,**

Mate, 24 January, 1863. Resigned 6 October, 1864.

**McSherry, Henry F.**

Assistant Surgeon, 23 June, 1860. Surgeon, 22 September, 1863. Died 1 October, 1867.

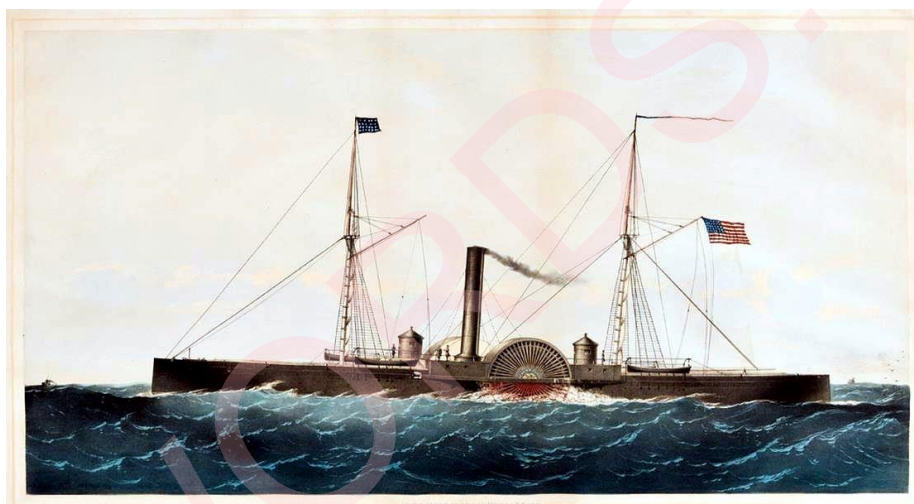
# Charles B. McQuin

Acting Ensign Charles B. McQuin was assigned to only one ship during his short service in the Navy; the **USS Osceola**.

His records consist of two letters with endorsements. One dated Aug 31, 1864 in which he requested an extension of his leave due to ill health, which has the doctor's endorsement and the seconded letter dated Sept 6, 1864 when he reports he was unable to join his ship on account of sickness and requested to extend his leave until Sept, 17. Both letters document his rank as Acting Ensign and his ship as the USS Osceola. Naval records show he resigned on 22 October, 1864.

His service on the USS Osceola was between 9 Jan, 1864 to Aug 31, 1864.

## USS Osceola (1863)



**USS Osceola** was a wooden, sidewheel *Sassacus*-class gunboat which saw combat with the Union Navy in the American Civil War. She was designed with shallow draft and double-ends specifically to allow her to operate in the narrow rivers and inlets along the Confederate coast. She was well suited to this role and took part in major battles on the James and Cape Fear Rivers. After her military service she was converted to a four-masted schooner to carry lumber between St. John, New Brunswick, and Montevideo, Uruguay. She was unsuited to this role and was disabled and abandoned on her first sailing.

## Construction and commissioning

One of the Union Navy's principal duties during the Civil War was to blockade the Confederacy's ports, hurting its economy and denying it manufactured goods, particularly arms, from overseas. A challenge with this assignment was that the coast of the Confederacy had a myriad of small, shallow, rivers and bays, many of which might harbor a blockade runner. To address this challenge, the Navy built a series of fast, shallow-draft classes of gunboats. Several of these were double ended, with a bow at each end, since it was anticipated that some rivers would be too narrow to allow the ship to turn around. *Osceola* was one of the 28 ships of her class, all built to approximately the same design.

*Osceola* was the third vessel built under contract for the Navy at the shipyard of John J. Curtis and Edward F. Tilden in East Boston. The contract was awarded on 15 October 1862. She was a sister ship to USS *Massasoit*, built earlier at the same facility. *Osceola* was launched on 23 May 1863. She was christened by Miss Minnie Moore, daughter of Captain Thomas Moore, who was killed when USS *Congress* was sunk in 1862.

The ship was 205 feet (62 m) long, with a beam of 35 feet (11 m), and a fully-loaded draft of 8 feet 8.5 inches (2.654 m). Her depth of hold was 11 feet 6 inches (3.51 m). She displaced 974 tons. She was initially armed with nine guns, two 110-pounder Parrott rifles, four nine-inch Dahlgren smoothbore, one 12-pounder smoothbore, one 12-pounder rifled gun, and one 24-pounder. Her armament was changed several times during her career.

In October 1862 the Navy entered into contracts with the Atlantic Works of Boston for *Osceola*'s engines, boilers, and related machinery. The original contract price for this work was \$82,000. This equipment required significantly more material than originally estimated by the Navy, and Congress subsequently awarded an additional \$20,513.73 to the Atlantic Works. The ship had two coal-fired boilers which powered a single steam engine. The engine had a single cylinder with a diameter of 58 inches (150 cm) and a stroke of 8 feet 9 inches (2.67 m). *Oceola*'s maximum speed with this power plant was 15 knots.

The ship's crew consisted of 145 men, including 19 officers and 126 enlisted.

The ship's namesake was Osceola (1804-1838), a noted Seminole chief and leader during the Second Seminole War (1835-1842).

Various changes in Navy priorities delayed the final completion of the ship until November 1863. In mid-December 1863 she successfully completed a three-day trial of her steam plant. She was delivered to the U.S. Navy at the Boston Navy Yard on 9 January 1864 and commissioned there on 10 February 1864 with Commander John M. B. Clitz in command. She completed a sea trial on 24 March 1864.

## U.S. Navy Service (1864)

During the time Acting Ensigned McQuin served

*Osceola* departed Boston on 22 April 1864, towing the monitor USS *Canonicus*, and reached New York on 25 April 1864. The ship arrived at Hampton Roads, Virginia, on 3 May 1864. She was assigned to the **North Atlantic Blockading Squadron**. On the night of 4 May 1864, a Union fleet including *Osceola* **sailed up Virginia's James River** in support of General Ulysses S. Grant's Overland Campaign. She spent most of the next four months in and around the James River. In July 1864 *Osceola* was at City Point guarding a flotilla of Union transports including four small ordinance vessels, a small provisions vessel, and the Navy's colliers.

On **4 August 1864** *Osceola* and USS *Miami* **shelled a Confederate battery** which was firing on Union transports near Harrison's Landing, Virginia. She expended 83 shells in this engagement. During the shelling, the elevating screws on two of her guns broke. The ship was ordered to Norfolk Navy Yard for repairs on 6 August 1864 and was reported there on 1 October 1864. While in the shipyard she was refit for blockade duty on the open ocean. While at the Norfolk Navy Yard, Acting Ensign McQuin was granted leave by Commodore John William Livingston, Norfolk Va.

Though McQuin's service was short, he did see active combat.



# Identified Sword

This is an Ames Model 1852 Naval Officers sword identified to Acting Ensign Charles B. McGuin. It is the same sword he is holding in the CDV image of him, which is in the Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division Washington, D.C.



It is an Ames Model 1852 Naval Officers sword. The hilt is tight with much original gold wash; the white grip shows wear, but has 100% original twisted wire; the original blade washer holds the frosty etched blade tight; and the scabbard is complete with all its original mounts and screws. On the top mount is etched the name: Charles B. McGuin.

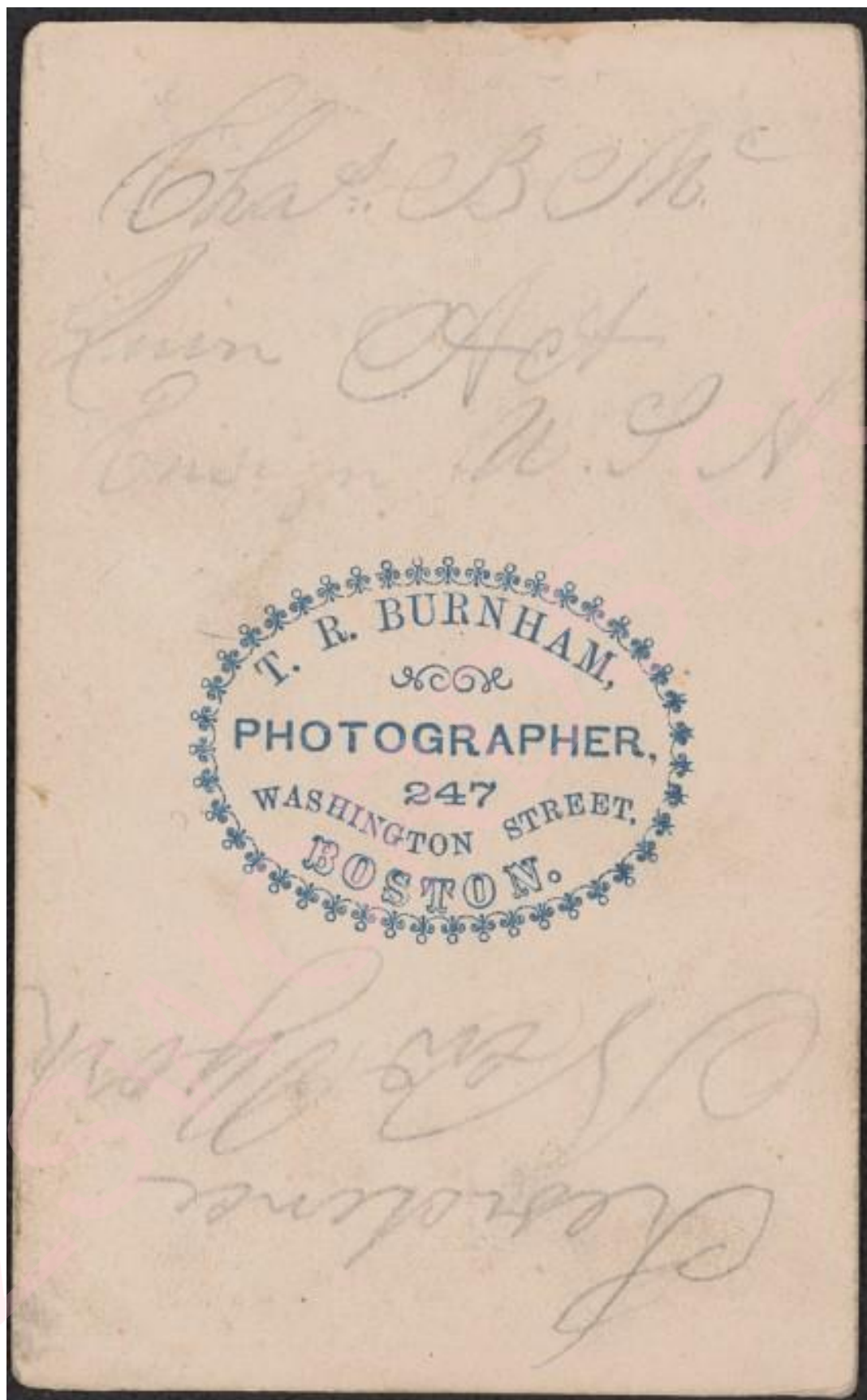


**Charles B. McGuin**



**Charles B. McQuin**





{Acting Ensign Charles B. McQuin of U.S. Navy in uniform with sword}

T.R. Burnham, photographer, 247 Washington Street, Boston.



Residence  
New York



John J. B. B. B.  
from Oct 4  
London N.Y.



# Service Record Letters

493-

No. 15 Lagrange place

Boston August 31<sup>st</sup> 1864

Sir

By premission from Rear Admiral  
H. Stringham I most Respectfully make the follow-  
ing report. I am now in Boston on liberty granted me  
by Commodore J. W. Livingston at Norfolk V. A.  
which liberty expires Sept 3<sup>rd</sup> owing to ill health  
I am unable to travell inclosed you will please see  
certificate from my physician awaiting your Honours orders

I have the honour Sir to be

most Respectfully

Yours Obedt Servt

Charles B. H. Quin

Acting Ensign U. S. A.

U. S. A. Vessels

Wm. Giddens Wells

Deck of the Mary

Washington D. C.

Direct him to  
report for medical  
to Adm. Hq. - to  
ascertain if his leave  
is such as ~~to~~ <sup>to</sup> ~~be~~ <sup>be</sup>  
~~be~~ <sup>be</sup> ~~to~~ <sup>to</sup> ~~be~~ <sup>be</sup>  
~~be~~ <sup>be</sup> ~~to~~ <sup>to</sup> ~~be~~ <sup>be</sup>  
his return at expense  
of his leave

Ordered Sept 15  
R. A. F. Hq.

V. F. H.

M. Sept 3 - Detroit



I hereby certify that  
Acting Ensign Charles B. McEwen  
is in my opinion unfit for  
service on account of ulcers  
& requires medical treatment

Geo. A. Bigelow M. D.

33 Essex St Boston

August 30<sup>th</sup> 1864.

499  
0



I hereby certify that  
Acting Ensign Charles B. McQuinn  
is in my opinion unfit for  
service on account of illness  
& requires medical treatment

Geo. F. Bixton M. D.  
33 Essex St Boston  
August 30<sup>th</sup> 1864.

2990

No 13 Lagrange Place  
Boston Sept 6<sup>th</sup> 1864

Sir

I reported to you by letter the first inst<sup>mt</sup>,  
stating that I was unable to join my ship  
on account of sickness. I am still unfit  
to join my ship. I therefore respectfully  
ask that my leave may be extended  
until Sept 17<sup>th</sup>.

I am, very Respectfully  
Your Obedt<sup>t</sup> Servant  
Charles B. McQuinn  
Acting Ensign U.S.N.  
Belonging to U.S.S. The Osceola

Hon. Gideon Welles  
Secretary of the Navy  
Navy Dep<sup>t</sup>  
Washington  
D. C.

B

Extend leave  
to 15<sup>th</sup> Sept

Sept 10.

JPR

Mo. Sept 9. Detail