

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Bounty Land Warrant record of William Watkins VAS1759

VSL21

Transcribed by Will Graves

3/16/15

[Methodology: Spelling, punctuation and/or grammar have been corrected in some instances for ease of reading and to facilitate searches of the database. Where the meaning is not compromised by adhering to the spelling, punctuation or grammar, no change has been made. Corrections or additional notes have been inserted within brackets or footnotes. Blanks appearing in the transcripts reflect blanks in the original. A bracketed question mark indicates that the word or words preceding it represent(s) a guess by me. The word 'illegible' or 'indcipherable' appearing in brackets indicates that at the time I made the transcription, I was unable to decipher the word or phrase in question. Only materials pertinent to the military service of the veteran and to contemporary events have been transcribed. Affidavits that provide additional information on these events are included and genealogical information is abstracted, while standard, 'boilerplate' affidavits and attestations related solely to the application, and later nineteenth and twentieth century research requests for information have been omitted. I use speech recognition software to make all my transcriptions. Such software misinterprets my southern accent with unfortunate regularity and my poor proofreading skills fail to catch all misinterpretations. Also, dates or numbers which the software treats as numerals rather than words are not corrected: for example, the software transcribes "the eighth of June one thousand eighty six" as "the 8th of June 1786." Please call material errors or omissions to my attention.]

[From [bounty land records in the Library of Virginia](#)]

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Memorial to the Governor of Virginia

The undersigned, one of the heirs at law of William Watkins deceased who was a Lieutenant of the State Navy in the War of the Revolution, Respectfully Prays of the Governor & Counsel the usual allowance of Bounty Land.

The undersigned declares that her father, the said William Watkins, as she has frequently heard him & others say, while serving on board of the boat *Patrick*¹ or *Liberty*² commanded by one of the Barrons, received a severe wound in the ankle. When he had recovered from the

¹ BARRON, RICHARD VA Captain, Virginia Navy Richard Barron was a resident of Elizabeth City County, Virginia, and brother of JAMES BARRON. [Stewart, 148] He was a Captain of Virginia Militia, and was assigned to the Virginia Navy [Sloop] *Patriot* on 4 March 1776. With James Barron of the Virginia Navy [Sloop] *Liberty* he recaptured the British Transport Ship *Oxford*. On 11 September 1776 he and James Barron were ordered to protect transport vessels taking troops down Chesapeake Bay to the Virginia Capes. [NOAR, 17] Barron was Captain, Virginia Navy and assigned to the Virginia Navy Brig *Jefferson*, from 1778-1780. On 11 October 1780 he was given leave to go to the West Indies to recover his health. His will was proved on 28 April 1791. [Stewart, 148] <http://www.awiatsea.com/Officers/Officers%20B.html>

BARRON, JAMES VA Commodore, Virginia Navy: James Barron was born in 1740, [NOAR, 16] in Elizabeth City County, Virginia. He served in the transatlantic merchant service before the war, sailing the ship *Elizabeth* from Virginia to London and back. [NDAR, I, 1387-1394] He was commissioned as a Captain of Virginia Militia [NOAR, 17] and, according to his son, entered Virginia naval service on 25 December 1775. [Stewart, 146] On 4 March 1776 he was serving aboard the Virginia Navy [Sloop] *Liberty*. Together with Captain Richard Barron of the Virginia Navy [Sloop] *Patriot* he recaptured the British Transport Ship *Oxford*. On 11 September 1776 he and Richard Barron were ordered to protect transport vessels taking troops down Chesapeake Bay to the Virginia Capes. [NOAR, 17] Barron later served as Commodore of the Virginia Navy, commissioned July 1780, [Stewart, 146] to 7 April 1783. He died on 14 May 1787, still acting as Commodore. [Stewart, 146] <http://www.awiatsea.com/Officers/Officers%20B.html>

² *Liberty*. ND5:1051, ND6:1479, ND7:1196, ND8:1016, VANavy:152, boat, sometimes schooner-rigged, Capt James Barron, which captured in 1776 the British troop transport *Oxford* and the British sloop *Dorothy*, and in 1779 the British tender *Fortunatus*. Coggins:102, ND10:40, 325, 628, ND11:1171n, armed boat in VA Navy, Capt James Barron, 1776, 1777. Dandridge:186 shows a schooner. ND5:758, C305, one *Liberty* Capt was Richard Taylor, VA Navy, Mar 1776. C198, another *Liberty* Capt was Alexander Masinburg/Massenburg of VA, Jul 1776. Eller:201, sold in 1789. Possibly Paullin:518, served 1776-1777. <http://www.awiatsea.com/Other/Hough%20List%20L.html>

wound, he received a Lieutenant's commission, reentered the service & continued therein until the end of the War. The undersigned further states that the uniform of her father worn in the revolution remained in the family many years after the War, and also did the ball which was extracted from his ankle. Said Watkins is dead about the year 1798.

Given under my hand this 19th day of May 1835

S/ Mary Serrant



Elizabeth City County, to wit:

This 16th day of May 1835 personally appeared before me a Justice of the peace in & for the County aforesaid Mrs. Mary Serrant and made oath to the above statement to the best [the image of this document cuts off at the bottom thereof at this point.]

[p 5]

The Affidavit of James Webb taken before me one of the Commonwealth Justices of the peace this 13th day of May in the year 1833, who being first duly sworn on the holy Bible deposed & saith that he was well acquainted with Lieut. William Watkins of the State Navy of Virginia and that early in the War of the Revolution he was wounded by a musket ball in the ankle, which was extracted by the Surgeons of Hampton. After his recovery, he again joined the Navy & served until the close of the War. I always understood that Mr. Watkins held a commission of Lieut. in the State Navy, as to his being in the State Navy & wounded & his service therein I know of my own personal knowledge.

S/ James Webb



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I do hereby Certify that I knew William Watkins in the Revolutionary War. Mr. Watkins was in the Town of Hampton, and was in the State service in said War. I do not know, the particulars of his service, All I recollect of him is that he was wounded in the ankle in an engagement with the enemy. I recollect him distinctly when young. I received his attentions. I am positive as to the fact of his being in the service and being wounded. Further I cannot say.

S/ Elizabeth Jones



[Acknowledged in Elizabeth City County Virginia March 29, 1834]

[p 9]

Elizabeth City County, to wit

This day Mrs. Ann Payne made oath that she was acquainted with William Watkins in the Revolutionary War, that said Watkins entered the Virginia service as a Pilot on board of a Vessel

commanded by Commodore Barron that while he was on board he received a severe wound in the ankle, which was dressed by Dr. McCleug [?]³ who was then the surgeon of a Naval Hospital in this place. That she was present and saw the wound dressed. That she recollects that Dr. McCleug said to Mr. Watkins that he deserved a Commission & that he would endeavor to procure one for him. That a Lieutenant's Commission was procured for said Watkins. That he reentered the service as Lieut. and served to the end of the War. That she has seen a piece of bone which was discharged from the wound received by said Watkins – further this deponent saith not.

S/ Ann Payne, X her mark

[Acknowledged March 22, 1834]

[p 13]

The Affidavit of Jeremiah Cain taken before me Tazewell Taylor A Notary Public of the Borough of Norfolk and duly qualified according to law for that purpose.

The Affiant being first duly sworn deposes and saith that he was living in Elizabeth City County in the State of Virginia near the town of Hampton in the year 1761 [?] and that he was well acquainted with William Watkins who served as a pilot on board of one of the vessels belonging to the State Navy of Virginia in the Revolutionary War. This affiant will not undertake to state the precise time when the said William Watkins entered the Navy as a Pilot; but he is very certain that the said William Watkins was in the service aforesaid as Pilot for [word illegibly faint] years though he rather thinks that he served for five years. And this Affiant further states that the said William Watkins had 2 brothers in the Navy aforesaid to wit James Watkins who was a Capt. in the service and who died in Charleston South Carolina whilst a prisoner of war, the vessel under his command having been captured and carried into that port by a British [word too faint to discern]: and the other brother George Watkins who was a pilot in the said Virginia State Navy and who died some time after the termination of the said revolutionary war. This affiant would [word too faint to discern] positively as to all the above facts for though he was young at the time referred to, yet his recollection is distinct upon the subject.


S/ Jeremiah Cain, X his mark

[Attested March 26, 1831 in Norfolk borough]

[p 15]

Elizabeth City County

This day personally appeared before me William Hope one of the Commonwealth's Justices of the peace in and for the County aforesaid David Hicks who made oath that he was well acquainted with William Watkins who was an Officer in the War of the Revolution and that he recollects the time when said Watkins was wounded in the ankle and has seen the wound repeatedly and has had his finger on the ball before it was taken from his ankle, at the time said Watkins entered the service he was a Pilot, and as well as he recollects continued as such until he was wounded. After he recovered from the wound he went away & when he returned he was in full uniform, and was called Lieut. Watkins: and this affiant is positive said William Watkins was in the service to the end of the war for he has frequently heard him say he served the war out. Said Watkins lived then about 10 or 15 years after the conclusion of the War.

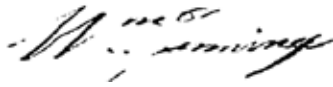

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Given under my hand and seal this 15th day of April in the year 1834
S/ Wm Hope, JP

[p 17]

The affidavit of William Jennings⁴ taken before me William Hope a Justice of the peace in and for the County of Elizabeth City who being first duly sworn deposed and saith that he was intimately acquainted with William Watkins of the Virginia Navy. That said Watkins entered the service at an early period of the War of the Revolution, and served till the close of the same that he well recollects the time when said Watkins was wounded in the ankle by a musket ball in an engagement with one of the enemies vessels, that this affiant [several words illegibly faint] and entered on the same vessel with William Watkins & served with him three years. Said Watkins was an officer, but of what grade this affiant cannot distinctly recollect & further this deponent saith not.

S/ Wm Jennings



[Attested November 29, 1833]

[p 21]

The affidavit of Commodore James Barron⁵ taken before me Tazewell Taylor a Notary Public of the Borough of Norfolk duly commissioned & qualified for that purpose.

The said affiant being first sworn deposed & saith that he was very well acquainted with William Watkins who was attached to the State Navy of Virginia during the Revolutionary War and served as a Pilot the greater part of said war until its close in 1783.

The affiant has read the affidavit of Jeremiah Cain taken before Tazewell Taylor relative to the said William Watkins whose affidavit bears date of the 26th March 1831 and he has no hesitation in saying that the facts therein set forth are true as far as they relate to William Watkins and James Watkins as he has a personal knowledge of those facts – In relation to George Watkins although the affiant knows nothing of his service yet he has no reason to doubt the statement made by Mr. Cain in relation to him.

S/ James Barron⁶



⁴ [William Jennings S5615](#)

⁵ [James Barron W12264](#)

⁶ BARRON, JAMES, JR. VA: Midshipman, Virginia Navy: James Barron, Jr. was a son of JAMES BARRON. He was a Midshipman in the Virginia Navy. [Stewart, 148] He entered the Navy before July 1780. [Stewart, 146] He was a Captain later. [Stewart, 148] He later had a distinguished career in the United States Navy. [Stewart, 146] <http://www.awiatsea.com/Officers/Officers%20B.html>