

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters

Virginia documents pertaining to Rowland Wadlington VAS4831  
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris.

[From [rejected claims in the Library of Virginia.](#)]

I Lewis Stokes [S6158] of Gloucester county, do hereby certify that I was well acquainted with Rowland Wadlington of this county. The said Wadlington was a Pilot on board the navy vessels in York River. I was in the militia service myself, during almost the whole of the war, in the neighbourhood of Gloucester Town, and had frequent opportunities of seeing the said Wadlington in passing from one vessel to another and when he would some times come on shore, particularly in the early part of the war. I always understood that he and Francis Hobday [VAS1552] piloted the French vessels about the River, and I know he remained in service as a Pilot to the end of the war. I was on guard as a militia man, on York River, opposite the Town of York at the time of the siege and remember that the said Wadlington was then on board of one of the French ships that lay off broad creek near the mouth of York River. The said Wadlington and Francis Hobday were half brothers, and were a good deal together. As witness my hand and seal this 27<sup>th</sup> day of May A.D. one thousand eight hundred and thirty three.

Lewis hisXmark Stokes

I Henry Buchanan [S37807] formerly of Gloucester, but now of the county of York, do hereby certify, that I was well acquainted with Rowland Wadlington of Gloucester county. The said Rowland Wadlington was a half brother of Francis Hobday and was a Pilot on board of the navy vessels in York River from the commencement of the war. I was born and raised in the county of Gloucester, on Sarah's [Sarah] creek near the said Wadlington's residence, and have often seen him engaged as a Pilot in the neighbourhood of York. In July seventeen hundred and seventy eight I enlisted as a soldier, under captain Addison Lewis [VAS899], a recruiting officer in Bland's [Theodorick Bland VAS1859] Regiment of cavalry at Petersburg, and marched from thence to the north where I remained 'till December of that year, when our Regiment returned to Winchester in this state. I was under the command of captain John Hughes [VAS1652], and belonged to the 5<sup>th</sup> troop of the first Regiment, which was raised after the said first Regiment had been some time in service at the north, for the purpose of filling up the vacancy that had been occasioned by Majr. [Henry] Lee's withdrawal of the 5<sup>th</sup> troop from that Regiment. I afterwards went with our Regiment to the South, where I remained through the whole southern campaign, and returned to Virginia and was discharged about the tenth of July seventeen hundred and eighty one. On my return to Virginia the said Rowland Wadlington was still in service as a Pilot of the navy vessels in York River and the neighbouring rivers. In September seventeen hundred and eighty one I again went into the service as a substitute in the Militia for Charles Brown of Gloucester, and was stationed at York Town [Yorktown] where I remained 'till after the surrender of the British troops [19 Oct 1781], when I was discharged and returned home. whilst I was stationed at York, as a substitute, I frequently saw the said Rowland Wadlington engaged as a Pilot on board the navy vessels, and know that he assisted in piloting the French fleet into York River, and that he stayed a greater part of his time on board of them 'till the fleet left the capes of Virginia when he aided Francis Hobday in piloting them out, after which, he returned home and I do not know of his being in service afterwards, as witness my hand and seal this 28<sup>th</sup> day of May A.D. one thousand eight hundred and thirty three.

*Henry Buchanan*

I William Figg of Gloucester County, do hereby certify that I knew Rowland Wadlington of this county, and know that he was a Pilot very early in the Revolutionary war on board of the navy vessels in York River. I lived on Sarah's creek, opposite York, and had frequent opportunities of seeing the said Rowland Wadlington on board the navy vessels and when he would sometimes come on shore from thence, as he

often did. He was a half brother of Francis Hobday, and lived near where I did. I frequently went on board the vessels myself, when they were in the neighbourhood. I recollect being on board the Henry, the Tartar and the Droggon [*Dragon*], and perhaps others, but do not remember their names, and saw the said Wadlington acting as a Pilot on board of some, if not all of them, for he was sometimes on board of one and sometimes another. I always understood that the said Wadlington and Francis Hobday piloted the French fleet into york River, and I know he helped to pilot them out when they went away. I also know that he was in service 'till after the seige of york, and I believe to the close of the war. I was in york the next day after the seige, and frequently since, and have repeatedly met with the said Wadlington there, and also in gloucester Town. as witness my hand and seal this 28<sup>th</sup> day of May, A.D. one thousand eight hundred and thirty three.

Wm. hisXmark Figg

Claimants employment as Pilot is no proof of regular enlistment or regular service in the Navy. No more established. Rejected WR