

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters

Virginia documents pertaining to George Watkins VAS4893  
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris.

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

I do hereby certify that the Bearer George Watkins did enter with me as a private man on board the Schooner Jenny at Hampton on the seventh day of January last and that he acted in such station till the 17<sup>th</sup> day of February following when I appointed him Pilot of the said Schooner in which station he continued until the 23<sup>d</sup> day of May following when we were taken by the Seaford man of war. I further certify that at the time of being taken the sum of twenty eight Pounds ten shillings currency at 0/ per day was justly due him from the State of Virginia and that she is no farther indebted to me than the sum of three Pounds eleven shillings & four Pence half penny Virginia Currency Given under my hand at Sea this 21<sup>st</sup> day of July 1777.

George Ralls [VAS4161]

Witness Nicholas Price

Mr. Watkins agreeable to his account was exchanged the 5<sup>th</sup> day of March 1780 and arrived here the 15<sup>th</sup> Dec'r following which includes a servitude of near four years. The account of our treatment while confined in England is particularly mentioned in a memorial which I delivered to the Council while Governor [Patrick] Henry presided, and the present low value of the money will I hope cause the legislative body to allow Mr. Watkins more than what was stipulated in his agreem't. His services, as pilot, and his sufferings as a prisoner demand a sufficient reward.

Hampton Jan'y 31<sup>st</sup> 1781

George Ralls

To the Honorable the Speaker and Gentlemen of the House of Delgates. The Petition of George Watkins humbly sheweth.

That your petitioner was on the 11<sup>th</sup> day of January in the year of our Lord 1777 employed in the service of this State and acted as pilot of the Jenny Schooner commanded by Captain George Ralls, that the said Vessel was captured by the Seaford British Man of War on the 14<sup>th</sup> day of May following, and that he was sent to and confined in Prison at Plymouth in England 'till exchanged by Cartel the 5<sup>th</sup> March 1780 and arrived in Virginia the 15<sup>th</sup> Day of Dec'r following.

Your Petitioner begs leave to inform your honorable house that he is in an advanced age, that his long confinement has much destroyed himself and family and that he is now greatly in want of what your honourable house shall in your judgment think proper to allow him.

Annexed to this is a certificate which will inform your honours that your petitioner advances no more than truth independant of what might be said of the miseries attending imprisonment, and your petitioner humbly hopes his case may be taken into the serious consideration of your honourable house and that you will order proper payment to be made him.

December 13<sup>th</sup> 1781

George Watkins

Richmond Virginia 23rd June 1783.

Navy.

Warr[ant] to George Watkins for his pay & Compensation for his )  
suffering whilst in Captivity pr Resolution of Assembly past 16th Instant. ) £60.0.0

The above is truly copied from Journal A page 334.

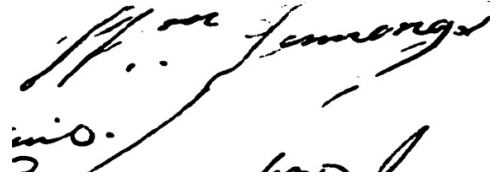
Given under my hand at the Auditors Office Richmond this 23rd day of Sept'r 1851.

Ro Johnston/ First Aud'r

I certify that George Watkins served 3 years in the Virginia Navy in the Revolutionary War as a Pilot.

Wm. Jennings [William Jennings S5615]

[Elizabeth City County, 9 January 1832]

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Wm. Jennings". The signature is written in dark ink on a light background.

I certify that George Watkins served in one of the Vessels in the Virginia navy in the Revolutionary War as a Pilot & was absent from Hampton his native place for several years in said service.

[Elizabeth City County, 19 January 1832]

Ann herXmark Payne

I certify that George Watkins, of Hampton in the county of Elizabeth City, served for three years & more in the Virginia Navy in the Revolutionary War as a Pilot in said service.

[30 April 1832]

Jeremiah hisXmark Cain

I Certify that I am now in my seventy third year of age and that I was well acquainted with George Watkins who Was a Pilot in the revolutionary war and I knew him to Pilot the state Vessills for upwards of four years from york river and other Rivers in the state and I believe he acted with Honour to himself as I never herd or knew any Complaint of him given under my hand and seal this fourth day of June 1832

[Gloucester County]

Wm. hisXmark Figg [William Figg]

To Govr. Tazewell [31 March 1834 – 30 April 1836]

The heirs of George Watkins respectfully ask that an allowance of bounty land be made them for the services of [undeciphered] Watkins in the war of the revolution

1834 Aug 5 Rejected

Feb'y 27<sup>th</sup> 1851. Advice. This claim has been rejected by both Governors Floyd and Tazewell, and I think ought to be again rejected.

1851 Dec'r 31. Allowed as [undeciphered] 3 years

NOTE: For more on the capture of the *Jenny*, see the endnotes for the pension application of George Ralls VAS4161.