

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters

Virginia documents pertaining to James Watkins VAS4894
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris.

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

The Affidavit of Jeremiah Cain taken by me Tazewell Taylor a Notary public of the Borough of Norfolk and duly qualified according to Law for that purpose.

The said affiant Jeremiah Cain being first duly sworn deposeth and sayeth that he was born in Elizabeth city county in the state of Virginia near the town of Hampton in the year 1761 and was intimately acquainted with Captain James Watkins of the State Navy of Virginia during the revolutionary war. That the said Watkins was in the service aforesaid for several years before his death and that he was taken a prisoner whilst in the command of one of the vessels belonging to the said Navy of Virginia by a British cruiser, which captured his vessel, and being carried into the port of Charleston in the state of South Carolina he the said James Watkins was closely confined as a Prisoner and died whilst so confined a short time before the Peace, as has been generally affirmed, and as far as the affiant knows or believes has never been contradicted. This affiant when he speaks of several years during which the said Watkins was in service would expressly affirm that the said Watkins served for four years, if not more.

[26 March 1831]

Jeremiah hisXmark Cain

The Affidavit of William Jennings Sr [S5615] taken before me Tazewell Taylor a Notary public of the Borough of Norfolk duly qualified for that purpose.

This affiant being first duly sworn deposeth and sayeth that he was well acquainted with Captn James Watkins of the State Navy of Virginia. That the said Watkins entered the said Navy in the early part of the war of the revolution and was promoted from the grade of a Lieutenant in which capacity he served for a three years to that of a Lieutenant Captain when he commanded a vessel of war belonging to the said State Navy of Virginia and a short time before the Battle of York Town [siege of Yorktown, 28 Sep - 19 Oct 1781] he was captured by a British decoy ship or cruiser and carried to Charleston S Carolina where being closely confined as a prisoner of war he died as has been always reported and believed just before the Peace in 1783. Of this last fact (his death) the affiant only speaks as to the general impression of which he can know nothing personally but only from current report.

[26 March 1831]

*what.
Wm Jennings*

The affidavit of Commodore James Barron [W12264] taken before me Tazewell Taylor a notary public of the Borough of Norfolk duly commissioned and qualified for that purpose.

The said Affiant being first sworn deposeth and sayeth that he was very well acquainted with James Watkins who was a Lieutenant in the State Navy of Virginia commanding the State schooner Patriot.

The said affiant stood on the lands on James River and witnessed the Capture of the said schooner under the said command by a decoy vessel fitted out for that express purpose as was afterwards understood – that the said James Watkins was then carried as a prisoner to Charleston S. Carolina and there confined in the Provost a loathsome jail as it was considered until his death The affiant would not state the precise number of years that the said James Watkins held the situation of a Lieutenant commanding but he is certain that it was for more than three years.

James Barron

NOTE: For details regarding the capture of the *Patriot*, see the account by Commodore James Barron the younger in Robert Armistead Stewart, *The History of Virginia's Navy of the Revolution* (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1993 reprint), 108-111.