

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of William Waterman W25893

Esther Waterman

A1306/1359RI

Transcribed and annotated by Will Graves

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[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 'indecipherable' or 'undeciphered' 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. Researchers should not rely solely on the transcripts but should review the originals for themselves. These transcripts are intended as an aid to research, not to be used in lieu thereof.]

[image 1311]

I William Waterman Cranston in the District of Rhode Island on Solemn oath do declare & say that on the 29th day of April 1778 I received a Commission appointing me first Lieutenant in the Navy of the United States signed by Henry Laurens then President of Congress which Commission is herewith annexed – Under said Commission in the month of April aforesaid – I entered on board the Frigate *Providence*¹ a vessel of war then in the Service of the United States commanded by Abraham Whipple² Esquire, in which Frigate I went to France & from thence back again to Boston & afterwards we went on a cruise & fell in with the Jamaican fleet of merchant men & captured ten sail off the Banks of Newfoundland & soon after returned again to Boston – Said Frigate again refitted & sailed from said Boston to Charleston South Carolina where we arrived & when that city surrendered³ to the enemy said Frigate was taken also & I was made a prisoner of War = After my exchange which was not until I had been a prisoner twenty months or thereabouts – I received an order from the Naval Board to repair on board the Frigate *Deon* [sic, *Deane*],⁴ vessel of war then in the Service of the United States commanded by

¹ Providence, 28 guns, 1777-1780. GWA: 701, ND3:90, 902, ND4:1194, ND5:367, 1172, ND6:1399, ND7:1304, ND8:28, ND9:922, ND10:823, Capt Samuel Tomkins, mid 1776. Connor: 167 fn (1878), Buel: 87, Smith:80, 170, 245, 249, ND11:723, DaviesXIII:71, Fowler:107-110, Continental Navy frigate, 28 guns, Capt Abraham Whipple in 1777, operated in English waters in 1778. FW3: 836, Smith: 247, SchV: 54, Blatchford: 101, this frigate was placed at the harbor entrance to protect Charleston in 1780, but was later captured there 12 May 1780. C333-334, it had been the flagship for Capt Abraham Whipple. Manley: 95, it was put in service in the British navy, then sold 14 Mar 1784. Ford 1778: 29, 1779:1342, Ford1780: 584. JA5: 126, 6: 358, 7: 150, 8:28, 9: 224, others. Davies XIII: 71ii. Volo: 90, 91, 132, Silverstone: 3. Paullin: 516, served 1775-1779. Chapelle: 73, 96. Coggins 203, <https://www.awiatsea.com/Hough/Hough%20List%20P.html>

See also: https://threedecks.org/index.php?display_type=show_ship&id=2421

² <http://gaspee.org/AbrahamWhipple.html> Whipple served as Commadore of a fleet consisting of the Frigates *Boston*, *Charleston* and *Providence* as well as the sloops of war, *Ranger* and *Queen of France*. See, [W23633 William Blunt](#); [W22231 George T. Sloan \(Sloane\)](#) and [S32836 William Hill](#)

³ Battle of Charleston [city fell to the British May 12, 1780] <http://www.myrevolutionarywar.com/battles/800401-charleston/> & <https://allthingsliberty.com/2020/10/britains-last-throw-of-the-dice-begins-the-charlestown-campaign-of-1780/>

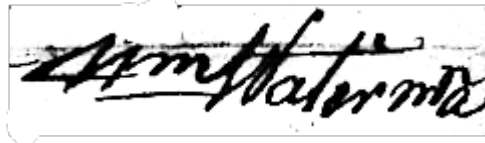
⁴ *Deane*, 32 guns, 1777-1783.

GWA:701, Buel:87, Smith:137, 176-177, 199-200, 217-218, 254-257, 279-281, Augur:95, 165, ND9:653, JA7:90, 8:27, 9:228, Continental frigate, 32 guns, purchased in France, formerly *Lyon*, which successfully cruised the West Indies under Capt John Manley and survived the war. It was renamed the *Hague* but was sold at public auction in Boston in Oct 1783. CTP:66-67, this is the ship, Capt Elisha Hinman, which had formerly been *Le Jonathan* built at

Samuel Nicholson⁵ Esquire which order is herewith annexed to go on a cruise with the *Alliance*⁶ In which Service he continued until June 1783 – when said Frigate was ordered to be sold in consequence of the Peace,

I further declare that I am now in reduced circumstances in need of the assistance of my Country for support.

Wm Waterman

A rectangular box containing a handwritten signature in cursive script, which appears to read "Wm Waterman".

[image 1325: Image of the commission appointing the veteran as a 1st Lieutenant of Marines dated Boston April 29th, 1778 and signed by Henry Laurens, president of the Continental Congress.]

[image 1350: Certificate signed by William Potter, George Field, John Mawry [?], Christopher Waterman, George Waterman, Samuel Jackson & Grovener Taft [could be Gravener Taft] stating that they know that William Waterson is in indigent circumstances.

Nantes, Capt Pierre Patol, before it became part of the Continental Navy. C221, 222, other Captains were Samuel Nicholson, 1777, and John Nicholson, Nov 1779. Crewmen are listed in MAS. Ford1779:466, 899, Ford1780: 401, 669, 1026. JA6:67, 252, 9:228. <https://www.awiatsea.com/Hough/Hough%20List%20C-D.html>

⁵ NICHOLSON, SAMUEL: Captain, Continental Navy On 17 June 1788 Nicholson petitioned Congress to make an estimate of the value of the prizes captured on Wicke's cruise around the British Isles in 1777, and requested that his share be paid to him. [Samuel Nicholson to Congress, extract, NRAR, 214] Congress assigned the matter to a committee which reported on 27 June, and which was accepted on 2 July 1788. [Committee Report, extract, NRAR, 214] Nicholson was not happy with this settlement. In a letter to Cyrus Griffin, President of the Continental Congress, he complained that he would receive only a "pittance," and that with no interest. Nicholson requested justice. [Nicholson to Griffin, extract, NRAR, 214] Congress sent this back to the committee which reported on 17 July that Nicholson should have a commission on the sales of the Wickes squadron's prizes. Congress accepted this report on 18 July. [Committee report, extract, NRAR, 214] <https://www.awiatsea.com/Officers/Officers%20N.html>

⁶ *Alliance*. ND8:36, FW3:309, originally a 36 gun French frigate, which came under the American flag with Commodore John Paul Jones in Sep 1779, and Capt Pierre Landais. Connor:283, 286 (1878), frigate in action in 1779. C87, 178, this may be the vessel under Capt Pierre Landais, ship taken over by crew and placed under Cont. Navy Lt, James Arthur Degge, who was in command Aug 1780. JA8:19-20, 9:22, and many others. **[This entry and the one below refer to the Continental Navy Frigate Alliance, never a French vessel, commanded in succession by Landais, Jones, Landais, and Barry. Thanks to reader KBGI for bringing this to my attention.]** *Alliance*. Buel:87, frigate, newly constructed in 1778 at Salisbury, MA, Capt John Barry, 32 guns, 250 men. Smith:176-177, 286-291, Continental Navy frigate manned by captured British seaman, almost recaptured in a takeover plot in 1777. Capture:9-10, SchV:44, American ship, 40 guns, which captured the *Atalante*. Howard:157-161, in 1783, the *Alliance* went to the West Indies and on the return, fought the *Sybil*, a British frigate. The *Alliance* survived the war and was sold at auction in Aug, 1785. It was frequently mentioned in records of Cont. Congress. <https://www.awiatsea.com/Hough/Hough%20List%20A.html>

William Potter
George Field
Jos. Maston
Christ Waterman
George Waterman
Samuel Jackson
Gravenor Saff

[image 1336: Certificate dated September 3rd, 1836 certifying a copy of the certificate of marriage between Captain William Waterman of Cranston and Miss Esther Field, daughter of Captain William Field also of Cranston; the marriage being certified as having occurred on July 13th, 1783 and given by Nehemiah Knight, JP]

[image 1346: Affidavit given in Providence on September 8th, 1836 by George Field in which he states that he knew William Waterman was commissioned as a Lieutenant in the Marine Service and that he married Esther Waterman on July 13, 1783 by Nehemiah Knight, JP. His relationship, if any, to the veteran and/or his wife is not stated.

George Field]

[image 1314: On July 31st, 1838 in Rhode Island, Esther Waterman, aged 77 years and a resident of Providence County made application for a widow's pension under the 1838 act stating that she is the widow of William Waterman; that she married him July 13, 1783; that he died June 18, 1821; and that she remains a widow.

Esther Waterman]

[image 1319: On October 7, 1851 in Providence County Rhode Island, William F. Waterman of Cranston in said County filed a claim on behalf of himself and his brother Nathan Waterman in order to obtain the arrears of pension due to their mother at the time of her death which took place on September 24, 1844.

William F. Waterman]

[Veteran was pension at the rate of \$20 per month commencing April 21, 1818, for service as a Lieutenant on board the Providence. His widow was pensioned in a like amount.]