

WADE BARKER (b. c. 1745), c. 1785

Anonymous

watercolor on ivory

2 7/8 x 1 7/8 (7.30 x 4.76)

Gift of Rogers Barker, 1930

Weis 7

Hewes Number: 6

Ex. Coll.: Owned by the sitter's nephew James Nelson Barker (1784-1858); to his grandson, the donor.

According to family history, this miniature of a man wearing a naval uniform depicts Wade Barker of Pennsylvania. Barker was the brother of General John Barker (1756-1818) who served in the Revolutionary War and later became the mayor of Philadelphia. An 1828 note in the Barker Family papers in the collections of the American Antiquarian Society states that Wade Barker 'taught school in Cumberland County...; he afterwards followed the water.'¹ Although the sitter is shown wearing a naval uniform, his name is not included in the published rolls of the early American navy. This miniature, as well as papers relating to the family, was given to the Society in 1930 by the sitter's grand-nephew, an accomplished actor who lived in Worcester.²

¹ Markell Ware, November 28, 1828, James Nelson Barker Papers, 1793-1927, AAS Manuscript Collection.

² 'Player Gives Life to Stage Tradition,' Worcester Gazette, March 15, 1930, AAS Newsclipping File.