

The Two Demaris's – Demaris Elizabeth De St. Julien ~

(The first) Demaris Elizabeth de St. Julien (c. 1698-c. 1781)

- **Birth and parentage:** Demaris Elizabeth de St. Julien was born in the Province of Carolina around 1698 to Pierre de St. Julien de Malacare and Damaris Elizabeth LeSerrurier. She was of French Huguenot descent, a group of religious refugees who established prominent families in South Carolina.
- **Marriage and children:** She married Daniel Ravenel of Somerton around 1718. The couple had several children, and many of their descendants became members of South Carolina's elite society. She created her will in 1778 and passed away around 1781, years before the Revolutionary War concluded.
- **Plantation life:** Both the St. Julien and Ravenel families were part of the planter class in the Lowcountry region, owning extensive land and enslaved people. This placed them among the wealthiest families in the colony.

Absence of Patriot record

The dates of her life (c. 1698–c. 1781) and her position in colonial society make it unlikely for her to have been a Patriot.

- **Abolitionist activities:** During the colonial era, few members of the planter class, who were dependent on the labor of enslaved people, publicly opposed the practice. There is no historical record indicating she engaged in abolitionist activities.
- **Role during the Revolution:** The role of women in the American Revolution varied widely, with some contributing through spying, running households and businesses alone, or nursing soldiers. However, historical resources make no mention of Demaris Elizabeth De St. Julien participating in these types of activities.
- **Potential confusion:** Some online genealogical sources mistakenly attribute a 1690 birth year to her, but her date of death around 1781 is a firm indication she died before the conclusion of the war. These dates, combined with her status as a wealthy landowner in a colonial slave

society, make it highly unlikely she was a "patriot" in the sense of fighting for the revolutionary cause.

- Historical and genealogical records do not indicate that Demaris Elizabeth De St. Julian (circa 1698–1781) was a Patriot of the American Revolution. Her life concluded before the conflict's end, and evidence points to her, instead, being part of the colonial planter class.

(The second) Demaris Elizabeth de St. Julien was wife of William Moultrie (1730-1805). This was Demaris Elizabeth De St. Julian, daughter of Peter de St. Julien and Sarah Godin. They married 10 Dec 1749.

Profile of this **Demaris Elizabeth De St. Julian** (1733-1775):

- **Birth:** 1733 in South Carolina.
- **Her parents:** Peter De St. Julien and Sarah Godin (m. 1 Jun 1727).
- **Marriage:** Married William Moultrie on December 10, 1749.
- **Family:** She and William Moultrie had two children: Lucretia and William Moultrie Jr.
- **Death:** She passed away in 1775
- **NOTE:** *William Moultrie married twice. In October 1779, he wed Hannah Motte, daughter of Jacob Motte and Elizabeth Martin [and the widow of Thomas Lynch]. Their marriage was childless.*
- While **Damaris** was not a patriot herself, her marriage in 1749 to William Moultrie connected her to a key figure of the revolution. Moultrie became an influential member of the South Carolina government and is a celebrated hero (Patriot) of the war.
- The American Revolutionary War took place from 1775 to 1783, but genealogies show that **Demaris** Elizabeth De St. Julian died in 1775, at or before the war began.

Notable South Carolina Female Patriots

Although Demaris Elizabeth De St. Julian was not a patriot, many other women in South Carolina actively supported the cause for independence during the war. Some notable examples include:

- **The Martin Women (Elizabeth, Grace, and Rachel Martin):** In 1781, this trio ambushed a British courier and confiscated vital dispatches that were then passed to the American forces.
- **Margaret Catherine Moore Barry:** Known as the "Heroine of the Battle of Cowpens," Barry volunteered as a scout for American forces and helped rally militia members. She endured capture and torture by the British but refused to reveal troop locations.
- **Rebecca Brewton Motte:** When Patriot officers needed to burn down her mansion to dislodge British troops, Motte willingly provided the arrows to set her house on fire.
- **Susannah Smith Elliott:** Raised by her aunt Rebecca Motte, Elliott was known for being very active with soldiers and once hid three American visitors from the British in a secret closet at her plantation home.
- **Dorothy Sinkler Richardson (1737-1793),** a woman who was "distinguished in mind and manners," was the second wife of Gen. Richard Richardson (1704-1780), and a staunch Patriot. On 7 November 1780, less than two months after the death of her husband, Dorothy was at Big Home, the Richardson plantation near Jack's Creek, with her four young sons when British troops led by Col. Banastre Tarleton arrived. Tarleton, whose mission was to capture Gen. Francis Marion and put an end to his activities, set up a decoy campsite at Big Home hoping to lure Marion into a trap. His plans were thwarted when Dorothy, heedless of danger to herself, sent a messenger to warn Marion. In retaliation, Tarleton had Dorothy beaten. He then had her cattle herded into the barn where all the grain from the harvest was stored, set fire to it and the house, leaving Dorothy and her children nothing but the clothes on their backs. Dorothy and her sons survived, and James, her oldest son, went on to become governor of South Carolina in 1802. He attributed his success in life to his mother's "vigilant and enlightened instruction."

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