

## Lieutenant Andrew Waid RN, 1736 – 1804



Lieutenant Waid in uniform  
(painting property of Waid Academy)

Andrew Waid was born in 1736 in Anstruther and served as a Lieutenant in the Royal Navy. After retiring from active service he became a successful businessman in Perth and Dundee. When he died in 1804, he left the bulk of his estate for the founding of a school for the sons of poor mariners and fishermen, to be known as *Waid's Orphan Academy*. As set out in his will of 1800, he planned that the school, on his East Green property would train, from the age of seven, "orphan boys in indigent circumstances" to qualify as "useful seamen of the British Navy". Waid served at sea when proper training was minimal, crews mainly being recruited via the press gang.

However, as his inheritors were long-lived, his money did not become available until the 1880s, by which time, the value of the estate had risen dramatically to around £15,000. As the Royal Navy had, in the meantime, developed its own training scheme, in 1884, the Commissioners appointed under the Educational Endowments (Scotland) Act, proposed that the monies be used instead to found a secondary school for the East Neuk of Fife.

On 6 September 1886, The Waid Academy opened for the first time. It was the first school in Scotland to be created under the 1882 Act and its constitution became a model for other schools which were created or changed as a result of the Act. The school continued, with periodic expansion, on its original site until 2017 when the new Waid Community Campus was opened – an entirely new facility but retaining its original founder's name.