

Corporal Staines was a marine who served under Nelson at the siege of Copenhagen in 1807. Returning to Brighton as an injured veteran he took up residence in a cavern hewn in the Church Hill chalk-pit, (the site now forming the front of the Garden of Rest). The following entry in the Vestry book relates to his time there:

*October 2nd, 1809.-That Corporal Staines be allowed a blanket and a great coat during the winter*

The corporal made his living by exhibiting miniature models which he carved from chalk of soldiers and cannons, and also a model of the Victory, bearing, under a black canopy, a coffin containing the body of the Hero of Trafalgar.

After some time Staines moved from the chalk pit to a hut which he constructed at the back of the St Nicholas Church, now the entrance of the Children's Garden, which was then also the site of the parish stocks. Changes in land ownership forced the removal of Corporal Staines from this site, and he spent the remainder of his life in locations around Rose Hill and above the Level. He ended his days in Brighton Workhouse, and his remains were buried at the foot of the grave of Phoebe Hessel, although no monument or marker now remains.

For the complete story of Corporal Staines, see 'History of Brighton' – John Ackerson Erredge (1862) which is the main source for the above item