

[Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters](#)

Virginia documents pertaining to William Kelly VAS3908  
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris.

[The following are from [bounty-land records in the Library of Virginia](#). Several of the documents are almost illegible. The file also includes “A List of Goods of the Estate of William Kelly” dated 19 May 1778.]

To his Excellency David Campbell Governor of Virginia  
Your Memorialist Respectfully Represents to your Excellency that his late father William Kelley a Factor by Trade or Occupation Resided in Boundbrook [Bound Brook] New Jersey and lost his wife the Mother of your Memorialist by Consumption leaving but the one Child to wit your Memorialist after which the father of your Memorialist [undeciphered] housekeeping and went to the State of Virginia and settled in Sheppardstown [sic: Shepherdstown now in West Virginia] shortly before the commencement of the of the American Revolution and on or about the Fourth day of July 1776 was appointed a Lieutenant in Capt Abraham Shepherds [W19343] Company of Stephensons [Hugh Stephenson] Rifle Regiment and Died sometime during the year 1777 while in service as an officer in the service of the United States. Your Memorialist being at the time of his said fathers death an infant of only about ten years of age with his mother previously dead is wholly unable to state accurately any of the services of his late father or the rank which he held at any time other than from hearsay and from which he has been induced to believe that his said father became entitled to land from the State of Virginia in right of his said service and death while in service. Therefore your Memorialist prays your Excellency to take his case into your consideration and to grant him the allowance of the Bounty land to which his late father acquired a right and your Memorialist as in duty bound will ever Pray  
John H Kelly  
[Certified in Cayuga County NY on 13 October 1838]

Extract of a paper headed, “A List of the Officers in Colonel Hartley’s Battalion in the Service of the United States of America” and bound in a volume of the Washington Papers filed in the Department of State, Marked “Arrangement of Officers &c.”

“William Kelley Captain”

Extract of another paper headed, “Promotions exclusive of the Majority to take place as follows – in Colonel Hartley’s Regiment” and bound in the same volume.

“Lieut Paul Parker to be a Captain in the room of Capt. Kelley deceased the 9<sup>th</sup> of September 1777”  
Department of State 22<sup>nd</sup> October 1838/ A. Nail Acting Secretary of State

Extract of a paper headed, “A Return of the Officers, Rank, dates of present & former Commissions in the Eleventh Virginia Continental Regiment Commanded by Col Dan’l Morgan [Daniel Morgan]” and bound in a volume of the Washington Papers filed in the Department of State marked “Arrangement of Officers &c”

Name	Rank	Date of former Commission	Promotions	Date of Present Commission	Casualties
— Kelly	2 <sup>d</sup> Lt		to a Captain 6 <sup>th</sup> Feb 77		in another regt

Department of State. 22<sup>nd</sup> October 1838 A. Nail Acting Secretary of State

I Henry Bedinger [S8059] of the county of Berkly [sic: Berkeley] and State of Virginia aged Eighty-five years on the 16<sup>th</sup> inst, do certify & declare that William Kelly and myself both enlisted into Capt Hugh Stephenson's company of volunteer riflemen in the month of June 1775. that we were both appointed Sergeants before we left Shepherdstown the recruiting rendezvous of said Company that said company was raised for one year. that said William Kelly and declarant marched in the same company to the Siege of Boston and both continued as noncommissioned Officers until the company was discharged that at or before the disbandment of said volunteer rifle company, Captain Hugh Stephenson was appointed a Colonel to raise a rifle Regiment, that Abraham Shepherd was appointed Captain, and Samuel Finley [W10026], William Kelly & myself were commissioned as Lieutenants on the 9<sup>th</sup> day of July 1776 in said Company & Regiment that so soon as the company was [illegible] it marched to Bergen [NJ] the appointed Rendezvous of the said rifle Reg't that about the time (say in August 1776) of our leaving Shepherdstown Col. Hugh Stephenson died and Lieut Col Moses Rawlings [VAS683] assumed the command of said Reg't that when said Reg't was completely organized it was ordered up to the defence of Fort Washington from Bergin, that on the 16<sup>th</sup> day of November 1776 the British forces under the command of Gen'l Howe, compelled the garrison to surrender prisoners of war, including the said Rifle Regiment that a few days previous to the Surrender, Lieut Wm Kelly had been ordered with a party to Dobbs ferry, and [undeciphered] and captured, that said Wm Kelly having no command [undeciphered] of 1777 returned to Virginia.

I was detained prisoner of war four years (wanting 16 days) [illegible] to me after my exchange, that Wm Kelly was appointed Capt [one or more lines missing at bottom of page]  
[22 Oct 1838]

This claim is allowed as a Captain in the Continental line for a service of eight years and four months. D. Campbell