

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of John Sillery [sic, John Tillery]¹ R9571

f15NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

2/12/11: rev'd 9/5/16

[Methodology: Spelling, punctuation and/or grammar have been corrected in some instances for ease of reading and to facilitate searches of the database. Where the meaning is not compromised by adhering to the spelling, punctuation or grammar, no change has been made. Corrections or additional notes have been inserted within brackets or footnotes. Blanks appearing in the transcripts reflect blanks in the original. A bracketed question mark indicates that the word or words preceding it represent(s) a guess by me. The word 'illegible' or 'indecipherable' appearing in brackets indicates that at the time I made the transcription, I was unable to decipher the word or phrase in question. Only materials pertinent to the military service of the veteran and to contemporary events have been transcribed. Affidavits that provide additional information on these events are included and genealogical information is abstracted, while standard, 'boilerplate' affidavits and attestations related solely to the application, and later nineteenth and twentieth century research requests for information have been omitted. I use speech recognition software to make all my transcriptions. Such software misinterprets my southern accent with unfortunate regularity and my poor proofreading skills fail to catch all misinterpretations. Also, dates or numbers which the software treats as numerals rather than words are not corrected: for example, the software transcribes "the eighth of June one thousand eighty six" as "the 8th of June 1786." Please call material errors or omissions to my attention.]

Georgia Butts County: Butts Inferior Court

On this first day of September 1835 personally appeared John Tillery in open court a resident of said County aged eighty-two years who being first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the provisions made by the act of Congress passed 7th of June 1832. That he was drafted into the service of the North Carolina militia & entered that service under Captain Robert Temples [Robert Temple] in the Battalion commanded by Major William Brickell & in the Regiment commanded by Colonel Sowell [Benjamin Seawell] under the command of General Sumner [Jethro Sumner] in Bute County North Carolina that this first tour was performed & the service rendered on the Yadkin River, at New Providence and a part at Charlotte C. H. [Court House] & Salisbury in North Carolina at all of which places the declarant was stationed – that this tour lasted three months – that whilst engaged in this tour there was a battle fought at Charlotte [September 26, 1780] at which the declarant was not present as he was attached to the baggage wagon of General Sumner & was between New Providence & Charlotte at the time of the engagement and after this engagement declarant returned to New Providence where I saw a number of Tories in a bullpen taken prisoners on the Baskins [sic, Yadkin River?]² amongst whom was Colonel Bryan [Samuel Bryan]³ taken by the stratagem of a painted pine log instead of a cannon.⁴ Declarant then having remained about two or three weeks at New Providence returned home having finished his term of service which was three months that this first tour was sometime after the commencement of the

¹ Though indexed in the federal pension records under the name John Sillery, I am convinced the veteran's name was actually John Tillery. I base this conclusion on the handwriting of the scribe whose capital "T's" looked very much like "S's". That same capital letter appears in the scribe's reference to Capt. Toller who we know to be DeBaron Toller of the NC militia. Also, the affiant, Hardy Smith, gave testimony before a different scribe and in that affidavit, the scribe clearly spells the surname "Tillery."

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³ <http://ncpedia.org/biography/bryan-samuel>

⁴ The only instance in which the pine log/cannon stratagem was used of which I am aware occurred at Rugeley's Mill, December 4, 1780. Lt. Col. William Washington commanded the Whig forces at that engagement. There is no indication, however, that Samuel Bryan or any of his men were present in that engagement. The Tory forces there were under the command of Col. Henry Rugeley who surrendered his entire force to Washington. http://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_rugeley_mills_2.html. Rugeley's Mill, however, was not located on the Yadkin River. The mystery continues.

war but at what precise period declarant cannot state – that whilst on this tour Captain Carter⁵ of Northampton County North Carolina & his Lieutenant Butts ran away from Salisbury & left their men & were brought back & drummed through the town & dismissed from the service –

That after the termination of the first tour as above stated declarant again entered for another three months tour under the same officers & performed it immediately after the first as a substitute for his brother, with the exception that his Captain was named James Richards a one armed man having had his hand cut off in a fight with a certain Captain Eaves [Benjamin Eaves] – this second tour was performed in and about the same places as the first & in the same sort of service in pursuit of the Tories & British, declarant being still engaged in driving General Sumner's baggage and that after the termination of the second tour declarant entered the volunteer service in the light horse under Captain Toller [DeBaron Toller], Major Brickell & General Sumner in Bute County North Carolina & that after remaining in the service between three and six months declarant enlisted by permission of his officers in the continentals under Captain William Frier in the light horse & was immediately sent home with orders to remain in readiness for service at a moments warning that he accordingly remained at home in readiness until the war was ended which was a short time before this last term of service expired – that this last term of service according to his enlistment was to have been eighteen months. – That his residence previous to his entering the service & afterwards was Bute County North Carolina – during all the time of the foregoing service declarant was a private & chiefly attached to the baggage department in embodied Corps called into service by competent authority and that during the above period he was not engaged in any civil pursuit.

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present & he declares that his name is not on the pension roll of any agency in any State.

Sworn to & subscribed in open court the day & year aforesaid in open court

Test: S/ John Goodman, Clerk

S/ John Tillery, X his mark

[John M Pearson, a clergyman, and Abner Bankston gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

And the said court after putting the interrogatories prescribed by the war Department to the said John Tillery doth certify that his answers are as follows

1st Where and in what year were you born?

I was born in Richmond County Virginia

2nd Have you any record of your age and if so where is it?

There is a record of my age in the State of Tennessee in the family Bible owned by my father

3rd Where were you living when called into service: where have you lived since the Revolutionary War and where do you now live?

When called into service I lived in Bute County North Carolina. I afterwards moved to Edgefield District South Carolina from thence to Abbeville District South Carolina & thence to Pendleton District South Carolina and thence to Jones County Georgia, thence to Jasper County Georgia, thence to Butts County Georgia where I now reside.

4th How were you called into service; were you drafted; did you volunteer or were you a substitute, and if in substitute, for whom?

A part of the time I was a volunteer a part a substitute & a part I was drafted the time I served as a substitute was for my brother William Tillery

⁵ This MAY be a reference to Solomon Carter of Franklin County, NC, who is known to have served as a captain under the command of Lt. Col. William Brickell and Col. Benjamin Seawell.

5th State the names of some of the regular officers who were with the troops when you served, such Continental and militia regiments as you can recollect and the general circumstances of your service.

I refer you for my answer to this interrogatory to the preceding declaration – he never received any discharge from the service that he recollects & refers to John M. Pearson, a clergyman & to Abner Bankston who both reside in his neighborhood as well as to the affidavit of Hardy Smith a revolutionary pensioner for his character for truth & veracity & for the truth of the foregoing Declaration.

Georgia Troup County:

Personally appeared before me Hardy Smith⁶ who being duly sworn deposeth and saith that John Tillery was actually in service of the United States and on the part of the same in the revolutionary war he the said Deponent having been in service of the same therefore so knows the facts.

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 12th of January 1835

S/ R. F. McGehee, JP

S/Hardy Smith, X his mark

⁶ [Hardy Smith W6096](#)