

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of William Tiller S38443

f38Va

Transcribed by Will Graves

rev'd 10/8/14

[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.]

[p 9]

Virginia: At a Court held for Russell County the 5th day of May 1818

William Tiller, who resides in the County of Russell in the State of Virginia, wishing to become a pensioner pursuant to the provisions of an Act of the Congress of the United States, passed on the 18th day of March, 1818, entitled "An Act to provide for certain persons engaged in the land and naval service of the United States in the revolutionary War," personally appeared in Court, and declared upon his oath, that he enlisted at the Valley Forge, he believes in the year 1778 in the 12th Virginia Regiment as a private soldier, which Regiment was commanded by Colo. Parker [perhaps Josiah Parker] (he forgets his Christian name), and in the company commanded by Captain Samuel Lapsley; He also served under Colo. Nathaniel Guess [sic, probably Nathaniel Gist] and Lieut. Colo. Clark; he believes he served about five years, and was discharged at Williamsburg in Virginia he thinks by Major Leftwich. He was at Stony Point [July 16, 1779]¹ in the State of New York under General Wayne [Anthony Wayne], Commander when an engagement took place in which 450 of the enemy were made prisoners. Colo. Gibson and Colo. Ball were present at the battle. The Corps he served in was called the flying camp; Lord Sterling sometimes commanded the American Division.

On the 13th day of July at night the Americans took the fort: The commander ordered a halt in a little field a short space before the attack commenced, each man had a small piece of white paper in his hat in order to distinguish the Americans from the British; that the Americans advanced in three columns in making the attack, one column marching up the river, another down, and the third in flank. He also stated that he was in the siege of Charleston [Charleston South Carolina fell to the British on May 12, 1780].² And from the knowledge which some of the members of the Court themselves have as well as from other satisfactory evidence, the Court are unanimously of opinion, and do hereby certify that the said William Tiller is a person of credit as a witness that it was generally understood in the neighborhood of the residence of the said William Tiller previous to the passage of the said Act of Congress that the said Tiller had served in the Revolutionary War; and that the said William Tiller is in such reduced circumstances in life, as to need assistance from his country for support. All which is ordered to be certified to the Secretary of the Department of War.

And

At a Court held for the said County of Russell the 1st day of June 1819

This day came into Court William Keller, who at a court held for this County the fifth day of May 1818 made a declaration on oath for the purpose of obtaining the pension allowed by the Act of Congress of the 18th of March 1818, and having repeated his said declaration the judge of the Court is of opinion that his Statement so made is true, which is ordered to be certified to the Secretary of war.

A Copy

Test

S/ Henry Dickenson, C. R. C.

[p 4]

¹ <http://www.myrevolutionarywar.com/battles/790716-stoney-point/>

² <http://www.myrevolutionarywar.com/battles/800401-charleston/>

District of Virginia: SS

On this 2nd day of January 1821, personally appeared in open Court, being a court of Record for the County of Russell in the State of Virginia William Tiller, aged Sixty four years, who being first duly sworn according to law, doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the provision made by the Acts of Congress of the 18th of March 1818 and the 1st of May 1820, that he the said William Tiller enlisted for the term of two [years?] about the 4th day of March in the year 1776 or 1777 in the State of Virginia in the Company commanded by Captain Henry Terrell, in the Regiment commanded by Colonel Scott [probably Charles Scott who assumed command of the 5th Virginia Continental Regiment on May 7, 1776] (did not recollect his Christian name) in the line of the State of Virginia on the American Continental establishment, that he continued in said service for the term of two years (except about six months, for which term he was confined by sickness at his sisters, and at home, whither he had gone on furlough) and was discharged at Valley Forge in the State of Pennsylvania. That he again immediately enlisted for the term of three years on the 9th day of June in the year 1778 or 1779 in the State of Pennsylvania at Valley Forge, in the Company commanded by Captain Samuel Lapsley, in the Regiment commanded by Colonel Parker, which Regiment was afterwards commanded by Colonel Nathaniel Gist, in the line of the State of Virginia on the Continental Establishment. That he continued to serve in the said Corps until the 28th of July in the year 1781 or 1782 and in the City of Williamsburg in the State of Virginia he was discharged by Major Leftwich—of which service he has made a declaration on the 5th day of May 1818 before this Court but he has not yet received a pension Certificate. The said William Tiller also made oath that he was in the battle at Stony Point in the State of New York, and in the siege of Charleston in South Carolina. This, in addition to what he had before stated is all the evidence the said William Tiller can produce of his service, except two affidavits taken, one by a justice of the peace of the County of Montgomery & the other by a magistrate of the County of Giles, which affiants were proved to be under the character of credible persons and witnesses: and the said affidavits are in the following words & figures viz.: “Montgomery County, to wit: This day James Simpkins³ came before me a justice of the peace for the County aforesaid and made oath, that he is acquainted with one William Tiller: that his acquaintance commenced as well as he recollects in the year 1777, during the Revolutionary War; that the said Tiller was at that time a Soldier in Capt. Lapsley's company attached to the 12th Virginia Regiment on Continental establishment; and that he & the said William Tiller continued in the service & in the said company nearly 3 years as well as he recollects. The said Simpkins further states, that he believes said Tiller was a Corporal, and conducted himself in a soldier-like manner. Given under my hand the 12th day of May 1820. “James Charlson.” “Giles County, to wit; This day William Simpkins came before me Thomas Shannon a justice of the peace for the County aforesaid and made oath that he would was acquainted with William Tiller who now lives in Russell County and served with him in the Revolutionary War, and was in Col. Gess' Regiment part of the time and part of the time in Colonel Wood's Regiment was in the service three years he was marched to the South and (I) understood that he was taken prisoner by the British. Sworn to and subscribed before me the 12th day of May 1820.[”]

S/ William Simpkins, X his mark

Certified under my hand & seal the day and year as above. S/ Thos. Shannon, {Seal}

And in pursuance of the act of the first of May 1820, I do solemnly swear that I was a resident Citizen of the United States on the 18th day of March 1818 and that I have not since that time by gift, sale or otherwise disposed of my property or any part thereof with intent thereby so to diminish it as to bring myself within the provision of an act of Congress entitled “an act to provide for certain persons engaged in the land and naval service of the United States in the revolutionary war” passed on the 18th day of March 1818, and that I have not nor has any person in trust for me any property, or securities, contracts or debts due to me nor have I any income other than what is contained in the schedule hereto annexed and by me subscribed, to wit; 40 acres of land; one brown mare; one cow and calf; coopers tools; 2 axes; two hoes one plough; two clevises; 1 skillet; two plates; 1 basin; 1 piggin; 1 keeler; 1 bed and furniture; two barrels; one comb & two tin cups, two knives and two forks, one bottle; one can; 2 plates; 1 tin cup.

3 [James Simpkins W19364](#)

S/ William Tiller

And the said William Tiller also made oath that he is a farmer and cooper by occupation but is so infirm and so frequently indisposed that he can perform but little manual labor; that his family consists of his daughter aged about twenty years who is unmarried and has a child, and looks to him for subsistence.

Sworn to and declared on the second day of January in the year 1821, before the Court of Russell County and the State of Virginia aforesaid.

[Attested by Henry Dickenson, Clerk of court]

[p 18]

War Department
Pension Office
30 January 1821

Sir

The documents in the case of William Tiller have been examined and are herewith returned for further information. The applicant states in his first declaration, "that the corps in which he served was called the flying Camp," which Corps was not on the Continental establishment, and yet mentions that the Regiment to which he belonged was commanded by Colonel Parker and afterwards by Colonel Gist; both of whom were on the Continental establishment. The papers all returned to afford opportunity for explanation.

Respectfully

S/ J. L. Edwards [then a clerk in the War office but later appointed
Commissioner of Pensions]

Henry Dickenson Esqr.
Lebanon, Va.

[p 16]

Lebanon Virginia February 21st 1821

Sir

I have conversed with William Tiller the applicant mentioned in the accompanying papers since their return from the War Department; and in explanation of the difficulties suggested in your letter to me dated the 30th ultimo The applicant states that the Corps of regulars in which he served were at certain periods called the flying camp, – because whenever the light companies and cavalry were directed in their operations this corps was required to follow and hence at such times they assumed to themselves that name. – He states most expressly that they were of the regular Army & Continental Establishment and not of the militia. He has a Journal of his services reciting various incidents, and the particular movements of that part of the Army in which he served, written as he states during the time of his service – a copy of which I will send you to be laid before the Secretary at War in case this explanation should not be considered sufficiently satisfactory, – and in which event you will please retain these papers till its arrival.

Yours respectfully

S/ Henry Dickenson

J. L. Edwards Esq.

[p 29]

Lebanon, Virginia
May 30, 1821

Sir

The within is the Journal of William Tiller an applicant for a pension under the acts of Congress of the 18th of March 1818 & 1st May 1820. He says it is taken from a paper he wrote at the time of his serving. I believe it is his own hand writing. If the Department has not disposed of his case it may perhaps give them some assistance in deciding whether he was of the Continental establishment or not. The paper was before me at the time the said Tiller renewed his application but was not particularly

examined – his statement was taken from his oral information given in Court without reference to this paper. And this journal would have been sent on sooner had not a gentleman of the bar residing in an adjoining County desired to take it with him for perusal, from whom it could not sooner be had. I promised to send a copy; but the difficulty of transcribing a paper so defective in orthography has deterred me – and the paper itself may perhaps be worthy of preservation in the archives of the War department on account of the peculiarities attached to it. The applicant at this time appears to be in a distressed situation, and certainly needs assistance if his case comes within the law. It will be extremely grateful to him if from an early attention to his case he shall be successful in getting something to relieve him.

Yours respectfully
 Henry Dickenson, Clerk
 of the County Court of Russell in Virginia

[Transcriber's Note: Below are two versions of the journal referred to by Henry Dickenson in the above letter. On the left is the literal transcription of the journal as best I could make it out. On the right is my attempt to decipher and make sense of the journal. Rely on neither. Look at the original yourself and make your own judgments as to what Tiller wrote and what he intended to say by what he wrote.]

Original Journal

Attempt at deciphering the original

The travel and guranl of william Tiller his setting out in the rivulation war in the three years sarves his listing at a place coled the valle foarge in penselvaney on Scoul kill river his listing in Samuel lapsley coumpney in the eight rigment under the Comand of Cournl parker at that time as well as irember but in alitle tim under the Command of Cournal nethanal gists af ter we got to aplace coled the whit plans in newyourk Stat my listing for three years the ninth day of June in the year of [ink blot] 7 or in 1878 [sic, 1778] iam not Shour whict but think seventy eight as well as irememer when the grand armny marched from the vealley forge thear was about three hurndred of us recuving the Swaml poux we was put under the command of marland mger and summre of sears and to march in the raer for we was weak and take the lefthand rod and to met the grand armny at kings feery acornly after the batel of mulmouth we so did from therit to the whit pains in new yourk sat were we had sum little time and had sevrel smawl fights with the brithist but no ginril in gagement at that tim from thenth to plas coled robsando plans nor westpourn fort upon the north river from thenth to aplace coled middil brock to winters quartes the 2 day of the Jun faling the Camppain opinged and the 3 day we mrhed back to the north river agane to aplace coled Smith Clove at the had of one foork of Sickant river from thereth down the sad foork to aplace coled the "head of primton plans from

The travels and journal of William Tiller: his setting out in the Revolutionary War in the three years service, his enlisting at a place called the Valley Forge in Pennsylvania on Schuylkill River, his enlisting in Samuel Lapsley's Company in the eighth Regiment under the Command of Colonel Parker at that time as well as I remember, but in a little time under the command of Colonel Nathaniel Gist. After we got to a place called the White Plains in New York State, my enlisting for three years on the ninth day of June in the year ___[1777] or 1878 [sic, 1778], I am not sure which, but think it was 1778 as well as I remember. When the grand Army marched from Valley Forge there were about three hundred of us recovering from the small pox. We were put under the command of a Maryland major and some more officers and to march in the rear for we was weak and take the left hand road and to meet the grand Army at King's ferry. Accordingly, after the battle of Monmouth, we did go from there to the White Plains in New York State where we had some little time and had several small fights with the British but no general engagement at that time. From thence [we went] to a place called [indecipherable word] Plains near West Point fort upon the North River, from thence to a place called Middlebrook to winter quarters. The 2nd day of the June following the Campaign opened and the 3rd day we marched back to the North River again to a place called Smith Clove [Smith's Clove, present

thenth we marched back agan to Smiths Clove
whare we had Camped from thenth to a pas coled
forist deen whil we was thar the long rol was bet
for us to perrad iremeber it was in the after noon
the thirteenth day of July under Clok to suclut
Janariel washinton but it was to go and take
Stonny pount in littel tim we marched well fixt
with good guns and bagniat we mached of and
cam to aplace whare we cep apacket gard and
there we mwet with our lit infentree and atrun of
artilry and ingonsnes with theem Slow mach lit
we was ored to holt and fall in the raar wll we fel
in imemer that isad know boys you may know wat
we are gwin to the sad yes⁴ we marchid along till
we cam to fweld we was ourded to holt and not to
spoke over a whesper and to be ready at moment
warning in alittel tim we was ordred to stand to
our arms ready to march thear came afear with
som whit paper to put in the four frwns of our hats
to destings us from the british we was to march
amednley in afew minnits the seternels fired upon
us there alarms drums but there alarm Cannon
fired our Ginarl Cride out and otears Commaing
ofsars rus hon my brave herows the Fort is our
own we desplaid our Collams and Scaled thear
fashens⁵ wals and rushed in and after we got
pershishion we turned ther Cannon round and
fired upon too larg war ships that lad in between
the too forts the cut there cables and got out the
way and went down the river for mills and ankerd
agin the sam morning we sent acaptin anf forty
men dow to the Ships thee found aleven british
soulors hid agast the Shipsand brot them to the
fort alarg british ship of war lad above the fort She
runing by we fired upon har very heavy to sink
her but she got by to the Ships and after awil
Janril Washinton Cam and his lil gard to See wot
we had don theare being three deserters being
found in the fort they ware condmed to di we cut
down three Clay Sol and mad agalos of it and
them there on and while the ware hanging the Sam
Ship of war that run by Came up from the Ships
and abritsh galley with her from the Ships and
thee fired upon us the howl tim the men wear

day Monroe, NY] at the head of one fork of
Second⁶ River from thence down the said fork to a
place called the head of Princeton Plains, from
thence we marched back again to Smiths Clove
where we had camped, from thence to a place
called Forest of Dunn.⁷ While we were there the
long roll was beat for us to parade. I remember it
was in the afternoon, the thirteenth day of July
under Clark to salute [?] General Washington but
it was to go and take Stony Point. In a little time,
we marched well fixed with good guns and
bayonets. We marched off and came to a place
where we kept [?] a picket guard and there we met
with our light Infantry and a team [?] of artillery
and engineers with their slow match lit, we were
ordered to halt and fall in the rear. While [?] we
fell in I remember that I said "Now boys, you may
know what we are going to do." They said "yes."
We marched along until we came to a field. We
were ordered to halt and not to speak over a
whisper and to be ready at a moment's warning.
In a little time, we were ordered to stand to our
arms, ready to march. There came an officer with
some white paper to put in the for-brims of our
hats to distinguish us from the British. We were to
march immediately in a few minutes, the sentinels
fired upon us. Their alarm drums beat, their alarm
cannon fired. Our General cried out and other
commanding officers "Rush on my brave heroes,
the fort is our own." We displayed in columns and
scaled their fascine walls and rushed in and after
we got possession we turned their cannon around
and fired upon two large Ships that lay in between
the two forts. They cut their cables and got out of
the way and went down the river four miles and
anchored again. The same morning we sent a
captain and forty men down to the ships. They
found eleven British sailors hiding against the
Ships and brought them to the fort. A large British
ship of war lay above the fort. She running by, we
fired upon her very heavily trying to sink her but
she got by to the other ships and after a while,
General Washington came and his little guard to
see what we had done. There being three

⁴ C. Leon Harris suggests this line should be transcribed: "I remember that I said, 'Now boys, you may know what we are going to do.' *They said "yes."* His suggestions are in italics.

⁵ C. Leon Harris suggests 'fascine' is probably the word which Tiller wrote as 'fashens.'

⁶ Thanks to Michael J. F. Sheehan, Senior Historian, Stony Point Battlefield State Historic Site for deciphering the name of the river in question. Mr. Sheehan states: "'Seckhant' River is Second River, near Orange, NJ it feeds into the Passaic River."

⁷ Again thanks to Michael J. F. Sheehan for deciphering "forist deen". Mr. Sheehan further states: "Forest of Dean [refers to] an iron mine/furnace area on the road west from Fort Montgomery a few miles, where Muhlenberg's Brigade (which Gist's was in at the time) were situated (Spring 1779)."

hanging severil men war cilled and som wunded after this we tor ther fashiens walls to pesis and sot the fort on fier and blowed up there mgaard and left the fort from thenth back to our tents to Smits Glove from thenth to prenton plains agan wheare we had camped befor in a few days after we got ther we Sent of adetachment of nin hundred men to fowlers howik and Stormed it and took out about ahundred fifty prisoners with the los of but few men from thenth to perrams Church on the man foork of Seckant river from thenth to haverthon Crick from thenth to winter quearts agan it was on the sixteenth of November to aplac coled morris town in afew daus after we got there orders cam for us to march to the South from thenth we cam to trent twoun from thenth to filldedlfy from thenth to richmond in virgania from thenth to peters burg from thenth to charles town in South Carolina on the Seventh of April we there on the thirtwenth day of the sad mounth the brittish open there batrys upon us about eight or nin aclock in the morning with there cannon ther brm shels ther cerkises the Smawl arms and every thing that they would destroy us with and it continued night and day we never had the chanch to pul of our close but fore tims for foore weakes we had to fight nit and day iremember one night there was twelv thousand tried to forc upon us and had like to got in asmawl battry that we had outsid of our mane garison a batry coled the half mwoun batry but we bet them back with the fours of our cannon and smawl arms iremember that night there was twenty seven rounds fired with the smawl arms in alittle tim after our fort was toor up with theare bum shels and sevrel of our cannon dismouned irmember about that tim ireceved too wounds by bumshels that ishall carry to my grav one in my had an one in my Sckrits part wen sargent hundly was cild and richard spendler was cild one was tacking of me wen he was cild the other clos to me a few days after Cornal parker was cild by acannon bowl and a Ganril mutry aday comp was cild by canon bwol but at last we had to gave up after fiting hard for we had no chuch we was weak the e burnd but too thousand eight hundred in the fort the britchs was strong thear was fifteen thousand of them besid there shiping when we gave up thee came to towo graney der rigments and took pershishon of our mane fort whid the hourn works and then we marchid out twon the brestworks on the cornal

deserters being found in the fort, they were condemned to die. We cut down three flag poles [?] and made a gallows of it and [hung] them thereon and while they were hanging, the same ship of war that ran by us came up from the other ships with a British galley with her from the ships and they fired upon us, the whole time the men were hanging. Several men were killed and some wounded. After this we tore their fascine walls to pieces and set the fort on fire and blew up their magazine [?] and left the fort, from thence [we went] back to our tents to Smiths Glove, from thence to Princeton Plains again where we had camped before. In a few days after we got there we sent off a detachment of nine hundred men to Paulus Hook And stormed it and took out about a hundred fifty prisoners with the loss of but few men, from thence to Parham's [?] Church on the main fork of Second River from thence to Havertown [?] Creek from thence to winter quarters again. It was on the sixteenth of November to a place called Morris Town. In a few days after we got there orders came for us to march to the South, from thence we came to Trenton, from thence to Philadelphia, from thence to Richmond in Virginia, from thence to Petersburg, from thence to Charlestown [Charleston] in South Carolina. On the seventh of April we got there. On the thirteenth day of the said month, the British opened their battery upon us, about eight or nine O'clock in the morning with their cannon, their bomb shells, their ?, the small arms and everything that they could destroy us with and it continued night and day. We never had the chance to pull off our clothes but for four times in four weeks. We had to fight night and day. I remember one night there was twelve thousand tried to fire upon us and had like to get in a small battery that we had outside of our main garrison, a battery called the half moon [?] battery but we beat them back with the force of our cannon and small arms. I remember that night there was twenty seven rounds fired with the small arms. In a little time after our fort was torn up with their bomb shells and several of our cannon dismounted. About that time I received two wounds by bomb shells that [I] shall carry to my grave, one in my head and one in my secret [?] part. When Sergeant Hundly was killed and Richard Spendler was killed, one was taking [care] of me when he was killed, the other [was]

and gave up our arms thee would not fuifer us to bot any britch march nor to have our culars on cased so we bet the turks march and marched out gave up our arms and then marched in to the baricks and reminded prisoners forteen months an half and then the exchange took place six ships and so seven brigs to take us round to James town in virgina Stat and thear we was landed and exchanged man for man ten we was marched to wlliams burg and dechared by one mager lefrig the sege be gun the thirteenth day of april and ended the twelv day of may in eighty or eighty one idisremember which So ishall conclud by giving atrue account of som of your feald ofscrs that command us when we was in the norderd stats Jenril Scoot command our brigade the first Sumor, the naxt summor our Jenril milliong beurg the third summour Janril woodfourd comoded us in the South at the siege of charls town and Courhal bowl and Cournal parker and Cornal gists and Cornal clark and Cournal ? Janril linkharn was our commander in chif during the sege ishall gave acount of my ofsafiars of the cumpyaney that idid belonged to Samuel lapsley captin Samaul walker first lefteanent Alicksander Crackkinrig sikant leftenant Josepht walker in sign ous Shargents Julias blackburn John hanor Jams smith peter parisk corpils william tiller edward thomas ambros Jouns the privat men John save ely robards charls winour absham entlip James Simkins william simkons garit simkins richard minton thomas alsop edmund petalton thomas price owing currey henry singlenton richard essix richard spondler James lockerd James muchelhaney, John fourhnad thomas smith James gipson and maney mour but ther names is gon out of my had Am new recruts the ican not remember. Ido hear by mak my humble aplacation to the cort of rusel county that thou look on my aflusions and for what ihave sufrid for my cuntry and help me in giting my gunchuchry money for iam allout past labour & ihave no frend to help me do nothing ihop the Lord will bless you gentlemen of the cort that imy find grays in your sight to faver me to git my penchiny moneyas it is alowed to sum iw as fathful from the time ilisted for three years till the day iw as discharged and never com hom til my

close to me. A few days after Colonel Parker was killed by a cannon ball and a General Moultrie⁸ was killed by a cannon ball, but at last we had to give up after fighting hard for we had no chance. We were weak, there being but two thousand eight hundred in the fort. The British were strong, there were fifteen thousand of them besides their shipping. When we gave up there came two grenadier regiments and took possession of our main fort called the Horn Works [hornworks] and then we marched out toward the breastworks on the canal [?] and gave up our arms. They would not suffer us to beat any British march nor to have our colors uncased [?] so we beat the Turks march and marched out, gave up our arms and then marched into the barracks and remained prisoners fourteen and a half months and then the exchange took place. [It took] six ships and some seven brigs to take us round to Jamestown in Virginia State and there we were landed and exchanged man for man. Then we were marched to Williamsburg and discharged by one Major Liftwich. The siege began the thirteenth day of April and ended the twelfth day of May in eighty or eighty one, I do not remember which. So I shall conclude by giving a true account of some of our field officers that commanded us when we were in the Northern States: General Scott commanded our brigade the first summer, the next summer General Muhlenberg the third summer, General Woodford commanded us in the South at the Siege of Charleston and Colonel Ball and Colonel Parker and Colonel Gist and Colonel Clark and Colonel Caswell [?], General Lincoln was our commander in chief during the siege. I shall gave account of my officers of the company that I did belong to: Samuel Lapsley Captain, Samuel Walker, first Lieutenant, Alexander Breckenridge, second Lieutenant, Joseph Walker Ensign; our sergeants Julius Blackburn, John Hanor [? Hannah?], James Smith, Peter Parish, corporals William Tiller, Edward Thomas, Ambrose Jones;⁹ the private men John Save [?], Ely Robards, Charles Rainour [?], Abraham Cutlip, James Simpkins, William Simpkins,¹⁰ Garitt Simpkins, Richard Minton, Thomas Alsop, Edmond Petelton, Thomas Price, Owen Carney,

⁸ General William Moultrie was not killed at the Siege of Charleston. His younger brother, Capt. Thomas Moultrie was killed in that engagement.

⁹ [Ambrose Jones W9083](#)

¹⁰ [James Simpkins W19364](#)

turn was out when i was out in the two year Sarves
igot aforls one tim in the two year and never got
back till the spring fowling for i had got the
sumager at the head of elk river it was the
sixteenth day of october wen igot my furlo my
captin com hom and renewed my furlo till the
spring of the year and then i went to head quarters
ago in and sarved out my tim and took som men
from winchester by the command of Cornal Janes
wood Cournal of the seventh virgna rigment at
that tim on Ironed Provishon for them and
delivered the men to thare Compys and rigments
sone more at preasent

S/ William Tiller

Henry Singleton [?], Richard Essex, Richard
Spondler, James Lockheart,¹¹ James McElhaney,
John Forehand,¹² Thomas Smith, James Gibson
and many more but their names are gone out of
my head. Some new recruits that I can not
remember. I do hereby make my humble
application to the court of Russell County that
they look on my allusions [?] and what I have
suffered for my Country and help me in getting
my ? money for I am all but past labor & I have
no friend to help me do anything [about getting
my pension]. I hope the Lord will bless you
gentlemen of the court that I may find grace in
your sight to favor me to get my pension money as
it is allowed to some. I was faithful from the time
I enlisted for three years till the day I was
discharged and never came home till my tour was
out. When I was out in the two-year service I got
a furlough one time in two years and never got
back till the spring following for I had the Major
at the head of Elk River [to give me the furlough].
[I got the furlough] on the 16th day of October.
When I got the furlough, my Captain came home
and renewed my furlough till the spring of the
year and then I went to head quarters again and
served out my time and took some men from
Winchester by the command of Colonel James
Wood, Colonel of the Seventh Virginia Regiment
at that time and drew Provision for them and
delivered them to their Companies and Regiments.
Some more at present

S/ William Tiller



[pp 31-38: Images of the above journal]

¹¹ [James Lockheart \[Lockhart\] S38151](#)

¹² [John Forehand W7316](#)

The travel and gurant of william ~~to~~ teller his setting
out in the revolution war in the three years serves his
listing at a place ^{colled} the valley forge in penselveney on Scouhill
river his listing in Samuel lapsley Courmpney in the eight
rigment under the Comand of Gournal parker at that time as
well as i rememner but in a little time under the Comand of
Gournal nethanal gists af ter we got to a place colled the whit
plans in newyork stat my listing for three years the ninth
day of june in the year of ~~1778~~ or in 1778 iam not
shour whiche but i think seventy eight as well as i rememner
when the grand army marched from the vealley forge there
was about three ~~to~~ hundred of us recuring the swaml pover
we was put under the comand of marland mgerard sum
mre of sears and to march in the vaer for we was weak
and take the left hand road and to meet the grand army
at kinge ferry acornly after the batel of mulmouth ~~for~~ did
from thennt to the whit plains in new york set were we

had sun littel time and had severl smaul fights with the
Crithists but no genril in gagement at that tim from thennt
to plas colled robesands plans nor westpover ^{but} upon the north river
from thennt to a place colled middil brock to winters quarters the 2 day
of the sun setting the Camp pain sprung and the 3 day we march
back to the north river agane to a place colled Smiths Clove at the
head of one fork of Sickant river from thennt down the sad
Crock to a place colled the head of prum ton plans from thennt
we marched back agan to Smiths Clove where we had Camped
from thennt to a place colled forist den whil we was there the long
rod was bet for us to poverad rememner it was in the after noon
the thertenth day of July under Clok to Duclut Janarel
washinton but it was to go and take Stonny point in littel
time we marched well fort with good guns and baggies we
marched of and cam to a place where we cop a packet gard
and there we meet with our lit infentree and a train of
artily and ingones with slow macha lites we was ord

to both and fall in the rear will we fell in innumerable that
read know boys you may ^{know} what we are gain ~~to~~ the sad yes
we marchid along till we cam to field we was ordered to halt
and not to spake over whisper and to be ready at moment
warning in abttil tim we was ordered to stand to our arms
ready to march there came aboard with some white paper to put
in the four corners of our hats to disting us from the british we
was to march a medley in a few minnits the serternels fired upon
us there alarms drums beat there alarm Cannon fired our General
~~our~~ Bried out and steers Commaning ^{of uson} rush on my brave heroes the
fort is our own we desplaid our Colllams and scaled their bastions
walls and rushed in and after we got pershission we turned
their Cannon round and fired upon ^{the} ~~the~~ ships that led in
between the two forts the cut there cables and out of the ~~mouth~~ ^{got} ~~the~~ ^{was}
and down the river four mills and anchored again the sam morning
we sent a captin and forty men down ~~the~~ ^{the} ships ~~to~~ ^{the} ~~the~~ ^{the}
the found eleven british sailors hid agost the ship an brot
them to the fort along british ship of war led above the fort

the running by we fired upon ^{her} ~~very~~ heavy to sink her but she
got by ~~the~~ ^{the} ships ~~and~~ and after a while Jarril washinton Cam and
his lif gard to see wot we had don there being ~~deserled~~ ^{three} being
briand in the fort they were Condemed to die we cut down their
flag pole and ~~agalos~~ ^{and} of it and them there on and while the were
hanging the sam ship of war that run by came up from the
ships and a british gabley with her from the ships and she fired
upon us the howl tim the men ^{was} hanging several menwar killed
and som wounded after this we tor their bastions walls to pieces
and set the fort on fier and blowed up there mgason and left
the fort from ~~the~~ ^{the} north back to our tents to Smiths Clove from ~~the~~ ^{the}
to prenton plains again wheare we had Camped befor in a few days
after ~~we~~ ^{we} got ther we sent of a detachment of ~~an~~ ^{an} ~~an~~ ^{an} hundred men
to fowlers hawk and Stormed it and took out about a hundred
~~and~~ fifty prisoners with the los of but few men from ~~the~~ ^{the}
perrams Church on the man fork of Seckant river from ~~the~~ ^{the}
to ~~harvestow~~ ^{harvestow} Crick from ~~the~~ ^{the} north to ~~winters~~ ^{winters} ~~agon~~ ^{arents} it was on the
Sixteenth of november to ~~pass~~ ^{glac} cold ~~was~~ ^{was} ~~morris~~ ^{morris} town in a few

days after we got there orders cam for us to march to the south
from ~~then~~ ^{we were} to trent town from then to fallidally from
then to richmond in virginia from then to ~~pot~~ ^{pot} ~~gators~~ ^{burg} from
then to charls town in south Carrolina on the ~~seventh~~ ^{we got there} of april
on the thertwenth day of the sad month the british open there
batoys upon us about eight or nin a'clock in the morning with
there Cannon ther bum shels ther Corkises the smawl arms and every
thing that they couald destroy us with and it ~~contined~~ ^{continued}
nigh and day we never had the chanch to goil of our close but
fore time for soore ~~was~~ ^{was} weaker we had to fight nit and day in rememb
one nigh there was twelv thousand tried to fore upon us and had
like to got us in a smawl batooy that we had outsid of our mune
garnon a batooy coled the half ~~in~~ ⁱⁿ mune batooy but we bet them
back with the fore of our cannon and smawl arms remember that
nigh there was twenty seven rounds fired with the smawl arms
in a little ~~hour~~ ^{hour} after our fort was tooo up with there bum shels and
several of our cannon dismouned in remembrance about that time in recived
too wounds by burnshels that shall carry to my grow one in my hall
man one in my sekrits part

even sargent hundry was cild and richard spandler was cild to one
was tacking of me wen he was cild the other clo to me a few days after
Cornal parker ^{was} cild by a cannon bowl and a javil mutry aday ~~compp~~
was by canon bowl but at last had to gave up after fighting hard for
we had no chanch we was weak there beind but too thousand eight
hundred in the fore the britchs was strong there was fifteen
thousand of them be sid there shiping when we gave up there came
twoe granoy der rigments and took percheson of our mone fort coled
the horn works and then we marchid out ~~to~~ ^{to} ~~the~~ ^{the} crestworks
on the ~~cornal~~ ^{cornal} and gave up our arms the world not sufer us to bet as any
britch march nor to have our culars on caud so we bet the turks more
and ~~gave up~~ ^{and marched out} our arms and then marchid in to the baricks and reminded
prisoners fortien months on half and then the exchange took plac see
ships and so seven brige to take us round to James town in virginia
that and there we was landed and exchanged man for man ten we was
marchid to williams burg and declared by one major letting
the seige be gun the ~~thertwenth~~ ^{thertwenth} ~~of~~ ^{of} april and ended the twelf
day of may in eighty or eighty ~~one~~ ^{one} won idis remember which

So shall conclude by giving a true account of some of your field.
I fear that command us when we was in the northern parts
General Scott command our brigade the first summer the next summer
General milbourn being the third summer General woodford command
us in the south at the siege of Charles town and Courbal bowl and
Courbal parky and Courbal gists and Courbal clark and Courbal cavale.
General linckhorn was our commander in chief during the siege.
I shall give you a account of my officers of the company that I did ~~belong~~
belonged to Samuel lopley captain Samuel walker first lieutenant
ellicksonder brackkinrig serjeant lieutenant joshua joseph walker
in sign our serjeants Julius blackburn John hano James smith
peter parish corporals william teller edward thomas ambros Jones
the private men John see chy robarde charles winnow abraham cutlip
James simkins william simkins garit simkins richard minton
Thomas alroy edmond petelton Thomas price owing carry henny ~~magister~~
richard ~~the~~ ~~essie~~ ~~or~~ richard spender James lockerd James muchelthony
John forhand Thomas smith James gipson and manoy mour but their
names is gone out of my head some new recruits the I can not remember

As I have by such my humble application to the court of new county
that thank God in my afflictions and for ~~what I have~~ ^{what I have} served for my
country and help me in getting my penchery money for I am almost
past labour I have no friends to help me do nothing I hope the Lord will
be your gentlemen of the court that may find grace in your sight to favour
me to get my penchery money as it is allowed to sum in our faithful
bonds the time I served for three years till the day I was discharged and
when I was out in the two year I served I got a furlow one time in the two
year and never got back till the spring following for I had got the burn
ager at the head of elk river it was the sixteenth day of october
when I got my furlow my captain came home and renewed my furlow
till the spring of the year and then I went to head quarters again
and served out my term and took some men from Winchester by
the command of General Jones wood General of the seventh virgine
regiment at that time I showed provision for them and delivered
the to these Compsys and assignments ~~some~~ some were at present
William Tiller

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$8 per month commencing May 5, 1818, for service as a private for 4 years in the Virginia Continental line.]

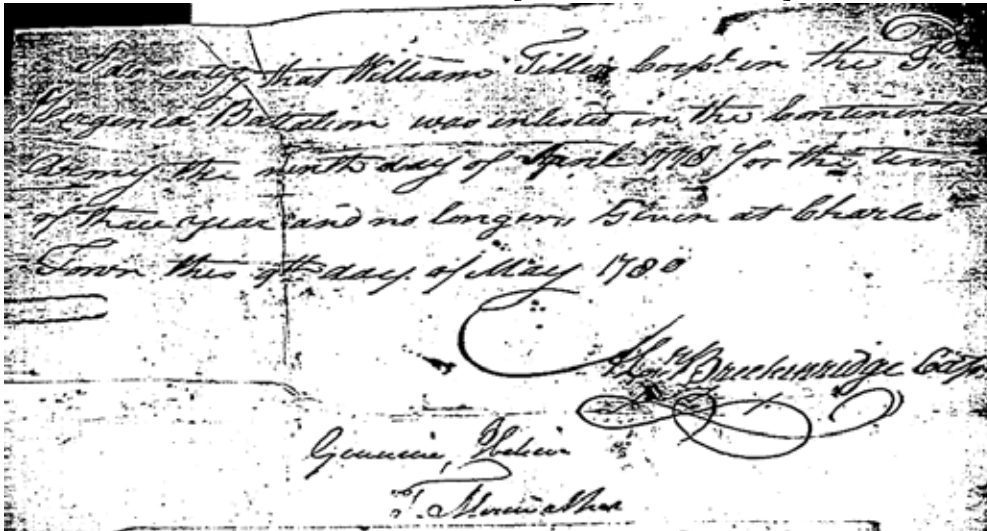
[From [bounty land records in the Library of Virginia](#)] 1-page file

I do certify that William Tiller Corpl [Corporal] in the 3rd Virginia Battalion was enlisted in the Continental Army the ninth day of April 1778 for the term of three years and no longer. Given at Charles Town [Charleston, South Carolina] this 9th day of May 1780.

S/ Alex Breckenridge, Capt. [Alexander Breckenridge]

Genuine, I believe

S/ T. Meriwether [Thomas Meriwether]



The image shows a handwritten document on aged paper. The text is written in cursive and reads: "I do certify that William Tiller Corp^t in the 3rd Virginia Battalion was enlisted in the Continental Army the ninth day of April 1778 for the term of three years and no longer Given at Charles Town this 9th day of May 1780". Below the text is a large, ornate signature that appears to be "Alex Breckenridge Capt". Underneath the signature, it says "Genuine, I believe" and "T. Meriwether".

I do hereby Certify that William Tiller Corpl in Col. Gists detachment of the Virginia line, has served the full time for which she was enlisted & is hereby discharged from the service, that he has rec'd [received] his pay in Continental Currency up to the last day of November 1779, Since which time he had rec'd only Two Dollars in Specie from the D. Co Genl. [? Deputy Commanding General?] of prisoners in Charles Town

Given under my hand this the Twenty eight day of July 1781

S/Thomas Fox, [indecipherable text]

[image of document cut off at the bottom thereof]

I do hereby certify that William Teller Corp^e in
Col. Geste detachment of the Virginia line, has
served the full term for which ^{he} was enlisted and
is hereby discharged from the service, that
he has rec^d his pay in Continental Currency up
to the last day of November One thousand seven
hundred & seventy nine, since which time
he has rec^d only Two Dollars in specie from
the Dep^t of prisoners in Charles Town
From sundry hands this the Twenty
eight day of July One thousand seven hundred
& eighty one

J. T. Teller
Secretary