

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters

Pension Application of John Bell Tilden S42497

PA

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris.

To the Honorable Rich'd. Rush

Sir, the Act of Congress approved on the 15th May last, met my [undeciphered word] for the first time in the National Journal of the 31st May, together with your directions, which I have profered, having called on Judge White, & [two undeciphered words] the Comm[onweal]th Attorney for this County, with both of whom I have had a personal acquaintance for between thirty & forty years

I am not in possession of either of my commissions having lost my little [undeciphered word] just before the Siege of York [Yorktown, 28 Sep - 19 Oct 1781], during our pursuit of Cornwallis &c.

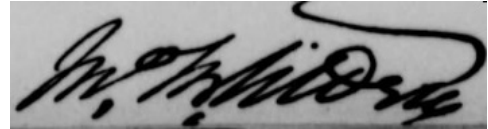
My Diploma or Certificate of membership of the Cincinatti Soc. [sic: Society of the Cincinnati] is framed and cannot conveniently be forwarded.

The only remaining document of a public Nature is a plot of two hundred acres of Donation land from the State of Pennsylvania, which I enclose.

Should the former be necessary, I will forward it; should feel grateful if no unnecessary delay should prevent my receiving the Amount, having about two weeks ago lost my barn &c by fire (I believe it accidental).

The State of Penn'a did pass a law that every Officer should hold Rank, a grade higher than that in which he served, to the Close of the war, wether this will affect my Rank in the Continental line is with you to Judge

Am with due respect Your Obed't Serv't.

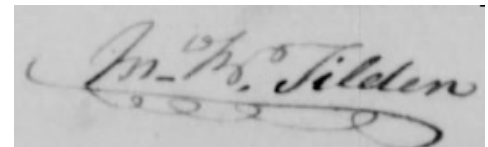


Newtown Stephensburg [present Stevens City] Fred'k County Virginia

For the purpose of obtaining the benefits of an act entitled "an Act for the relief of certain surviving Officers and Soldiers of the Army of the Revolution" approved on the 15th of May 1828 I John Bell Tilden of Stephensburg in the County of Frederick in the State of Virginia, do hereby declare that I was an officer in the Continental line of the Army of the Revolution, and served as such to the end of the War, at which period I was a Lieutenant in the Second Regiment of the Pennsylvania Line

And I also declare that I afterwards received a certificate (commonly called a commutation certificate) for a Sum equal to the Amount of five years full pay; which Sum was offered by the resolve of Congress, of the 22nd of March 1783 instead of half pay for life, to which I was entitled under the resolve of the 21st of October 1780.

And I do further declare that I have received of the United States, as a pensioner since (nor before) the 3^d day of March 1826 no Money or emolument as Witness my hand this 24th June 1828



REVOLUTIONARY CLAIMS./TREASURY DEPARTMENT.

22 July 1828.

John B Tilden of Stephensburg, in the County of Frederick, in the State of Virginia, has applied to the Secretary of the Treasury for the benefits of the act, entitled "An Act for the relief of certain surviving officers and soldiers of the army of the Revolution," approved on the 15th of May, 1828. He states that he was as an officer on the Continental line, and served as such to the end of the war, at which period he was a Lieutenant in the Second regiment of the Pennsylvania line; and that he received commutation

certificates for the five years full pay granted by the resolve of 22 March, 1783; and, further, that he has received as a pensioner since the 3d of March, 1826, nothing.

The Third Auditor is requested to report how far these several statements are corroborated by the records in his office.

By order of the Secretary, A Dickins.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,/ THIRD AUDITOR'S OFFICE,
24 July 1828

It appears by the records in this office, that final settlement certificates have been issued for the commutation of five years full pay to John B. Tilden, Lieutenant in the Pennsylvania line, amounting to Sixteen Hundred dollars.

It further appears that John B. Tilden is not now on the pension list of any agency, and has not been since the 3^d March 1826

Peter Hagner Aud

NOTES:

John Bell Tilden kept a detailed journal of his services, parts of which were published in 1895 as "Extracts From the Journal of Lieutenant John Bell Tilden, Second Pennsylvania Line, 1781-1782" in the Pennsylvania Magazine of History and Biography, Vol 19, No. 1, pp. 51-63 and Vol. 19, No. 2, pp. 208-233, available through JSTOR at <https://archive.org/details/jstor-20083629> and <https://archive.org/details/jstor-20083645> and also on Google Books. Tilden describes the siege of Yorktown, his march to the South, service in South Carolina as the British prepare to evacuate Charleston, and the march back to Pennsylvania.

A portrait of John Bell Tilden, M.D., hangs in the Handley Regional Library in Winchester VA and can be seen online.

A note in the file states that John Bell Tilden died on 21 July 1838. The file includes a letter to the Pension Commissioner from Lemuel Brent of Winchester VA dated 26 Oct 1838 with the following information: "John B. Tilden who was an officer and a pensioner died in the latter part of last summer, leaving no wife but several children, and some childrens children very much scattered. One resides in Missouri...."