

# *Witness* TO REVOLUTION | The Unlikely Travels of Washington's Tent

## AUDIO TOUR »

### Object Highlight: Isaac Till's Baptism Record 208

Hannah and Isaac Till were an enslaved married couple who achieved their freedom while working in Washington's wartime headquarters. After their owner rented them to Washington, they earned enough money through side work to purchase their freedom in 1778 and continued working as paid servants throughout the war.

In February of 1778, two months after the army arrived at Valley Forge, Hannah Till gave birth to a son, named Isaac after his father. The following year, in August 1779, she brought Isaac into Philadelphia to be baptized as a free person at the Scots Presbyterian Church. That baptismal record is displayed here. The church, heavily modified over time, still stands just a few blocks south of the Museum of the American Revolution.

Headquarters jobs ended along with the war in 1783. The wartime community that surrounded Washington during the war and that the Tills helped build did not. They journeyed to Philadelphia, where Margaret Thomas, William Lee's wife, lived with them, and where they worked as cooks in a city with a burgeoning population of free people of African descent.