

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements

Pension Application of James Taylor: R10411

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

[Capitalization partly corrected to improve readability.]

State of N Carolina} SS On the 26th day of May 1840 Personally appeared Dorothy Taylor
Rockingham County} before the Justices of the County Court of Rockingham County
Northcarolina in open Court a Resident of said County and state age Sixty Six years the ninth
of August 1839 who being first duly sworn according to law doth on Her oath make the
Following Declaration in order to obtain the Benefit of the provision made by the act of
Congress passed July the 7th 1838 Entitled an act granting half pay and pensions to certain
widows that she is the widow of James Taylor who was a soldier in the Revolutionary War and
swears that she thinks he served three years and nine months as an enlisted man or soldier in
said War for she thinks she heard so say But does not know what grade held in the army nor
does she know precisely whether he was in the state or Continental line or militia for she
further declares that she was not acquainted with James Taylor till after the war closed but
recollects to have heard him say that he was in the engagement with the British at Charlstown
Southcarolina [sic: possibly Battle of Sullivan Island near Charleston SC, 21 - 29 June 1776] nor
can she remember the officers names under which he served but has heard him say that he
was in the army at about the age of sixteen or seventeen years and that when he enlisted he
enlisted for during the war And Further she swears that she heard him tell how the
Americans were [illegible word] up in James River va by the British for further particulars
about the services of James Taylor my Deceased husband she begs leave to refer the Honorable
Secretary of War to Proof hereunto annexed and that she has no Documentary Evidence of his
services but believes that he served some time before he enlisted as a substitute for some man
or men and she further declares that she was married to the said James Taylor on the 6th of
February at the town of Richmond va the date of the year not recollected but remembers that
it was about sixteen months before the Birth of my first child which happened the 15th June
1791 according to our Family Register [one or two illegible words] James Taylor and Dorothy
Taylor and the Ten Children Born of my Body herein named to witt Joseph A Taylor born June
the 15th 1791 living in Illinois William Taylor born June the 27th 1794 dead John P Taylor born
January the 11th 1796 living in Rockingham NC Daniel D Taylor born December 11th 1798
living in Rockingham NC Elizabeth Taylor born October the 11th 1800 Dead James K Taylor
born 11th February 1804 living in Stokes NCarolina Hester Ann Taylor born July 20th 1807
living in tennessee Thomas M Taylor born March the 5th 1810 living in stokes NC Anthony M
Taylor born November the 6th 1815 living in Stokes NC And Further swears that her husband
James Taylor died on the 23rd of August 1815 in the 56 year of his age And that she was not
married to him prior to his leaving the service but the marriage took place Previous to the first
day of January 1794 to witt on the 6th of February 1790 according to my first child age But for
his age I should not have recollected the date of the year And that she is now his living
widdow and has never been married to person Except the above named James Taylor Deceased
and we were married by a Baptist Minister named Cautny when living in Richmond va or near
there and that she is still his living widow craving the Benefit of the act of Congress passed
July 7 1838 and that her husband James Taylor departed this life Rockingham County
NCarolina and that we lived together as man and wife from the date of our marriage till the
day of his death as it respects the Family Record appended to this declaration The large leaf
taken from a large Bible was taken out of my Fathers family Bible and kept as the record of his
Family in which my own age is recorded and has been in my possession for a number of years
as such. the small leaf taken from a prayer Book is the true family record of my husband James
Taylor Family as it respects two of his childs ages written with his own hand kept for a long
time as a record of their age the other two small leaves were taken out of a Book kept in our
Family as a record of our children ages written by some of my children these books and
papers have all been kept in our possession for a number of years as our Family Record and I
swear that I am satisfied of ther Correctness and she the said Dorothy Taylor doth Herby

Relinquish Every claim whatsoever to a Pension or annuity except the present one and declare that her name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any state. Dorothy herXmark Taylor

North Carolina} SS

Rockingham County} Be it known that before me Aaron P. Robertson an Acting Justice of the County Court of please and Quarter [Sessions] for Rockingham County aforesaid Personally appeared John Taylor aged sixty six or sixty seven years sometime in this present year and made oath in due form of Law that he is the Brother of James Taylor deceased whose Widow Dorathy Taylor is Craving the Benefit of the Act of Congress passed July the 7 1838 and maketh oath that his Brother James Taylor was a soldier in the Revolutionary War and served for some time as a substitute for some other Person When that time was out he Enlisted for during the War and further swears that he thinks that his Brother James Taylor was in the war for the space of six or seven years without returning home and that he heard his Brother James Taylor state at divers times after his return home which was after the war closed that he James Taylor was in the Battle of the Cowpens in South Carolina [17 Jan 1781] and at the Eutaw Springs [8 Sep 1781] and at the taking of Cornwallis at little York [19 Oct 1781] and that he heard him say that the Soldiers were shipped to little yourk when they received word that Cornwallis was there and that he heard him say that he at some time was under the command of General Wayne and at one time he said that they got into an Engagement with the Indians in South Carolina when General Wayne was the Commander this engagement was by night [see note below] Some lives were lost on that accasion and Further swears that James Taylor was born in Fairfax County virginia and went from that County as a Soldier and when he returned from the war he came back to fairfax County va to the settlement where he left not knowing that his Mother had moved and he further recollects that when his mother heard of her sons return that he sent a Mr George Mason after him to Bring him to her house to which she had moved since he James Taylor had gone in the service and he further states that he thinks his Brother James Taylor was about sixteen years old when he Enlisted and thinks he was twenty two or three years old when he returned home and he further states on oath that his Brother James Taylor after his return from the war went to Alexandria and sold some paper or papers to some Person there for the value of Ten dollars but does not know pesisely what they were but thinks that is was some paper for soldiers land or Bounty Claim for he recalled that he heard his Brother James Taylor state that his Land was not worth anything to him as they would have to Drive the Indians from it before it could be got and complained of the Government because he could not get it without Troubles As it respect the marriage of my Brother James Taylor to Dorothy Miller now Taylor he says that he knows nothing about it of his own knowledge for he John Taylor was in Fairfax at the time of the marriage as he believes and the marriage took place at Richmond in Virginia But he John Taylor became acquainted with James Taylors wife some time after they were married and freque[ntly] saw them both together at her fathers house and they passed for man and wife and were recognized as such in Richmond by his friend and they lived together as man and wife till they day of his death which happened in Rockingham County NCarolina he thinks in the year 1815 and they had the Children named in her declaration Sworn and subscribed before me.

NB and that Dorothy Taylor is the widow (now living of the above named James Taylor and Craving the Benefit of the Act of Congress passed July 7 1838 And the said John Taylor wishes to correct the statement made above where it is here stated here that he saw his Brother James Taylor with his wife Dorothy at her fathers house this was an Error in the writter But he swears that he Frequently saw them both together in the presence of (Her Dorothy Miller) Father and Friends and that James Taylor his Brother and the said Dorothy were recognized as man and wife in the town of Richmond Va and that he remained acquainted with them both till they day of his James Taylor Decease which happend in Rockingham County NCarolina in the year 1815 And that she remained his Widow ever since that time till the present and that she is now living in Rockingham County NCarolina. Sworn and subscribed to before me
February 15th 1840 [signed] John Taylor

James Taylor is entitled to the proportion of Land allowed a private of the Continental Line for

the war

Council Chamber}

Sam'l. Coleman

Oct'r 26th 1793} Henry Lee [Governor of VA]

A Warrant No 4626 for 200 acres issued to James Taylor the 26th Oct'r 1793

Va L. Office, Richmond, Nov 10 1833

NOTES:

Only Continental soldiers enlisted for "during the war." The nighttime engagement of Gen. Anthony Wayne may have been the skirmish at Ebenezer GA on 23 June 1782 against the Creek chief Emistisguo. Virginia Continental troops under Col. Thomas Posey were present.

The file contains the family registers referred to. The "large leaf" has the following entries:

DANIEL MILLER BORN[?]: 29 SEP

JOHN[?]: PHILLIS: MILLER

BORN: 6 MARCH. 1769

DOTHERY: BORN: 9 AUG 1773

The pension application of Dorothy Miller Taylor was supported by her sister, Elizabeth Miller, about 65.