

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Christopher Taylor R10420 ½

Mary Taylor

f112NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

9/13/06 rev'd 7/5/14

[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.]

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State of Tennessee, Washington County: September Term 1832

On this 10th day of September 1832 personally appeared in open court before the Honorable Samuel Powell, Judge of the Circuit Court of Law & Equity for the County of Washington within the first Judicial Circuit of said State, Christopher Taylor, a resident of the County of Washington, aged Eighty-six years, who being first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefits of the act of Congress passed the 7th of June 1832.

That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated, to wit: that on & previous to the month of October of the year 1776, he resided in the County of Washington (then North Carolina) now Tennessee which County was a frontier & bordered on the Nation of Cherokee Indians who were in league with the British in the war of the Revolution and were at that time & before & after committing murders & depredations in the said frontier in which he resided when and in the said month of October of 1776 he enrolled under Capt. Christy [William Christian] to perform a tour of duty as a volunteer against said Indians & rendezvoused at the Long Island on of Holston [River] under said Christy and there remained on account of sickness whence Col Christy's men marched from that place to the heart of the Nation & himself & eighty others (who were sick) lay at said place until the return of the Army and sometime after the return were discharged (verbally) by Col Christy & he then returned home being at this time a Lieutenant in Captain Evans [Nathaniel Evans'] company which service was called a three months tour but did not quite amount to that length of time. That after he returned home he was elected a Captain in the County of Washington, State aforesaid, then upon the expedition of Colonel Sevier [John Sevier] against the Indians in the spring of 1778 volunteered with his company to go against said Indians to the Chota towns & commanded his said company under Col Sevier during the said expedition and burned the Indian towns & destroy the property & effects of the Indians & caused them to abandon that part of their Country adjacent to the white settlements and returned home again after performing what was called as a three months tour & amounted to about that length of time and discharged, verbally, his men and returned home. That being a resident on the immediate frontier and no other citizens residing west of him to New Orleans, he was kept continually engaged with short intervals with a company under his command in successive attacks upon the Indians who would, in detached parties, break in upon the vicinity of his residence and kill and depredate

upon the whites until the fall of the year 1780 when he and his company (hearing of the march of Ferguson [Patrick Ferguson] up to the mountains & contemplating crossing over into what is now East Tennessee & Western Virginia) volunteered under Col Sevier to go to the South and intercept the march of said Ferguson & Army; that they rendezvoused on Gap Creek (what is now called Carter County) then Washington & there met the Virginians under Col Campbell [William Campbell] & the upper Tennesseans under Col Shelby [Isaac Shelby] and then marched to the Yellow Mountain where their officers held a conference & appointed Col Campbell to the chief or head command and marched on through Burke & Rutherford & Lincoln Counties & fell in with Col Cleveland [the Cleveland] having the command of the North Carolina militia in Rutherford & all marched to King's Mountain where they he came in contact with Ferguson's of Army at the time on the top of the mountain & there the combined forces under Campbell, Shelby, Sevier & Cleveland surrounded said Army under Ferguson & killed and captured the whole Army (Ferguson being killed in said engagement [October 7, 1780]) after which this declarant returned home with his men from said battle & he discharged his men after returning home, verbally, being a three months tour. That after their return, immediately the Indians in the Middle Settlements had killed on the frontier & Col Sevier called upon this declarant to draw out his company to go against the Indians which he did and marched under Col Sevier through the Greasy Cove up Indian Creek to the State of North Carolina (now) & the Indians retreated & left the country upon the hearing of the march of Sevier's men and after ranging that country they returned home, being an engagement of three months. That he kept in constant service with short intervals after the return aforesaid when the Indians made their incursions sometimes but short tours until the definitive treaty of peace in 1783 & indeed long service, though the latter service was not part and parcel of the Revolutionary War. That of the period that intervened from his first enrollment under Col Christy in October 1776 until 1783, he had served the principal part of the whole time being at home only for short intervals, being at home any one period in order to put in or aid in raising a crop, during all which time he served as a Captain, except the first three months when he was a Lieutenant as before stated & must have served five constant years service in the seven years war. That he has lost his commission in the great lapse of time that has intervened and has no documentary evidence to produce and annexed hereto is the testimony of Nas Gann [Nathan Gann]¹ & Jacob Brown,² who served with him part of the time which are the only persons known to him by whom he can prove his services or part thereof. He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension except the present and declares that his name is not on the roll of the agency of any state; that there is no resident minister of the Gospel in this vicinity by whom he can establish the facts set forth in the instructions of the War Department.

Sworn to & subscribed in open court this 10th day of September 1832

S/ Christopher Taylor



S/James V. Anderson, Clerk

¹ [Nathan Gann \(Gan\) S1820](#)

² [Jacob Brown W333](#)

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We Nase Gann & Jacob Brown residing in the County of Washington State of Tennessee do certify that we all well acquainted with Captain Christopher [Taylor] late of the militia of North Carolina now within the bounds of Tennessee. That he the said Nase Gann was a private in the company of said Taylor in the expedition to the South commonly called the Kings mountain battle & served as stated by said Taylor, he having read the aforesaid statement and on the return of the Company was also under Captain Taylor in the tour under Colonel Sevier against the Indians of the middle settlements (commonly called Overhills) of the Cherokee tribe marched through the Greasy Cove & up Indian Creek as stated by said Taylor & well knows of his performing both tours being for three months each. Jacob Brown states that he served with Captain Taylor in both the above expeditions stated by Nase Gann & but was not under his immediate command but knew of his having a captains command in both, & his statement is truly made in reference to these services. They each state in reference to the other services of said Taylor of which they have no personal knowledge that we believe said Captain Taylor to be 86 years of age & that he is reputed in the neighborhood in which he resides to have been a soldier of the Revolution, & will that we concur in that opinion.

Sworn to in open court at March Term 1832

S/ Nathan Gan

S/ Jacob Brown



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State of Tennessee Washington County

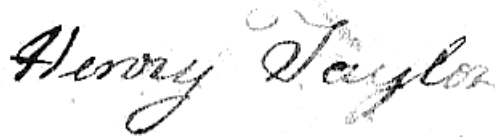
Henry Taylor who is now sole heir & surviving child of Captain Christopher Taylor & Mary Taylor states on oath that his father & mother settled before the close of the Revolutionary War in what is now Washington County that he was old enough to recollect of his father's going into service & leaving his mother to carry on the farm & home business. Witness though a boy well recollects of his mother with her own hand sewing the grain & having a small Negro boy and witnessed the Negro held the plow and witness rode the horse & put in the grain in the absence of Captain Taylor went on the expedition to Kings Mountain. That from the antiquity of the marriage he is unable now to find any person living who knew of its solemnization being in the backwoods but upon examination has found two of the oldest men now living in the Country who when boys lived & continued to live in the immediate vicinity of the Taylor family & no that Captain Christopher Taylor & Mary Taylor were living together as man and wife universally so recognized before the close of Captain Taylor's service & knew of his going out to Kings Mountain battle have lived in the vicinity up to the death of Christopher Taylor being 10th September 1833 & Mary Taylor died 29th of March 1837. The said witnesses still are living in the vicinity. This is the nearest approach

now to the actual marriage as at that distant day records were not made & licenses preserved of marriages: Deponent states that his mother Mary Taylor proved in open court by Ruth Edwards that she was present at the marriage of Captain Taylor & Mary Edwards afterwards Taylor but as it was unnecessary to say anything about time for the purposes then to be used, it was simply proved by her the marriage and widowhood to enable her to draw the arrears of pension due to her dead husband Christopher Taylor & which is on file in the office as part of the vouchers on which she received the arrears, but as Mrs. Edwards expressly proves they were married & she was present at its solemnization & witnesses Pring & Baylis prove they were living together as man & wife before the close of the services & at the time & ever served this is the best evidence so state a transaction is susceptible of & submitted as such the old family record being long since worn & lost.

Sworn & subscribed before made this 18th of August 1851

S/ W. H. Smith, JP

S/ Henry Taylor

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Henry Taylor". The ink is dark and the handwriting is fluid, with some flourishes.

[Other facts in file as set forth in a letter summarizing the contents of the date in 1938 as follows:

"In 1850 it was stated that Christopher and Mary Taylor raised a family of five sons and three daughters, namely: Henry, Skelton, Greenberry, John and Stephen and Arty, Casey and Zany.

The soldier's son, Henry Taylor, was living in Washington County, Tennessee in 1852, aged eighty-two years and was married and had children, names not given.

In 1852 Henry Driver of Davidson County Tennessee stated that he was the son-in-law of Mrs. Sarah Maclin who was the daughter of Christopher Taylor (revolutionary soldier) and Mary Taylor and that Mrs. Sarah Maclin died January 3, 1849, leaving the following children: Mary C Parks, James C Maclin, Sackfield Maclin and Elizabeth Driver who was the wife of said Henry driver. It is stated that Mrs. Sarah Maclin died in Nashville, Tennessee.

In 1853 Henry Driver, aged 43 years, stated that the following children of Christopher (revolutionary soldier) and Mary Taylor survived their mother and were then living: James Taylor, resident of Buchanan County, Missouri; John E Taylor, resident of DeKalb County, Alabama; Arty Wyly, resident of Monroe County Tennessee; and Henry Taylor, resident of Washington County, Tennessee."

In other documents in the file, Henry Taylor states that his parents were married and resided in Bedford County Virginia at the time of their marriage.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$480 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for service as a Captain for 2 years in the North Carolina militia.]