

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters

Pension Application of Francis Taylor R19418

VA Half Pay

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. Revised 24 May 2015.

To the Honourable the Speaker and house of Delegates of Virginia,
the Memorial of Francis Taylor, sheweth,

That your Memorialist entered early a Volunteer in the service of this State. – That in September 1775, he enlisted into the Culpeper minute Battalion, and served in the same until the 29 January 1776, when he was appointed a Captain by the Committee of Orange County. That he raised a company of soldiers as directed by the Convention, joined the second Virginia Regiment at Williamsburg in May 1776, and served in the said Regiment until September 1778 [at White Plains NY; <http://revwarapps.org/b138.pdf>], when he was arranged a supernumerary because a junior Major, but was not permitted by Gen'l [William] Woodford to leave his Brigade till the 2^d October 1778. Which two last services being in succession your memorialist is informed did entitle him to the Military bounty of lands for the rank of Major; which he did not know until after he had obtained a Resolution warrant for the same, and being lately informed that Land warrants granted by Resolutions of the Assembly, have not been permitted by the superintendants of the Military lands, to be located or surveyed and they will not suffer the said Resolution warrant to be entered, until after all other Military warrants. This your memorialist considers as a distinction never intended by the Legislature, and prays that he now may have warrant issued agreeable to his right, that those he had obtained by Resolution be recalled or put on an equality with other Military warrants and allowed to be immediately located.

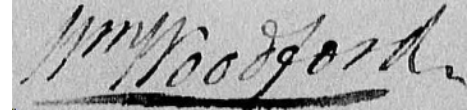
Your memorialist begs leave further to inform this honourable house that after being arranged a supernumerary, he still considered himself an officer in the Continental line and held himself ready to serve when called upon, which he did soon after, being commissioned the 24 December 1778 Lieut Colonel of the Regiment to guard the Convention prisoners in this State [Burgoyne's troops captured at Saratoga on 17 Oct 1777 and kept at Albemarle Barracks Jan 1779 - Feb 1781]. And it appears by the resolution of Congress of January 9th 1779 wherein they directed "That the officers of the said Regiment should be appointed out of those of the Virginia line who had been left out by the late arrangement" that they still considered them belonging to the service, and further "That the said Regiment should be raised on Continental establishment." And it is well known that the said Regiment was credited to this State the whole time it served which was more than two years, as part of its quota.

After the death of Colo Charles Lewis, your memorialist was promoted to the rank of Colonel of the said Regiment of Guards the 5 March 1779 and commanded the same until the month of June 1781, when the Convention prisoners were marched out of this State and the said Regiment disbanded, which from his appointment to the said Regiment was above two years & five months, and added to the time he served in the second Virginia Regiment (exclusive of the time he served in the Culpeper Minute Battalion) made upwards of Five years Continental service. Your memorialist did never resign, and was only a little time out of actual service during the war, and only when required by superior authority to retire there from. — The foregoing being a true state of the time that our memorialist hath been in the service, and as he never forfeited his title to the emoluments promised the army, thinks that he hath a right to half pay for the rank of Colonel, which he last served in, and has never obtained, although he made application to the Commissioner of Army accounts, to settle his accounts for the same. And now your memorialist hath not other means to obtain redress but from this honorable house to whom he submits his case, in full confidence that they will do him that justice to which he presumes he is entitled and which to them shall seem right.

Dr Sir Williamsburg 4th April 1776

I have Gen'l. [Charles] Lee's order to desire you'll repair to this place with your Company as soon as you can with conveniency. I wish you a good march & am

Sir/ Your obed't. serv't.
[William Woodford]



In a Committee held at Orange Courthouse on Wednesday the 8th May 1776

Ordered, that Capt. Francis Taylor do March with his Comp'y Tomorrow for Williamsburg agreeable to Orders Rec'd. by him for Colo. William Woodford, the distance to which station we judge to be One hundred and Thirty five Miles

James Madison Ch. Com. [future President]
Benjamin Johnson Clk

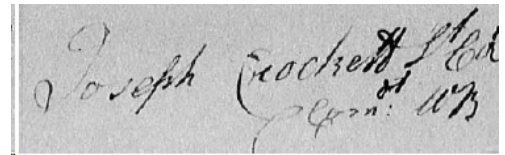
I do hereby certify that I was appointed President of a Board of Field Officers appointed by General Order at White Plains in September 1778 for settling the relative rank of the Field Officers & Captains in the Virginia Line & that Francis Taylor Esq'r became a Supernumerary by being a Junior Major, being entitled to the Majority the 12th July 1778

Given under my hand the 28th August 1779 James Wood, Colo 8th Virginia Reg't

Albemarle Barracks March 13 1780

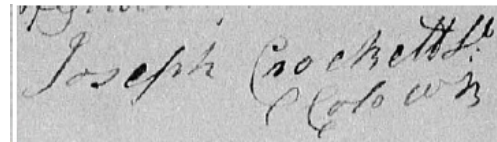
Received of Francis Taylor Colo of the Regim't. of Guards Seven Blankets for the use of Soldiers in the Western Battalion Joseph Crockett Lt Col/

[Commandant Western Battalion]



Albemarle Barracks March 18 1780

Received of Francis Taylor Colo Regiment of Guards Two Blankets for the Use of Soldiers of the Western Battalion



Montpellier Jan'y 13th 1834

Dear Sir [A. M. Green] I rec'd. your letter of the 11th enclosing the Memorial now returned of Francis Taylor to the Virginia House of Delegates in 1785. I should be sorry that the Rep's. of Colo. Taylor should fail in a claim, if just in itself, from a want of regular proof to the fact, "That he considered himself and the officers who retired with him as having been raised on Continental Establishment" – but my memory after such a lapse of time, does not retain a knowledge which I may have had on the subject. What I can say, is, that Colo Taylor was among the earliest and most zealous in bearing arms in the Revolutionary cause of his country; That he was always regarded among those who best knew him as characteristically exact on points of integrity and veracity; and that every confidence is due to the sincerity of statements made by himself With friendly respects/ James Madison

State of Kentucky } Sct
Jefferson Circuit }

Be it remembered that heretofore towit at a Circuit Court Continued and held for the Jefferson Circuit at the Courthouse in the City of Louisville on Tuesday the 25th day of June 1834 personally appeared in Court William Merrewether [William Meriwether (Merewether), pension application

S47954] a Citizen of this Circuit and made oath that he was acquainted with Francis Taylor a Colonel in the service of the State of Virginia, belonging to the continental or State line in the year 1778 or 1779 That said Taylor had command of the corps that was in charge of the British prisoners who had been taken at the battle of Saratoga at Albemarle Barracks – that he was well acquainted with the family of Taylor in consequence of an intermarriage between his and Taylors relatives That said Francis was a brother of Commodore Richard Taylor [S25873] of the Virginia Navy in the revolutionary war – and of Captain William Taylor [W6233], and of Reuben Taylor also of the revolutionary army – and of Benjamin Taylor, Charles Taylor, Jonathan Taylor, James Taylor.

Said Merrewether further states that he was under the command of said Francis Taylor, about two months at the said Barracks in the service aforesaid. [Court certification not transcribed.]

[The following are from [bounty-land records in the Library of Virginia.](#)]

The Bearers Francis Taylor & Wm White [William White], has have to be absent from the Battalion at the Great Bridge & to pass to Orange County
 Given under my hand this the 9th day of February 1776. Edward Stevens
 I left the Great Bridge the 9th of Feby 1776

I hereby certify that Major Francis Taylor entered into the Virginia Con'l. Army 2nd Regiment in the Fall of 1775.

Given under my hand this Eleventh of May 1799 Tho Hord Capt [Thomas Hord]
 6th Virginia Regt

I do Certify that the within named Colo. Francis Taylor was an officer in the within mentioned 2nd Regement when I entered the service which was a bout the 10th of February 1776 and that he was afterwards promoted to the Rank of Major in s'd. regement & continued therein until the close of the war

J W Nelson Capt [possibly John Nelson W5414]
 5th Virg'a Reg't
 6th Jan'y 1799

I do Certify that Major Francis Taylor entered into the Minute Service and in the Regiment commanded by Colo. Edward Stevens some time in the summer 1775 as a private He was soon after appointed a Quarter Master (or at least did that duty) and he continued doing that duty in the said Regiment until he was appointed a Captain in the 2nd Virginia Conteneltal Regiment which I think was some time in the Winter of 1775 1776 and continued in service until the close of the War at which time he ranked as Major

7th August 1799 Reuben Taylor Capt from Virg'a in Congress Reg't.

Muster Roll of the Field & Staff Officers of the Regiment of Guards at Albemarle Barracks. For the months of March & April 1780.

Names	Rank	Appointment	Commissioned	Remark
Francis Taylor	Colonel	March 5 1779	March 5 1779	Present
John Roberts [W2347]	Major	d'o	d'o	d'o
James Burton	Adjutant	April 23 ^d 1779		d'o
Charles Taylor [BLWt2356-400]	Surgeon	October 26 1779		d'o
Jesse Paulett	Q master	Jan'y 8 1780		resigned 26 April 1783
William Kennedy [VAS1039]	D'o	April 1780		present

Caroline Sep'r. 20 1800

Dear Sir

Mr. James Taylor of Kentucky, writes me, that he lodged with you papers sufficient to obtain warrants, under the claims of James Bell a Serjeant, and Mathew Griggs [sic: Matthew Gregg (Grigg) S35981], who served in Capt. Mountjoy's [John Mountjoy S36175] company, of which the Capt. gave a certificate. He requests the favor of you to be so good as to look over these, and his other papers, and if he is entitled to any warrants, heretofore omitted, to do the needful. Mr. Turner, who will deliver this note, will take any papers or warrants – or advance any money necessary to wind up Mr. Taylor's affairs. The warrants he will bring to me, & I shall repay his advances – or if needful, he will, I make no doubt, render any other aid he can in the business. I am with great esteem, Sr Sir

Yr. mo. ob't S't./ John Taylor

Francis Taylor is entitled to the additional proportion of land allowed a Major of the Continental line for the seventh year's service

Executive office/ October 1st 1800

Samuel Coleman

Dr Sir – Bell appears to have received his land, – I forwarded to you Griggs Certificate the 15th of April last, and I now forward to you by Mr. Turner an additional allowance for major Francis Taylor which is all that the Vouchers in my possession will warrant the issuing of. With perfect respect I have the honor to be your mos Obt Serv't

Sam'l. Coleman

To his Excellency John B Floyd Governor of Virg'a

The heirs at Law of the late Francis Taylor of the virginia line on continental establishment in the war of the Revolution respectfully shew: That their ancestor entered the military service of the country in the year 1775 and was in the battle at the great bridge near Norfolk in December [9] 1775, that soon after that battle he was made a subaltern officer in the continental line and served to the north under Gen'l Washington until September 1778 at which time he had been promoted to the rank of Major. He was a junior Major as is shewn by the evidence of the late Governor Wood then a colonel in the continental line. By the arrangement of the army made at the White plains in the fall of 1778 which made it necessary that some of the officers should retire, Major Taylor became supernumerary until December in the same year when he was made Lieutenant Colonel of the regiment of guards for the prisoners captured at Saratoga and stationed at Charlottesville. After Colo. Wood & Colo. [Theodorick] Bland left the command of that regiment, Colonel Taylor was promoted to the rank of full Colonel in the Virginia line on continental establishment, which commission he held at the close of the war. The rolls of the officers receiving depreciation of pay under the act of assembly of November 1781 shew that Colo. Taylor was paid as full Colonel in the continental line. And the published official letter of Governor Jefferson shews that Colo. Taylors regiment was credited to Virginia as part of his continental quota. The Act of Assembly of May 1782 provided that army officer of any corps credited as part of the states quota should be allowed depreciation of pay and bounty upon the same terms as other troops raised by the state. With a claim so clear supported by testimony so full it nevertheless appears that he only received bounty in land as a Major. John H Smith a lawyer of character and ability who was appointed in 1833-4 to adjudicate claims of this character reported without application from anyone it is believed and upon the record testimony that Colo. Taylor was entitled to the bounty land of a full colonel. And it is also believed that the Governor at that time approved the decision of Commissioner Smith in this behalf. Bounty land is accordingly respectfully asked. W. C. Moore on behalf of himself and the other heirs of Colo. F Taylor

[From [Library of Virginia Legislative Petitions Digital Collection](#)/ Albemarle County – Officers guarding Convention troops]

To The honourables the Speaker and House of Burgesses.

The Memorial of the Officers, in behalf of themselves and the Soldiers raised to guard the Convention troops, Beg liberty to represent to your house, That they have been hitherto badly supplied with cloathing, comforts and necessaries allowed to the other part of the Army of the United States; and flattering themselves, that they were to be entitled to all the emoluments granted to the troops in Continental or State service, so frequently and generously voted by several passed Assemblies; That they have served upwards of sixteen months, and have hitherto received only part of one half years cloathing; That the Officers were at considerable trouble and expence in recruiting their respective quotas of men, and the noncommissioned officers and soldiers received only the inconsiderable bounty of thirty dollars each; That the Officers and Soldiers from the depreciated state of the money and small allowance made, are unable to cloath themselves, and are at present greatly distressed on that account particularly, and see not prospect of being relieved unless your honourable house will interpose. They being convinced you never intended any distinction should be made in troops raised as Guards, troops on Continental service, or marching regiments, do request, that a Store may be provided for the Officers and soldiers at Barracks; That they be refunded passed deficiencies, and be in future furnished with necessaries at the reduced prices, in such proportions as allowed other troops. And to induce a continuance of those already in service, and such as may hereafter enter to continue in the same, That they be allowed, such proportion of back Lands, and other emoluments, as you in your wisdom may think an adequate compensation for dedicating their services to the United States, and this State in particular.

And your Memorialists will ever pray.

Albemarle Barracks

June 3^d 1780

Signed

Fra's Taylor Colo.

John Roberts Maj'r.

James Burton Capt.

Thos. Porter Capt. [Thomas Porter VAS243]

G Burnley Capt. [Garland Burnley BLWt1885-300]

James Purvis Capt. [R17246]

John Taylor Lieut.

Rich'd Paulett Lieut [Richard Paulett BLWt1940-200]

William Slaughter Ens'n [W19045]

Jesse Paulett Ens'n

Sam'l. O. Pettus Lieut [Samuel Overton Pettus]

Wm Kennedy QM [William KennedyVAS1039, Quarter Master]

June 12th 1780 referred to propositions/ Reported Reasonable

NOTES:

On 25 June 1786 Taylor wrote to "Col. Madison" as follows: "I have taken the liberty to inclose a memorial which was intended to have been presented to Virg'a assembly – and request, if you should have it in your power without much trouble, to enquire if my claim for half pay would be allowed by Congress."

On 28 June 1834 Elizabeth Pendleton stated that Francis Taylor "had no sisters – he had one other brother who died before said Francis Taylor without having been married."

The file includes a copy of the will of Francis Taylor dated 17 April 1797 and probated in Orange County VA on 23 Dec 1799. The will named the following brothers as heirs to large tracts of bounty land in Kentucky: James, Jonathan, Richard, William, Charles, Reuben, and Benjamin Taylor. Additional heirs to bounty lands were nephews Francis Stubbs Taylor; Francis Taylor, son of Jonathan;

Richard Taylor, son of Richard; Nathaniel Taylor, son of James; Charles Taylor, son of Charles; Francis Taylor, son of Reuben. Others mentioned were brothers Hubbard Taylor, Edmund Taylor, deceased, and John Taylor, deceased, as well as niece Elizabeth Pendleton.