

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of James Taylor S3764

Transcribed by Will Graves

rev'd 2/19/17

[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.]

[p 3]

State of Tennessee, Blount County: Second Judicial Circuit Court July Term 1832

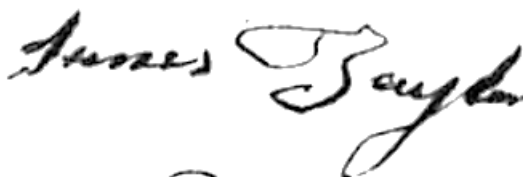
On this 2nd day of August 1832, personally appeared in open court before the honorable the Circuit Court of the County Circuit & State aforesaid, now sitting, James Taylor, a resident of the County & State aforesaid aged Seventy-two years past, who being first duly sworn according to Law, doth on his Oath make the following declaration in Order to obtain the benefit of the act of Congress passed June 7, 1832. That he entered the Service of the United States under the following named Officers and served as herein Stated Viz.: About the age of 18 years he became a Substitute for Joseph Myers in Surry County North Carolina, who was drafted for three months, was mustered into Service under Captain Salathiel Martin of the 3rd Regiment of North Carolina troops Commanded by Colonels Hampton [Andrew Hampton] & Hambright, marched into South Carolina and joined General Lincoln's [Benjamin Lincoln's] Command & marched to Charleston, and remained in Service about five months and was discharged about 24 March __ . After General Gates' defeat [Battle of Camden, August 15-16, 1780] applicant volunteered for three months in the Company Commanded by Captain Gibson Wooldridge, Joined head quarters on the North of the Yadkin River under Colonel Paisley [John Paisley], under the Command of General Davidson [William Lee Davidson]; Wooldridge's Company then marched into Surry County North Carolina and Joined Colonel Joseph Williams and at Surry Old Court House in an engagement with the Tories applicant was taken prisoner by the Tories under the command of Gideon [Gideon Wright] and Hezekiah Wright [Shallow Ford, October 14, 1780], and remained a prisoner three days when he is deserted and joined Major Cloyd's Command, by whom he was sent on an express to Major Hall to urge him on to unite with Major Cloyd; on his return he found his Company on the Battle ground near the Shallow Ford of the Yadkin, Captain Wooldridge and others were missing, the Company rendezvoused at a place appointed, Captain Wooldridge went home for two days, the British intercepted his return and the Company elected this applicant their Captain. They then marched and attached themselves to Major Winston's [Joseph Winston's] Command & marched to join General Greene [Nathanael Greene] on the Carmichael Road, but were stopped by an express and informed that General Greene was on the Dixon's ferry Road. They then crossed to the Dixon ferry Road which delayed them so much that they did not reach Guilford until the Battle [Guilford Court House, March 15, 1781] was over. They then retreated, marched toward Wilmington and about 18 miles below Salem we were disbanded. Soon after this, applicant volunteered for 12 months and joined a Company Commanded by Captain Daniel Wright, this Company elected applicant Ensign, and with other Companies were Ordered out by Colonels Armstrong [Martin Armstrong] and Joseph Williams, and were called County Rangers, applicant served out his term of Service and was again honorably discharged about the Close of the War. Applicant Continued to reside in Surry County

North Carolina (where he resided during all of the period aforesaid) until about the year 1796, when he removed to Knox County Tennessee & lived there about four years, then removed to Blount County Tennessee where he has resided ever since. Soon after the close of the war this applicant's House was burnt and all his discharges, commissions and papers were burnt, and he has now no evidences of his Service except his own declaration, and knows of no person by whom he can now prove them.

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present and declares that his name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any State.

Sworn to & Subscribed the day & year aforesaid.

S/ James Taylor

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "James Taylor". The signature is written in dark ink on a light background.

S/ Daniel D. Fonte, Clerk

[William Billue, a clergyman, and Jacob F. Fonte, a neighbor gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[p 13]

State of Tennessee, Blount County: SS

Be it Known that on this 13th day of May in the year of our Lord 1833 personally appeared before me Eleven Hitch an acting Justice of the peace, duly commissioned and sworn in and for Blount County, and a member of the Court of pleas and quarter Sessions for said County (it being a Court of Record), James Taylor, a resident of the County and State aforesaid aged Seventy-three years since the 30th day of Last January, who being first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath makes the following amendatory Declaration (an amendment of the one made, and dated the 2nd day of August 1832 & forwarded to and returned from the War Department Number 1522 [?] for amendment and further explanation) in order to obtain the benefit of the act of Congress passed June 7th 1832.

This, the amendment of the Declaration and application of James Taylor for a pension amending his original one, dated 2nd August 1832 and Numbered in the Office of Pension Claims 6522, shows that upon mature reflection and certain reminiscences, that he entered the war of the Revolution as a Substitute (as stated in his original declaration) in November 1778, and served five months – was discharged in March 1779, and received a written discharge from Captain Salathiel Martin, for the Nature of his services the department is referred to his original Declaration.

After the defeat of General Gates at Camden – in August 1780 – Say it was in September 1780, he volunteered for three months under the Command of Captain Gibson Wooldridge as stated in his original Declaration to which he again refers the Department and served the time faithfully as private about 1 ½ months – when for certain causes made known heretofore, he was elected Captain in the same and stead of Captain Wooldridge and served the remainder of the three months Tour, fully and faithfully in that capacity; but received no commission as the time was a critical one, and of but short duration – for this three months, he also, when Captain Wooldridge took command of his Company gave the applicant an honorable written discharge.

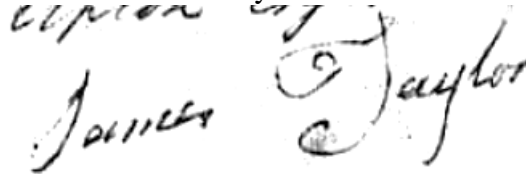
Then early in the Summer of 1781, applicant volunteered under the Command of Captain Daniel Wright for 12 months, whose Company Elected him Ensign, in the Regiment of Col. Joseph Philips by whom he was commissioned as Ensign, and served for 12 months in that capacity.

As to the periods of the war when he served the above will show—as to be different grades this will also show – as to what became of his discharges; -- the nature of his service – the officers under whom he served – the length of his service &c his original Declaration will show.

He was born in Culpeper County, State of Virginia on the 30th day of January A.D. 1760. He has no record of his age – but once had and it was burned as stated in his original Declaration – together with his Commission as Ensign & his discharges.

As to some of the persons to whom I am known in my neighborhood, who can testify to my character as a man of veracity & to their belief of my services as a soldier in the revolution – he can state, John Walker, a Captain of a militia company, James Houston, who was one of the framers of the Constitution of the state of Tennessee, George Ewing Esq., William Williamson Esq., James Price, Eleven Hitch, Esq., Archy Hitch, Rev. William Billue, John Martin and James Upton, Esq., and Isaac Campbell Capt. &c.

S/ James Taylor

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "James Taylor". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the typed name "S/ James Taylor".

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year above written for me.

S/ Eleven Hitch, Justice of the Peace for Blount County

[William Bellue, a clergyman, and Isaac Campbell, a neighbor give the standard supporting affidavit.]

[p 20: The image of this following document is very faint and the transcription of it is rendered very difficult: use with care. The last page of the document is out of sequence as indicated in red below.]

State of Tennessee Sct.

Be it known that on this 31st day of December 1833 personally appeared, James Taylor a Citizen of Blount County, aged 73 years the 30th January 1833, and the identical person mentioned in & who has made & Subscribed the foregoing Original and amendatory declarations before me David McKamy an acting Justice of the peace and a Justice of the Court of pleas & Quarter sessions being a Court of Record, in & for Blount and State aforesaid, and the said James Taylor having first duly sworn according to law, makes the following statement in further explanation and Amendment of his declarations heretofore made, to obtain a pension under the provisions of the Act of Congress of 7 June 1832, which original declaration No. 6522, with the amendment have been returned from the department for further amendment, as required by the instructions of the Commissioner of Pensions under date of "October 4, 1833" which is to be replied, viz., That the period of his engagement under Colonel Phillips was unusually long, and the reasons for it & the necessity of the [indecipherably faint word] were found in the peculiar situation of the Country, and the Success that had attended the Tories & their leaders & the murders & devastations they had committed [indecipherably faint text] that [indecipherably faint text] of North Carolina which was greatly infested with them, at the period applicant joined Colonel Phillips and for nine months or more afterwards; their murders and depredations were not checked or prevented until their power was broken & their numbers lessened by the constant exertions and active Services of Colonel Phillips' troops aided at several different periods by the necessary & important Services of Colonel William Campbell who brought forces from Western Virginia; Colonel Pickens [Andrew Pickens] from South Carolina, and Colonel David Caldwell from Iredell County North Carolina; all of which troops & forces [2 or more indecipherably faint words] & defeated the Tories [indecipherable word or words] time to time, and finally many of

them accepted [indecipherable word] in the terms offered in a proclamation then made which promised forgiveness to all Tories (Willful Murderers & House burners excepted) who would join the Whigs and perform a tour of service of three months or more against the British & their friends & allies, this was also a means of lessening their numbers & power, so that towards the close of the twelve months engagement of Colonel Phillips's troop there was not the same necessity for constant service that existed for the first nine months, this applicant feels confident after careful review of the whole matter and reflection on the events of that time that during that engagement he did perform not less than nine months of actual service and most of that of the most arduous, dangerous and important[?] nature, so far as the Services and example of an obscure and humble Citizen & Soldier could be important to his Country –

Towards the close of said twelve months engagement, occasional respites of a few days were enjoyed from the harassing service of scouring the Country & breaking up Tory meetings & punishing them [indecipherable word] we were able, yet no time was allowed us to engage in any business or pursuits whatever until the expiration of the engagement of twelve months, at which time applicant was honorably discharged as before stated. Applicant has lately met with an old gentleman Mr. George Caldwell of Blount County who has given the annexed affidavit which although informal and not so satisfactory as could be desired yet as much so as the Circumstances could perhaps reasonably permit, still applicant has thought it would not be improper to annex it as a circumstance, in support of his [p 17] Claim, which is in its nature dependent on Circumstantial evidence for support. Having complied as far as he is able with the requisition of the Honorable Commissioner of Pensions under the date of “4 October 1833” Applicant claims pay as a private for nine months actual Service under Colonel Phillips in addition to the period of five months under Colonel Hampton & others, three months under Captain Martin as before stated, and hopes it will be allowed as he is unable for the reasons heretofore assigned to establish his services as an Ensign under Colonel Phillips.

Sworn to & subscribed the date first above written before me

S/ David McKamy

S/ James Taylor

[p 23]

State of Tennessee Blount County

George Caldwell being examined on oath before me William Williamson Justice of peace for the County aforesaid concerning the service of James Taylor in the Revolutionary War Depose and say as follows viz. that sometime in the year 1780 and near the time of the Kings Mountain Battle he the said Caldwell was near the Shallow Ford on Yadkin River and there he saw the said James Taylor and he told us that he was taken prisoner by the Tories and had got away from them and it was generally believed in camp that the Story he told was true as many in camp personally knew him and after that day a Battle took place on the Yadkin River between the Whigs and Tories and he never saw no more of said Taylor.

December 31, 1833

S/ George Caldwell, X his mark

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$56.66 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for service as a private for one year and 5 months in the North Carolina militia.]