

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements

Pension Application of William Taylor S7687

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

[Capitalization and punctuation partly corrected.]

State of North Carolina } Court of Pleas and quarter sessions November Term 1834
Ashe County } On this 11th day of November 1834 Personally appeared
William R. Taylor before the Court of Pleas and quarter Sessions now sitting who states that he
is of the age of Eighty Eight years, or thereabout he having been sworn according to Law doth
on his oath make the following Declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the Provision made
by the Act of Congress passed June 7th 1832 That he enlisted in the army of the United States in
the year as near as he now recollects of 1777 or 1778 about the time of the battles of Trenton
[26 Dec 1776] & at Princeton [3 Jan 1777], with Captain Speaker [probably Benjamin Spyer] and
served in the 7th Regiment of the meriland [sic: Maryland] line under the Following named
officers. Colo [John] Gunby Lieutenant Anderson he enlisted first for the Term of three years
he thinks the bounty was fifty Dollars & the pay fifty shilling per month he first enlisted in the
state of Meriland the County he does not recollect But it was between Frederic Town [sic:
Frederick] & George Town [Georgetown] They marched to Bristol at which place they remained
for 3 or 4 weeks from thence they marched to Trenton where they joined General [William]
Smallwood at which place they were exercised and drilled for some time They were stationed
for some time at West Point. he think Smallwood and Gunby both resigned their commands and
that the command was then given to one General [John] Sullivan who took the command at Vally
forge [sic: Valley Forge PA] - they had marched to this place from Wilmington to the Vally forge
[Dec 1777] - they remaned at this place till some time in the Summer the year he does not
Recollect [1778] but it was after the battle of Brandywine [11 Sep 1777] The British were then in
Philadelphia. the British left Philadelphia for a place called Monmouth. The New england troops
met them there a battle ensued [Battle of Monmouth NJ, 28 Jun 1778]. the troops commanded
by Sullivan under whom deponant served came up on the rear of the British and drove[?] them
Deponant was in this engagement. He was Middlebrook and Bohnbrook [sic: Bound Brook] still
under the command of G. Sullivan. they then returned to West Point at which place they built a
fort and as well as he now recollects Stun [sic: Baron von Steuben] and Decalb [sic: Baron De
Kalb] were there & perhaps had the command for some time. his term of service for which he
first enlisted Towit 3 years had expired. he then enlisted again for and during the war. he was
then placed under the command of General [Horatio] Gates and Decalb and marched under their
command to the head of Elk [now Elkton MD] at which place they were place on board of a small
vessel & were conveyed to annapolis [sic: Annapolis] in the state of mereland they were then
conveyed on to the State of Virginia they then passed on through North Carolina to Camden
South Carolina where Deponant among many others was left sick behind the army and did not
get on to the engagement at Camden [Battle of Camden, 16 Aug 1780; see also note below]
General Gates went to Salisbury as he was informed & on to the north to get troops [sic: see note
below]. the battle in the mean time had taken place & the Brittish defeated the Americans &
killed Decalb he then returned into North Carolina at Salisbury but never received any regular
discharge. he served in all four years and six months as a regular soldier in the Army of the
United States. he was born in the Government of Great Brittan somewhere about the year 1756
or thereabout he has no record of his age he came to America when about 17 year of age
landed at Baltimore came over in the vessel under the command of Alexander Trougis[?] he
lived between George Town and Fredric Town about three years and then enlisted being about
20 or 21 years of age after leaving the Army he resided in what is now called Rowan County
North Carolina in the Town of Salisbury. he then went into the County of Stokes said State
[formed from Surry County in 1789] - resided there several years. he then went into Grayson
County State of Virginia where he lived about 30 years. he lives now in the County of Ashe North
Carolina where he has resided for a few years. he lived in the State of Meriland when he enlisted
each time. he was a vollenteer each time and served only as a private soldier

Sworn in open Court

[signed] William Taylor

I William Taylor do hereby relinquish every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present and I do declare that my name is not on the pension roll of any agency in any state.

11th November 1834

[signed] William Taylor

Interrogatories put by the Court

1st. Where and in what year were you born

I was born somewhere about the 1746 in the County of Glastershire [sic: Gloucestershire] England and partly raised in the City of London

2nd. Have you any record of your age & if so where is it

I have no record of my age that I know of at this time nor did I ever have any

3rd. Where were you living when called into the service where have you lived since the revolutionary war & where do you live now?

I was living in the State of mareland near George Town I have lived part of my time in the state of North Carolina many years in Virginia I [three illegible words] & upwards. I now live in the County of Ashe North Carolina.

4th. How were you called into the service were you drafted did you volunteer or were you a substitute and if a substitute for whom

I was a volunteer in the regular service and served four years and about six months in all I enlisted first for the term of three years served out my time then enlisted for and during the war and served one year and six months

5th. State the names of the Regular officers who were with the troops where you served such continental & Militia regiments as you can recollect and the general circumstances of your service - Answer

The names of the officers under whom I were General Sullivan General Smallwood Colonel Gunby, Captain Speaker Stuban - General Decalb - General Gates Stuban was in camp but he does not know that he had the command at any time. he was in but the one battle which was at monmouth after being stationed at various places middlebrook, Wilmington, Vally Forge &c. various other places which cannot no recollect the regiment to which he belonged was called the 7th Mereland Regiment he was throu what was called the Jersey States he cannot not now recollect more particulars.

6th. Did you ever receive a discharge if so by whom was it given and what has become of it.

Answer. I never did receive any discharge whatsoever when the troops were defeated by the enemy at Camden those not killed or taken prisoners dispersed & he believes his general went home as their general Gates was the first man who arrived at Salisbury & carried the news of his own defeat &c &c

7th. State the names of persons to whom you are known in your neighbourhood & who can tistify as to your character for voracity, and their belief of your services as a soldier of the revolution. Answer. Thomas Southerland Esqr & Benjamin Banum William Barnteer[?] &c There is no Preacher of the Gospel of any denomination living in my neighbourhood he knows of no one by whom he can prove his services as above

Sworn to & subscribed the day & year aforesaid

[signed] William Taylor

State of North Carolina }
Ashe County }

Court of Please & quarter Sessions, May Term 1835

Mr. William Taylor, a resident of said county came into court & made oath in due form of law that he was wounded in the left leg at the ~~Battle of the~~ White Plains on a scouting party - but that he was never placed on the Invalid pension Roll or received any pension or annuity whatsoever. He also swears that he first enlisted for three years as stated in his declaration made in Nov. last, and afterwards for & during the War. That from great age & the consequent loss of memory that he cannot state precisely the day & year he left the Service, but that it was not long after the battle at Camden S.C. and the death of Baron De Kalb. The reason he did not apply for a pension under the act of March 18, 1818 is that he never heard of that act until quite lately - he residing in a very thinly settled & mountainous part of the country, twenty-two miles from the C.h. - and that he believed & was told by his neighbours that as he was taken sick in

the army & did not get his discharge when he finally left the service, that he was not entitled to draw a pension until he lately before making his declaration in Nov. last he was informed of the late law.

Sworn to and subscribed in open Court May 18th 1835 [signed] William Taylor

State of North Carolina } Court of Pleas & Quarter Sessions, August 1835
County of Ashe }

On this 24th day of August 1835 personally appeared in open Court, before the Justices of the Court aforesaid, for the County aforesaid, now sitting, William Taylor a resident of Ashe County aforesaid, in the State of North Carolina, aforesaid, aged Seventy nine (as near as he can ascertain) who being first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following declaration, in order to obtain the benefit of the provisions made by the act of Congress, passed June 7th 1832.

That he enlisted in the army of the United States in the Spring of the year 1777 (one thousand seven hundred and seventy-seven) with Captain — Speaker or Spyker, and served in the 7th Regiment of Maryland line (also called Continental soldiers) under the following named officers — Capt. Speaker or Spyker, whose Christian name this applicant does not know, but the said Capt. kept a mill before he entered the service, which mill was situated in Frederick County, Maryland, as this applicant verily believes. Lieut — Anderson, whose Christian name is also unknown to this applicant. he thinks the sergeant was of the name of Williams. there were soldiers of the following names in the company Dennis Mullins — Mullins Dennis Shears (who this applicant believes was waiter to the Capt.) & James Dwyer.

This applicant enlisted at the said Capt Speakers house (as believes in Frederick Co. Md.) between Fredericktown & Georgetown, and went to the place of rendezvous, whence we marched under Leut. Anderson to Bristol above Philadelphia - leaving Philadelphia on our Right as we marched. there was in the company, as near as this applicant can recollect, about thirty. At Bristol we tarried some time & were marched through Trenton to Princeton, where we were drilled for some time, then we were marched & joined the army not far from Princeton. we were put under Col. Gunbee or Gunby and Gen. Smallwood, but whether one or both or either of these Field officers was present when the company joined the army, this applicant cannot positively state. From Princeton & its vicinity we were marched in several directions until we arrived at Brandywine Creek in Sept. in the year 1777 as this applicant believes - where a battle ensued between the Americans under Gen. Washington and the British Army. this applicant did not fight in the battle (at Brandywine) he being drafted as a guard, with six or seven others, to guard two baggage wagons from Brandywine to Bethlehem [sic: Bethlehem] from Bethlehem this applicant with his associats (the guard aforesaid) returned and joined his Regiment again at Wilmington - after the British had taken possession of Philadelphia [26 Sep 1777]. After remaining some time at Wilmington we marched to Valley Forge, where we tarried the greater part of our time until a short time before the battle of Monmouth this battle occurred in the summer of the year 1778 as this applicant believes, & about the time of Rye harvest, but the precise day he cannot state, - this applicant positively swears that he fought in this battle with the Americans under Gen. Washington, against the British - that the company in which this applicant was attacked the British in the rear after the commencement of the battle, and shortly after said attack in the rear the British army retreated off the ground - this was in the afternoon of the day. After the Battle of Monmouth this applicant thinks it was we were at a place called Middle Brook or Bolin Brook where we encamped most of the winter While at Middle Brook there was a very deep snow and a party of the Americans of which party this applicant was one [on 15 Jan 1780 under Gen. William Alexander, Lord Stirling], was sent over from a place called the Blazing Star below Elizabethtown to Staten Island where the british had a fort, to show ourselves to the British. the party remained on Staten Island during the night in the snow, and next morning crossed over again to the American encampment - crossing and recrossing on the ice. In the morning after recrossing on the ice, we were paraded and reviewed on the river side below Elizabethtown & this applicant thinks Gen. Washington was there present. he also thinks the party had two small pieces of cannon. after the review above mentioned we were marched again to our winter quarters at Middlebrook aforesaid. after several movements of the army which this applicant

cannot precisely state (one of which he recollects being at a place called West point - and at another time he heard that Gen. Washington had given permission to Burguines prisoners to go into the country and marry [see note below]) we were marched towards the South under the command of Gen. Gates. we passed the head of Elk and there took water and passed Annapolis, where we landed and tarried a while for refreshment, from Annapolis we re-embarked and went to Virginia and were landed & paraded near a town the name of which this applicant has forgotten [Portsmouth]. thence we marched through Virginia and North Carolina to South Carolina, where the American Army under General Gates and De Kalb halted and this applicant being sick and barefooted was put on the sick list. this took place in the spring of the year 1780 [sic: see note below] but this applicant cannot state precisely the place at which he was placed on the sick list.

When this applicant with others (including an officer whose name is forgotten) was left sick the army went on towards the South and to the Battle at Camden S.C. after this applicant recovered from his sickness and heard of the destruction of the army at Camden. he came on to the Yadkin in North Carolina near a place called the trading ford [near Salisbury] where he heard of Gen. Green [sic: Nathanael Greene] and went to the camp of some of the troops under Gen Green to inquire for his company - but not finding any of his officers or Regiment, this applicant remained in the country and was not afterwards bound to the service except on some small scouting parties as volunteer

From the loss of memory and old age, this applicant cannot state positively the day or Month on which he left the service, that is the day on which he was left sick behind, but that he served as a private in the service aforesaid three years at least - and he thinks it was more. He also swears positively that he first enlisted (as he believes) for three years and afterward - before the time was out - that he enlisted for during the war. that when he first enlisted he resided with one John Melican, in the County of Frederick maryland, to whom this applicant was bound and to whom he gave twenty pounds Maryland money for the balance of time (about 11 months) to get into the service. At that time this applicant could neither read or write and has not therefore a correct account of the incidents of the War except that afforded by his memory. that subsequently to the war he has learned to read a little and to write his name. He also swears that he does not know whether he gave in his name as Wm. R. Taylor or simply as Wm. Taylor when he enlisted, but that he believes that he gave it in William Taylor as he is certain that was the name he answered to on calling the muster Roll. That after the war he got account from the relations of his parents (both of his parents having died before he was 9 years old) that he had been Christianed William Robeson Taylor and that since that time he has been known as Wm. R. Taylor, but that generally when writing his own name writes it Wm. Taylor. This applicant further swears that he was wounded slightly in the left leg at White Plains in the State of New York but not at the battle known by that name - it being when on a scouting party a year or 18 months after the battle of White plains [28 Oct 1776] - that the said wound did not hinder him a single day from duty and that he does not believe the wound was ever reported.

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present and he declares that his name is not on the Pension Roll of any Agency in any State, Territory or District - and he further swears that when he was left sick behind the army that there was about two years pay due him, which he has never received, & that he has never received any part of his 500 Acres bounty land promised him when he enlisted.

Sworn to and subscribed the 24th day of August 1835

[signed] William Taylor

NOTE:

"Burguines prisoners" refers to Hessian troops under Gen. Burgoyne who were surrendered to Gen. Gates at Saratoga on 7 Oct 1777. After being kept near Boston for a year, they were sent early in 1779 to Albemarle County VA. Many joined the American cause and became citizens.

The Maryland and Delaware troops under Gen. Gates crossed into South Carolina on 5 Aug 1780 and camped on Deep Creek. On 13 Aug they arrived at Rugeley's Mill about 40 miles to the southwest. Taylor was apparently taken ill and left somewhere between those two places.

Contrary to what Taylor had heard, Gates did not go to Salisbury and then to the north before or during the Battle of Camden. After the VA and NC militias fled early in the battle,

Gates said he followed to try to rally them, then continued on to the place of rendezvous at Hillsborough NC. He remained in NC until 2 Dec 1780, when he yielded command at Charlotte to Gen. Nathanael Greene.