

## Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Richard Taylor \_\_ [X794<sup>1</sup>]

f14VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

11/15/11 supp'd 4/23/15

[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 'indcipherable' 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 8<sup>th</sup> of June 1786." Please call material errors or omissions to my attention.]

Virginia

At a Court held for Norfolk County the 16th day of March 1846

The Court doth certify upon satisfactory evidence produced before it that Richard Taylor of James City County a Lieutenant in the Continental line, in the War of the Revolution, served until the end of the War as such officer. That he died in the month of December in the year 1787 leaving a widow Dianah who was then pregnant with a child which child was afterwards born and named Mary, that the said Mary Taylor daughter of said Richard Taylor deceased married Mills Riddick of Nansemond County, that the said Mills Riddick is dead and the court doth further certify that Dianah Taylor (the widow of the said Richard Taylor) is dead, and that Mary Riddick is now living and is the only heir and devisee of the said Richard Taylor deceased:

I Arthur Emmerson Clerk of the County Court of Norfolk County and State of Virginia do hereby certify, that the foregoing is a true transcript from the records of said Court.

In testimony whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the seal of the said Court this 21st day of March in the year of our Lord 1846 and of Independence the 70<sup>th</sup>.

S/ Arthur Emmerson

[p 5: power of attorney dated March 11, 1846 executed by Nathaniel Riddick as administrator *de bonis non* with the will annexed of Richard Taylor, formerly a Lieutenant in the Continental Line during the revolutionary war.]

[Note: the reason no file number was assigned to this file MAY be that there appears never to have been a formal application made for either a pension or land warrant on behalf of either the veteran, his widow or his heir.]

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The online records of the Virginia State Library contained an affidavit that may relate to this veteran. The digital image of the document transcribed below is posted at

[http://image.lva.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/drawer?retrieve\\_image=Revolution&type=rw&reel=26&start=304&end=307](http://image.lva.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/drawer?retrieve_image=Revolution&type=rw&reel=26&start=304&end=307)

I Henley Taylor of James City County do certify that Richard Taylor my Testator and who was my brother Served a considerable time as an officer in the revolutionary war, and that although I

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<sup>1</sup> This is the file number assigned by HeritageQuest in its series of "Selected Records." The file bears no file number.

find it among his papers and Ensign's Commission, yet I also find several receipts given him for arms etc. delivered, which were given to him as Lieutenant from which as well as from several other circumstances that I recollect I am induced to believe that he commanded as Lieutenant. I also believe he entered the service of the United States about September 1776 and that he remained after his recruiting services were ended as a Supernumerary Officer to the end of the war. Given under my hand this 21st day of July 1810

S/ Henley Taylor

I Henley Taylor of James City County do  
certify that Richard Taylor <sup>my father and</sup> who was my brother  
served a considerable time as an officer in  
in the revolutionary war. and that altho I find am  
ong his papers an Ensigns Commission, yet I also  
find several receipts given him for arms etc. de-  
livered, which were given to him as Lieutenant of  
the from which as well as from several <sup>other</sup> circum-  
stances that I recollect I am induced to believe  
that he commanded as Lieutenant. I also believe  
he ~~remained~~ he entered the Service of the  
United States about September <sup>1776</sup> and that he  
remained after his recruiting services were end-  
ed as a Supernumerary officer to the end of the  
war. Given under my hand this 21<sup>st</sup> day of  
July 1810

Henley Taylor

N.B. the above Richard Taylor departed this life in  
Decr 1787.

H. Taylor

[Based on papers filed among the 'rejected pension claims' posted on the Virginia State Library site which contain correspondence from Mary Riddick, I believe the above certificate very likely does apply to this veteran.]

[From [Digital Library of Virginia](#)] Nansemond County Legislative Petitions

To the Honorable Speaker and Members of the General Assembly of Virginia.

Your petitioner Mills Riddick begs leave to represent unto your Honorable body that he intermarried with Mary Taylor, who was the only child, sole heiress and devisee of Richard Taylor deceased; that the said Richard Taylor enlisted in the Army at an early period of the revolutionary war, and on the 7<sup>th</sup> day of September in the year 1776 was constituted and appointed an Ensign of a company in the sixth Virginia Battalion, raised for the defense of American Liberty and for repelling every hostile invasion of the country, which fact is fully established by reference to his commission, of date the same day and year aforesaid and signed by the Hon. John Hancock the then President of the Congress of the United States. Your petitioner also states that the said Richard Taylor after some time performing the duties of Ensign, and faithfully discharging the trust and maintaining the confidence which had been reposed in his patriotism, valor, conduct and fidelity, was appointed to the rank of Lieut. in the Army for the purposes aforesaid, and continued in this character in the service of his country, until the termination of the war, when the rights of free men were acknowledged, and America assured her [word too faint to discern] among the nations of the earth. To satisfy and convince the General Assembly that the said Richard Taylor sustained the rank of Lieut., and remained in his country's service until the close of the Revolutionary War, your petitioner begs leave to refer your Hon. body to two certificates given by Henley Taylor, the one dated the 18<sup>th</sup> September 1809, and the other dated the 11<sup>th</sup>s September 1810, and in addition thereto, he would ask reference to a Military Land Warrant No. 5921, which issued from the Land Office on the 14<sup>th</sup> day of June 1811 to your petitioner's wife Mary Riddick formerly Mary Taylor, the only child, sole heiress and devisee of the said Lieut. Richard Taylor deceased and as to further evidence as to this fact, he request that reference be had to a receipt signed by Hezekiah Niles [?, last name very faint], dated at Wilmington April 1777, and also to a receipt signed by William Finnie deputy Quarter-Master General, dated at Williamsburg. Your petitioner states that the said Lieut. Richard Taylor departed this life in the year 1787, having in his possession at the time of his death, military certificates for the amount of money due him for his services in and during the war, and that said military certificates amounted to about one hundred six pounds, and that he only received the interest on or about this amount of one hundred six pounds up to October 1787 as will more fully appear by reference being had to the certificate signed by Henley Taylor executor of the said Lieut. Richard Taylor deceased dated the 15<sup>th</sup> of February 1814, and the said military certificates having been lost or destroyed after his death, never came into the possession of your petitioner, and never have been paid by the government. The fact is clearly established by the last mentioned certificate of Henley Taylor executor as aforesaid, dated the 15<sup>th</sup> of February 1814, that the said Military Certificates were retained in the possession of Diannah Taylor the widow and executrix of the said Richard Taylor deceased and your petitioner has never been able to ascertain what disposition has been made of them, but is perfectly convinced that in said Military Certificates have been either lost or destroyed as papers of no value or importance. If the General Assembly should require any other evidence of the intermarriage of the said Mills Riddick (your petitioner) with the said Mary Taylor, and any additional testimony of the said Mary Riddick (wife of the said Mills Riddick) formerly Mary Taylor, being the only child, sole heiress and devisee of the said Lieut. Richard Taylor deceased reference is particularly requested to be had to the certificate signed by William Bush and Henley Taylor, dated the 18<sup>th</sup> day of September 1808. Your petitioner having given a short, but true and faithful history of the services of the said Lieut. Richard Taylor during the revolutionary war, and of his never having been compensated for the service, and believing from the evidence that he is entitled to receive

from the government about the sum of one hundred six pounds with legal interest thereon from October in the year 1787, and your petitioner being justly and legally entitled to receive from the State the sum of one hundred six pounds and interest as aforesaid, being the amount or some to which the said Lieut. Richard Taylor deceased was entitled to for services rendered as aforesaid: and believing with the utmost sincerity, that the General assembly of Virginia cannot in justice refuse the payment of so honest and so just a demand, and being compelled from the circumstances aforesaid, to pursue this only [indecipherable word] for the redress of his grievances; he therefore humbly prays that this his petition may be considered as reasonable and just, and that your Hon. body will pass and Act authorizing and directing the payment of the said sum of 106 pounds with all the legal interest which has been accrued from October in the year 1787 to your petitioner Mills Riddick in right of his wife Mary Riddick, formerly Mary Taylor. And as in duty bound will ever pray &c

[Reverse]

Mills Riddick Petition  
January 18<sup>th</sup> 1832  
Referred to Revolutionary Claims  
Rejected

Documents withdrawn & sent to N. C. Whitehead Norfolk Virginia May 2<sup>nd</sup> 1832

[Note: The affidavits and certificates referred to by the petitioner in the above petition were not among the papers included in this file.]

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Addendum to Richard Taylor X794

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. 22 Dec 2020.

[From [bounty-land records in the Library of Virginia](#) indexed as Taylor, Richd.]

Wilmington 8<sup>th</sup> April 1777

Rec'd of Mr. Rich'd Taylor Lieo't of the Sixth Virginia Regiment [undeciphered] Firlocks [firelocks]  
21 Cattuch [cartouch] Boxes twelve Baynotes [bayonets] Belonging to Several Different Virginia  
Regments Hez Niles [Hezekiah Niles]

James City County To Wit.

I do hereby certify that Richard Taylor was a Lieutenant in the revolutionary army of the United States, and left this part of the country to perform duty about the year 1777. The period of his Service, I do not know or to what regiment he was attached. Given under my hand this 18<sup>th</sup> Sep'r 1809.

Test Henley Taylor

William Bush JP

James City County February 15<sup>th</sup> 1814

I do certify that Richard Taylor dec'd who resided in this County and who was an officer in the Revolutionary war, some very short time before his death possessed Military Certificates to the amount of about one hundred and six pounds I do further believe that I drew the Interest on said Certificates for him some time about the month of October 1787. I have reason to believe that Diannah Taylor the widow and Executrix of said Rich'd Taylor retained the Land Certificates, but have been informed that no Interest has been drawn on them since 1787 the time above stated.

Given under my hand the day and year above written Henley Taylor Exe'r of Rich'd Taylor dec'd

The heir of Richard Taylor a Captain in the Va. Contl. line in the Revolutionary war prays an additional allowance of Land bounty for One year's service over six years. The evidence upon which he has already drawn bounty land first as Lieut. then as Capt. shewing that Capt Rich'd Taylor was in service at the end of the War and his Commission dated the Seventh day of September 1776 is herewith submitted.

March 1<sup>st</sup> 1834

Rich'd D. Webb Agent for the heir