

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements

Pension application of Benjamin Taylor R10407

Transcribed by Will Graves

State of Georgia, Screven County

On this 12th day of August 1833, personally appeared in open Court before the Justices of the Inferior Court of the County and State aforesaid now sitting, Benjamin Taylor, a resident of the County and State aforesaid aged 70 years, who being 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 the 7th day of June 1832.

That he entered the Service of the United States under the following named officers, and Served as herein stated.

That he was drafted and entered as a private the Service at Salisbury, North Carolina in February 1780 for three months under Captain Thomas Hunter, before the end of the three months, to wit in April 1780 he enlisted under Captain John Bell for 12 months, was at the Battle at Camden, DeKalb was killed, was at the Guilford Battle – was under Colonel Williams, then under Colonel Hicks – was under General Gates, General Greene – was commander in chief – In Colonel Williams' Regiment he knew Captains Bell, Davenport, Taylor and Sowell. In Col. Hicks' Regiment he knew Captains O'Neal, Harp, Bogan and Franklin. He knew Generals Caswell and Stevens and General Benjamin Washington of the Light Horse. He was in the fight at Hillsboro, General Gates commanded – was stationed at Guilford Court House North Carolina, Ramsey's Mill North Carolina, at Salisbury North Carolina, and at Camden South Carolina. He was discharged at Bacon's Bridge South Carolina – discharge was signed by General Greene and is lost long since.

In May 1782 he enlisted the second time at Waccamaw under Captain Fowler as a Private for 12 months – during this Tour was in no Battle, but was on guard of the Baggage at the Eutaw Battle General Greene commanded – was under Colonel Hunter in Colonel Hunter's Regiment he knew Captains Nash, Strickland, Thomas and Sowell was stationed at Juniper Springs South Carolina was discharged at Cheraw Hills on the Big Pedee River South Carolina, it was signed by General Greene and is lost.

At Cheraw Hills in May 1783 he Enlisted for the third time under Captain Strickland as a Private was under Colonel Davenport and stationed three or four months at Cheraw – at one time was near Augusta, went down to Green Oaks on the Savannah River in South Carolina, was in no Battle during this tour. Served the whole of each tour, and the whole three years – was last discharged near Charleston South Carolina Signed by General Greene and is lost.

For some years after the Revolution he lived in North Carolina, before the last 35 years he has resided in Screven County Georgia.

He was born in Edgecombe County North Carolina in 1763. He has no record of his age – when he first entered the Service he was living in Edgecombe County North Carolina.

Hezekiah Vickery who resides in Screven County Georgia was acquainted with this applicant during the Revolutionary War, and saw him in the Service at Camden, Guilford & at Salisbury.

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

Sworn to and Subscribed the day and year aforesaid.

S/ Alexander Kemp, JP

S/ Benjamin Taylor, B his mark

S/ John S. Rieves, JP

S/ Jempsey B. Hunter, JP

[Solomon Bryan, a clergyman, and John Smith, a neighbor, give the standard certification of reputation for veracity, age and service.]

Hezekiah Vickery a citizen residing in Screven County Georgia, but formerly of Anson County N. C. being duly sworn says that he knew Benjamin Taylor who have signed the above declaration during the Revolutionary War, and saw him in the Service of the United States as a private soldier at Guilford and Salisbury North Carolina and at Camden South Carolina, and has known him ever since.

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid. S/ Hezekiah Vickery, X his mark

S/ Alexander Kemp, JP

S/ John S. Rieves, JP

S/ Jempsey B. Hunter, JP

Georgia Screven County

Hezekiah Vickery being duly sworn says that he was personally acquainted with Benjamin Taylor who has signed the with an application and of his own knowledge knows that he served during the year 1780, 1781 and 1782 and part of 1783 as a private soldier in the war of the Revolution under Captain Bell and Williams and Colonels Sowell, Williams and Hicks, that he was at the Battle of Guilford, at Camden, and at Gates defeat – that during the whole time this deponent served with him in the same Army.

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 21st of February 1835.

S/ Hezekiah Vickery, X his mark

and I do certify that Hezekiah or victory is a reputable man & entitled to credit on his oath.

S/ Alex T. Dopson, JP

[Affidavit in file signed by John Taylor, Willis Taylor and William Taylor, all residents of Sylvania County in Georgia, states that Benjamin Taylor was their father and a soldier in the revolution.

Georgia, Screven County

In order to obtain the benefit of the Act of Congress of the 7th June 1832, Personally appeared before me the undersigned, a Justice of the peace Benjamine [sic] Taylor, who, being duly sworn Deposeth and saith that, by reason of old age and the consequent loss of memory, he cannot swear positively as to the precise length of time of his service; but according to the best of his recollection, he served not less than the periods mentioned below, and in the following periods of time. For 12 months as an enlisted soldier in a company commanded by Captain Williams, Major Davenport and Colonel Sowell. This declarant testifies that during the remaining two years and six months, he served as a volunteer from the County of Nash, in North Carolina, in a company commanded by Colonel Nash; he also served in another volunteer company commanded by Colonel Hunter and one of the volunteer companies was commanded by Captain Solomon Carter who afterwards removed to Georgia and died. Declarant further testifies that he, together with 102 men were taken prisoners near Georgetown and carried captive in to that place. He swears that he was at Gates defeat and recollects that Gates ordered his men not to fire, and that the British advanced within a few paces and had the first fires by which many of the Americans were killed. He remembers that Gates defeat was the first battle he was engaged in, and he saw General Gates with one foot in his stirrup ready to mount when he gave the order for his men to advance, Gates then immediately mounted his horse and fled to Camden. This declarant avers that he was in the battle of Guilford Court House, and recollects that the two armies fought with bayonets precisely three hours and three quarters, that afterwards he went up the Country and was in a terrible battle near the Mountains where the Army was commanded by General Benjamin Washington, a relative, as this deponent believes, of General George Washington. This deponent attended the baggage at the battle of Eutaw Springs, and has been in three miles of where Morgan defeated Tarleton. He recollects that General Greene was a little above the middle size, about 5 feet eight or nine inches high, with sandy hair and teeth that showed prominently when he talked, and was the politest man this deponent ever saw, as he would take off his hat to his soldiers. He recollects the

names of some of the other privates with whom he served. Those he knew when he first went out, were H. Vickery, Drury Musselwhite, John Nash, Frederick Taylor and John Armstrong. In his volunteer Campaigns, he recollects John Green, James Hagins, and Benjamin Tann and others he might after a time recall to memory. This declarant fixes the battle of Guilford C. H. on the 15th March, he thinks, on Thursday. On the evening of the preceding day of Wednesday, he recollects that General Greene rode from company to company making speeches to his man and exhorting them to stand by their Country; and this deponent thinks that next to Guilford C. H., the battle at the mountains was the greatest. There he thinks General Benjamin Washington commanded. He recollects marching with General Greene from one place to another, and being changed over from one Colonel Nash to Colonel Hunter. Over incidents he recalls to memory, such as the soldiers breaking into orchards and corn fields, and drinking a great deal of cider. This declarant says that he never was once wounded, but he is willing that his case shall be decided in any way those in power shall think fit, and that he shall be judged by his works. This declarant removed from Nash County N. C. to Screven County Georgia in which latter State he has been living for the last 48 years. He was born in 1759 and was at school when he first entered the service. At Guilford C. H., the Americans fired first, and killed about 500 of the British. He thinks that Lord Cornwallis lived at Camden during these occurrences. These are the principal circumstances, which this deponent remembers. His discharge he lost before he removed to Georgia. Also, he served under Col. Wade from Nash County NC. This declarant lastly testifies that he is old and infirm and poor, and unable to undergo the fatigue or incur the expense of a regular investigation of his case, but confidently believes that the Commissioner of pensions will allow his claim.

Sworn to and Subscribed this 25th day of August 1846 before me.

S/ Lewis Lewis, JP

S/ Benjamine Taylor, X his mark

Comptrollers Office, Raleigh, N. C.

I William F. Collins Comptroller of Public Accounts in and for the State of North Carolina do hereby certify that the name of Benjamin Taylor appears of record in this office as having had the following Specie certificate is issued in his favor for Military Services (viz.) one for thirteen pounds thirteen shillings (£13.13) In Book A NO. 11 page 71 Also another fore Nine pounds, Two Shillings (£9.2) See Book NO. 3 page 20 given under my hand and Seal this 22nd day Jany. 1847.

S/ Wm F. Collins, Comptr.