

Pension Application for James Taylor

W.16,435 (Widow: Elizabeth)

Widow's Claim

Declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the act of Congress of the 7th July 1838, entitled "An act granting half pay and pension to certain widows."
State of New York SS.

On this 12th day of February in the year 1839, personally appeared in open court before the Judges of Yates County Common Pleas and General Sessions Elizabeth Taylor of Benton, in the said county of Yates, aged seventy eight years, who being first duly sworn according to law, doth on her oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the provision made by the act of Congress passed July 7th 1838, entitled "An act granting half pay and pensions to certain widows:." That she is the widow of James Taylor Dec'd who was a private in the militia in the War of the Revolution. That when the said James Taylor was not in the service of his country he resided in the town of Montgomery in the County of Orange and State of New York. That this deponent has heard her husband say he enlisted or volunteered she is not certain which at an early period of the war for one year, and that during said term he was engaged in the battle at White Plains; (1) that he served eleven months and was then discharged as this deponent understood him to say, on account of his and other companies having drained almost to nothing by reason of engagements with the enemy and other causes. This deponent also knows of her own knowledge that the said James Taylor was gone from his home a considerable length of time during the war and always understood from the neighbors and from him the said James Taylor on his return that he had been in the service of the United States And this deponent further says that she always understood her said husband James Taylor to say that he served four months at Fort Montgomery previous to its capture that he volunteered as stated by Elnathan Sears in his affidavit hereunto attached for three months, but at the termination of said three months he remained one month longer as a substitute for one Leonard West, and that he reached home the Friday previous to the taking the Fort on the next Sabbath, the Reverend Mr. King (who afterwards married James Taylor to this deponent) read a notice from the pulpit of his church in the town of Montgomery aforesaid causing a serious alarm, calling on all the men to repair to Fort Montgomery That on the next day the said James Taylor started in pursuance of said call. The Fort (2) was taken before his arrival and he met Gen. James Clinton wounded (3) supported on a horse immediately after this, this deponent knows he was absent some time and understood he was guarding on the shores of the North Rivers. This deponent is unable to add any other particulars of the service of the said James Taylor afterwards her husband, other than is given on the affidavits hereunto annexed, and that she has no documentary evidence in support of her claim.

She further declares that she was married to the said James Taylor by Reverend Andrew King of Montgomery, Orange County on the 17th day of June in the year 1782; that she has no marriage certificate or family record, or other record of the same but offers the testimony of Margaret Elder, Mary Trumble and William Thompson in their affidavits hereunto annexed. That her husband the aforesaid James Taylor died on the 8th day of January in the year 1832; that she was not married to him prior to his leaving the service, but the marriage took place previous to the first day of January 1794, viz, at the time above stated. And this deponent further states that she has not since then been married, but now remains the widow of the aforesaid James Taylor. (Signed with her mark) Elizabeth Taylor

Attest A. Wosworth Clerk.

Sworn to and subscribed on the day and year above written in open court before the undersigned clerk of Yates county Common Pleas, and I do further certify that the papers hereunto annexed are also produced and were by me attached to the foregoing Declaration and that satisfactory proof was advanced to the court that Elizabeth Taylor the above defendant is a person on unblemished character and that her statements are entitled to the fullest credit her testimony whereof I have hereunto set my name and by order of the court affixed the seal thereof A. Wosworth Clerk.

Reply to a letter of inquiry dated Mary 18, 1939.

Reference is made to your letter of recent date in which you request information in regard to James Taylor, soldier in the Revolutionary War, from Orange County, New York, Wife Elizabeth Thompson.

The date furnished herein were obtained from papers on file in claim for pension, W.16435, based upon service of James Taylor in the War of the Revolution.

The date and place of birth of James Taylor are not given, nor were the names of his parents stated.

While a resident of Montgomery, Orange County, New York, James Taylor enlisted early in the Revolution, served eleven months as private in Captain Daniel Denton's (4) New York company, and was in the battles of White Plains and Trenton. (5) He served in 1777, four month in Captain Humphrey's (6) company, Colonel McClaghry's New York regiment, one month in Captain William Tillford's company, in same regiment, and one and one half months in Captain Tillford's company, in same regiment.

He died January 8, 1832, at his residence in Benton, Yates County, New York.

James Taylor married June 17, 1782, in Montgomery County, New York, Elizabeth Thompson. They were married by the Reverend Andrew King, Pastor of "Goodwill Presbyterian Church".

The date and place of birth of Elizabeth Thompson, and names of her parents are not given.

The widow, Elizabeth Taylor, was allowed pension on her application executed February 12, 1839, at which time she was seventy-eight years of age, and a resident of Benton, New York.

It was not stated whether they had children.

David Taylor, brother of the soldier, James Taylor, also served in the War of the Revolution. William Thompson, brother of the widow, Elizabeth Taylor, was living in 1838 in Montgomery, New York.

The papers on file in this claim contain no further discernible data in regard to family.

End Notes—James Taylor W.16435

1. The Battle of White Plains, NY was fought on October 28, 1776.
2. The Battle of Fort Montgomery was fought on October 6, 1777.
3. James Clinton was the brother of George, Governor of New York State. James originally appointed Colonel of the Second Regiment of Ulster County Militia. He was appointed Colonel of the Third New York Continental Regiment on June 30, 1775. He was appointed Colonel of the Second New York Continental Regiment on March 8, 1776.

On August 9, 1776 he was appointed Brigadier General in the Continental Army. He was at Fort Montgomery during its defense on October 6, 1777 and was wounded. He was fortunate to have escaped when the fort was captured. On September 30, 1783 he was Brevet (usually as a sign of good service, etc., an officer is promoted to one rank higher on retirement from service) Major General.

4. Captain Daniel Denton was appointed on March 28, 1776 to the Third New York Continental Regiment. In 1776 the Third New York was commanded by Colonel Rudolphus Ritzema.