

# Father and Son in the Revolutionary War

## *If both got bounty land warrants for service, what did each do?*

By Eileen Phelps

As we reported in our Volume 13 no. 1 issue, Gayle Hix has been studying bounty lands and plotting their location. He points out that North Carolina, the issuer of Joseph Sr.'s bounty lands, was offering these to "entice volunteers into the continental line during the Revolutionary War." We printed the images that showed Joseph *Senr* as the name on one paper and on the others referred to "his line," showing that the Joseph who owned the land grant was getting property that attached to it. Not all mentions of *Joseph Taylor* are so obliging as to distinguish between the two.

We know that Joseph Taylor Jr., husband of Sarah (Sally) Best, served in the Revolutionary War and received bounty lands in Kentucky for his reward. But what did his father do?

Almost the first thing that was said in a lecture I attended about military records was that the original Revolutionary War records and earliest pension records were destroyed in fires in 1800 and 1814. What the National Archives has now are "compiled service files" made from "substitute records." One

genealogist discussed her experience where records of two men of the same name were combined, because too little information survived to separate them. This is bad. We have two Joseph Taylors and only one (Jr.) seems to be getting any credit.

Everyone seemed to agree that Revolutionary War pension applications were one of the best sources for details. Bad again. Nancy \_\_\_ Taylor either never applied for a pension for any service on the part of Joseph Sr. or else the application had to have been an early one that was burned. Sarah Best Taylor seems to not to have applied for a pension either. I spent several hours at the nearest Family History Center looking at the books they had and I was helped by a researcher who belonged to the Daughters of the American Revolution. She was able to get into their members' database to see what was available on *Joseph Taylor*. It clearly points to *Joseph Taylor Jr.* but it was less complete than I expected. It has no record of the Battle of Guilford Courthouse.

This is the DAR  
database record →

|                         |  |
|-------------------------|--|
| <b>TAYLOR, JOSEPH</b>   | Ancestor #: A112678  |
| Service: NORTH CAROLINA | Rank(s): PRIVATE, PATRIOTIC SERVICE  |
| Birth: 1751             | ORANGE CO VIRGINIA   |
| Death: 3-22-1818        | BOWLING GREEN WARREN CO KENTUCKY   |
| Service Source:         | NCDAR, ROSTER OF SOLS FROM NC IN THE AM REV, PGS 77,83; HAUN, NC ARMY ACCTS, PART 12, PGS 1524, 1566 |
| Service Description:    | 1) CAPT BLOUNT, COL ED BUNCOMBE, 5TH NC REGT;<br>2) FURNISHED SUPPLIES                               |
| Residence               |  |
| 1) County:              | EDGECOMBE CO-PROB - State: NORTH CAROLINA  |

I found a book on the shelf *Roster of Soldiers from North Carolina in the American Revolution*, which supplied Joseph's discharge date.

|                               |           |             |         |                     |
|-------------------------------|-----------|-------------|---------|---------------------|
| Thomas, Thos., Pt. . . . .    | "         | 14 May '77  | "       | Dischgd 10 Nov. '78 |
| Todwine, Coleman, Sgt. .      | Caswell's | '77         | 3 yrs.  | Omtd Jan. '78       |
| Taylor, Jas. Jr., Pt. . . . . | "         |             | "       |                     |
| Taylor, Abue, Pt. . . . .     | "         |             | "       |                     |
| Taylor, Jas. Sr., Pt. . . . . | "         |             | 2½ yrs. | Omtd Feb. '78       |
| Thomas, John, Musc. . . . .   | Blount's  |             | W       | Pt. Dec. '77        |
| Taylor, Joseph, Pt. . . . .   | "         |             | 2½ yrs. | Dischgd 30 Jan. '79 |
| Truelock, Sutton, Pt. . . .   | "         | 12 Aug. '76 | 3 yrs.  |                     |

← This book is also put  
out by the DAR

At this point I appealed to my family, who spent a lot of time helping me by lifting and arranging many heavy boxes of books and papers so that I could unpack Shari Franke's *Family History of the Joseph Taylor, Jr. (ca. 1751-1819) and Sarah Best (ca. 1764-1836) Family of Tyrrell/Martin/Edgewood Counties, North Carolina and Warren County, Kentucky, Volume 1*.

Shari explains that Joseph Taylor was wounded at Guilford Courthouse while serving as a gunsmith in the Militia, after his discharge from the 5th Regiment. Her book shows the evidence of pay vouchers to establish the dates. However, the vouchers appear to say nothing about *Junior* or *Senior* and Joseph Sr. would not have been too old to serve. On the other hand, Gayle Hix reports that bounty lands were not awarded for militia service, so that still doesn't explain how Joseph Sr. got a bounty land warrant. We can only keep looking. Watch for bits of military history in future issues of the Taylor Times. ☺