

Taylor Family Papers, 1722-1854
S 974.42 T238t, Manuscript, Drawer 1

Gift of Dora Taylor Paris, Elsie Taylor McGarvey, and Ellen Taylor Murray

About the Collection

The collection consists of 30 original manuscript documents relating to the Taylor family of Charlemont, Massachusetts. The collection includes letters, military communications, appointments, and resignations, tax notices, and miscellaneous papers relating to the family. The collection also includes a photocopy of an auction notice for the Taylor farm in Charlemont. The original document is in the Museum Collection. Historic Deerfield acquired the bulk of the collection in 1991 from descendents of the Taylor family. Additional items were added in 2000. The majority of the manuscripts have been mounted onto cardboard by John B. Taylor of Montana in 1909.

Othniel Taylor (1719-1788) was one of the earliest settlers in Charlemont, Massachusetts. He was a captain of a company in the Continental Army and served in the French and Indian War at Fort Taylor in Charlemont. He married his step-sister Martha Arms in 1743. They had 13 children, including Samuel, Othniel and Tertius. Othniel's papers include 8 military communications sent to him at Fort Taylor in the 1750s, a deed for land purchased in Charlemont, a tax document, and an agreement with two other men over a fur trade business.

Samuel Taylor (1744-1837) was a Revolutionary War soldier and captain who settled in Buckland, Massachusetts. There he was the first town clerk. He married Esther White of Leominster and had 12 children. His papers include his appointment as Justice of the Peace, and an acknowledgment of military service.

Othniel Taylor (1753-1819) was a captain in the Revolutionary War, serving in the Continental line throughout the war. He removed to Canandaigua, N.Y. with his wife Dorothy Gardner of Leominster. They had 4 children. His papers include his commission as captain, three letters written to his family from Valley Forge and Camp Totaway, and a request for wages.

Tertius Taylor (1754-1822) was an officer in the Revolutionary War, serving at White Plains, Stillwater, Saratoga and Stony Point. He settled on the family farm in Charlemont. He married Elizabeth Carter of Buckland and had 11 children. His papers include 2 items relating to his Revolutionary War service, and his appointment and resignation as Quarter Master of the 5th Regiment of militia.

Elias Taylor (1788-1856) was the son of Tertius and Elizabeth Taylor. He married Deborah West and they had 7 children. His papers consist of an appointment as Justice of the Peace in 1843.

Mary (Hitchcock) Taylor Arms Barnard (1700-1787) was the mother of Othniel Taylor, step-mother of Martha Taylor, grandmother of Samuel, Othniel, and Tertius, and great-grandmother of Elias. She was the daughter of John Hitchcock of Springfield. She married three times, first with Samuel Taylor in 1718, then Daniel Arms in 1737, and then Ebenezer Barnard in 1754. Her papers include the marriage agreement between Mary and her third husband Ebenezer Barnard, and her last will and testament.

Items List

1. Ruggles, Joseph. Account of charges to Esqr. Dwight for “Cattle to be kept” and “cattle fetched” with charges dated June 18 and June 25, 1722, signed by Joseph Ruggles. (Mounted with 2g and 10) Likely Ruggles and Dwight lived in Charlemont and are in some way related to the Taylors.
2. Hawks, John, John Catlin, and Samuel Wells. Eight military communications sent to Segt. Othniel Taylor, at Ft. Taylor in Charlemont, viz:
 - 2a. Hawks, John. Communication at Colrain, Aug. 3, 1756 detailing a shooting incident.
 - 2b. Hawks, John. Communication at Colrain, Mar. 7, 1757 detailing recruitment offer.
 - 2c. Hawks, John. Communication at Colrain, Apr. 16, 1757, directing placement of men.
 - 2d. Hawks, John. Communication at Colrain, June 6, 1757 ordering vigilance and a guard if Indians are detected nearby.
 - 2e. Catlin, John. Communication at Colrain, May 18, 1758 detailing placement of scouts around Deerfield River.
 - 2f. Catlin, John. Communication at Colrain, May 30, 1758 ordering Taylor and some men to pursue the enemy spotted near Pelham.
 - 2g. Wells, Samuel. Communication at Colrain, Aug. 10, 1759, requesting furlough for soldier Tim Abbott (Mounted with 1 and 10)
 - 2h. Wells, Samuel. Communication at Deerfield, Nov. 30, 1759 requesting venison for Col. Williams’ men, and offering rum to Taylor’s men.
3. Massachusetts. Treasurer. Tax notice, July 8, 1765, to the town of Charlemont ordering the collection of 5£ for the town’s contribution. Likely one of the Taylors was the tax collector for the town, and this ended up among his papers.
4. Taylor, Othniel. Commission as captain of military company, Charlemont under Col. Israel Williams, Jan. 18, 1773.
5. Taylor, Samuel. Appointment as Justice of the Peace, Dec. 1, 1777.
6. Taylor, Othniel. Three letters sent to father and brother during Revolutionary War.
 - 6a. Taylor, Othniel. Letter, “Loving Brother ...” Valley Forge, Feb. 14, 1778 mentioning that he is doing well, but low on shirts and the army on shoes.
 - 6b. Taylor, Othniel. Letter, “Dear Brother ...” Camp Totaway, Nov. 4, 1780 talking of selling land and possible promotions.
 - 6c. Taylor, Othniel. Letter, “Hon Sir ...” [his father] New Hampshire Huts [Valley Forge], Jan. 28, 1782 concerning lack of payments for his military service.
7. Roberts, David. Acknowledgment of military service for 8 months, and pay of 46 shillings from Capt. Samuel Taylor, June 16, 1778.
8. Taylor, Tertius. Grant 60 days furlough, Dec. 11, 1782 to Tertius Taylor.

9. Taylor, Othniel. Request for wages for service for the year 1782 to be paid to Tertius Taylor, dated Feb. 12, 1783.
10. Taylor, Tertius. Notice of assessment, 24 shillings, Society of the Cincinnati, Apr. 20, 1787 (Mounted with 1 and 2g)
11. Taylor, Tertius. Appointment as Quarter Master 5th Regt., 2nd Brig. 4th Div. of militia, June 1, 1810.
12. Taylor, Tertius. Resignation and discharge as Quarter Master, 5th Regt., 2nd Brig., 4th Div. of militia, Dec. 3, 1816.
13. Taylor, Tertius. Revolutionary war service claim, May 29, 1819 and Mar. 6, 1820; pension certification, Feb. 3, 1819 and Mar. 4, 1820.
14. Taylor, Elias. Appointment as Justice of the Peace, Mar. 22, 1843.
15. Barnard, Mary, and Ebenezer Barnard. Marriage agreement between Mary Arms and Ebenezer Barnard, 1754 and last will and testament of Mary Barnard, 1787.
16. Town of Deerfield. Notice from Assessors to Constable regarding collection of taxes, 1729/30.
17. Taylor, Othniel. Deed between Phineas Stevens and Othniel Taylor for purchase of land in Charlemont, 1743; Agreement between Othniel Taylor, David Field, and Joseph Barnard to conduct a trade in furs, 1746; Notice from the Province of Massachusetts Bay to Othniel Taylor, collector of Charlemont, regarding taxes due from the town, 1767.