

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 (1753-1819) 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. Small memo, June 18, 25, 1722, "Cattle to be kept" and "cattle fetched" with charges and names of [E?] Dwight and Joseph Ruggles. (Mounted with 2g and 10)
2. Hawks, John, John Catlin, and Samuel Wells. Eight military communications sent to Sgt. Othniel Taylor, at Ft. Taylor in Charlemont, viz:
 - 2a. Hawks, John. Communication at Colrain, Aug. 3, 1756.
 - 2b. Hawks, John. Communication at Colrain, Mar. 7, 1757.
 - 2c. Hawks, John. Communication at Colrain, Apr. 16, 1757.
 - 2d. Hawks, John. Communication at Colrain, June 6, 1757.
 - 2e. Catlin, John. Communication at Colrain, May 18, 1758.
 - 2f. Catlin, John. Communication at Colrain, May 30, 1758.
 - 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.
3. Massachusetts. Treasurer. Tax notice, July 8, 1765, to Charlemont ordering assessment.
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.
 - 6b. Taylor, Othniel. Letter, "Dear Brother ..." Camp Totaway, Nov. 4, 1780.
 - 6c. Taylor, Othniel. Letter, "Hon Sir ..." [his father] New Hampshire Huts [Valley Forge], Jan. 28, 1782.
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.
9. Taylor, Othniel. Request for wages for service, 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. of militia, June 1, 1810.
12. Taylor, Tertius. Resignation and discharge as Quarter Master, 5th Regt., 2nd Brig. 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 overdue 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.