

Report on Richard Taylor of Shelby & Daviess Counties, Ky.

By Jerry Long, Owensboro, Ky., 1987

The following research was sent to Mary Frances Brown, of Taylorsville, Ky., on 31 July 1987. The report was compiled in preparation for her 1990 book, The History of Spencer County, Kentucky (McDowell Publications, Utica, Ky., see biography of Richard Taylor, pp.34-39):

Taylorsville, the county seat of Spencer County, Ky., is situated on land donated by Richard Taylor in 1799. The same Richard Taylor appears to have lived in Daviess County, Ky. between the years of 1817 and 1823.

Spencer County, Ky. was formed 15 January 1824 from parts of Bullitt, Jefferson and Shelby Counties. Taylorsville was located on lands formerly in Shelby County. In the History of Shelby County, Kentucky, George L. Willis, 1929, p.61, the following was said of Taylorsville and Richard Taylor:

Taylorsville, the present county seat of Spencer County, was in Shelby County when it was laid off in 1799; on the lands of Richard Taylor, who was the proprietor of a grist mill and large tract of land at the mouth of Brashear's Creek and above the intersection with Salt River where the aforementioned town is located. About sixty acres were taken from Taylor's tract by the Shelbyville Court on motion of Taylor himself.

Richard Taylor first appeared in the tax lists of Shelby County, Ky. in 1795. The 1800 tax list of Shelby County is the first to designate land holdings of its tithables. In that year Richard Taylor was shown as owning two tracts, one of 311 acres on Brashear's Creek in Shelby County (in what is now Spencer County). The second tract, 1000 acres, was located on Panther Creek in Hardin County, Ky. This tract subsequently became part of Breckinridge County, Ky. which was formed from Hardin County in 1800.

Several clues suggest that Richard Taylor was of the Caroline County, Virginia Taylor family. He appears to be related to Thornton Taylor and Philip W. Taylor, Revolutionary Soldiers, who were natives of Caroline County, Va. Richard Taylor's land in Breckinridge County was patented in the name of Thornton Taylor. In Jillson's Old Kentucky Entries and Deeds four listings appeared for Thornton Taylor:

"Military warrants" - 2666 2/3 acres, warrant #3446, issued 20 September 1784 for three years service, Lieutenant in Virginia line.

"Fayette entries" - 3165 ½ acres, on Johnson's Ford, issued 26 March 1784.

"Jefferson entries" - 1000 acres Panther Creek, issued 16 December 1782 (book A, p.228).

"Virginia Grants" - 1000 acres in Jefferson County on east fork of Panther Creek, issued 25 October 1783 (book 7, p.100).

The Jefferson County entry and the Virginia Grant of 1000 acres on Panther Creek was later located in Hardin County and still later in Breckinridge County, and is the same owned by Richard Taylor by 1800, Thornton Taylor was not listed in the 1790 or 1800 Kentucky tax lists he died sometime following 1784. It is possible he died on the Kentucky frontier before 1800 and his land descended to his son Richard Taylor. In T. F. Campbell's Colonial Caroline, A History of Caroline County, Virginia two references are made to Thornton Taylor: Thornton Taylor, son of Francis, was apprenticed to Anthony New, chairmaker, in 1773... and in a list of Caroline Soldiers of the Revolution appears Thornton Taylor, a lieutenant in the Virginia Continental line.

Richard Taylor also appears to be closely connected to Philip W. Taylor, who resided in Caroline County, Va., Shelby and Spencer Counties, Ky. When Richard Taylor first appeared in the Shelby County tax lists in 1795 Philip Taylor also appeared for the first time. Like Richard he owned land along Brashear's Creek and Wolf Run, that in 1824 was incorporated into the new county of Spencer. Philip W. Taylor also owned land on Panther Creek in Breckinridge County, Ky. The 1800 Shelby County tax list shows him paying taxes on 700 acres in Hardin County, the following year it was listed as being in Breckinridge County. He still owned the same tract in 1816 but had sold it by 1824. This land had been granted to him for his Revolutionary War service. In Jillson's Old Kentucky Entries and Deeds this land was shown as being granted to him in 1783, listed for Philip Taylor were the following entries:

"Jefferson entries" - 1000 acres Panther Creek, issued 28 March 1783 (book A. p.258).

"Jefferson entries" - 2000 acres Panther Creek, issued 30 June 1784 (book A. p.369).

"Virginia Grants" - 1000 acres, in Jefferson County on N.E. fork of Panther Creek, issued 25 October 1783 (book 7, p.148).

Philip W. Taylor came to Kentucky in 1781. He is listed in the tax lists of Shelby County, Ky. from 1795 through 1823 and starting in 1824 he was in the Spencer County, Ky. tax books, In the 1810 census of Shelby County, Ky. his household was listed as follows:

1810 Shelby County, Ky. census, p.206

Philip Taylor	1 male 0-10	2 females	0-10
	2 males 10-16	2 females	10-16
	2 males 16-26	1 female	16-26
	1 male over 45	1 female	over45

Philip W. Taylor was in the 1830 Spencer County, Ky. census. In 1850 he was residing in Christian County, Ky., the household in which he was living, appeared as follows:

1850 Christian County, Ky. census, p.437, #114-130

Simpkins, Robert	24	carpenter	Va.
Scott, Thomas	26	carpenter	Ky.
Taylor, Philip W.	85	minister, H. Protestant Ch.	Va,

Philip W. Taylor on 24 January 1856 died in Shelby County, Ky. On a death certificate filed in the Shelby County vital statistics it was recorded that he was 92 years old, widowed, died as result of an accident - "Fell off porch", parents not known. In the Kentucky Genealogist, (Vol. 20, 1978) appeared an obituary of Philip W. Taylor that had been published in The News, Fredericksburg, Va, 11 February 1856:

TAYLOR REV. PHILIP W.

"ANOTHER REVOLUTIONARY HERO AND PIONEER GONE

"Rev. Philip W. Taylor, a native of Caroline County, Va., and soldier of the Revolution, and one of the early pioneers of Kentucky, died on the 24th ulto., in Shelby County, Ky. He was present at the surrender of Cornwallis, a soldier in Col. Matthew's (sic) Regiment. In 1781 he came to Kentucky. On this way down the river, his boat was attacked by the Indians twenty miles above Louisville and several of his companions killed and wounded, himself among the latter.

"He knew personally Boone, Todd, Harlan, and indeed all the pioneer heroes who settled the State. He was for many years a Justice of the Peace in the county of Shelby, for two years its High Sheriff and for sixty years a minister of the Gospel."

THE NEWS, printed in Fredericksburg, Va. 11 February 1856 and now in Wallace Library, Fredericksburg, Va. See his RWPA #S-16549; BLWt #38349-160-55

Philip W. Taylor's Revolutionary War pension application (#S-16549) may possibly give some other clues about the identity of Richard Taylor.

Shelby County, Ky. tax lists – for Richard Taylor:

- 1792 Richard Taylor not listed
- 1793 tax book missing
- 1794 Richard Taylor not listed
- 1795 Richard Taylor
- 1796 Richard Taylor not listed

- 1797 Richard Taylor not listed
- 1798 tax book missing
- 1799 Richard Taylor (land not shown in lists before 1800)
- 1800 Richard Taylor - Hardin County, 1000 A. Panther Creek (patented in name of Thornton Taylor); Shelby County, 311 A. Brashears Creek
- 1801 Richard Taylor - Breckinridge County, 1000 A. Panther Creek (Brecknirdge County former in 1800 from Hardin County); Shelby County, 370 A. Brashears Creek
- 1802 Richard Taylor - Hardin County, 1000 A. Panther Creek; Shelby County, 370 A. Brashears Creek
- 1803 Richard Taylor - Shelby County, 400 A. Brashears Creek
- 1804 Richard Taylor - Breckinridge County, 1000 A.; Shelby County, 321 A. Brashears Creek
- 1805 part of list is missing
- 1806 Richard Taylor - Breckinridge County, 1000 A.; Shelby County, 172 A. Brashears Creek
- 1807 Richard Taylor - Breckinridge County, 1000 A.; Shelby County, 172 A. Brashears Creek
- 1808 Richard Taylor - Breckinridge County, 1000 A.; Shelby County, 400 & 450 A. Brashears Creek
- 1809 Richard Taylor - Shelby County, 400 & 150 A. Brashears Creek
- 1810 tax book is missing
- 1811 Richard Taylor - Shelby County, 304, 304 & 150 A. Brashears Creek
- 1812 Richard Taylor not listed
- 1813 Richard Taylor not listed
- 1814 Richard Taylor not listed
- 1815 Richard Taylor not listed
- 1816 Richard Taylor - Shelby County, 300 A. Salt River; Shelby County, 250 A. Wolf Run
- 1817-1824 lists: Richard Taylor not listed

Daviess County, Ky. tax lists (formed in 1815 from Ohio County):

- 1815 Richard Taylor not listed
- 1816 Richard Taylor not listed
- 1817 Richard Taylor - Daviess County, 600 A.
- 1818 Richard Taylor not listed
- 1819 Richard Taylor - Breckinridge County, 350 A. Blackford Cr.
- 1820 Richard Taylor - Daviess County, 470 A. Blackford Creek
- 1821 Richard Taylor - Daviess County, 470 A. Ohio River
- 1822 Richard Taylor - Daviess County, 318 A. Blackford Creek
- 1823 Richard Taylor - Daviess County, 318 A. Blackford Creek
- 1824 -1840 lists: Richard Taylor not listed

Richard Taylor, for whom Taylorsville was named, could not have been a son of Philip W. Taylor, but may have been a younger brother or nephew. Philip W. Taylor was born about 1762. Richard Taylor's appearance in the 1795 tax list and in the 1820 Daviess County, Ky. census suggests he was born in the early 1770's.

In Jillson's Old Kentucky Entries and Deeds, under the listing of "Old Kentucky Grants" is an entry for Richard Taylor., who on 16 November 1797 received a grant of 100 acres on 18 mile creek in Shelby County, Ky. (Book 12, p.99).

The tax lists of Shelby County suggest that Richard Taylor resided there from about 1795 to 1816. He does not appear as a head of a household in the 1810 census of Shelby County. He however, was probably residing there at the time and may have been enumerated in someone else's household. The 1810 tax list of Shelby County is missing but in the preceding and following lists the name of Richard Taylor appears. In the 1812 through 1815 Shelby County tax lists Richard Taylor was not listed, in the 1816 list he is again listed, the following year he disappeared from the Shelby County tax records. In the 1820 or 1830 census of Shelby County no Richard Taylor was listed.

The land on Panther Creek in Breckinridge County, Ky. owned by Richard Taylor was sold by him on 18 April 1809 to Benjamin Moseby of Augusta County, Va., for \$1000 (this land is now in the southern part of Hancock County, Ky). The deed was recorded 25 November 1809 in Shelby County, Ky. and on 7 February 1811 in Breckinridge County, Ky. The deed was recorded in Breckinridge County deed book C, p.69, it was stated in it that Richard Taylor was a resident of Shelby County, Ky., witnesses who signed the document were Jacob Shaw, Taylor Bayse, Richard Bayse and Joshua Brooks.

On 30 July 1816 Richard Taylor and Jacob Shaw purchased 1300 acres lying both in Breckinridge and Daviess Counties, Ky. The transaction was recorded in Daviess County deed book A, p. 46 and in Breckinridge County deed book D, p.136. Both deeds identified Richard Taylor as then (30 July 1816) being a resident of Shelby County and Jacob Shaw in Daviess County. The Grantors, Forborne B. Beall and his wife Ann P., were residents of Jefferson County, Ky., where the deed was also recorded on 30 July 1816, The land was part of a 15,000 acre survey granted to John May on 13 April 1787. The said Beall had purchased it from the heirs of John May on 18 November 1812. The tract is shown on an 1806 map of early land surveys in the Daviess-Hancock area (In The Beginning... Historical Facts About the Earliest Days of Present Owensboro and Daviess County, Kentucky, Radio Station WOMI, Owensboro, Ky., 1968, p16A). The 1300 acres was on both sides of Blackford Creek, the part on the northeast side of the creek was in Breckinridge County, this part is today in Hancock County (formed in 1829), the part along the west and southwest bank of the creek is still in Daviess County.

Apparently within the following week after Richard Taylor purchased the land in Daviess-Breckinridge County he left Shelby County and moved to Daviess County. A deed recorded in Daviess County on 5 August 1816 by Richard Taylor states that he was then a resident of Daviess County. On that day he divided the 1300 acre tract purchased a week before and sold 700 acres of it to his co-purchaser, Jacob Shaw, the purchase price was \$1.00 (Daviess County deed book A, p.48). Richard Taylor appeared in the tax lists of Daviess County for the

first time in 1817, he was taxed on 600 acres. A: deed whereby Jacob Shaw sold his interest in the 600 acres retained by Richard Taylor for 5 shillings was recorded on 20 June 1817 in Breckinridge County, Ky. (deed book D, p.134). On 7 July 1817 Richard Taylor "of Daviess County, Ky. " sold to James Moore 150 acres of the tract for \$200 (Breckinridge County deed book D, p.135). Two other deeds were recorded by Richard Taylor "of Daviess County, Ky." in Breckinridge County, whereby he sold parts of the same tract. On 6 December 1820 he sold 125 acres to Thomas Jones Shaw for \$312.50 (deed book E, p.306) and on 21 December 1820 he sold 227 ½ acres to Joseph Stephens for \$408 (deed book E, p.305).

In the 1820 census of Daviess County, Ky. Richard Taylor was listed as residing by himself, immediately next to Jacob Shaw, They were residing near the plantation of Amos Riley which was in the northeast area of the county along the county line (Blackford Creek). The listings for Richard Taylor and Jacob Shaw appeared as follows;

1820 Daviess County, Ky. census:

p.17-#1	Taylor, Richard	1 male 26-45	
p.17-#2	Shaw, Jacob	1 male 16-18	1 female 26-45
		2 males 16-26	
		1 male 26-45	

Richard Taylor last appeared in the tax records of Daviess County in 1823. His location following this date could not presently be identified. Between 1823 and 1830 he does not reappear in the tax lists of Shelby County, Ky., and during the same time is not in the tax records of Spencer County, Ky. Richard Taylor was not listed as a household head in the 1830 census of Daviess County, or any of its bordering counties, or in the counties of Shelby or Spencer, In Ohio County, just south of Daviess County, three Richard Taylors were listed in the 1830 census but they were all of the Harrison D. Taylor family of that county and could not be the Richard Taylor of Shelby and Daviess Counties.

In 1828 Jacob Shaw introduced a suit in the Daviess County Circuit court against Richard Taylor, claiming that Richard Taylor on 10 October 1823 issued a bond for the sale of two tracts of land along Blackford Creek, one of 188 acres in Breckinridge County and the other of 66 acres in Daviess County, and no deed for the land had been recorded even though terms of the sale had been fulfilled. Richard Taylor never answered the suit, he at the time was no longer residing in Daviess County. The Daviess County Circuit Court ordered the land to be sold by a commissioner to Jacob Shaw and on 13 April 1830. Shaw received title to the land (Daviess County Commissioners Deed book A-B, p.48). Nowhere in the papers of the suit is given any indication of Richard Taylor's whereabouts in 1828 when the suit was filed, Evidently shortly after 10 October 1823, when Richard Taylor agreed to sell his remaining land in Daviess & Breckinridge Counties to Jacob Shaw, he left Daviess County for places unknown.