

Miller Taylor
943 W. Outer Drive
Oak Ridge, TN 37830
miller@wwtaylor.org

Caesar Duval Pension Petition

This document is from April 23, 1833. This is the petition for Revolutionary War pension for Caesar Duval. It is a very interesting document and tells of his war experiences. He was not an American soldier, but a soldier from France that came over with LaFayette. It also tells of the events after the war and how he came to return to America. It is a very important historical document of the descendants of Peter Watson Hawkins and therefore the descendants of Isabella, Israel, or the first wife of Noah Taylor.

This document was largely unknown to researchers of the Taylor line. It had been originally a Newberry County record, but it had been moved to the South Carolina State Archives in Columbia. I discovered it quite by accident. One day in a Knoxville, TN genealogy library, I ran across a book titled "South Carolina County Records that were moved to the State Archives". This document was in the listing for Newberry. On a visit to the archives, I was able to view and "fondle" the original document, along with his naturalization petition, and William Taylor's naturalization petition.

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Pages are Legal Size

The State of South Carolina,
Newberry District }

On this 23rd day of
April A.D. 1833, personally appeared in Open Court, before
Josiah L. Evans Esquire Judge of the Court of General Sessions
and Common Pleas now sitting at Newberry Court House
for the district aforesaid, Caesar Duval a resident in
Newberry District in the said State, aged Seventy four
years, who being first duly sworn according to Law,
doth on his oath, make the following declaration in
order to obtain the benefit of the act of Congress passed
June the 7th 1832.

That he entered the service of the United States
under the following named officers and served as
has in state, during the war of the Revolution; he was
born in Picardy, in France, on the 25th of August
A.D. 1758, and sailed from Brest under the command
of Count Rochambeau with Monsieur Turney-
sergent De Guetion commanded the Regiment to which
the declarant belonged, as Colonel, Monsieur Fleury was
the Major of the Battalion, and Monsieur de Brean
was the Captain of the Company in which declar-
ant was a private. - They sailed from Brest in
the Spring season of 1780 and landed at Newport
Rhode Island in July following and remained there several
weeks, which at Newport we placed ourselves in an attitude
of defence against the British fleet & forces from whom we
expected an attack; from Newport declarant was marched
onward to Providence, R. I. with the French troops
and from thence to a place called Phillipsburg near
the North River and at that time a few miles from New York
here the declarant remained about one month; from
thence he marched towards the South and arrived

some time in the summer of 1781 at Millamstown
Virginia, in a short time he was marched towards
York Town Va, but the forces had only slight
provisions until they arrived upon that place.
This declarant as a private in the said company which
was under the approval of officers was
employed & engaged in the attack on the British forces
at York town: during the siege this declarant, among
others was ordered to attack one of the redoubts
of the enemy, and took it, but with the loss of several
men, the Company to which declarant belonged lost
5 or 6 men who were killed in the attack - The
Americans this declarant understood also carried
the other redoubt at the same time - These attacks
were made in the first part of the month of October
1781. After these events it became evident that
our combined forces would be able to take the town
a few days afterwards Lord Cornwallis sur-
rendered. After this declarant marched to Boston
and embarked on the fleet to sail from that place
to Jamaica for the purpose of attacking the
British, but was unfortunately taken prisoner with
many others by a British Frigate, & conveyed to
Jamaica and confined in Prison for three months
and a half. On the making of peace this
declarant was released from confinement, & he sailed
to Port au Prince, St Domingo, thence to France,
then to America, he landed in Charleston
and from thence removed to Newberry District
South Carolina about the Year 1799,
where he has resided ever since.

This declarant has no record of his age. He has lived
as before stated in France, America, Jamaica, Port au
Prince, Charleston, and St. Mary District. He went into
the service as a private soldier & volunteered to come to America
and was in the United States service upwards of Eighteen months
and was a private soldier all the time he served during
the Revolutionary war. The declarant states that
in addition to the officers already named he
knew Savallette who was the Lieut. Col. of the
Regt. to which he belonged & also Capt. La
Fayette, Comte De Lome, two brothers called
Comte Du Pout, Duc Laval, Col. Lamine,
also General La Fayette, & General Washington
also two brothers called Beomine, & Mrs. Belin.
This declarant recd. a regular discharge from the colors
of his Regiment, which has long since been lost or
destroyed.

The declarant refers to Mr. William Culme, Dr. James
Hilgon (in whose immediate neighborhood he has
resided several years) and the Revd. William Harmon.

He hereby relinquishes every claim to a pension or
annuity except the present, and declares that his
name is not on the pension roll of the agency
of any State.

Sworn to & subscribed
in open Court this
23rd April 1833

J. J. Harmon
Sole Agent

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Mr William Hanson a clergyman residing in Newberry District, and William Flowers & Jas. Kilgore residing in the same, hereby certify that we are well acquainted with Caesar Duval who has submitted and sworn to the above declaration and that we believe him to be the man of age that he is aspired to be in the neighborhood where he resides, to have been a soldier of the revolution and that we concur in that opinion. Given and subscribed the day and year above said

Wm Hanson
Wm Flowers
James Kilgore

J. S. Harrington Clerk
At Test

William Callender do hereby certify that I was a Lieut. in Co. 2d Regt. 1st Army at the siege of York town, & from particular circumstances doth verify to me the declaration herein made, & was at the siege of York town in Virginia, for that no person could have of himself related those incidents & circumstances without being an eye witness to those facts. Given and subscribed the day & year above said

Wm Callender

J. S. Harrington Clerk

And the said Court do hereby declare their opinion after the investigation of the matter, & after putting the interrogatories presented by the War Department that the above named applicant was a Revolutionary Soldier, and so in the fact. And the Court further certifies that it appears to them that William Hanson who has signed the preceding certificate is a clergyman resident in Newberry District, and that Mr Callender & Jas. Kilgore who has signed the same are credit persons & residents in the said District of the County of Newberry. Their statement is entitled to Credit. 23rd April 1833.

Josiah J. Evans
Judge

J. S. Harrington Clerk of the Court of General Sessions & Common Pleas of Newberry District, do hereby certify that the foregoing contains the original proceedings of the said Court in the matter of the application of Caesar Duval for a Pardon. In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal of the Clerk's Office this 23rd day of April A.D. 1833.

The State of South Carolina

Newberry District

On this 23rd day of April A.D. 1833, Personally appeared in Open Court, before Isaiah L. Evans Esquire Judge of the court of General Sessions and common Pleas now sitting at Newberry Court House for the district of aforesaid, Caesar Duval a resident in Newberry District in the said State, aged Seventy four years, who being first duly sworn according to the Law, doth on his oath, make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the act of Congress passed June the 7th, 1832.

That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as here in stated during the war of the Revolution; he was born in Picardy, in France, on the 25th of August A.D. 1758, and sailed from Brest under the command of Count Rochambeau with Mons, Turney - Count De Gustine commanded the Regiment, to which the declarant belonged, as Colonel, Mons. Fleury was the Major of the Battalion, and Mons De Braen was the Captain of the company in which declarant was a private, -They sailed from Breast in the Spring season of 1780 and landed at Newport Rhode Island in July following and remained there several weeks. While at Newport we placed ourselves in an attitude of defense against the British fleet and forces from whom we expected an attack; from Newport declarant was marched inward to Providence, R.I. with the French Troops and from thence to a place called Phillipsburg near the North River and at that time a few miles from New York here the declarant remained about on month, from thence he march towards the South and arrived some time in the Summer of 1781 at Williamsburg, Virginia, in a short time he was marched towards York Town, Va., but the forces had only slight skirmishes until they arrived upon that place. This declarant as a private in the said company which was under the aforesaid officers was employed and engaged in the attack on the British forces at York Town: during the siege, this declarant, among others was ordered to, and did attack one of the redoubts of the enemy, and took it but with the loss of several men, the company to which declarant belong lost 5 or 6 men who were killed in the attack - The Americans this declarant understood also carried the other redoubt at the same time - These attacks were made in the first part of the month of October 1781. After these events it became evident that our combined forces would be able to take the town and few days afterwards Lord Cornwallis surrendered. After this declarant marched to Boston and embarked on the fleet to sail from that place to Jamaica for the purpose of attacking the British, but was unfortunately taken prisoner with many others by a British Frigate, and conveyed to Jamaica and confined in Prison for three months and a half. On the making of peace this declarant was released from confinement and he sailed to Port au Prince, St. Domingo, thence to France, then to America, he landed in Charleston and from thence moved to Newberry District South Carolina about the year 1799, where he has resided ever since

This declarant has no record of his age. He has lived as before stated in France, America, Jamaica, Port au Prince, Charleston, and Newberry District He went into the service as a private soldier and volunteered to come to America was in the United States service upward of Eighteen Months and was a private soldier all the time he served during the Revolutionary War. The declarant states that in addition to the officers already named he knew Savallete who was the Lieut. Col in the Regt. to which he belonged and served also Capt. La Farelle, Count De Losme, two brothers called Counts Du Pouts, DuLavae, Col Simane also General LaFayette & General Washington also two brothers called Veomine, and Mons. Belvia

This declarant received a regular discharge from the Colonel of his regiment, which has long since been lost or destroyed.

The declarant refers to Mr. William Calines, Dr. James Kilgore (in whose immediate neighborhood he has resided several years) and the Rev William Harmon

He hereby relinquishes any claim to a pension or annuity except the present, and declares that his name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any state

Sworn to and subscribed

in open court the

D e g a r D u v a l

23 rd April 1833

Y.J. Harrington Clerk, Newberry

Mr. William Harmon a clergyman residing in Newberry District and William Calines & Dr Jas. Kilgore residing in the same , hereby certify that we are all acquainted with Caesar Duval who has subscribed and sworn to the above declaration and that we believe him to be 74 years of age and that he is respected & beloved in the neighborhood where he resides believe him a soldier of the revolution and that we concur in that opinion sworn and subscribed this day and year aforesaid

William Harmon

Y.J. Harrington Clerk Newberry

James Kilgore

William Calines

I Willaim Calines, do here by certify that I was a Lieutenant in Col. Darts Regiment at the siege of York Town, and from particular circumstances related to ?? doth verify & believe that this declarant Caesar Duval belonged to the French Army and was at the siege of York Town in Virginia for that no person could have so precisely related the minute circumstances without being an eye witness to those facts

Sworn this day and year aforesaid above name and in open court

Y. J. Harrington Clerk

William Calines

And the said Court do hereby declare their opinion after the investigation the matter after putting the Interrogatories presented by the War Department that the above named applicant was a Revolutionary Soldier and served as he states and the court further certifies that it appears to them that William Harmon who has signed the preceding certificate is a Clergyman resident in Newberry District and that Wm Calines & Dr. James Calgary who has signed the same are ?? persons and residents in the said District of Newberry as sworn their statement is entitled to

?? 25 April 1833

Josiah J.Evans

Mendg Judge

Y.J.Harrington clerk of the Court of General Sessions & Common Pleas of Newberry District do hereby certify that the foregoing contains the original proceedings of the said court in the matter of the application of Caesar Duval for a Pension in testimony hereof I have-unto set my hand and seal of the clerks office this 23rd day of April A. D. 1833