

## Christopher Taylor – Where is My Cabin?

Christopher Taylor's cabin is one of the most visited sites in downtown Jonesborough, and it is practically across the street from our archives building. The present location is not where the cabin was originally, and I am sure Taylor would have been surprised to know that his home lasted for well over 250 years, and ended up on Main Street, in Jonesborough.



Taylor was born in Bedford County, Virginia, the son of Henry and Sarah Taylor in 1746. He married Mary Edwards in 1768, the daughter of John Edwards, Sr., and wife, Sarah Henley Edwards. Their children:

Henry Taylor, born 1771, married Delilah Demoss in Washington County, 1792.

Artemesia "Arty" Taylor, (1775), married Harris M. Wyler.

James Taylor, born 1777, married Nancy DeMoss.

Greenberry Taylor, born 1781, married Elizabeth Va Meter Haines.

Sarah "Sally" Taylor, born 1783, married Col. John McLin.

Susannah "Zany" Taylor, born 1784, married John Miller.

Cassandra "Cassey" Taylor, born 1786, married (unknown) Shaw.

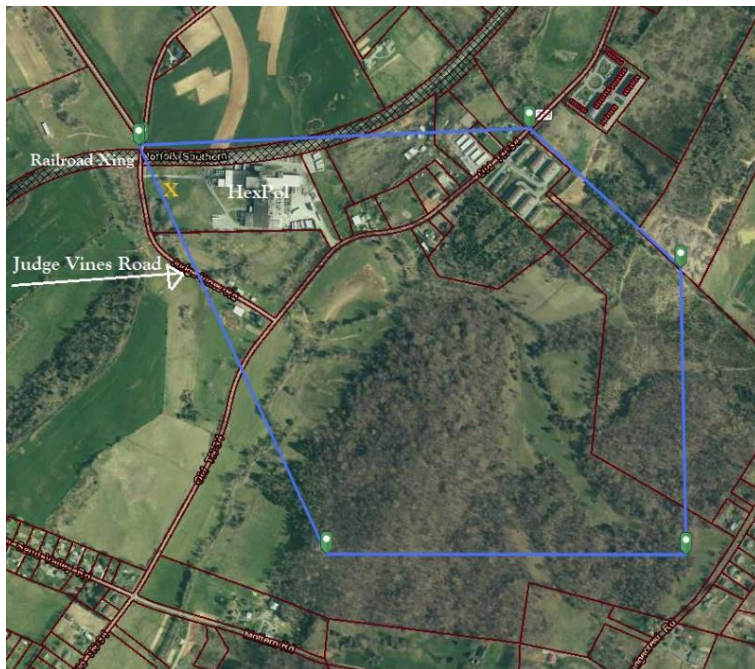
John Edwards Taylor, born 1788.

Taylor was a veteran of the French and Indian War. By 1776, Taylor had made his way into present-day Washington County, Tennessee and in October of that year, he enrolled under Captain William Christian as a volunteer to fight in the Revolutionary War. He rendezvoused with the troops at Long Island (present-day Kingsport area), but Taylor was forced to remain there due to illness and was discharged.

After he returned home, he was elected a Captain in Washington County and went on an expedition with John Sevier against the Cherokee in the spring of 1778. Captain Taylor was with Campbell, Shelby, Sevier, and Cleveland when they surrounded Colonel Patrick Ferguson at Kings Mountain, South Carolina, killing him and defeating the British Army in battle. Taylor's son, Henry

stated in Christopher Taylor's pension record that his parents settled in Washington County before the close of the Revolutionary War, and that he recollected his father leaving his mother to carry on with the farm and home work. "Witness though a boy well recollects of his mother with her own hand sewing [sowing] the grain and having a small Negro boy and witnessed the Negro held the plow and witness rode the horse & put in the grain in the absence of Captain Taylor [who had gone] on the expedition to Kings Mountain."

Taylor was active in many aspects of the newly-formed Washington County, North Carolina. He was elected as one of the delegates to the general convention, held in Jonesborough on August 23, 1784. The delegates from three counties, Washington, Sullivan, and Greene, declared their independence from North Carolina and created the State of Franklin. The leaders of Franklin were divided in their ideas from the beginning, and some citizens even refused to recognize the state. For these reasons, Franklin ceased to exist in 1788.



After the war, Taylor received two NC Land Grants. The first, #198, was issued on April 20, 1782. Taylor made entry to the property on October 17, 1778, several years prior to receiving the grant.

This is North Carolina Land Grant #198  
The yellow X indicates the location of Taylor's cabin.





The original location of the Christopher Taylor cabin, now property of HexPol, Judge Vines Road, Jonesborough, Tennessee.

Taken in 1941, this photo shows the cabin in relatively good condition, covered in clapboard siding.

Notice the railroad tracks, visible to the left of the cabin. By this time, the cabin was deteriorating rapidly, and there was talk of tearing it down. This photo was taken in 1971.



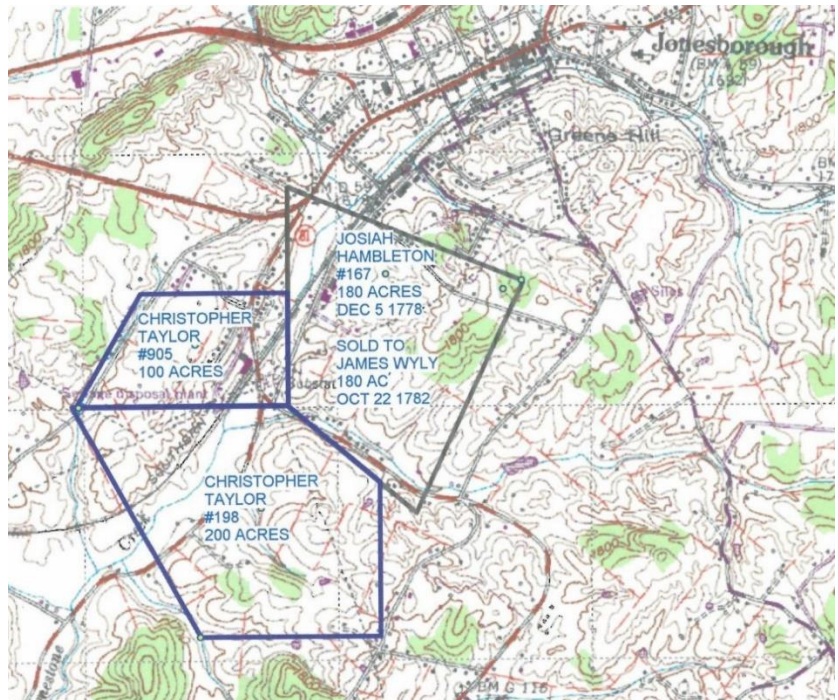
The large red square shows the original location of the Taylor Cabin, off Judge Vines Road, on the property of HexPol, Jonesborough, Tennessee.

The smaller red square shows the location of the Christopher Taylor Cemetery.

NC Land Grant 905, 100 acres on Little Limestone, Deed Book 13, page 198, 199. This property was entered 1783, and was surveyed on October 8, 1788. It was not registered until 1812.

This map shows Taylor's two Land Grants, issued by North Carolina: #198 and #905.

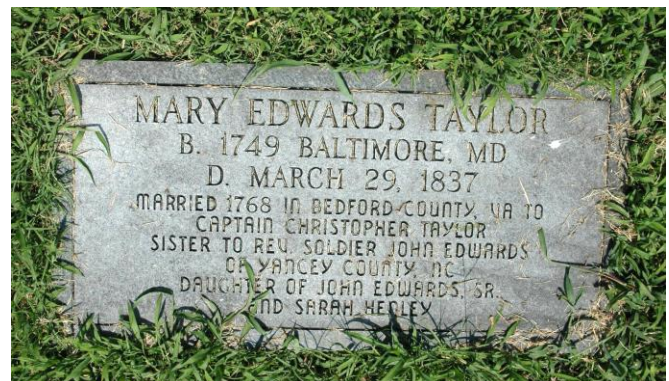
Josiah Hambleton is also listed in Taylor's grant, #198, as having adjoining property.



During the time that Christopher Taylor and his family lived in Jonesborough, a young, aspiring lawyer came to town, and needed a place to stay. The Taylors allowed him to board with them. His name was Andrew Jackson—the same one that became our seventh president.

For some reason, Captain Taylor began to dispose of his estate in March 1829. I wondered if possibly he became sick, and was afraid that he was going to die. A will has not been located for Taylor, and the fear of death could cause such a dispensation of property. Each son received one slave and 100 acres of land. The daughters each received a slave, as did one grandson, Greenberry Miller.

Captain Christopher Taylor did not die until September 10, 1833. He was buried on his farm. Mary drew a widow's pension until her death on March 29, 1837, and is also buried on the farm.







The Christopher Taylor Cemetery, located at the back of the HexPol building, Judge Vines Road, Jonesborough, Tennessee

*Christopher Taylor*

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