



Our Taylor Ancestors

by

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<http://www.retson.ca/taylor.pdf>

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Table of Contents

Our Taylor Ancestors	1
Taylor Context	1
Appendices	5
Abbreviations:	5
Calendar Old Style-New Style, Julian & Georgian	5
Sources for Taylor.....	6
General Resources.....	6
Websites	7
The Relationship of the Taylors to the Author	8

Taylor Context

The Earliest Taylor ancestor discovered to date is Matthew Taylor born about 1690 in Northern Ireland. He emigrated to America about 1721. The ancestral line by this name ended with the marriage of Eleanor Taylor to Samuel Archibald about 1743n

1. Matthew Taylor 1690 -1770 Janet Wilson or Dickey

<https://www.wikitree.com/wiki/Taylor-11012> Matthew Taylor

Mathew Taylor was born in 1690 in Northern Ireland. He died in 22 Jan 1770 in Beaver Lake, Derry, Rockingham County, New Hampshire.

He married Jennat Wilson¹, daughter of Alexander Wilson, in 1720 in Parish of Templemore, Ireland. She was born about 1705 in Londonderry, Rockingham, New Hampshire, USA. She died after 1800 in Beaver Lake, NH, USA.

Matthew Taylor and his wife, Janet, came from the vicinity of Londonderry, Ireland. Her maiden names have been suggested to be Wilson but there exists some evidence to suggest the correct name is Dickey.

They were one of the early settlers in Londonderry, New Hampshire, around 1722. The original petition for a grant of land was made in September 1719 and the Charter of did not follow until June 1722. Following the

¹ There is a dispute as to her maiden name.

practice of the day the name of the Township granted became Londonderry from when the settlers had come. Originally, they had intended to settle in the Colony of Massachusetts but in time found they were over the line in the Colony of New Hampshire.

The early days saw the settlers cutting a settlement from the woods with a constant fear of the natives of the territory. King Phillip's war had been fought over 40 years earlier but was still remembered in all New England. While there were massacres in most of the towns around them Nutfield had been attacked. John Wheeler had acquired a deed signed by six sagamores with the consent of their tribes. The inhabitants of Londonderry believed as well that some of their protection came from a friendship that Rev James McGregor held with the Marquis de Vaudreuil, Governor of Canada. It was believed that Vaudreuil had warned the Indians never to molest them, as they were friends of his.

Matthew Taylor, Sr. was a farmer.

Religion played an important role in the life of the inhabitants and most had come as congregations from Ireland. Church and manse were complete in 1722. The contract for the Church specified a building called for a building fifty feet long and forty-five feet wide. In this original Church Matthew Taylor and David Dickie shared pew 102² The Congregations were Presbyterians with two sacraments only, Baptism and the Lord's Supper. Marriage was not a sacrament and although banns or marriage intentions were published in the Church, the marriage could not take place in the Church as the Clergyman being dissenters were not allowed to marry. The history of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland was one of external suppression. The Presbyterians did not conform to the Established Church of Ireland and like Catholics in Ireland were subject to a series of laws introduced to restrict Presbyterian worship. In 1719 The Toleration Act was passed protecting Protestant dissenters but only in 1878 was an act passed validating marriages performed by Presbyterian ministers. The records of the church which have been preserved begin June 23 1723. The Church courts held discipline cases and the second case in the Church was brought by John Archibald. The Taylors, the Archibalds, the Wilsons and the Fishers and many other congregants from Londonderry, Ireland lived together and intermarried in Londonderry, New Hampshire before emigrating to Nova Scotia in the 1770 some forty later

The eldest 9 are of birth record at Londonderry, NH, with son Samuel in circa 1756-7 falling within the time period in which birth records are missing from the first of Londonderry's town books: John, Elenor, Agnes, Matthew, Janet, William, David, Adam, Martha, and Samuel.

Their children include,

- i. John Taylor b. 22 Sep 1721 at Sea on the passage from Londonderry Ireland to America. He died in 1787 in Nova Scotia, Canada. He married Margaret Dickie. She died (Y). They had five children, Matthew, James, John, Janet, and Nancy³
2. ii. Eleanor Taylor b. 19 Jan 1723/24 Londonderry, New Hampshire, d. 01 May 1781 in Truro, Colchester County, Nova Scotia, m. Samuel Archibald 1743
- iii. Agnes Taylor b. 6 Mar 1725/26 Londonderry, New Hampshire, d. 17 Apr 1747 in Londonderry, New Hampshire, m. Samuel Fisher 24 Jun 1745
- iv. Matthew Taylor b. 30 Oct 1727 Londonderry, NH, USA. He married Elizabeth Archibald before they came to Nova Scotia in 1761. On January 4

² Hart Margaret Janet page 34,

³ History of Londonderry Page 298 Archive.org:

<https://ia802705.us.archive.org/5/items/historyoflondond01park/historyoflondond01park.pdf>

[Account of the administrator; receipts, £184. 14. 5; expenditures, £126. 4. 1; allowed April 28, 1772.]

MATTHEW TAYLOR 1770 LONDONDERRY

In the Name of God amen, I Mathew Taylor of Londonderry in the province of Newhampshire in New england being at present in somewhat of pain and Disorder of Body but of Perfect mind and memory Thanks be Given to almighty God for the same thiss twenty second Day of January one thousand seven hundred and seventy * * *

Imprimis I Give and Bequeath to my well beloved wife Jennet Tayler Two Cows and the Horse that I am at present owner of To be for hir use During hir Natural Life and to be at hir Disposal amongst hir Children at hir Death besides the provision I have all ready made for hir by a Bond from my Son adam Tayler and another from my Son Samuel Taylor Towards hir Support —

item I Give and Bequeath to my Son John Taylor Seven pounds Ten shillings Lawfull Money —

item I Give to My Son Mathew Taylor Now in Nova Scotia Six pounds five Shillings Lawfull Money —

item I Give to My Son william Taylor, two pounds Ten Shillings Lawfull Money —

item I Give to My Six Grand Children Viz Jean anderson Mathew anderson John anderson Hugh Finley Samuel Finley and Robert Finley in Equall Shares ten pound Lawfull Money to be divided amongst them —

item I Give to My son David Taylor twenty shillings Lawful Money —

item I Give to My Son adam Taylor one pound Lawfull money —

item I Give to My Son Samuel Taylor one pound Lawfull

Money and also the one half of all My farming Tools that I at present posses and the other half of said farming Tools I Give to My Son adam Taylor —

item I Give to My Grand Daughter Agnass Cuningham Nine Dollars or a Heifer with Calf —

item I Give and Bequeath to My Daughter Ellenor archbold that was for Gott in the first of My Bequeathment as She was my oldest Daughter, Eighteen shillings Lawfull money and if there is any of my personal Estate Left after My Just Debts and funeral Charges as before Mentioned and the before Mentioned Legasys are paid I allow the same to be Divided in the following Manner Viz John Taylor one part Ellenor archbold one part Mathew Taylor one part william Taylor one part My Daughter Jennets Six Children before Mentioned one part to be Divided amongst them in Equal shares David Taylor one part adam Taylor one part Samuel Taylor one part of the Remains of My aforessaid personal Estate and I allow all My out Lands To be sold By my Executor hereafter to be mentioned in any manner that He shall Think most proper and Divided in the Same manner as the aforessaid Remains of My personal Estate the above Legasys to be paid in Eighteen months after my Decease or Sooner if practicable —

And I allow My well Beloved Son John Taylor to be My Sole Exec^r of thiss my Last will and Testament hereby Renouncing all other wills forms Requistis and Executors In wittness to all herein Contained I have hereunto affixed my hand and Seal this twenty Second Day of January annoque Domini 1770

his
Mathew X Tayler
Mark

[Witnesses] John McKeen, John Barnet, James MacGregore.
[Proved Jan. 31, 1770.]

[Inventory of real estate, attested April 24, 1770; amount,

1762, he was commissioned 2nd Lieutenant of Captain John Morrison's Company Militia for the Township of Onslow. They had the following children, John Taylor b. June 2 1752 in New Hampshire (Miller p. 108), Mat Taylor b. June 28 1755 in New Hampshire, Robert Taylor b. April 11 1759 in New Hampshire, David Taylor b. 1760 (Miller p.109), James Taylor b. 1761, Jennet Tayler b ? M. 1773, Margaret Taylor b. July 12 1763 in Truro, Samuel Taylor b. February 17 1765 in Truro, Archibald Taylor December 28 1766 in Truro, Elizabeth Taylor February 28 1769 in Truro, William Taylor November 7 1771

v. Janet Taylor b. 10 Jun 1731 Londonderry, New Hampshire, d. 22 Jan 1770 in Londonderry, New Hampshire, m. John Anderson 1786

vi. William Taylor b. 3 Mar 1732/33 Londonderry, NH, d. 1795, m. Betsey Graham Grimes

vii. David Taylor b. 10 Aug 1735 Londonderry, NH, d. 1790 Londonderry, New Hampshire, m. Margaret Kelsey or Kelso

viii. Captain Adam Taylor b. 10 Aug 1737 Londonderry, New Hampshire, d. 13 Apr 1806 in East Derry, Rockingham County, New Hampshire, m. Mary Cunningham

ix. Martha Taylor b. 15 Aug 1739 Londonderry, New Hampshire, d. 22 Jan 1770 m. Samuel Fisher

x. Samuel Taylor b. ABT 1745 Londonderry, New Hampshire d. 01 Jun 1803, m. Sarah Fisher in 1770 in Londonderry New Hampshire. She died 01 Nov 1772 in East Derry, New Hampshire. He then married Eunice Lancaster in 15 Nov 1774. He had 4 children by Eunice Lancaster, Sarah Taylor b. 17 Sep 1775, Henry Taylor b. 19 Nov 1780, Samuel Fisher Taylor b. 26 Nov 1780 and James Taylor b. Oct 1784 all in Londonderry, New Hampshire

Matthew signed his will Jan. 22, 1770, which was proved Jan. 31, 1770 in Londonderry, New Hampshire⁴. He died nine days later on 31 January 1770. She was living on Jan. 26, 1770 when her

⁴ New Hampshire State Papers v.39 Page 354-



husband wrote his will, but no subsequent death record or gravestone has been found for her. Matthew and Janet had 10 children.

Transcription: HERE LYES THE BODY OF MATTHEW TAYLOR HE DIED JANUARY 26TH 1770 AGED 80 YEARS Consistent with how age at death was inscribed on gravestones through North America prior to the early 1800s, on the day Matthew died he was 79 years old, and in the 80th year 80. This indicates he was born after 26 January, 1689/90.

2. Eleanor Tayler 1723/24-1781 Samuel B. Archibald 1719 – 1774

<https://www.wikitree.com/wiki/Taylor-11009> Eleanor Archibald formerly Taylor

Eleanor Tayler, eldest daughter and second child of Matthew and Janet (Wilson) Tayler, was born on 19 Jan 1723/24 in Londonderry, New Hampshire.⁵ At the Age of 20 years she married Samuel Archibald, son of a neighbouring farmer in Londonderry, New Hampshire.

Children by her first husband, Samuel Archibald,

3. i. Margaret Archibald b. ~ 1743, New Hampshire, m. (1) David Nelson Nov 28 1775 at Truro, Nova Scotia; m. (2) Jeremiah Murphy, d. 24 Jan 1823 Truro, Nova Scotia
- ii. Mathew Archibald b. Mar 9 1745, m. Janet Fisher d. Jan 18 1820 Truro
- iii. John Archibald b. 1748 , m (i) Margaret Fisher March 4 1772 at Truro, (ii)m. Hannah Archibald 1810.
- iv. Janet Archibald b. 1750, m. John Hingley
- v. David Archibald b 1752 (m. Jane Miller)
- vi. James Archibald b. 1754, m. (i) Rebecca Barnhill Feb 25 1779 m. (ii) Esther Logan on July 14 1819.
- vii. Robert A. Archibald b. 1757 d. Truro, Nova Scotia unmarried Jun 3 1794 born deaf and mute)
- viii. Samuel Archibald b~1761 (AKA Lane Samuel b. 1762, m. Margaret Archibald.
- ix. Agnes (Nancy) Archibald b. 1762⁶, m. John Taylor October 10 1782, d. December 21 in Glenelg, Guysborough County
- x. Elizabeth Archibald b. 14 Jan 1764 Truro, Nova Scotia d. unmarried
- xi. Martha Archibald b. 1767 Truro, Nova Scotian.(i) John Pratt d. bef Jul 1826 in Stewiacke.
- xii. Eleanor Archibald b. 23 Jan.1768 married Robert Morrison.

³⁵⁶<https://ia800205.us.archive.org/9/items/newhampshireprov39none/newhampshireprov39none.pdf>

⁵ Vital Records, Londonderry New Hampshire, her name on the record was Illine.

⁶ Agnes (Nancy) birthdate varies from Miller, her father's estate papers and St. Mary's Township books with possible dates being 1756 or 1761

Children by Jeremiah Murphy,

xiii. Jeremiah Murphy b. 24 Jul 1789d. 30 Apr 1863 Waugh's River

xiv. James Murphy b. Abt 1792 d. 20 Apr 1868 Middle Musquodoboit, Colchester County, N.S.

In 1759 Alexander McNutt recruited planters for Nova Scotia with promises of free land in Nova Scotia. After another 3 years they sold their New Hampshire in April 1762 in preparation to joining other members of the Archibald and Tayler families that had emigrated to Nova Scotia. At the age of 37 she emigrated with her family for Nova Scotia

In Nova Scotia Samuel and his sons acquired promising sites in the Township of Truro. Their holdings in Derry village crossed the Salmon River at the head of the tide, Son Matthew , the oldest son received his grant on the North Side of the River and Samuel and sons John and David were granted lands on the South side.

Her husband died relatively sudden on July 15 1774 in Truro at the age of at the age of 55. She died on 1 May 1781 in Truro, Colchester County, Nova Scotia. It is believed that Eleanor came with her family and other Archibalds in 1762.

Appendices

Abbreviations:

Abt. About Aft. After b. born Bef. Before bpt. baptism bur buried
d. died m. married

Calendar Old Style-New Style, Julian & Georgian⁷

The old calendar used up to about 1752 in Protestant countries was the Julian Calendar based on 365.25 days. In 1952 Great Britain and empire switched to the Julian Calendar and since the actual year is 365.2422 days long the switch over caused a 11 day out of synch problem. To solve this problem, it was proclaimed that September 2 would be followed by September 14. As well the old-style calendar the calendar year began on Lady Day 25th of March i.e. the year ran from 25 March to 24 March. Hence January 24, 1712 old style would be January 24, 1713 new style. The correct way to describe a date in the "overlap" period from January 1 to March 24 is to state the Old/New Style as 1712 /1713 which means "January 24, 1712 old style is what we call January 24, 1713"

Also, since the calendar began in March the months if numbered are as follows

March 1

April 2

May 3

June 4

July 5

August 6

September 7

October 8

⁷ Greenwood, Val D. The Researcher's Guide to American Genealogy, 3rd Ed. Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co Inc 2000

November 9
December 10
January 11
February 12

List of Freeman⁸

The status of freeman was primarily of political importance, for it gave one the right to vote for colony officers. In some colonies, though, freeman was tied to church membership, and so the meaning was somewhat different. Massachusetts Bay and New Haven, the most Puritan of the Puritan colonies, made church membership a prerequisite for foremanship, while the rest of the New England colonies did not.

List of freemen may be used for a number of purposes beyond proving biographical information about an immigrant. Like tax lists later, a list of freeman provides basic information about the presence or absence of a person on a given date. And, as noted above, freemanship in Massachusetts Bay and New Haven supplies information about church membership, from which we can learn not just whether this individual was a church member at a given time; we can also reconstruct some of the history of churches whose records have been lost by studying the lists over a period of years.

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General Resources

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Websites

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<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/69347897/matthew-taylor>

<https://nutfieldgenealogy.blogspot.com/2019/11/taylor-of-nutfield-now-derry-new.html>


<https://www.wikitree.com/wiki/Taylor-11009>

The Relationship of the Taylors to the Author


6th great grandfather

	Mathew Tayler b: 1690 Londonderry, Northern Ireland, U d: 26 Jan 1770 Derry, Rockingham County, New
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Paternal grandmother

	Beatrice Mary Clifford b: 16 Feb 1887 Brookside, Colchester County, N. d: 16 Sep 1958 Truro, Colchester County, Nova S
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5th great grandmother

	Eleanor Taylor b: 19 Jan 1723/24 Nuttby, NH, New England, USA d: 01 May 1781 Truro, Colchester County, Nova S
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Father


	George Clifford Retson b: 19 Dec 1912 Bible Hill, Colchester, Nova Scoti d: 17 Feb 1997 Truro, Colchester County, Nova S
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4th great grandmother


	Margaret Archibald b: 1743 Londonderry New Hampshire, US d: 24 Jan 1823 Truro, Colchester County, Nova S
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James Retson The Author
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3rd great grandfather

	Samuel D. Nelson b: 15 Mar 1778 Truro Township, Colchester Coun d: 07 May 1875 Onslow, Colchester County, N.S.
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2nd great grandfather

	Robert John Nelson b: 22 Jun 1810 Colchester County, NS d: 10 Aug 1887 East Mountain, Colchester Count
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Great grandmother

	Rebecca Nelson b: 04 Apr 1841 Truro, Colchester County, Nova S d: 18 Mar 1924 Salmon River, Colchester County,
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