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THE  
HISTORY  
OF  
THE  
TAYLOR FAMILY



Property of  
Whittier Area  
Genealogical  
Society #1709

## PREFACE

The history of the Taylor family makes a fascinating story of pioneer life and achievement. It is closely linked with some of the most important events and personages of American history.

Most of the records and information in the following pages were furnished by Mr. J. B. Lutz, of Cheyenne, Wyoming, whose mother's name was Taylor. He spent ten or more years in tracing various members of the family. We are particularly indebted to him for copies of the wills of Richard Taylor and of his son Simon.

Additional historical data was taken from a pamphlet, A Sketch of the History of the Taylor Family, written by H.D. Taylor, and read by Dr. Pendleton at the Taylor Reunion at Beaver Dam, Kentucky, September 9, 1875.

Later records were furnished by Miss Elvessa Taylor and include notes from old letters, old family Bible records of births, deaths, and Marriages, and first county atlas called "Atlas Map of Vermilion County, Illinois", published by W.R. Brink and Company in 1875.

We are indebted also to others of the family for incidents related from their early memories.

JOSEPHINE TAYLOR

1 Oct '92  
J. B. Lutz, Ballard



## TAYLOR HISTORY

Richard Taylor came to Virginia from England in the "Mary Margaret" in 1608, one year after the establishment of the Jamestown settlement. He must have been about thirty-four years old at the time, for when the Muster Roll or Census of Charles Cittie was taken in 1624, he was fifty. He probably received a grant of land and proceeded to establish himself on it. In 1620 his wife, Dorothy, came over on the "London Merchant". She was about seventeen years old, and evidently came from England to Virginia to marry him. At the time of the Muster Roll she was twenty and their daughter, Mary, was then three months old. The Richard Taylor to whom we definitely trace kinship was probably a son of this first Richard Taylor.

The Richard Taylor, whose decendents we are, and his wife, Sarah, were residents of Essex County, Virginia. We know that he had two sons, Richard and Simon, and a daughter, Constance, for they are mentioned in his will, drawn March 22, 1678, and recorded in Will Book 2, page 131, Essex County Records. A copy of this will certified by the County Clerk of Essex County, follows below:

In the name of God, Amen I Richard Taylor, being sick in body but in perfect mind and memory blessed be God doe ordaine this my last will and Testemt, as followeth, Imprimis I bequethe my soule to God who gave it, hoping in the mercies of my blessed Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ for eternall salvation, and my body to the earth with convenient christian buriall, 21y. I give to my Sonne Richard and My Sonne Symon my plantation and the land thereunto belonging being two hundred acres, and if my Sonne Richard when he comes to age will sell unto his brother Symon his part that then his brother shall give him Five Thousand pounds of Tobacco, and if not, then the land and plantation to bee equally divided, and to cast lots both of them for their shares, and I give to each of them two cows with all their increase, both male and female, and to take their choice, 31y I give to my daughter Constance, seaven head of cattle, five female with all their increase both male and female and two steeres and one mare and to my Sonne Symon one mare and if any of them miscarry, betwixt this and the last of May then what of them remains to be equally

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divided amongst my three children. 4thly. I give to my loving wife Sarah, one yerlin and twenty three head of cattle, and all the rest of my estate and doe make her my sole executrix and to take herselfe all the rest of my personall estate to her, her heires Exers., Adminers., or assignes forever. 5thly. My desire is, I understanding my wife to be in a very weak condition that my loveing neighbors, John English, Peter Ellis, Edward Friar would one a week give my children advise and that they may be kept upon the plantation with my servant, and in case my wife should die, then I appointe and ordaine my loveing friend Collo. Leroy Friffin his heirs, Exers. Adminers. assigns sole Exers. of this my last will and testemt. In witness whereof I have set my hand and seal this 22th of March 1678/9.

RICHARD TAYLOR (Seale)

Signed and sealed in the presence of us.

John English

sign

sign

Elizb.——English

Elizb. M. Wood.

Elizb. Wood age 35 years or thereabouts sworns saith that she did see the within testemt signe seale and publish the within to be his last will and testemt and that he was in perfect sence and memory at the signing and sealing and publishing thereof to the best of he knowledge.

sign

Elizb. X Wood

Elizb. English ages 48 years or thereabouts sworne saith the same with the above named Elizb. Wood and further saith not.

sign

Elizb.        English

Juratie Wood Et. English in Cur. Com. Rappac. Die May 1879

Probt. Testament Eord. Et.

Recordat XXL Die Eju ad Menss Ano. Suprd.

Test

Edmo. Craske, Cl. Cur.

A Copy Teste:

Lucille Sherwood, Deputy Clerk.

Will Book No. 2 (1677-82) page 131, Essex County Records.

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I, Joseph B. Lutz, Cheyenne, Wyoming, certify that the above record of the will of Richard Taylor, is a verbatim copy received from Lucille Sherwood, deputy clerk, Essex County, Virginia, November 26, 1932.

Dated December 26, 1932

JOSEPH B. LUTZ

Evidently Richard Taylor was a devout God-fearing man, as well as a thrifty one. He counted not his wealth in pounds and shillings, but in land, livestock, and tobacco. Since the sons were to be the heads of future families, to them went the land. The daughter's portion was sufficient livestock to make a very nice dowery for her in case she should marry. We know that Richard Taylor appreciated harmony and good feeling among the members of his family, for he made adequate provision to avoid any quarrel among his heirs.

The next in line of descent is Simon Taylor, a younger son of Richard. He seems to have followed in the footsteps of his planter father, for in his will (drawn August 18, 1728, in Richmond County, Virginia) he bequeathed three of his sons each a plantation together with part of a tract of land which he held in claim (probably back toward the mountains, since his sons settled there). Tobacco was still used as a medium of exchange. A copy of the will, given below, brings to light a number of interesting details:

In the name of God Amen This the 13th day of August one thousand seven hundred and twenty eight I, Simon Taylor of Richmond County—in the parrish of North Farnham being sick and weak but yett of perfect mind and memory thanks be to Almighty God for it Doe make this my Last Will and Testament in manner and forme following revoking and absolutely dis-annulling all the others heretofore by me made either in word or writing notwithstanding any clause Derogatory in the same but make this to be taken for my Last Will and Testament (Viz): First I bequeath my Soul to God my Maker and to Jesus Christ my Redemmer there to Rest untill the Joyful day of the Resurrection when my Soul and Body shall meet again and be made partakers of the never fading Joys of Immortality and my body to the Earth from whence it came to be buryd by my Exrs; hereafter named and touching such Temporal Estate as the Lord hath been pleased to bestow upon me I dispose of as followeth—Imprs: I give and bequeath to my son Jno. Taylor and the heirs of his body This plantation wheron I now live with halfe the land to it which I always was used to hold and for want of such heirs to fall to my son George and the heirs of his body and for want of such to the next heir at law—

Item—I give and bequeath to my son Wm. Taylor the old plantation from whence I lately removed with the other halfe of the aforesd Tract of land to him and the heirs of his body and for the want of such to fall to my son Thomas Taylor the heirs of his body and for want of such to the next heir at law—

Item—I Give and Bequeath to My son Septimus Taylor that plantation wheron Patrick Doran now lives and all the land formerly belonging to it which I bought with it and the heirs of his body and for the want of such to fall to my son George Taylor and heirs of his body and for the want of such to the next heir at Law—  
 Item—I Give and Bequeath to my daughter Sarah Jasper one thousand pounds of Tobco; to be paid to her by my exrs; hereafter named—  
 Item—I Give and Bequeath to my Grandaughter Eliza, Jasper one two year old heiffer to be paid to her as aforesd.—  
 Item—I Give to my son Jno. Taylor the fether bed I commonly ly on together with the furniture belonging to it—  
 Item—I Give to my son Wm. Taylor that feather bed in the old house and the furniture belonging to it—  
 Item—I Give the next two best feather beds to my two sons Thomas and Septimus Taylor with all that belongs to them—  
 Item—I Give to my four sons last named the best four Iron pots I have to each one of them—  
 Item—I Give and Bequeath to my son George Taylor my Negro woman named Jenney—  
 Item—I make Constitute and Appoint my Sons Jno. Wm. and Septimus Taylor Exrs; of this my last Will and Testament to whome with my other two sons Thos and George I give all the Rest and Residue of my Estate not yet named to be equally divided between the five after Debts paid. In Witness whereof I have hereunto sett my hand and seale the day and year first within written.

his mark  
 Simon \_\_\_\_\_ Taylor(seale)

Sealed and published  
 in presence of his mark  
 Robert Burton  
 her mark  
 Mary Scurlock  
 John Hammond

Att a Court held for Richmond County the fifth day of February 1729  
 This Will was proved in Open Court by the Oaths of Robert Burton and John Hammond—two of the witnesses hereto and admitted to record—  
 Test M. Beckwith Cl Cur

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State of Virginia:

County of Richmond, to wit:

I, E. Carter Delano, deputy clerk of the circuit court in and for the county aforesaid, in the State of Virginia, do hereby certify that the foregoing Will of Simon Taylor, bearing date on the 18th day of August 1728, is a true copy from the records of my Court, and copied from Will Book No.5 at page 126.

Given under my hand and seal of my said Court, this 20th day of October, 1932.

E. Carter Delano, Deputy Clerk  
 Circuit Court Richmond County, Va.

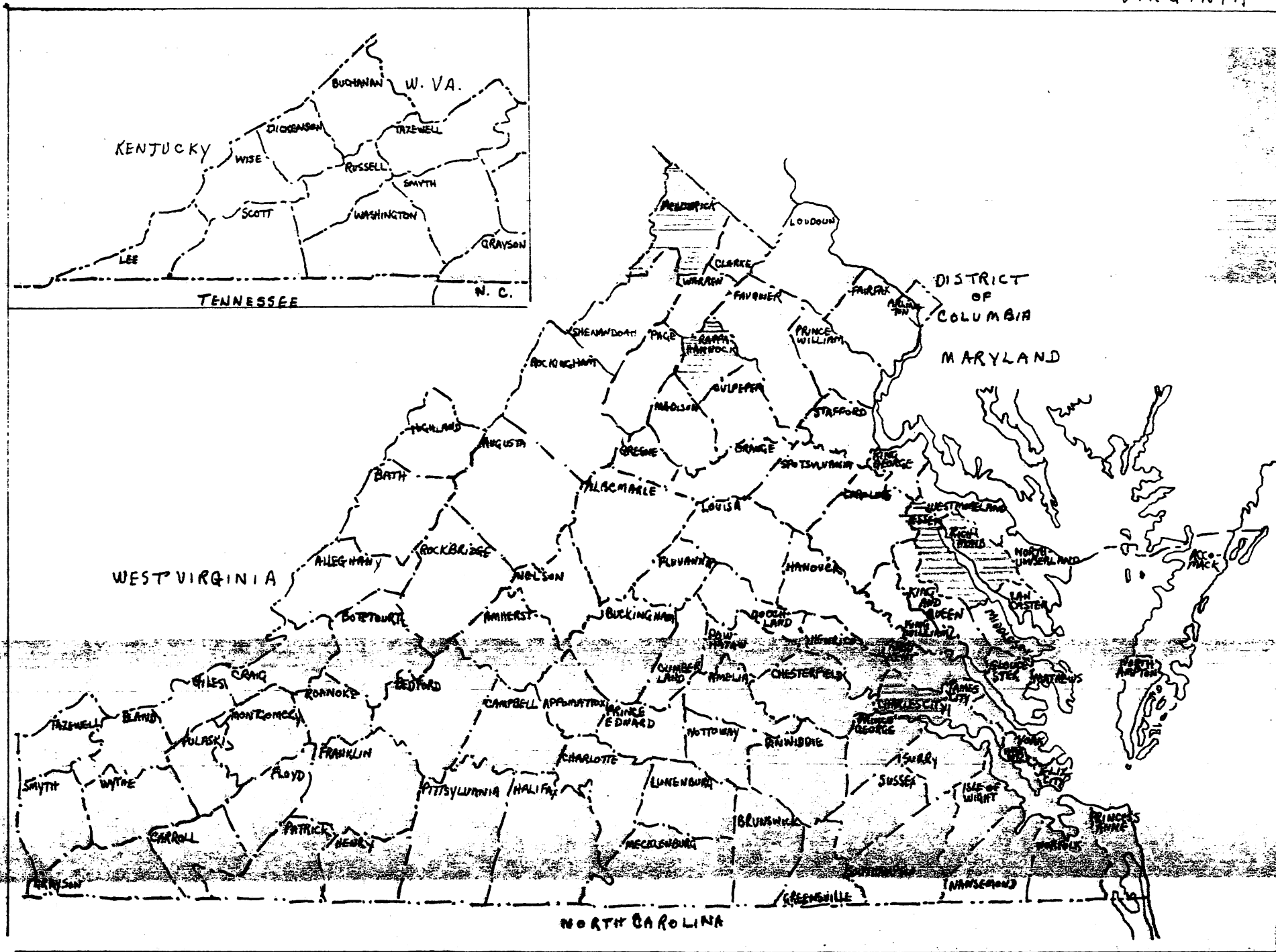
The bequests of feather beds and iron pots may sound amusing in these days of inner-spring mattresses and pressure cookers, but such things constituted the finest of the household furnishings. Anyone could cut from the native timber enough lumber to make furniture; but a fat puffy feather bed was an accumulation of feathers from many generations of geese, and therefore highly prized. And as foundries were unknown in this country in those days, all metal utensils were brought from England, and shipping was slow and expensive.

The wife of Simon Taylor was Elizabeth Lewis, a woman of dignity and position among her neighbors, and of special interest to us. "Abraham Lincoln was a Lee", an article written by William E. Barton, father of Bruce Barton, for the Good Housekeeping Magazine (January 1929) contains the following paragraphs:

"Introducing the characters in the order of their appearance, the curtain rises first on Elizabeth Taylor of Richmond County, Virginia, who acquired her married name when the Virginia Taylors were all Taylors and before William Taylor changed his name and that of his descendants to 'Tayloe'. The date is May 11, 1747 and on that spring day Elizabeth Taylor, weak in body but 'of perfect mind and memory, thanks be to Almighty God if it', is disclosed in the act of signing her will. She must have been nearly ninety years old when she attached her signature to that important document, and her daughters Dorothy Croucher and Sarah Ellate, were comparatively old ladies. Both were widows and Dorothy had lost two husbands, the first, William Lee, in 1717, and the second, Richard Croucher, in 1740. To these two daughters Elizabeth Taylor left her clothing with the provision that it should be equally divided and that Dorothy should have first choice. The estate was probably a large one, and the assumption is that the needs of the daughters had already been provided for. Only one grandson was mentioned in the will, though doughty old Elizabeth Taylor had at least four. That one grandson was William Lee, son of Dorothy by her first husband. Let us remember his name and that he was alive and hearty on May 11, 1747, when his grandmother signed her will. His father had died thirty years before and he himself had children, as we shall presently see.



VIRGINIA





And now let us examine the Country in which all this occurred.

The northern end of the 'northern neck' of Virginia, occupying a space of about thirty-five miles from northwest to southeast and with an average width of not more than fifteen miles between the Rappahanock and the Potomac, gave to the nation more famous men than any other spot of equal area in the United States. There lived the Carters, the Fontleroyes, the Corbins, the Mountjoys, the Taylor-Tayloe family, the Wormleys, the Lees, and the Washingtons. This community was a remarkable one, and, having to this day no railroad and being pent in by deep and tidal rivers, it had its choice of travel by boat or by roads through the woods. To an unusual extent its inhabitants knew their neighbors, and everyone was related to everyone else on the same social level. It is much more than a possibility that our old friend Elizabeth Taylor rode over and congratulated Mary Ball Washington when little George was born in 1732. The Balls lived southeasterly from the Taylors. They all knew each other. For a time they were all in the same parish, and when later the parish was divided, the same minister conducted services in both parishes, performed all the marriages, and baptized all the babies".

In the next few paragraphs Mr. Barton discovers the Hanks family living in close contact to the Lees, and traces the Hanks line down to Abraham Lincoln. There again he takes up the thread of our story:

"Let us go back again to the grand old lady Elizabeth Taylor, whom we found, at the beginning of our story, signing her will. We remember that she had two daughters, and that one of these daughters, Dorothy, married a man named William Lee and had by this marriage a son named William, who was the only grandson mentioned in the will. He was appointed her executor and her residuary legatee. His four children were likewise the only great-grandchildren named in the old lady's will. To her great-granddaughter, Betty Lee, she left her bed-rug-blanket, three pairs of sheets, her prayer book, one cow and calf, one ewe and lamb, one pewter basin, her Great Trunk, her long-handled pot ladle and frying pan, her little salt-cellar, and her looking glass. Betty was her name-sake and fared best in the old lady's will.

To William Lee's other two daughters, Ann and Sarah, she gave each a cow and calf, a ewe and lamb, a small trunk, and a pewter basin.

To William Lee's son, Richard Lee, she bequeathed her Great Chest, and evidently there was considerable estate which William Lee inherited as residuary legatee.

William Lee died in 1764, seventeen years after the death of his grandmother. In all these seventeen years he had not finally settled her estate. If he had done so, we might never have come into possession of the interesting information which connects Lincoln with the Lees. As it was, each of William Lee's three living grandchildren (Sarah apparently had died) was mentioned in the settlement of William's own estate as entitled to sums still due them under the will of their great-grandmother, Elizabeth Taylor. To Richard Lee, one of the grandchildren, was payable four shillings. Betsy Lee and Ann Lee did not receive their inheritance directly; it was paid for them to their husbands, who are named in the accounting of the administrators, Thomas Hanks and Joseph Hanks. These two young men, cousins, married the two Lee girls, as we discover through these ancient wills and reports to the probate court and probably never should have discovered otherwise, and Ann Lee, by her marriage to Joseph Hanks, became President Lincoln's great grandmother.

These very interesting paragraphs reveal a number of things, one of which is the high social position held by the family. Another is the fact that Elizabeth Taylor had two daughters, Dorothy, and Sarah, while her husband Simon names only one, Sarah in his will. Also he mentions no bequest for his wife. Judging from these facts, and the fact that, at the age of ninety, Elizabeth had a considerable estate to dispose of, it would seem that she had been married previously and that Dorothy was her daughter by this former marriage. From the tone of the opening paragraph of Simon Taylor's will it would seem that there might have been some family friction, perhaps over including this step-daughter, Dorothy, among his heirs.

But the most important fact derived from these paragraphs is that, in doughty old dame Elizabeth, we and Abraham Lincoln have a common ancestor.

John Taylor, eldest son of Simon and Elizabeth, is the one whose line we follow. Since he was a resident of Rappahanock County in the Blue Ridge Mountains, we infer that he was of an adventurous nature, not content to remain a planter on the fertile land of the coastal region which was his inheritance from his father, but pushed westward into new

territory, possibly settling on the tract of land mentioned by Simon Taylor in his will. From the Taylor Family Tree we learn that he married Hannah Harrison. He must have loved and honored his parents, for his eldest son and his daughter bear their names, Simon and Elizabeth. His second son, the one in whom we are most interested, bore his mother's maiden name, Harrison, and the youngest son was given the well-known family name of Richard. John Taylor is reported to have been Judge Advocate of the Armies of Virginia.

From H.D. Taylor's Historical Sketch we take the following interesting facts:

"John Taylor died without leaving a will, and under the feudal laws of the age, the oldest son took the property, which was said to be large, and left Harrison shareless. Instead of lying around a lackey and a pensioner on his brother, he boldly struck out for the frontier, and located at Winchester, then but a frontier village, where he took up the trade of House carpenter. Here it was that he evinced the only known instance of ill-temper and ungovernable rage. A British recruiting officer located at that place took a fancy to him and often tried to induce him to enlist as a soldier, but in vain. It was this officer's practice to gather a crowd about the tavern of nights, and drink and carouse until someone became so drunk and insensible that he either took the bounty, or had it slipped into his pocket and was then forced into the ranks as a soldier. As young Taylor was strictly temperate, he never could be caught in this way; but one night, after a hard day's labor, he had taken his seat in a quiet retired corner and fell asleep. The officer, observing this, slipped the bounty into his pocket and awaited until his supposed victim awoke, and then blandly addressing him, remarked that it was time that they should go home to the barracks. Taylor looked at him with astonishment, and asked what he meant; the officer, who had formed an incorrect idea of his man, with a haughty air informed him that having taken the bounty, he was now a soldier of King George, and the barracks were now his proper home. Taylor denied ever taking the bounty, when the officer in a haughty tone, asked him how he could deny it, when he had King George's coin in his pocket. At the word pocket, the youth suddenly ran his hand into his, grasped the coin and threw it with his utmost strength at the head of the officer, and flew at him with all the venom of an enraged tiger, but was caught and held by his friends, whilst the King's representative beat a hasty retreat and gave his recruit a wide berth ever afterwards.

It was not long until he married Miss Jane Curlet and settled far back in the woods, where with a single horse, he commenced clearing and cultivating the forest. This horse had to be belled and turned to the range at night and hunted up in the morning. Taylor, like all frontiersmen, carried his gun when he went to the woods, and one morning shot a deer just as he came up with his horse. He had just commenced re-loading as he heard a turkey gobble, and then another and another, until they had nearly formed a ring around him; he at once comprehended his danger, turned his horse's head toward home, struck it a blow and then crept off in another direction through the undergrowth, until he thought himself entirely outside of the gobbling ring, and then he made for home at his utmost speed, and had barely arrived there when a messenger announced an Indian raid upon an adjoining settlement. The horse, in passing through the gobbling ring, had been greatly alarmed by the redskins, and made his way home, where he stood ready to bear the young wife and husband to the nearest fort".

Another interesting incident might be mentioned connecting George Washington with our story. While living with his brother Lawrence, Washington was defeated in an election for the House of Burgesses at Williamsburg. Previously he had taken a company of men up to Winchester (Frederick County) to put down an Indian uprising. Being well known in that vicinity, he returned to Winchester, where he was evidently quite popular among the settlers, and from there was sent as a representative to the House of Burgesses.

From another source we learn that "it is probable that Harrison Taylor was a Continental soldier—at least so tradition teaches".--\*

As the country improved Harrison Taylor built a mill on Little North River, a stream in Frederick County, Virginia, by which the main road passed leading from the East across the Alleghany Mountains to the then great West. Here he raised a large family, bore the reputation of a peaceable, quiet citizen and an honest miller. His reputation for honesty spread throughout the new country and he became known by many as "honest old Taylor at the mill". His wife shared with him the

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\* Atlas Map of Vermilion County, Illinois. W.R. Brink & Co., Publ. 1875



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qualities of honest integrity and unbounded benevolence, but otherwise they were as unlike as it was possible to be. Yet this seemed to strengthen the bonds of mutual affection between them.

Jane Gurlet Taylor, demonstrative, possessed of powerful will, of strong sense, abounding in wit and anecdote, and of almost infallable memory, was ever remarkable for her great social qualities. She was ever ready to relieve the sick and suffering, no matter what their condition in life. Dying mothers would often bequeath their children to her care, and in this way her house became almost an orphan asylum during the ravages of the Revolutionary War. It is said that at times she would have as high as thirty odd children dependent on her for food and raiment. She, too was the principal surgeon and physician of the backwoods settlement. With her lancet ready in her pocket she was always ready to replace dislocated limbs, set broken bones, lance or bleed as required, with the steady nerve of a hospital surgeon, although the wail of a feeble infant, or any tale of suffering or sorrow would at all times bring tears to her eyes.

By the most untiring care and industry these old people acquired property and raised a family of eight sons and four daughters. Several of these sons had visited Kentucky, and from their representations of the country, the old folks were induced to sell out and remove to Ohio County, Kentucky, where all the sons and the three daughters then living finally settled. Their last days were spent in the home of their son Thomas, where they died and were buried side by side in the family graveyard.

Their eldest daughter, Elizabeth, died in Virginia. Richard,

oldest son, married twice and had a large family. Thomas, the second son, became a Methodist preacher. Harrison, the third son, is the one whom our interest follows. We shall hear more of him later. The fourth son, William became a prosperous farmer and distinguished himself by building the first brick residence in the county. John, the fifth son, died about middle age, and Septimus, the sixth son, died early in life. Simon and Joseph, the youngest sons, thought Kentucky soil too poor and moved West. Hannah married Samuel Brown, living and dying in Ohio, County, Kentucky. Margaret married James Harsha and moved to Illinois, and Jane married Levi Pigman, going with him to Ohio.

The second Harrison Taylor is spoken of as a man who was "born without fear and who died without reproach." From his Virginia home he made many trips to Kentucky, traveling through the wilderness alone. The new country appealed to him and he decided to make his home there. In Virginia he married Elizabeth Allen and together they went into Kentucky and made a home in Ohio County. There they raised a family of eight children; namely, John Allen, Jane (Mrs. John Wallace), Ann Pollock, who married Rev. Alexander Downey, Thomas Alfred, Cynthia (Mrs. John Lemon), Rachael (Mrs. John E. Johnson), Washington and Harrison. One daughter, Elizabeth, died at the age of six years.

Harrison Taylor, the second, was a plain, simple-hearted, honest man. His house for years was the headquarters of land claimants, who came to the county to look after their lands. His thorough knowledge of the country rendered his services highly important, and in this way he often spent days and weeks, not only in entertaining them, but in showing them their lands also, for which his old Virginia ideas of hospitality would not allow him to charge a cent.

There was one extraordinary trait in his character. Although remarkable from childhood for his fearless courage, and although he

served as Justice of the Peace and Sheriff in the then chaotic state of society, he was an extensive trader, and served as wagon master to the army in Hopkins' campaign, yet he was never known to have a fight or a personal difficulty with anyone. He and his brother Joseph served in the United States Army in the war of this country with England commencing in 1812, and took part in the battle of Tippecanoe under General Harrison. Harrison Taylor must have told his children of his trip to Indiana and something of the opportunities there, for one of his sons, Thomas Alfred, later went there to make his home, living there for a number of years.

Harrison Taylor spent the rest of his years in Kentucky and is buried beside his wife in Hartford cemetery.

"Thomas A. Taylor was born in Ohio County, Kentucky, in 1805. His parents died when he was about fourteen years old and he went to live with Jack Allen, Esq., a brother of his mother, with whom he remained for several years, learning during that time the 'tanner's trade'. Sometime after arriving at the estate of manhood, he went to Tippecanoe County, Indiana," \* riding horseback to Lafayette. He stopped at the Buckhorn Tavern, an inn run by Judge William Allen, who had several daughters. One of these, Ives, young Thomas Taylor married.

An interesting incident is told of the meeting of these two. Shortly after his arrival in Tippecanoe County, Thomas Taylor was one of a party of young people who were spending the evening with games and merriment. In order to choose partners for one of the games the names of the gentlemen were written on slips of paper

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\* Atlas Map of Vermilion County, Illinois. Pub. W.R. Brink & Co., 1875.

and placed in a hat to be drawn out by the ladies. Since Mr. Taylor's name was not known, the word "Stranger" was written on his slip. Miss Ives Allen drew this slip from the hat and so met the "stranger". They must have enjoyed each other's company for in September, 1830, about a year after that time, they were married near Lafayette, Indiana. There he worked at his business of tanning for twenty years, thus laying the foundation for his future prosperity. Their seven children were born in Romney, Indiana, 3 miles from Lafayette. Margaret, their eldest daughter, later became the wife of John Harvey; Susan and Serepta married brothers, Francis and James Daughtery; Elizabeth became the wife of John Newlin; and Cynthia married Robert Smith. There were three sons; William Harrison, who died in infancy, Alvin Allen and Thomas Alfred.

In the spring of 1863 Thomas Taylor, the elder left Indiana and came to Vermilion County, Illinois, buying property west of Catlin. There he engaged in farming, stock raising, and wool producing. During the years he accumulated property, some five hundred acres in all, and prepared to spend the remainder of his days in quiet and independence.

He not only gave each of his children a substantial inheritance, but also a good education and an early and thorough training in religion and morals. The children, with one exception, followed the example of the parents in maintaining fellowship with Cumberland Presbyterian Church. Mr. Taylor was a staunch member of that church, always attending presbytery. His long Prince Albert double breasted coat and high silk hat were always kept especially for these occasions and never worn for frivolity or light-minded pastimes. He and his family were very active in Old Mount Vernon Church, a quaint old-fashioned structure with its surrounding graveyard, situated west of Catlin. The family always had prayers



morning and evening-----long morning prayers, which the father often ended rather abruptly with-----"Amen.-----boys, get your horses." His youngest son, Tom, tired from the days activities, often fell asleep as he knelt beside his chair during the evening hour of family worship, and had to be shaken awake before he could be sent off to bed. The father was stern and firm in discipline and young Tom often "felt the toe of his boot".

The home of this good man was often a stopping place for movers, pioneers going west to settle. The well, which served to water Mr. Taylor's abundant flocks of sheep, was placed outside the fence along the roadside for the benefit of all who might come by. Travelers along the road often camped nearby, buying eggs, milk, and other supplies at the farm. Here Thomas Taylor lived, serving God and his fellow-man until his death.

In July 1876, accompanied by his son Tom, he traveled by train to Philadelphia to attend the Centennial celebration honoring the 100th Anniversary of the founding of our nation. While in Philadelphia they visited Wannemaker's store-----the first founded by John Wannamaker, well known merchant. Upon learning of the visitors from the "far West" (as Illinois was thought of in that time), Mr. Wannamaker invited young Mr. Taylor into his office to talk with him about his home section of the country, and upon Mr. Taylor's departure presented him with a pair of silk hose to take as a gift to his wife.

Their return trip was made by boat up the Hudson from New York City to Albany, thence to Niagara Falls, and from Buffalo by boat to Chicago. On the boat trip the elder Mr. Taylor was stricken ill with a form of dysentery and fever. The ship's doctor attended him, but the illness persisted. He never quite recovered

and his death occurred in September 1876, within a short time after his return home.

The second Thomas Alfred Taylor was born in Tippecanoe County, Indiana. He was five years old when the family moved to Illinois and settled on the farm west of Vatin. Here he received the farm training which stood him in good stead when, years later, he owned a section of land in Vermillion County. He attended old Taylor school and later was sent away for the advantages of higher education. He attended one year (the last of the institution's existence) at Mt. Zion Academy, Macomb County, Illinois. The next year (1865) he entered the New Lincoln University, also a Cumberland Presbyterian School, just opening its doors. (This school later was moved to Decatur and is now known as James Milliken University). At Lincoln, young Tom Taylor was elected first president of the Athenian Society, a literary organization for men. (Later his son Joel was a member of the same society and his daughter, Elvessa, belonged to the sister society, the Amicicean). Reading and spelling were always his forte. In later years he loved to read or tell stories to his children and grandchildren.

In 1869, Tom Taylor married Mary Catherine Acree, the daughter of Joel and Elvessa Acree whose farm lay just west of the Taylor Homestead. Though the young people had attended school together, the two families had never "neighbored" much, as they differed in religion. Mr. Acree was a trustee of the Christian Church, a "Campbell-ite", and neither family were too happy over the impending marriage. However, the young people persisted in the face of family opposition. Mary Acree had attended school at the Old Red Seminary in Danville, and she taught school one year. With the money she earned, she bought her trousseau. She was 21 when they were married.

For a number of years Mr. Taylor taught school—Pleasant View,

Fairview, Shiloh-----names well known in Vermilion County rural education. His special pleasures were the Friday afternoon programs ---readings, orations, dramatizations, contests. Some of the amusing experiences from the years of his teaching became his favorite stories to tell in later years.

Some of his favorite stories might be worth repeating here.

As a boy he was sent to the "timber" to cut sapplings for firewood. Riding on the sled load of wood on the return trip Tom began to feel the penetrating cold. He set fire to a few small twigs hoping to warm his hands, but instead the small embers slipped down between the bigger pieces and soon he had such a fire going that only quick work with great handfuls of snow succeeded in keeping the whole load and the sled, too, from going up in flames.

On another occasion he was sent out to sow wheat. Sowing wheat broadcast took time and as the day wore on Tom began to tire of his job and think longingly of his favorite fishing hole. He decided that no one could tell by looking over the ground whether or not it had been sown, and that if he could do away with the rest of the bag of grain he could get away sooner to go fishing. So he buried all that was left behind an old stump, and thought he would never be detected. However, when the wheat began to sprout thickly over part of the field and not at all over the rest, and when at last his father discovered a great clump of wheat coming up all in one place near the stump, Tom's trickery was found out and he received a thrashing for his trouble.

When he was 16 he tried to enlist but was refused as too young. However, he felt quite grown up and had been enjoying attending dances around the countryside. His father discovered this and to discourage such light and frivolous pastimes took Tom's best boots and hid them. Soon another dance was planned, by the Burgoyne boys who were taking



care of Wm. Hawkin's farm while he was away in the army. Tom wanted very much to go, but with no boots his chances looked poor. He waited until the household had retired and then slipped outside and along the house to his father's bedroom window. Knowing just where his father habitually set his boots on retiring, young Tom quietly reached through the window and borrowed his elder's footgear and went to the dance, as quietly returning the boots to their proper place on his return. We assume the elder Taylor never found out what fancy steps his boots executed on the dance floor.

From among his teaching experiences one stands out. At one of the Friday entertainments a dramatization of Caesar's death was the star spot on the program. Dan Davis, as Caesar, was draped in a borrowed sheet for a toga and for the sake of realism was supplied with a pig-bladder filled with poke berry juice. At the moment when the assassins fell upon him to stab him, he shouted "Et tu, Brute" and squeezed the bladder tied under his toga. The ensuing gush of red juice trickling down the white robe so realistically was too much for the little ones, who set up such walls of fright as to disrupt the program completely.

Mr. Taylor's love of a good story was characteristic. On many winter evenings he read aloud to his household (for the hired man and girls were included in the family circle) choosing the works of Scott, Dickens, Shakespeare or some well-known historian for his subject. And his grandchildren remember him as a most entertaining story-teller, a favorite being "Old Mr. Post".

He was a man of good judgement and was chosen president of Lake View Hospital Board, acting in that capacity for 12 years and remaining a life member of the Association. He served as a director of the First National Banks of Catlin and Oakwood, as well as holding responsible positions in other business, social and fraternal organizations. He



was 32nd degree Mason and a Knight Templar.

He was a member of the Presbyterian Church, always guided by faith in its teachings, and always active in promoting its welfare. One of the outstanding experiences of his life was going as a representative from Bloomington Presbytery to the General Assembly in Dallas, Texas. Upon his return he carefully prepared a report of the proceedings, which was typed by Rev. Geo. E. Keithley, then pastor of the local church, to be sent to Presbytery. The report was acknowledged by a letter praising its thoroughness and expressing the appreciation of Presbytery for the fine work.

Mr. Taylor's enjoyment of and interest in his fellow men was unflagging. He "never knew a stranger" and was known by many people as "Uncle Tommy Taylor". The fact that he was a good conversationalist as well as possessing an active sense of humor made it easy for him to make many friends. Uncle Joe Cannon was a frequent visitor at the Taylor home.

He was a member of the Old Settler's Society, and for a number of years was a guiding light for the old Catlin Fair. It was known by that name although it was the Vermillion County Fair, holding a 50 year lease on the Sandusky property west of Catlin. In that time 42 fairs were held, drawing large crowds from miles around. Mr. Taylor's special interest were the Fourth of July Celebrations held at the Fair Grounds. Soon after the close of the Spanish American War, a special Independence Day Celebration took place. On that occasion Mr. Taylor succeeded in arranging for Battery A to attend and parade and drill as part of the afternoon's proceedings. A cannon, mounted on a caisson was brought out from Danville, but in order to prevent frightening the horses at the Fair Grounds, it

was set up and fired in the pasture behind Mr. Taylor's home.

After the Catlin Fair was discontinued, Mr. Taylor kept up the Fourth of July Celebration with a picnic supper for his large family followed by a fireworks display in the evening--pin wheels, cannon crackers, Roman candles, and the ever spectacular rockets, as well as sparklers and small crackers for the youngsters.

His love of having his family about him was most evident at the Christmas gatherings when those of his children and grandchildren from several miles away came Christmas Eve to join the others for the Christmas program at the church to be followed by a huge tree and presents for all; then all were put to bed somehow or other, scattered among the nearby aunts and uncles or sleeping three in a bed or on pallets on the floor at Grandfather's, to gather again at the big house for turkey dinner and all the fixin's Christmas Day. How longingly the youngsters watched from their seats upon the stairs while they waited for a second table. And how patient Auntie Vess had to be with all the chasing in and out with wet or snowy feet after all the careful preparation and cleaning. To all of us those memories are most precious.

As we look back over the lives of our predecessors we feel very humble and grateful for the heritage that is ours, as well as a sense of obligation to those former Taylors to carry on the traditions of firm religious faith, interest in and promotion of the best in national as well as local affairs, industry in business, and a sense of responsibility toward the weak and unfortunate. "We can pay our debt to the past by putting the future in debt to ourselves."\*

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\* Readers Digest. July 1950

THE TAYLOR FAMILY TREE.

Compiled by  
J. B. Lutz,  
Cheyenne, Wyoming  
and  
Miss Elvessa Taylor,  
Catlin, Illinois.

RICHARD TAYLOR

( D. 1624, at the age of 50 ) from Kent Co., England, in the "Mary Margaret" to Jamestown, Va., in 1608. Listed in the 1624 muster as inhabitant of "Colloge Land".

Married Dorothy-----born 1603. Came in the "London Merchant", in 1620.\*

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\* From "Compendium of American Genealogy--First Families of America". Vol. 7.



Richard Taylor came to Virginia from England in the "Mary Margaret" in 1608. His wife, Dorothy, came in the "London Merchant" in 1620. At the time of the Census of Muster Roll of Charles Cittie in 1624, Richard Taylor was 50 years old, his wife 20, and their daughter, Mary, 3 months old. This leads to the presumption that Richard Taylor was 34 when he came to Virginia, received a grant of land, and 11 or 12 years later married a girl seventeen, who had probably came to Virginia to marry him. The Richard Taylor below, whose ancestry we definitely trace, is believed to be the son of this first Richard, although the absolute evidence is lacking. Records are said to be available tracing back to Edward III from this first Richard.

RICHARD TAYLOR

Will drawn 3/22/1678. Proved May 1679	}	1. Richard
Will book 2 (1677-82) page 131, Essex County, Virginia Records.		2. Constance
Sarah ?		3. <u>Simon</u>

SIMON TAYLOR (B. 3/8/1674)

Will drawn 8/18/1728. Proved 2/5/1729	}	1. <u>John</u>
Will book 5, page 123, Richmond County, Virginia Records.		2. William
Elizabeth Lewis		3. Thomas
Mentioned in deed 3/3/1794		4. Septimus
(Deed Book 3, page 179-180)		5. George
(Richmond County)		6. Sarah
Made will 5/11/1747 at age of 90. Died 1747		



Mr. Acree, his father and family, arrived in this County in 1829, and made a location in Catlin Township, coming direct from the state of Alabama. His father at once bought one hundred and thirty acres of raw land, on which they immediately built a cabin, and the next season broke and fenced six acres. The succeeding year they managed to put in cultivation an additional thirty acres, when they considered themselves in a fair way to become farmers, though living was hard and prices of all kinds of produce low. Corn could not be cashed at  $6\frac{1}{4}$ ¢ per bushel; shoes had to be procured of home manufacture, and nearly all kinds of clothing obtained in the same way. Milling was more difficult on account of long distances and unbridged streams, than a trip would now (1875) be to the State of New York considering our present facilities of travel and commerce. When a boy, Mr. Acree has often taken a single sack of corn on horse back as far as ten and sometimes fifteen miles in order to obtain a little meal for immediate family use.

For a number of years after the death of his father, (who died in 1835), Mr. Acree continued to reside with his Mother and the family; filling, to the best of his ability, the position naturally devolving upon him as eldest son.

In 1843 he took to himself a wife, the object of his choice being Miss Elvessa Yunt, daughter of William and Catherine (Dacra) Yunt, old settlers of Catlin Township. Some of his brothers and sisters by this time were grown up and married off. Mr. Acree bought out their interests in the home estate, the mother and younger children continuing to reside with him on the farm. He continued

afterwards to purchase the interests of the heirs until he became the sole proprietor, and has added to it, until the original farm now embraces 435 acres of fine and well improved land (For a view of this property and the residence of Mr. Acree see illustrations). Besides this, he is the owner of 385 acres of valuable land in this county, as well as 160 acres in Oregon County, Missouri.

Mr. Acree is to be congratulated on his past success, and it is but just to add that in a large measure he has been by the judicious help and cooperation of a noble, self-denying wife, who has not only saved her husband's hard earnings, but has materially, from time to time, added thereto.

Two children only are spared to them as the fruit of their happy marriage, viz; Mrs. Mary C. (Thomas A. ) Taylor, and Miss Mattie, a young lady with them at home.

In regard to ancestry, Mr. Acree's information is somewhat limited. William has paternal grandfather, was of English descent, and was born in either North Carolina or Virginia. He finally settled in Kentucky and there died in Wayne County after raising seven children. Elphraim, Mr. Acree's father, was raised in that state, and was there married to a Miss Mary Wann, a lady of Scotch ancestry. Before moving to Alabama there were born William, Elizabeth, Joel, Ruth, Braxton, and John Wm. in the latter state; the remainder of the family are natives of Illinois. Five are yet surviving: Mr. Acree (Joel), Braxton, and Matilda, the wife of Harrison Wright, Elizabeth, the wife of Asaph Butler, and John. Prudence, formerly the wife of William Hardin, Mary A., Melinda J., Eveline, Emerson, Ruth, formerly the wife of James Rovens, and afterwards of John Carper, and William the eldest are dead.

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\* From Atlas Map of Vermilion County published by W.R. Brink & Co., in 1875, belonging to Joel Acree.

WILLIAM SPURGEON

B. 3/20/1740  
( In Essex Co., England)

Married  
Priscilla Robinette  
B. 3/4/1740

- ) 1. Samuel  
B. 11/6/1762
- ) 2. Jeremiah  
B. 7/17/1764
- ) 3. Zephaniah  
B. 11/30/1765  
D. 2/15/1809
- ) 4. James  
B. 11/26/1768
- ) 5. George  
B. 11/26/1768  
D. 12/6/1807
- ) 6. Amelia  
B. 9/21/1771
- ) 7. William  
B. 5/20/1773
- ) 8. Catherine  
B. 3/4/1776
- ) 9. Moses  
B. 4/11/1778  
D. 8/6/1735
- ) 10. David  
B. 5/30/1780
- ) 11. Susannah  
B. 11/4/1783

Winchester, Ky., October 1913

Susannah Spurgeon married Judge William Allen in Bourbon County Kentucky. They were the parents of Grandmother Ives Allen Taylor and are both buried in the Mount Vernon Cemetery, west of Catlin, Illinois.

David Spurgeon married Margaret Allen, a sister of Judge William Allen. They were the great grandparents of Cousin Allen Gay Jones of Winchester. They are buried in Kentucky.



JOHN TAYLOR

of Rappahanock County, Va.	) 1. Simon	B. 3/11/1728
	) 2. Elizabeth	B. 9/26/1731
	) 3. <u>Harrison</u>	B. 8/11/1735
Hannah Harrison	) 4. Richard	B. 2/16/1740

HARRISON TAYLOR

B. 8/11/1735	) 1. Richard	B. 12/10/1760
D. 11/22/1811	) 2. Elizabeth	B. 4/30/1762
	) 3. Thomas	B. 2/24/1764
	) 4. Harrison Jr.	B. 12/31/1766
Married 11/27/1759	) 5. William	B. 1/22/1768
Buried with his wife, Hartford	) 6. John	B. 11/27/1769
Ohio County, Kentucky.	) 7. Septimus	B. 2/ 2/1773
Jain or Jane Curlet	) 8. Hannah (Brown)	B. 1/27/1775
B. 9/30/1741 or 9/5/1742	) 9. Simon	B. 8/26/1777
D. 8/5/1812	) 10. Jane (Pigman)	B. 11/22/1779
	) 11. Margaret (Harsha)	B. 11/15/1781
(Very distinguished ancestors)	) 12. Joseph	B. 3/ 9/1784

HARRISON TAYLOR

B. 12/31/1766	) 1. Cynthia (Mrs. John Lemon)	
	) 2. Washington	
	) 3. Rachel (Mrs. John E. Johnson)	
	) 4. Jane (Mrs. John Wallace)	
Elizabeth Allen	) 5. <u>Thomas Alfred</u>	
	) 6. Ann (Pollock) (Mrs. Rev. Alexander	
	) 7. John Allen	Downey)
	) 8. Harrison	
	) 9. Elizabeth (died at age of 6 years)	

THOMAS A TAYLOR

B. 10/29/1805	) 1. Margaret Ann (Mrs. John Harvey)	
D. 9/20/1876		B. 7/1/1831
	) 2. William Harrison	
		B. 10/5/1833
		D. 8/5/1837
Married 9/21/1830	) 3. Susan America (Mrs. Francis Daugherty)	
		B. 10/1/1835
Ivea Allen	) 4. Serapta Jane (Mrs. James Daugherty)	
B. 10/4/1807		B. 9/5/1837
D. 12/3/1893	) 5. Alvin Allen	
		B. 12/9/1839
	) 6. Ivea Elizabeth (Mrs. John Newlin)	
		B. 2/2/1845)
	) 7. <u>Thomas Alfred</u>	
		B. 4/25/1847
	) 8. Cynthia Evaline (Mrs. Robert Smith)	
		B. 5/13/1851
		D. 10/11/1919

THOMAS A. TAYLOR

B. 4/25/1847  
D. 5/28/1924

Married 3/11/1869

Mary Catherine Acree  
B. 11/12/1848  
D. 10/27/1927

- ) 1. Clemmer Ames (Mrs. Charles Andrews)  
B. 12/20/1869  
D. 5/12/1946
- ) 2. Gail Hamilton  
B. 5/15/1871  
D. 4/10/1947
- ) 3. Elvessa Ives  
B. 3/11/1873
- ) 4. Gatha  
B. 4/20/1874  
D. 8/23/1874
- ) 5. Dulca  
B. 4/20/1874  
D. 9/21/1874
- ) 6. Joel O.  
B. 6/28/1875  
D. 3/ 2/1942
- ) 7. Benjamin Braxton  
B. 1/ 4/1878  
D. 2/ 6/1950
- ) 8. Robert Brown  
B. 7/14/1880  
D. 10/11/1946
- ) 9. Margaret Delay (Mrs. C. Willis Whery)  
B. 9/14/1882  
D. 8/31/1928
- ) 10. Lois Martha (Mrs. Lawrence Church)  
B. 7/23/1884
- ) 11. Thomas Whittier  
B. 8/ 9/1886
- ) 12. Mary Catherine (Mrs. Herman E. Douglas)  
B. 7/ 4/1888
- ) 13. Harriet May (Mrs. Conrad Howard)  
B. 5/31/1893
- ) 14. Ruth June  
B. 6/ 1/1893  
D. 10/ 6/1893



1. Clemmer Ames Taylor

B. 12/20/1869  
D. 5/12/1946

Married 2/20/1896

Charles Clinton Andrews

B. 6/14/1868  
D. 7/ 4/1945

Mary Aldyth

B. 4/25/1897  
Married Leslie Thomas  
Jean

Frances Louise

B. 12/ 1/1900  
Married Hubert Shutts

Charles (Buddy)  
Patricia Ann

Robert Emmerson

B. 9/23/1903  
Married Sara Braden

Robert  
Charles  
Mary

Thomas Elwin

B. 11/ 2/1906  
Married Thelma Lane  
Jerry Lane

Dewitt Harmon

B. 11/ 2/1906  
Married Thelma Brandon  
Kay  
Kenneth

2. Gail Hamilton

B. 5/15/1871  
D. 4/10/1947

Married 10/10/1894

Mariette Hawkins

B. 6/28/1871  
D. 7/ 9/1940

Ester Leone

B. 7/21/1895  
Married George Rouse  
Jeanette

Russell Hawkins

B. 4/14/1897  
Married Martha Pratt  
William Pratt  
Helen Marie

Thomas Alfred

B. 11/24/1899  
D. 2/17/1901

Mary Etta

B. 7/ 1/1902  
Married Irvin Elgin  
Robert Taylor  
Betty Mae

Margaret Duannah

B. 10/30/1906  
Married Cecil McGee  
Theodore  
Ruth  
Jerry

Elizabeth Imlay

B. 8/14/1911

3. Elvessa Ives Taylor

B. 3/11/1873

4. Gatha

B. 4/20/1874

D. 8/23/1874

5. Dulca

B. 4/20/1874

D. 9/21/1874

6. Joel O. Taylor

B. 6/28/1875

D. 3/ 2/1942

Married 9/14/1898

Carrie Boggess

B. 7/16/1875

D. 3/16/1899

Married 6/15/1902

Jennie Pilkington

B. 2/ 2/1870

D. 8/26/1905

Byard Joel

B. 5/ 9/1903

Married Lucile Campbell

Josephine

B. 3/ 5/1905

Married 1/14/1909

Josephine Fisher Carter

B. 2/18/1872

Helen Carter

B. 8/22/1899

Mabel Carter

B. 2/ 8/1902

Married Henry Grawl

Donald Fisher Taylor

B. 3/14/1910

Married Ruth Burroughs

Joel Glen

John Lowell Taylor

B. 8/ 2/1917

Married Marjorie Montgomery

Melissa Irene

Johnny Bill

Sara Jo

7. Benjamin B. Taylor

B. 1/ 4/1878  
D. 2/ 6/1950

Married 9/19/1900

Cora Irene Partlow

B. 6/11/1875

Josephine Taylor (adopted-1905)

8. Robert Brown Taylor

B. 7/14/1880  
D. 10/11/1946

Married 1/ 8/1905

Myrtle M. Kelsey

B. 5/11/1881

Ralph Wilford

B. 3/22/1806  
Married Helen Thomas

Dorothy Aleda

B. 1/31/1908  
Married Paul D. Zook

Norman Weston

B. 5/19/1918  
Married Gwen Clark  
Richard Harrison  
Jeffrey Robert

9. Margaret Delay Taylor

B. 9/14/1882  
D. 8/31/1928

Married 9/27/1906

Charles Willis Wherry

B. 8/29/1879

Charles Alfred

B. 4/ 7/1909  
Married Helen Gueer  
Margaret Ann  
Catherine Jane

Edgar Alvin

B. 4/ 7/1909  
D. 3/14/1947  
Married Lavina Kresler

10. Lois Martha Taylor

B. 7/23/1884

Married 2/15/1911

Lawrence Church

B. 6/21/1883

Carl Chester Church

B. 5/27/1912  
Married Dorothy Hardy

11. Thomas Whittier Taylor

B. 8/9/1886  
Married 1/ 1/1910

Gertrude Witherspoon

B. 9/ 2/1887

Thomas Howard

B. 8/22/1910  
Married Virginia Bell  
Jean  
Virginia Ann

Buell Witherspoon

B. 8/27/1912  
Married Geraldine Collins  
Daniel



12. Mary Catherine Taylor

B. 7/ 4/1888

Married 6/ 7/1911

Herman E. Douglas

B. 1/11/1888

John Allen

B. 4/26/1917

Married Jane E. Tharp

John Tharp

Mary Watts

Catherine Taylor

13. Ruth Jane

B. 6/ 1/1893

D. 10/ 6/1893

14. Harriet May

B. 5/31/1893

Married 12/25/1918

Conrad Howard

B. 8/15/1889

Julia June

B. 12/1/1919

Rachel Ann

B. 8/18/1921

IN GREAT GRANDFATHER TAYLOR'S SONG BOOK.

Farewell, loving Christians;  
Time is at hand,  
When we must be parted from the social band.  
Our several engagements doth call us away;  
Separations are needful and we must obey.  
When we are parted and scattered abroad,  
We pray for each other while wrestlin with God,  
Farewell, loving Christians, farewell all around  
If we never meet any more till we wake underground  
To meet you in glory I'll give you my hand  
Our Savior to praise in pure social band.

"And I never will see Susie again", so said  
"Marse David Spurgeon" the day of the big dinner given  
for Susannah and William Allen the day before they left  
Kentucky for Ohio, then to Indiana in Tippacanoe County.  
The above old familiar hymn was sung at this dinner.

This account was told to Elvessa Taylor, October  
1913 at Winchester, Kentucky by "White 'Lize", an old  
colored albino (pink eyes and light hair) woman who was  
about six (6) years old at the time; her mother was a  
slave of Marse David.

THOMAS A. TAYLOR\*

Thomas A. Taylor, a prominent resident of Catlin Township is a man whose well trained, vigorous mind and progressive views place him in the front ranks of the enlightened, wide-awake agriculturists of Vermilion County. He has a large farm nearly 600 acres, whose fertile fields, roomy substantial buildings and well ordered appearance generally, mark it as one of the best managed and choicest estates in this part of the county, and here on Section 5 he has erected a handsome residence that is replete with all the modern comforts.

Our subject was born in Tippecanoe County, Ind., April 25, 1847, a son of Thomas A., and Ives (Allen) Taylor, natives respectively of Ohio County and Shelby County, Ky. After marriage his parents began their wedded life in Tippecanoe County, Ind., near Lafayette, where he followed his trade, that of a tanner, living there till 1852 when they came with their family to Vermilion County to settle among its pioneers, taking up their abode in Catlin Township. The father died here in September, 1876, and an upright and honored citizen was thus lost to the community with whose highest interests his own had been identical from the first hour of his settlement here. He was a man of sincere piety and a worthy member of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church. His wife still survives and makes her home in Catlin Township. She is a truly good woman and a devoted member of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church. They had eight children, of whom our subject was the seventh in order of birth.

He was five years old when he accompanied his parents to Vermilion County, and the remainder of his life has since been passed here. He was given the advantages of a liberal education, obtaining the basis of it in the public schools, and he then became

a student at Lincoln University in Logan County and subsequently took an excellent course of study at Mt. Zion Academy, Macomb County, Ill., his studies being of a practical character such as would be of benefit to him in his business relations and in his work. After leaving school he devoted himself to the teacher's profession for nine years, meeting with great success in that vocation and by his intelligent methods placing himself in the forefront of the best educators in this part of the country. He has resided in Catlin, and aside from teaching has given his attention wholly to agricultural pursuits, owning and managing one of the largest and finest farms in this region, as before mentioned.

Mr. Taylor frankly acknowledges that he is greatly indebted for much that is good in his life to his amiable wife, to whom he was married in Catlin Township, March 11, 1869. She is in every respect a true Christian, possessing much intelligence and capacity, and a model housewife, and fills the perfect measure of wife, mother, friend, than which no higher eulogy can be pronounced. In her the Christian Church finds one of its most consistent members. Mrs. Taylor's maiden name was Mary C. Acree, and she is the daughter of the late Joel and Elvessa (Yount) Acree, known and honored as among the earliest settlers of Catlin Township, where he continued to reside till his death, Nov. 27, 1880. The father was born in Alabama, and the mother in Shelby County, Ky. They married and settled in Catlin Township in early pioneer times. He was a valued member of the Christian Church and a thoroughly upright man. The mother is still living in Catlin Township, and she is also a respected member of the Christian Church.

They had two children who lived to grow up, Mrs. Taylor being the eldest, and she was born in Catlin Township, Nov. 12, 1849. Ten of the twelve children that have gladdened the happy wedded life of our subject and his wife are still with them, two having died in infancy. The names of the survivors are Clemmer, Gailen H., Elvessa, Joel, Benjamin, Robert, Maggie, Lois, Whittier, Catherine and Harriet. Our subject is prominently identified with the Republican party and its councils. He is a member of the A.F.&A.M. Catlin lodge, No. 285, Vermilion Chapter and Athelstan Commandery at Danville.

Mr. Taylor is endowed with a keen, resolute nature, and by prompt, systematic methods and other excellent business habits, has accumulated a valuable property and is one of the moneyed men of Catlin Township. He is a Man of earnest religious feelings, and in him the Cumberland Presbyterian Church has one of its most active workers and influential members, he having united with it early in life, and for twenty years or more he has been one of its Elders. He interests himself greatly in the Sunday-School, and has been Superintendent for many years.

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\* Portrait and Biographical Album of Vermilion County, Illinois, published by Chapman Brothers, Chicago, 1889.