

## Anson S. Taylor, Sr.

(20 Sep 1938 – 26 Jan 1917)

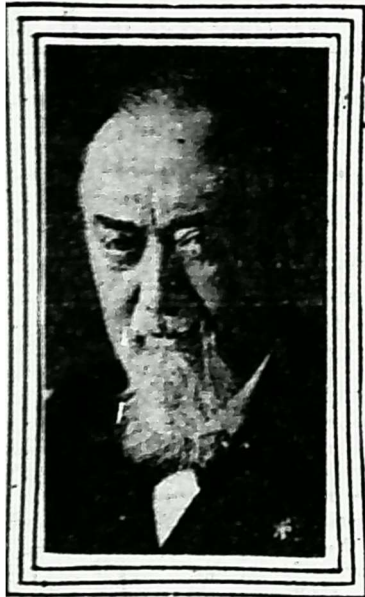
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The Evening Star, September 20, 1910, p. 18

### **Anson S. Taylor Is 72**

#### **Admits That Birth Anniversaries Date from 1838**

#### **Long Period of Public Service Behind Him, Useful Half Century Ahead**



**JUDGE ANSON S. TAYLOR.**

United States Commissioner Anson S. Taylor happened to mention this morning that this particular sun-shiny September 20 was his seventy-second birthday. Even the commissioner's well known reputation for veracity wouldn't enable him to get away with this statement if he didn't have the proofs. His eye is as bright, his step as springy, his voice as mellow, his laugh as hearty and his capacity for hard work as unimpaired as is the average man of half his age. But he has the proofs and that's all there is to it. He must be believed.

Commissioner Taylor is a natural born sticker and his exceptionally long public service would go a long way toward proving that he is seventy-two, even if the family Bible weren't handy. Why, the commissioner was chairman of the committee on improvements of the old common council of the corporation of Washington way back yonder in 1868 and 1869, under Mayor Bowen. The form of government of the National Capital has been changed twice since then, the executive head next being a governor and then changed to the present board of District Commissioners.

*Born on Jersey Farm*

Mr. Taylor was born on a farm in New Jersey in 1838, lived in Mount Holly, n that state, and served during the civil war first at McClellan's headquarters, Army of the Potomac, and later in the quartermaster's department. He resigned in 1866. From 1878 until 1902 he was a justice of the peace, and he has been a notary from 1875 to the present time and United States commissioner from 1881 to date. For the last fifty years he has been secretary of the Union Methodist Sunday School here. For nine years he served as a pro tem judge in the Police Court, and for a long time has been a director in the Y.M.C.A.

Commissioner Taylor looks and acts as if he had another useful half-century ahead of him. Everybody hopes he has.

*The Evening Star, May 29, 1916, p. 9*

### **Congratulations On Golden Wedding**

#### **Judge and Mrs. A.S. Taylor Receive Felicitations of Their Friends**

Anson S. Taylor, United States commissioner for the District of Columbia, and Mrs. Taylor are today celebrating their "golden wedding anniversary" at their home, 1209 21st street northwest. The celebration is entirely informal, consisting principally of calls by a host of friends.

Judge and Mrs. Taylor were both born in New Jersey, the judge in Burlington county, Mrs. Taylor in Gloucester county, but have spent all their married life in Washington. Twenty years of Mr. Taylor's boyhood and young manhood were spent in Mount Holly, where he attended Friends School and the

West Jersey Collegiate Institute, working his way through a two-year course. The winters of '57, '58, '59 and '60 he taught school, and during the summer vacations acquired a knowledge of "the art preservative"--printing. He worked at typesetting in the Mount Holly Herald office in the fall of '61, which he left to enter the transportation department of the quartermaster's department, U.S.A., in this city. In January 1862, he was detailed to Gen. McClellan's headquarters train, serving during the peninsular and Maryland campaigns.

Coming to Washington shortly after the close of the Maryland campaign Judge Taylor entered the depot quartermaster's department as captain of the watch, was promoted as clerk, assistant superintendent and superintendent, and as a clerk was transferred to "Lincoln depot" where he remained until February 1866, when he resigned to go into business, and started the first "temperance grocery store" in the District, at the corner of 8<sup>th</sup> and C streets northeast, at that time almost out in the country. He moved to the first ward in 1867, where on the corner of 20<sup>th</sup> and I streets northwest he conducted his "temperance grocery."

### *Active in All Civic Affairs*

Judge Taylor has always taken an active part in the civic affairs of the District. He was in 1868 and 1869 a member of the common council of the city government and chairman of the committee on improvements. He has been an officer in every building association in the West End from 1868 to date. In 1873 he was appointed a justice of the peace by Gov. Cooke, and he held office until 1902, when a new law reducing the number of justices was passed. In 1875 he was appointed a notary public, which office he still holds. While a justice he studied law at Georgetown University, graduated in 1882 and was admitted to the bar. He is a United States commissioner, and as such has had the hearing of some of the most noted cases in this district. For nine years he was judge pro tem. Of the Police Court.

Judge Taylor has been active in church and other religious work. Union Methodist Episcopal Church has had his services for more than fifty years, the Sunday school of which he has been secretary for more than forty-five years. The Y.M.C.A., the Washington City Bible Society, the Methodist Union and the Christian Endeavor Society have all had his services. Mr. Taylor was made a Master Mason in 1862, is a R.A.M. and a thirty-second degree Mason of the Cerneau S.R.; is treasurer of Friendship Lodge, No. 12, I.O.O.F. which he joined in 1872. He is also an active member of the Army and Navy Union and the Army and Navy Veterans.

### *Anniversary Sixth in Family*

Judge Taylor and Rachel A. Eastlack were married by her brother, Rev. Calvin Eastlack, at Tuckerton, N.J., May 29, 1866. They have had five children, four of whom are living. Bessie E. is a teacher in the public schools, John E. is a title attorney for the United States, Sarah A. is a clerk and Estella L. has lately become Mrs. Horace W. Johnson. There are two grandchildren, sons of John E. and Beatrice Hottell, his wife.

Mrs. Taylor, up to within the past few years, has not been behind in good works. Always, at the home of her youth active in church work, it was not difficult to continue it during her married life. In W.C.T.U. work she has been actively engaged, and has been one of the trustees of the headquarters on 6th street northwest, since its purchase and the incorporation of the District union.

The golden wedding anniversary is the sixth in the family of Mrs. Taylor: First, her father, John C. Eastlack, and his wife Elizabeth, her mother, were married more than fifty-two years; second, a brother, Amos T. Eastlack, and Mary, his wife; third, her oldest sister, Sarah E. Lodge and Samuel D. Lodge, her husband; fourth, her elder brother, John F. Eastlack, and Addie S., his wife; fifth a younger sister, Emmal E. Moffett, and Biddle R. Moffett, her husband, and now, sixth, Rachel A.E. Taylor and Anson S. Taylor, her husband. All are living, except the father and mother, Amos T. Eastlack and Samuel D. Lodge.

*The Evening Star, January 25, 1917, p. 7*

**Judge Anson S. Taylor III**

Judge Anson S. Taylor, United States commissioner, is seriously ill at Emergency Hospital from uremic poisoning. Reports this afternoon state that he is very weak. Judge Taylor is seventy-eight years old.

**Taylor.** On Thursday, January 26, 1917, at the Emergency Hospital, Anson S. Taylor, beloved husband of Rachel A.E. Taylor, 1209 21st street northwest. Funeral from Union Methodist Episcopal Church January 29 at 2 p.m. Interment private.

**Taylor.** Members of the Association of Oldest Inhabitants of the District of Columbia are respectfully invited to attend the funeral services of our late associate, Anson S. Taylor, at the Union M.E. Church, 20th street northwest, Monday, the 29th instant, at 2 p.m.

Theodore W. Noyes, President  
Benj. W. Reis, R.S.

*The Evening Star, January 26, 1917, p. 7*

**Judge Anson S. Taylor Dies In His 79th Year**

**Was Member of Odd Fellows and for Decades Prominent in Religious Work**

Judge Anson S. Taylor, a United States commissioner for the District of Columbia, died at 8:20 o'clock last night at Emergency Hospital after an illness of ten days.

Judge Taylor was at the hospital but two days, having been removed there from his home, 1209 21st street, when his condition became critical. He was nearly seventy-nine years old, having been born in Mount Holly, N.J., September 20, 1838.

He entered the transportation branch of the quartermaster's department of the United States Army in 1861. At the close of the war he moved to this city and resigned from the government service to go into business. He was a member of the common council of Washington.

In 1873 he was appointed a justice of the peace and held that office until 1902. For nine years he was judge pro tem of the Police Court.

*Active in Civic Affairs*

Judge Taylor had always been active in the civic affairs of the city. He was a director of the Home Building Association, the Exchange Bank of Washington and of the National Capital Benefit Society. For years he has been treasurer of Friendship Lodge of Odd Fellows. He was a member of the Association of Oldest Inhabitants of the District of Columbia.

About fifty years ago he joined Union Methodist Episcopal Church on 20th street, and since then had continuously been one of its most prominent members, representing that charge in laymen's associations and conventions throughout the Baltimore Conference and serving these associations in official capacities. For forty-seven years he had been secretary of the Sunday school connected with the church and held record for regular and punctual attendance during the whole time. The work of the Sunday school and of the Christian Endeavor Society, of which he was long a member, were close to his heart. He was actively associated with the American Bible Society, the Laymen's Missionary Movement, the Methodist City Church Extension Society and the Anti-Saloon League and other temperance organizations.

He was also a member of the Army and Navy Union and the Army and Navy Veterans. He was a director of the Y.M.C.A. for twenty-five years.

Up to two weeks ago he was regularly in his law office at 1413 H street where, as United States Commissioner, he had heard some notable cases.

His wife, Mrs. Rachel E.A. Taylor and a son, John E. Taylor of Knoxville, Tenn., employed by the Agricultural Department, and three daughters, Miss Bessie E. Taylor, Miss Sarah A. Taylor and Mrs. Estella L., wife of Horace W. Johnson, of the interstate commerce commission, all of this city, survive him.

Arrangements for the funeral have not been completed.

*The Evening Star, January 27, 1917, p. 9*

### **Tribute to Judge Taylor**

#### **Officers of Building Association to Attend Funeral Services**

Funeral services for Judge Anson S. Taylor, who died at Emergency Hospital Thursday night, are to be held Monday afternoon at 2 o'clock at the Union M.E. Church. At a special meeting of the board of directors of the Home Building association held yesterday resolutions in eulogy of the work of Judge Taylor, who was vice president of the association, were adopted. Judge Taylor was one of the originators of the building association and an officer and director for thirty-four years. The board adopted resolutions of sympathy for the family and voted to attend the funeral.

*The Evening Star, January 30, 1917, p. 11*

### **Many Pay Last Tribute To A.S. Taylor's Memory**

#### **Funeral Services Held in Union M.E. Church. Interment in Congressional Cemetery**

Civic and fraternal organizations were represented and a number of clergymen were present at the funeral services for Judge Anson S. Taylor, for more than forty years United States commissioner for the District of Columbia, held yesterday afternoon at the Union Methodist Episcopal Church, Rev. Dr. John MacMuray, pastor of the church officiated, and spoke of the work done by Judge Taylor both for the city and church.

Interment was in the Congressional cemetery. The active pallbearers were Alexander Ashly, Col. Harry C. Fiser, William H. Cheesman, William H. Sellers M.W. Fernandez and William Ramsay.

Those taking part in the ceremonies were Rev. George A. Miller, Rev. James L. McLain, Rev. J.O. Wrightson and Rev. John R. Edwards. Other pastors who attended were Rev. Joel Brown, Rev. S. Reese Murray, Rev. Page Milbourne and Rev. D.H. Martin.

Representatives of the following organizations, of which Judge Taylor was a member, were present. The Odd Fellows, Association of Oldest Inhabitants of the District of Columbia, the Home Building and Loan Association, the Exchange Bank of Washington, the Washington Bible Society, the District Anti-Saloon League and the Washington Methodist Church Extension Society.