

Stark B. Taylor

(9 Sep 1820 - 31 Mar 1910)

Taylor. On Thursday, March 31, 1910 at his residence, 1504 S street n.w., Stark B. Taylor in the 90th year of his age. Funeral, Saturday, April 2 at 2:30 p.m.

The Evening Star, March 31, 1910, p. 2

Stark Taylor Dead

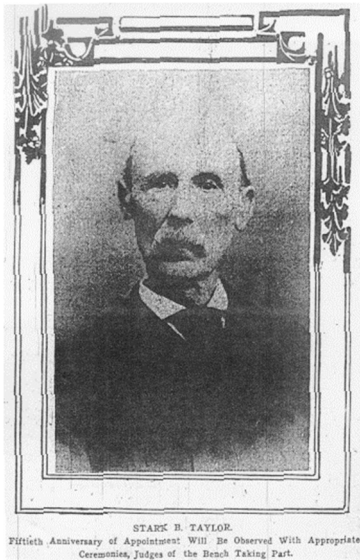
Had Served in the Court of Claims Since 1855

Was Ninety Years Old

Appointed on Recommendation of Jefferson Davis--

Leaves Wife and Six Children

Following an illness of about three months duration, due to the infirmities of old age, Stark B. Taylor, who served continuously in the Court of Claims ever since its organization, May 16, 1855, died at 5



o'clock this morning at his home, 1504 S street northwest. He was ninety years old, but in spite of his age he was active and painstaking in the execution of his duties at the court until two or three months ago, when illness compelled him to take to his bed.

Mr. Taylor was appointed a messenger at the Court of Claims upon the recommendation of Jefferson Davis, and on the reorganization of that tribunal in 1863, in the midst of the civil war, he was made bailiff, and held the latter office to the time of his death. Arrangements for the funeral will not be made until replies are received to telegrams announcing the death, which were sent by the family to sons who live in different parts of the country.

Stark B. Taylor was born in King George county, Va., in 1820, and had served ten years in the United States Army, part of that time in the Mexican war, when his name was brought up in May 1855, by Jefferson Davis, then a United States senator, for appointment to the post of messenger in the Court of Claims, which had just been created by act of Congress. By a curious coincidence the date of his appointment to the court, May 15, was also his wedding anniversary, Mr. and Mrs. Taylor were married in 1851.

Observed Anniversary in 1905

Five years ago, May 15, 1905, there was an impressive proceeding at the Court of Claims, when the court took formal cognizance of the fiftieth anniversary of Mr. Taylor's service. Assistant Attorney General Louis A. Pradt and Charles A. King addressed the court and gave eloquent expression to the high regard in which Mr. Taylor was held by both bench and bar. Members of the bar practicing before the court presented a finely engraved silver-headed cane to Mr. Taylor on that occasion, and the judges gave him a silver vase, suitably inscribed. Chief Justice Nott ordered that resolutions testifying to the appreciation of Mr. Taylor's long service, be spread upon the minutes of the court.

Mr. Taylor was for many years superintendent of the Sunday School of Grace Protestant Episcopal Church, and for fully twenty-five years he was a vestryman of that church. He was a member of Hope Lodge, No. 20, F.A.A.M.

Besides his widow there are six children surviving: William E., George W. and Benjamin E. of New York; Thomas F. of Austin Texas, and Dr. Alfred H. and Miss Mary E. Taylor of Washington.

The Washington Times, May 14, 1905

Has Served Half a Century Bailiff to Court of Claims

His Term of Service Equals Life of Court

Expert Gunner of Mexican War Was Made Bailiff

in Court of Claims May 15, 1855, at Time Bench Was Organized

Tomorrow will be the fiftieth anniversary of the appointment of Stark B. Taylor as bailiff of the Court of Claims.

The event is an unusual one, and will be accorded suitable recognition by the members of the bar of the Court of Claims. With the approval of the court it has been decided that brief appropriate exercises shall take place after the usual announcements upon the assembling of the court tomorrow morning.

Mr. Taylor is probably the senior, in point of service, to any officer of any court in the United States, if not in the world.

Stark B. Taylor was born on September 9, 1820, in Kings county, Va. His parents died when he was three years old, and he was left to the care of relatives. He was educated in the country schools, and lived at the place of his birth until he was nineteen years old, when he came to Washington.

Shortly after his arrival here he enlisted in the Ordnance Corps of the army, and went to Mexico when hostilities began between that country and the United States, having become an expert in explosives and gunnery. He participated in all the battles under General Scott, from the bombardment of the city of Vera Cruz until the American troops entered the city of Mexico, where he remained until the terms of peace between the two countries were concluded.

On May 15, 1855, on the recommendation of several officers of the army, and at the request of Jefferson Davis, then Secretary of War, he was appointed to the position of bailiff of the Court of Claims of the United States, and has held the office ever since. The court was organized about time of his appointment, the first papers being filed on May 23, 1855. The court met for the first time in July of that year in the Supreme Court chamber at the Capitol. When the Supreme Court met in the fall of the same year the Court of Claims was given quarters in the west front of the north wing of the Capitol. In 1879 the Court of Claims was moved to the Freedmen's Bank building, near where the Lafayette Theater now stands. When the bank building was torn down a few years ago the court was transferred to the old Corcoran Art Gallery building, at Seventeenth street and Pennsylvania avenue.

Mr. Taylor was married on May 15, 1851, just four years prior to the appointment to his present position. May 15 will be the fiftieth anniversary of the appointment to the position of bailiff of the Court of Claims, and the fifty-fourth anniversary of his marriage. He now resides at 1504 S street northwest, living with his two sons.

The Evening Star, April 14, 1910, p. 18

Will of Stark B. Taylor

Estate Worth \$21,800 --

Daughter Files Petition as Executrix

Miss Mary Ellen Taylor, through Attorneys Quiner & West, has filed a petition as executrix for the probate of the will of her father, the late Stark B. Taylor. For fifty-five years Mr. Taylor was connected with the Court of Claims, and was well known to the lawyers in this city.

By his will his personal property, amounting to about \$3,800, and his real estate, to the value of about \$18,000, were left to his wife for life. After her death the title to one of the houses vests in the

daughter, and the remainder of the property is to be sold and the proceeds divided among the following children and grandchildren: William E. Taylor, Thomas F. Taylor, Alfred H. Taylor, George W. Taylor, Mary Ellen Taylor, Nellie Boyd Taylor, Benjamin E. Taylor, Miriam Raymond Taylor, Bertha Taylor and Stark Burdett Taylor.

All of the parties take equally, with the exception of the four last named, who only take one share between them.