

written many valuable works on the colonial history of the Moravian Church in Pennsylvania 1742-76: "Biography of John Henry Miller, printer, of Philadelphia" (1891); "History of Use of Trombone in Church Music" (1884); "The Lehigh Ferry at Bethlehem" (1897); "Moravian Immigration to Pennsylvania, 1734-1767, with Lists and Some Account of the Transport Vessels" (1896); "Friedensthal and Its Stockaded Mill" (1877); "A Red Rose from the Olden Time; or, A Ramble Through the Annals of the Red Rose Inn and the Barony of Nazareth in the Days of the Province, 1752-1772" (1883). Mr. Jordan founded the Pennsylvania Society Sons of the Revolution, and is its registrar. He has also served as general registrar of the societies of the United States. As founder of the Colonial Society of Pennsylvania he was its first president, and is now (1901) one of the vice-presidents as well as a member of numerous historical and literary societies in America and Europe. He was married, in 1883, to Anne, daughter of Alfred Page, and has three children.

WILCOX, Leonard, jurist and congressman, was born at Hanover, N. H., Jan. 29, 1799, son of Jeduthan and Sarah (Fisk) Wilcox. He was graduated at Dartmouth College in 1817; was admitted to the bar, and practiced at Orford, Grafton co., N. H., which was his home for the rest of his life. He became a member of the state legislature; was made a judge of the superior court, June 25, 1838, but resigned on account of ill-health Sept. 20, 1840; was a senator in congress from New Hampshire from March, 1842, to 1843; became a justice of the New Hampshire court of common pleas Dec. 7, 1847, and was again appointed to the superior court June 26, 1848. He was married, in 1809, to Almira Morey, and in 1833 to Mary Mann. A son by his first wife and two sons by his second were graduated at Dartmouth, and became lawyers. Judge Wilcox died at Orford, June 18, 1850.

TAYLOR, John W., lawyer and congressman, was born at Charlton, Saratoga co., N. Y., March 26, 1784, son of Judge John and Chloe (Cox) Taylor. He was graduated at Union College in 1803; studied law at Albany; was admitted to the bar in 1807, and began to practice at Ballston, N. Y., becoming a justice of the peace in 1808, and subsequently state commissioner of loans. He was elected to the state legislature in 1811, and while in that body was elected to congress, where he served from 1813 to 1833, being speaker of the house for the second session of the 16th congress during the passage of the Missouri Compromise, and also speaker of the 19th congress. Mr. Taylor was one of the organizers of the National Republican, and afterward of the Whig, party. In 1841-42 he was a state senator. He accompanied Lafayette through New England on his last tour. In 1827 he delivered the annual address before the Phi Beta Kappa Society of Harvard. He was married at Albany, in 1806, to Jane Hodge who died in 1838. Removing to Cleveland, O., in 1843, Mr. Taylor died there, Sept. 8, 1854.

PRANG, Louis, lithographer and publisher, was born in Breslau, Silesia, March 12, 1824. Owing to ill health in his youth, he had a meagre school education. At the age of thirteen, he was apprenticed to his father in the calico printing business, where he rapidly acquired the practical details of designing, engraving on wood and metal, printing, dyeing, and color-mixing. In 1842 he left home in quest of larger experience, and in 1850 came to the United States, settling in Boston. Having failed to secure employment at his trade, he associated himself with a young architect, and later took up wood-engraving for book illustration. Although he had never learned the trade, his early training in similar lines (blocks for calico printing) served him in good stead, and

for five years he worked successively, first on his own account, then for Frank Leslie (at that time art director of "Gleason's Pictorial"), and for John Andrew, the English engraver. In 1856 he formed a partnership in the lithographic business, under the name of Prang & Mayer, which he continued alone after 1860, under the style of L. Prang & Co. Within twenty-four hours after receiving the news of the attack on Fort Sumter, he had engraved and placed on sale a lithographic map of Charleston harbor. It was the first war map ever made in this country, and it opened the way for a long series of war publications. In 1866 he made and issued the first "chromo," a name coined by him for his lithographic reproductions of oil paintings. They soon achieved such wide popularity that increased facilities for production were required, and in 1867 he removed his establishment from Boston to more commodious quarters within the old town limits of Roxbury, where his products were brought to the highest degree of perfection. In 1874 Mr. Prang began the issue of American Christmas cards for the English market, which became very popular, and in the following year he introduced them into the United States. Prize exhibitions of designs were held for several successive years, beginning in 1880, which brought out the talent of many young artists who have acquired since a national recognition, and Prang's American Christmas cards, like his chromos, became the standard of excellence for art color printing the world over. After producing a series of lithographic representations of rare Oriental ceramics in the collection of William T. Walters, of Baltimore, to illustrate "Oriental Art" (1897), Mr. Prang closed his career as a color-printer and retired. The firm was consolidated in 1897 into the Taber-Prang Art Co., with headquarters in Springfield, Mass. In 1874 he began publishing works for drawing and elementary art study for public schools, and this branch of his business became of such importance that in 1882 the

Prang Educational Co. was organized to conduct it, with Mr. Prang as president. This company, having offices in New York, Chicago and Boston, not only provides for the publication of educational text-books and materials, used in the public schools, but for the training of teachers to direct and supervise elementary art instruction according to the principles and methods embodied in the Prang course of art instruction. Both the publications and the normal training provisions have received recognition throughout America and Europe, and have been translated into German, Italian, French, Spanish and Portuguese. Mr. Prang devoted much study to the problem of color classification and nomenclature, and published "The Prang Standard of Color" in 1898. He was married, Nov. 1, 1851, to Rosa Gerber, a native of Berne, Switzerland, who died June 2, 1898. He was again married, April 15, 1900, to Mrs. Mary Dana Hicks, a native of Syracuse, N. Y. Mrs. Rosa Prang Heinzen, of Boston, is his only child.

TAYLOR, Benjamin Franklin, journalist and lecturer, was born at Lowville, N. Y., July 18, 1819, son of Stephen William and Eunice (Scranton) Taylor. His earliest American ancestor, Stephen Taylor, emigrated from England in the latter part of the seventeenth century, and settled at Scituate, R. I.; while the maternal line descends from John Scranton, of England, who settled in Guilford, Conn., in



1689. William Taylor, eldest son of the emigrant, served in the old French war, and with his brother, John, in the revolutionary war. The family removed to Connecticut in 1776; to North Adams, Mass., in 1784, and thence to Burlington, Otsego co., N. Y. Stephen William Taylor was a principal of the Lowville Academy, Lewis county, N. Y.; later professor of mathematics in Madison (now Colgate) University, Hamilton, N. Y., and at the time of his death president of that institution. The son was graduated at Madison University in 1838, and became principal of the Norwich (N. Y.) Academy.



William Taylor

In 1845 Mr. Taylor removed to Chicago, and was soon on the staff of the "Evening Journal." This connection lasted for twenty years, and during the greater part of this period he was literary editor; but in 1863 he went to the front as field correspondent, and among his letters from the seat of war, "The Battle Above the Clouds" (Lookout mountain) and that on the storming of Mission ridge were widely quoted. After leaving daily journalism, in 1865, he traveled extensively, visiting California, Mexico, and the islands of the Pacific; later delivering courses of lectures on various topics. He occasionally contributed both prose and poetry to the "Atlantic," "Harper's," and other monthly magazines, and, being a staunch friend of Dr. Josiah G. Holland, contributed regularly to "Scribner's Magazine" while Dr. Holland was its editor. His poems were not pretentious, but they linger in the memory because they came from the heart. Whittier said: "I do not know of any one who so well reproduces the scenes of long ago." His style was vividly picturesque, his fancy exuberant, and his selection of metaphors appropriate. The London "Times" termed him "The Oliver Goldsmith of America," and pronounced some of his battle pictures to be the finest ever written in the English language. His published works include: "Attractions of Language" (1845); "January and June" (1853); "Pictures in Camp and Field" (1871); "The World on Wheels" (1873); "Old Time Pictures and Sheaves of Rhyme" (1874); "Songs of Yesterday" (1877); "Summer Savory Gleaned from Rural Nooks" (1879); "Between the Gates" and "Pictures of California Life" (1881); "Dulce Domum, the Burden of Song" (1884); "Theophilus Trent" (1887), his only novel, and a complete edition of his poems in the same year. Among his most popular poems are "The Isle of Long Ago," "Rhymes of the River," and "The Old Village Choir." In 1887 Mr. Taylor received the degree of LL. D. from the University of California. He was a brilliant conversationalist, and had a cordial, sympathetic nature that won him hosts of friends. His fine presence and cultured voice placed him among the popular lecturers of the period, such as Wendell Phillips and Bayard Taylor. Mr. Taylor was married, in 1839, to Mary Elizabeth, daughter of Deacon Isaac Bromley, of Norwich, Conn., and sister of Isaac Bromley, Jr., of the New York "Tribune." She died in 1848, leaving two sons, who are still (1901) living. He was married the second time, in 1852, to Lucy E., daughter of Daniel M. and Mary (Tucker) Leaming, of La Porte, Ind. Mrs. Taylor is an active, public spirited woman. In 1896 she was elected to membership on the Cleveland board of education, was re-elected in 1898, and again in 1900, being now in her third term, and has filled the position to the

present time with dignity and honor. She has herself written much that is admirable, in both prose and verse. Mr. Taylor died in Cleveland, O., Feb. 24, 1887, and was buried on the grounds of Madison University.

MORRIS, Felix William James, actor, was born at Birkenhead, England, April 23, 1845, son of William Morris, a Welshman and a sea captain, and Mary O'Grot, who was a native of Scotland. He was educated at a school in Switzerland and at Guy's Hospital, London; but he disappointed his parents by refusing to practice medicine, and, after some experience in private theatricals, he decided to go on the stage, and sailed for Boston, Mass. Failing to secure an engagement there, he went to Albany, N. Y., where he worked in a drug store and as a ticket seller in a theatre, having failed in his first appearance before the footlights. He next became head "super" at the Division Street Theatre, at \$5 per week. Success in low comedy led him to attempt more ambitious parts, including Shakespearian characters, and some words of encouragement from Joseph Jefferson spurred him on. Morris supported Lotta in "Musette," John T. Raymond in "Colonel Sellers," and other noted actors. Going to Canada with a stock company, he gained great popularity in such plays as "Rosedale" and "Saratoga," and, as Touchstone, supported Adelaide Neilson in "As You Like It." Returning to New York city, he played at the Fifth Avenue Theatre in the cast that supported Mary Anderson and Modjeska in their first engagements. During an engagement at the California Theatre, San Francisco, he made a decided hit as the Pasha in "Fatinitza" and as Paspout in "Around the World in Eighty Days." Later he supported Lester Wallack through New England, and visited the West Indies, where his Sir Joseph Porter, in "Pinafore," was enthusiastically praised. On his return to New York city he played at different theatres, some of the parts in which he was particularly admired being those of the English correspondent in "Michael Strogoff," Sam Gerridge in "Caste," the Burgomaster in "Lieutenant Helene," and Monsieur Bonnet in the "Pavements of Paris," the last named being subsequently revised by Mr. Morris and played before crowded houses in Chicago and elsewhere. While visiting England, to oblige a friend, he took the part of Peckering Peck, in "On 'Change'" (called in this country "The Big Bonanza"), and he created so great a sensation that he was persuaded to continue with the company for more than a year. Equal praise was accorded him for his impersonation of a costermonger in "Turn Him Out," and in the title-role in "Kerry." This engagement ended, he became a member of Rosina Vokes' company and returning to the United States, gave some of his most artistic performances, such as the Old Musician in the play by that title, the Frenchman in "A Pantomime Rehearsal," Chevalier in the "Game of Cards," and the Count in "The Rose." On Dec. 23, 1896, he joined one of Frohman's companies, his last appearance being in the character of the Professor in the "White Horse Tavern." He was a great character actor and a thorough artist, whose work, as delicate and clean-cut as a cameo, was considered to be as fine an exposition of the dramatic art as has been presented on the modern stage. He, moreover, reflected in his acting all the sweetness and purity of a model private life. His friend, Rev. Minot J. Savage, said at his funeral:



Felix Morris

ancestral estate, "Mansfield," near Louisa, Louisa County, Va.

TAYLOR, John May, a Representative from Tennessee; born in Lexington, Henderson County, Tenn., May 18, 1838; attended the Male Academy in Lexington and the Union University, Murfreesboro, Tenn.; was graduated from the law department of Cumberland University, Lebanon, Tenn., in 1861; was admitted to the bar the same year and commenced practice in Lexington; enlisted in the Confederate Army; was elected first lieutenant in June 1861 and promoted to captain; elected major in the Twenty-seventh Tennessee Regiment in 1862; mayor of Lexington in 1869 and 1870; delegate to the State constitutional convention of Tennessee in 1870; attorney general of the eleventh judicial circuit of Tennessee 1870-1878; delegate to the Democratic National Convention in 1880; member of the State house of representatives in 1881 and 1882; elected as a Democrat to the Forty-eighth and Forty-ninth Congresses (March 4, 1883-March 3, 1887); chairman, Committee on Expenditures in the Department of the Navy (Forty-ninth Congress); member of the State senate in 1892; resumed the practice of law; was appointed judge of the criminal court for the eleventh judicial circuit in 1895 and subsequently elected for a six-year term, serving until the court was abolished; elected in August 1902 as a judge of the court of chancery appeals (name changed to court of civil appeals by the legislature); reelected in 1910 for a period of eight years and served until his death; died in Lexington, Tenn., February 17, 1911; interment in Lexington Cemetery.

TAYLOR, John W., a Representative from New York; born in Charlton, N.Y., March 26, 1784; received his early education at home; was graduated from Union College, Schenectady, N.Y., in 1803; studied law; was admitted to the bar in 1807 and commenced practice in Ballston Spa, N.Y.; organized the Ballston Center Academy; justice of the peace in 1808; member of the State assembly in 1812 and 1813; elected as a Republican to the Thirteenth Congress and reelected to the nine succeeding Congresses (March 4, 1813-March 3, 1833); chairman, Committee on Elections (Fourteenth and Fifteenth Congresses), Committee on Revisal and Unfinished Business (Fifteenth Congress), Committee on Elections (Sixteenth and Nineteenth Congresses); unsuccessful candidate for reelection in 1832 to the Twenty-third Congress; resumed the practice of law in Ballston Spa, N.Y.; member of the State senate in 1840 and 1841, but resigned in consequence of a paralytic stroke; moved to Cleveland, Ohio, in 1843, and died there September 18, 1854; interment in the City Cemetery, Ballston Spa, Saratoga County, N.Y.

Bibliography: DAB; Spann, Edward K. "John W. Taylor, The Reluctant Partisan, 1784-1854." Ph.D. dissertation, New York University, 1957.

TAYLOR, Jonathan, a Representative from Ohio; born near Mansfield, Conn., in 1796; moved to Newark, Ohio; completed an academic course; studied law; was admitted to the bar and commenced practice in Newark; appointed by the Governor a commissioner to settle the boundary dispute between Ohio and Michigan; brigadier general in the State militia; member of the State house of representatives 1831-1833; served in the State senate 1833-1836; elected as a Democrat to the Twenty-sixth Congress (March 4, 1839-March 3, 1841); died in Newark, Licking County, Ohio, in April 1848; interment in the Old Cemetery; reinterment in Cedar Hill Cemetery.

TAYLOR, Joseph Danner, a Representative from Ohio; born in Goshen Township, Belmont County, Ohio, November 7, 1830; attended the common schools and Madison College

at Antrim; taught school 1854-1856, and was principal of the Fairview High School in 1857; studied law in Cincinnati, Ohio, and was admitted to the bar in 1859; was graduated from the Cincinnati Law College in 1860 and commenced practice in Cambridge, Guernsey County, Ohio, the same year; owner of the Guernsey Times 1861-1871; during the Civil War entered the Union Army as a captain in the Eighty-eighth Regiment, Ohio Volunteer Infantry; was judge advocate of the Department of Indiana in 1863 and 1864; citizen judge advocate in Indianapolis, Ind., in 1865; prosecuting attorney of Guernsey County, Ohio, 1863-1866; delegate to the Philadelphia Loyalist Convention in 1866; member of the Cambridge School Board 1870-1877; delegate to the Republican National Conventions in 1876 and 1880; elected as a Republican to the Forty-seventh Congress to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Jonathan T. Updegraff; reelected to the Forty-eighth Congress and served from January 2, 1883, to March 3, 1885; unsuccessful candidate for reelection in 1884 to the Forty-ninth Congress; elected to the Fiftieth, Fifty-first, and Fifty-second Congresses (March 4, 1887-March 3, 1893); died in Cambridge, Ohio, September 19, 1899; interment in the South Cemetery.

TAYLOR, Miles, a Representative from Louisiana; born in Saratoga Springs, N.Y., July 16, 1805; received a liberal education; moved to Bayou Lafourche, La.; studied medicine, but never practiced; studied law; was admitted to the bar and commenced practice in Donaldsonville, Ascension Parish, La.; moved to New Orleans, La., about 1847; held several local offices; appointed by the Governor in 1849 as a member of a committee to revise the Civil Code, the Code of Procedure, and the Statutes of Louisiana; elected as a Democrat to the Thirty-fourth, Thirty-fifth, and Thirty-sixth Congresses and served from March 4, 1855, to February 5, 1861, when he withdrew; chairman of the Douglas National Executive Committee in 1869; resumed the practice of law in New Orleans, La.; died in Saratoga Springs, N.Y., September 23, 1873; interment on the family plantation, "Front Scatery," near Belle Alliance, Assumption Parish, La.

TAYLOR, Nathaniel Green (father of Alfred Alexander Taylor and Robert Love Taylor), a Representative from Tennessee; born in Happy Valley, Carter County, Tenn., December 29, 1819; was educated in private schools and Washington College, near Jonesboro, Tenn.; was graduated from Princeton College in 1840; studied law; was admitted to the bar in 1841 and commenced practice in Elizabethton, Carter County, Tenn.; elected as a Whig to the Thirty-third Congress to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Brookins Campbell, who never qualified, and served from March 30, 1854, to March 3, 1855; unsuccessful candidate for reelection in 1854 to the Thirty-fourth Congress; presidential elector on the Constitutional Union ticket of Bell and Everett in 1860; member of the relief association formed for the aid of war sufferers in east Tennessee and lectured in their behalf throughout the East; upon the readmission of Tennessee to representation was elected as a Unionist to the Thirty-ninth Congress and served from July 24, 1866, to March 3, 1867; was not a candidate for renomination in 1866, Commissioner of Indian Affairs from March 26, 1867, to April 21, 1869, when he retired, and devoted himself to farming and preaching; died in Happy Valley, Carter County, Tenn., April 1, 1887; interment in the old Taylor private cemetery.

TAYLOR, Nelson, a Representative from New York; born in South Norwalk, Conn., June 8, 1821; attended the common schools; enlisted for the Mexican War as a captain in the First Regiment, New York Volunteer Infantry,

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of the US Congress

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In 1798 he was elected by the General Assembly as a judge of the superior court and began a distinguished judicial career of thirty years. In the absence of a state court of appeals, the superior court judges were required from 1799 to meet twice each year in Raleigh as a court, called the court of conference from 1801 and the supreme court from 1805, for the determination of questions of law and equity arising on the circuits. In pursuance of a law of 1810, the judges selected Taylor in July 1811 as presiding officer with the title of chief justice. From about this time he resided in Raleigh. In 1818 the General Assembly established a distinct supreme court and chose Taylor one of the three judges. At the first term of this court, in January 1819, his associates elected him chief justice—a position which he held until his death in 1829. As the first chief justice, Taylor brought learning, respectability, and prestige to the supreme court. "Preëminently a safe judge" who followed precedent with religious zeal, he made no distinctive contributions to jurisprudence; but broad information, exemplary patience, unflinching courtesy, high feelings, good judgment, and love of justice won esteem for him and respect for the law. His opinions, as found in 1–12 *North Carolina Reports* are marked in many instances by thoroughness of legal investigation and clarity of composition.

Early in his career he began to make notes on cases which came before him and in 1802 issued *Cases Determined in the Superior Courts* . . . , reprinted in the first volume of *North Carolina Reports*. He subsequently published *Carolina Law Repository* (2 vols., 1814–16), and *Cases Adjudged in the Supreme Court of North Carolina from July Term 1816, to January Term, 1818, Inclusive* (1818), known as "North Carolina Term Reports," both reprinted in part in 4 *North Carolina Reports*. Under legislative appointment of 1817 to revise the statute law, Taylor, Henry Potter, and Bartlett Yancey issued *Laws of the State of North Carolina* (2 vols., 1821), known as "Potter's Revisal"; Taylor continued the work through 1825 in *A Revisal of the Laws* . . . (1827), known as "Taylor's Revisal." He also published *A Charge Delivered to the Grand Jury of Edgecombe Superior Court* . . . (1817) and *A Digest of the Statute Law of North Carolina Relative to Wills, Executors and Administrators, the Provision for Widows, and the Distribution of Intestates Estates* (1824). He was grand master of the Masonic fraternity in North Carolina (1802–05, 1814–17), a benefactor of the University of North Carolina, and a trustee (1793–

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1818). His death occurred at his home in Raleigh.

[*Laws of N. C., 1799–1818; Jours. of the House of Commons, 1790–1818; Craven County Marriage Bonds, in N. C. Hist. Commission; Fayetteville Gazette, Dec. 11, 1792; Raleigh Reg. and North-Carolina State Gazette, July 5, 1811; Raleigh Reg. and North-Carolina Gazette, Jan. 8, 1810, Feb. 3, 1820; W. H. Hoyt, The Papers of Archibald D. Murphey (1914), vol. I; 16 N. C. Reports, 308; 107 N. C. Reports, App. following p. 985; W. H. Battle, "Memoir of John Louis Taylor," in N. C. Univ. Mag., Mar. 1860; S. A. Ashe, Biog. Hist. of N. C., vol. V (1906); K. P. Battle, Hist. of the Univ. of N. C., vol. I (1907); Walter Clark, "Hist. of the Superior and Supreme Courts of N. C.," in The N. C. Booklet, Oct. 1918.] A.R.N.*

TAYLOR, JOHN W. (Mar. 26, 1784–Sept. 18, 1854), anti-slavery leader, was born at Charlton, N. Y., the son of Judge John Taylor and Chloe (Cox) Taylor, and a descendant of Edward Taylor who settled in Monmouth County, N. J., in 1692. After graduating from Union College, Schenectady, he began the study of law with Samuel Cook. Admitted to the bar in 1807, he formed a partnership with Cook and began to practise at Ballston Spa. On July 10, 1806, he married Jane Hodge, who died in 1838, having borne him three daughters and five sons. After two years in the New York Assembly (1811–12), he represented Saratoga County for twenty consecutive years in the federal House of Representatives (Mar. 4, 1813–Mar. 3, 1833). He favored a national bank and a protective tariff, although he regarded federal appropriations for roads and canals as unconstitutional. During the presidency of the second Adams he was a leader of administration policies and later a member of the Whig party.

The slavery question brought him into national prominence. He seconded the amendment of James Tallmadge [*q.v.*] to the Missouri bill, prohibiting the further introduction of slavery in the proposed state and liberating at the age of twenty-five all children born of slave parents. To the bill organizing Arkansas Territory, he moved a similar amendment. When his motion was lost he submitted a proposal prohibiting the introduction of slavery into the territories north of 36° 30', in support of his restrictive policy delivering some of the first anti-slavery speeches heard in Congress (*Annals of Congress*, 15 Cong., 2 Sess., pp. 1170–93; 16 Cong., 1 Sess., pp. 958–66). He argued that the power of Congress to admit new states implied a power to refuse to admit, and hence a power to prescribe conditions on which it would admit. As precedents he pointed to Ohio, Indiana, and Illinois, which had been compelled to frame constitutions excluding slavery, and to Louisiana, where Congress had insisted on English as

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the official language and the guarantee of *habeas corpus*, jury trial, and religious liberty. He also held that the provision vesting in Congress power to prohibit the "importation or migration" of slaves after 1808 was applicable in this connection, since the word "migration" meant the passage from one commonwealth to another. As to the expediency of restriction, he contended that slavery was ruinous to the economy of the country. He declared, also, that Congress was obligated to restrict slavery since slavery was incompatible with the "republican form of government" which it was the constitutional duty of the United States to guarantee to every state.

Taylor served two terms as speaker of the House of Representatives (Nov. 15, 1820-Mar. 3, 1821, Dec. 5, 1825-Mar. 3, 1827), in each case being defeated for reelection. In a letter to his son, he said: "I lost my third election as Speaker through my direct opposition to slavery" (MS., in the possession of Taylor's granddaughter, Mrs. Clarissa Taylor Bass, Freeport, Ill.). While the South never forgave the part he played in the Missouri controversy, the chief opposition came from his own state. The anti-Clintonian faction in New York encompassed his defeat in 1821, and the Van Buren Democrats were largely responsible for it in 1827. In November 1832 they thwarted his reelection to Congress. From 1840 to 1842 he was a member of the New York Senate, from which ill health compelled his retirement. In 1843 he removed to Cleveland, Ohio, where he spent the remainder of his life at his daughter's home.

[Elisha Taylor, *Geneal. of Judge John Taylor and His Descendants* (1886); *Biog. Dir. Am. Cong.* (1928); *Memoirs of John Quincy Adams*, vols. IV-VII (1875); S. B. Dixon, *The True Hist. of the Mo. Compromise and Its Repeal* (1899); D. S. Alexander, *A Pol. Hist. of the State of N. Y.*, vols. I, II (1906); E. F. Grose, *Centennial Hist. of the Village of Ballston Spa* (1907); *N. Y. Tribune*, Sept. 22, 1854.] J. G. V—D.

TAYLOR, JOSEPH WRIGHT (Mar. 1, 1810-Jan. 18, 1880), philanthropist, physician, merchant, founder of Bryn Mawr College, was born in a farmhouse in Upper Freehold Township, Monmouth County, N. J., the youngest of a family of seven. His father, Edward, descended from Edward Taylor who settled in Monmouth County in 1692, was a country physician, a graduate of the College of New Jersey. The Taylors were Baptists, but Edward joined the Society of Friends after his marriage to Sarah Merritt, whose family had been among the early Quaker settlers of New Jersey. Sarah Taylor "had a concern" (in the Quaker phrase) for the insane, and in 1823 she and her husband

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became respectively matron and physician of the Friends' Asylum near Frankford, a suburb of Philadelphia. Joseph was educated at a boarding school near Frankford, and later studied medicine at the University of Pennsylvania, where he received the degree of M.D. at the early age of twenty. That same year, 1830, he sailed for India as surgeon and supercargo on a merchant vessel. Three years after his return he set off to join his brother Abraham, who had successfully established himself ten years earlier in Cincinnati as a tanner and dealer in leather. Joseph became purchasing agent for the firm and traveled widely in Ohio, Kentucky, and Indiana.

After fifteen prosperous years Taylor, an ardent traveler, started on his first European tour, and two years later settled in Burlington, N. J., where he purchased an estate and lived the life of a country gentleman. He was unmarried, but was devoted to his sister Hannah who kept house for him and had several warm friendships with other cultivated women. Descriptions in this period picture him as of medium height, unusually handsome in feature, exquisitely neat in dress, and distinguished in carriage. In 1861 he took another trip to England and the Continent, and in his later life traveled much in the United States. He was able to increase his fortune very materially by judicious investments after retiring from his brother's business.

Taylor was interested in most of the causes supported by the Society of Friends, such as abolition of slavery and promotion of international peace, temperance, and education. His determination to found a woman's college, which appears to have been fixed by the year 1875, probably had its origin in his perception of the real need for such an institution for the education of Quaker girls and his feeling that it was consistent with Quaker principles to provide the same facilities for the higher education of women in the neighborhood of Philadelphia as was provided for the education of men at Haverford College, of which he had been one of the managers since 1854.

His first plan was to open the college at Burlington near his own house in order to direct its growth himself. He was persuaded by his advisers, of whom Francis King, the president of the trustees of the Johns Hopkins Hospital, was the most trusted, that it would be wise to find a location more convenient to Philadelphia. President Gilman of Johns Hopkins, President Seelye of Smith, and other experienced educators were consulted, and two trips were made to New England to visit Mount Holyoke, Smith, and Wellesley. Land was purchased at Bryn Mawr, eleven

Taylor, John W.

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THE RISE OF THE HOUSE

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President Madison and his successor, James Monroe, were not slow to realize the potency that Clay had given to the office of Speaker, but neither of these presidents attempted to influence the House's choice. The same could not be said for Monroe's secretary of state, John Quincy Adams, who nibbled around the edges of the contest in 1821. Adams was approached by John W. Taylor of New York, the incumbent Speaker who sought the administration's help in his reelection campaign. Learning of the conversation between Adams and Taylor, President Monroe disavowed the entire effort to exert influence on the House's choice, holding that the separation of powers between the two branches forbade such interference. Adams acceded to Monroe's wishes, and Taylor was defeated by Philip C. Barbour of Virginia.

THE HOUSE ELECTS THE PRESIDENT. Monroe's second term would come to end in 1825, and twenty-four uninterrupted years of Jeffersonian, Democratic-Republican, or just plain "Republican" control of the executive branch of government had left the opposition Federalists so demoralized that they did not even offer a candidate for the presidency. There was no lack of interested and qualified Democratic contenders for the position, three of whom were members of President Monroe's cabinet. John Quincy Adams, son of the second president, was joined in the race by William H. Crawford of Georgia, who was nominated by a poorly attended congressional caucus, and by Secretary of War John C. Calhoun, who eventually withdrew and ran for the vice presidency. Henry Clay was a formidable contestant for the office, as was Andrew Jackson, hero of the Battle of New Orleans and senator from Tennessee.

For the first time, legislatures did not select all the electors. In eighteen states there was popular voting for electors, while in six others the members of the state legislatures continued to choose them. Jackson ran first in the popular vote and also led with 99 electoral votes; Adams trailed slightly with 84 electoral votes; Crawford, who was almost completely disabled by a stroke, received 41 votes; and Clay brought up the rear with 37. Because no one had received a majority, the House of Representatives was once again called upon to discharge its

Constitutional responsibility, this time under the provisions of the Twelfth Amendment, which had been enacted after the election of 1800.

Jackson had carried eleven states and needed a total of thirteen House delegations to win. Adams could count on seven delegations, and Clay could presumably influence the delegations of the three states he had carried in the election. Crawford's stroke was so severe that he was not a factor in the contest. Two states—Illinois and Missouri—were represented in the House by one member each, and though these states had voted for Jackson, the two congressmen voted for Adams. Clay threw his support to Adams also, and with the assistance of Stephen Van Rensselaer, a wealthy New Yorker who apparently feared that his property would be endangered if Jackson were president, Adams won on the first ballot in the House. He promptly named Clay his secretary of state, an appointment which resulted in unbridled criticism of both men amidst charges that Clay had "sold out" to Adams in return for the job.

INFLUENCING THE SPEAKER'S ELECTION. Adams himself soon had to deal with the issue of who would become Speaker, and he did not follow Monroe's course of noninterference. Adams had several conversations with former Speaker of the House Taylor late in 1825, prior to the convening date of the new Congress, and they discussed, according to Adams, such topics as the "composition of committees in the event of his success." The conversation turned to the appointment of committee chairmen, said Adams, at which point he opined that while Taylor probably "could not displace the chairmen generally, who had been such in the last Congress, . . . he was disposed to arrange the members so that justice may be done as far as practicable to the Administration."

Taylor was elected Speaker on the second ballot, prompting Secretary of State Clay to comment upon the "evidence of the strength of the Administration." Two years later, when Adams's candidate for Speaker was defeated, Clay noted the president's loss of political strength and observed, "This settles the complexion of the House."

The ascent of Andrew Jackson to the presidency after only

CLASS OF 1803

JOHN W. TAYLOR

Born March 26, 1784 and died 1854; graduated from Union College, Schenectady, N. Y., 1803, as valedictorian of his class; organized Ballston Centre Academy that year; attorney-at-law 1807; married Jane Hodge of Albany, N. Y., 1806 (a beautiful woman, attractive, courageous, practical, efficient, with great delicacy and tact. She died 1838). justice of the peace in 1808, and State Commissioner of loans at Ballston Spa., Saratoga Co., N. Y.; member of the legislature of New York, 1811-12--vigorous supporter of the War of 1812 with Great Britain. He was member of Congress uninterruptedly twenty years, from 1813 to 1833, both inclusive, was Speaker of the House of Representatives in the Sixteenth and again in the Nineteenth Congress. On the admission of Missouri he delivered the first speech ever made in Congress squarely opposing the extension of slavery. He was a practical man of good judgment, experience, observation and decision, and was often consulted in national affairs by Presidents Madison, Monroe and Adams, also by Clay, Webster and Everett. He was vestryman of the Episcopal Church, Ballston Spa, and a founder of the Saratoga County Bible Society. In 1840 he was elected senator to the legislature of New York. The Senate was then the highest court of appeal in that State, and in 1841, while preparing opinions in cases argued in that court, he was stricken with paralysis, permanently disabled, and resigned his senatorial office. He died in 1854 in Cleveland, Ohio, at the home of his eldest daughter and her husband, William D. Beattie, where he was tenderly cared for during the last ten years of his life. He and his wife are buried in the cemetery family lot at Ballston Spa. He was a gentleman of the old school, polite and courteous, a forcible speaker, and delivered frequent orations on literary and national topics. He was a National Republican and a Whig. In private life he was retiring, fond of cultivating his garden, and generous in distributing its fruits and flowers. He was a Phi Beta Kappa, and delivered before that society, at Harvard College, Mass., the commencement oration in 1827. He accompanied General Lafayette of France through New England in his last visit to the United States. He hated corruption in politics and spurned the use of money for political personal success and his constituency always retained unwavering confidence in his sterling integrity.

Their children were: Sarah Jane, Born February, 1808; James Hodge, born October, 1809; Elizabeth Ann, born October, 1812; Melvina, born March, 1815; John William, born February, 1817; Charles Edward, born January, 1820; Oscar, born February, 1822; Edgar, born April, 1824. All born in Saratoga County, N. Y.

FROM Genealogy of Judge John Taylor pp 27-28
Detroit, Mich. 1886.

(March 26, 1784-September 18, 1854)

Anti-slavery leader, was born at Charlton, N.Y., the son of Judge John Taylor and Chloe (Cox) Taylor, and descendant of Edward Taylor, who settled in Monmouth County, New Jersey, in 1692. After graduating from Union College, Schenectady, he began the study of law with Samuel Cook. Admitted to the bar in 1807, he formed a partnership with Cook and began to practise at Ballston Spa. On July 10, 1806, he married Jane Hodge, who died in 1838, having borne him three daughters and five sons. After two years in the New York Assembly (1811-12), he represented Saratoga County for twenty consecutive years in the Federal House of Representatives (Mar. 4, 1813-Mr. 3, 1833). He favored a national bank and a protective tariff, although he regarded federal appropriations for roads and canals as unconstitutional. During the presidency of the second Adams he was a leader of administration policies and later a member of the Whig party.

The slavery question brought him into national prominence. He seconded an amendment of James Tallmadge to the Missouri bill, prohibiting the further introduction of slavery in the proposed State and liberating at the age of 25 all children born of slave parents. To the bill organizing Arkansas Territory, he moved a similar amendment. When his motion was lost he submitted a proposal prohibiting the introduction of slavery into the territories north of 36 degrees 30 minutes in support of his restrictive policy delivering some of the first anti-slavery speeches heard in Congress (Annals of Congress 15 Cong. 2 Sess. 1170-93; 16 Cong. 1 Sess. pp. 958-66). He argued that the power of Congress to admit new states implied a power to refuse to admit, and hence a power to prescribe conditions on which it would admit. As precedents he pointed to Ohio, Indiana and Illinois, which had been compelled to frame constitutions excluding slavery, and to Louisiana when Congress had insisted on English as the official language, and other guarantee of habeas corpus, jury trial, and religious liberty. He also held that the provision vesting in Congress power to prohibit the "importation or migration" of slaves after 1808 was applicable in this connection, since the word "migration" meant the passage from one commonwealth to another. As to the expediency of restriction, he contended that slavery was ruinous to the economy of the country. He declared, also, that Congress was obligated

to restrict slavery since slavery was incompatible with the "republican form of government" which it was the constitutional duty of the United States to guarantee to every State.

Taylor served two terms as speaker of the House of Representatives (Nov.15,1820-Mar. 3, 1821; Dec. 5, 1825-Mar.3,1827), in each case being defeated for re-election. In a letter to his son, he said:"I lost my third election as speaker through my direct opposition to slavery." (Mss. in possession of Taylor's granddaughter, Mrs. Clarissa Taylor Bass, Freeport, Ill.)

While the South never forgave the part he played in the Missouri controversy, the chief opposition came from his own State. The anti-Clintonian faction in New York encompassed his defeat in 1821, and the Van Buren Democrats were largely responsible for it in 1827. In Nov. 1832, they thwarted his re-election to Congress.

From 1840 to 1842 he was a member of the New York Senate from which ill-health compelled his retirement. In 1843 he removed to Cleveland, Ohio, where he spent the remainder of his life at his daughter's home.

Dictionary of American Biography
vol. 18 pp.335-336
Article by John G. Van Deusen

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4. S.B.Dixon-The True History of the Missouri Compromise and Its Repeal. 1899
5. D.S.Alexander-A Polit.Hist.of the State of N.Y. vols. I,II. 1906
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7. New York Tribune, Sept. 22, 1854.

CLASS OF 1803.

JOHN W. TAYLOR.

Son of Judge John .
Born March 26, 1784.
Died at Cleveland, Ohio, Sept. 18, 1854.
Married Jane Hodge (she was born April 29, 1786;
died June 27, 1838).

He was a Member of Congress for twenty years, and
Speaker of the House of Representatives, two terms, viz.,
1821 and 1825 during the administrations of James Munroe
and John Quincy Adams. His period of service extended
from 1813 to 1833. It is said that he was the first
member to make a speech on the floor of the House squarely
in opposition to slavery.

His children:

1. Sarah Jane, b. Feb. 27, 1808;
m. William D. Beattie.
2. James H. b. --; without issue; drowned.
3. Elizabeth Ann, b. 1812; m. Thomas D. Robertson.
4. Malvina, b. Mar. 9, 1815;
m. Dr. Edward Taylor, of Cleveland.
5. John William, b. Feb. 22, 1817
m. Jane Wedleigh.
6. Oscar b. Feb. 16, 1822
m. Malvina M. Snow.
7. Edgar, Dr. b. April 11, 1824.
Lives at Palmyra, Mo.
8. Charles Edward

The Jerseyman
vol. 9 p. 2

From the Genealogy of the Taylor Family compiled by
Asher Taylor.

Two illustrious names in the State and nation are those of John W. Taylor and Samuel Young (Hon. LL.D., 1814). In early life they lived as neighbors in the town of Ballston, and both choosing the law as a profession, they began their legal studies at Court House Hill, Young entering the office of James Emott as a student, and Taylor the office of Judge Samuel Cook. Admitted to the bar of Saratoga County about the same time, they entered enthusiastically upon the practice of the law. The eminent legal ability displayed by them was doubtless the stepping-stone to the high honors they achieved in the political arena of the State and nation, as leading statesmen of their time.

Mr. Taylor was a member of the State Assembly in 1812-and 1813, and at the election of 1813 was chosen to represent Saratoga county in the ^{*}Thirtieth Congress continuing as a member of the house for forty years. He succeeded Henry Clay as speaker, and was the only citizen of New York who has even held the third place in the government. A contemporary of Webster, Clay and Calhoun, a brilliant orator and statesman; a man of rare judgment and experience, he was a leader of the public opinion of the day. In 1840 he was elected to the State Senate, succeeding the friend of his boyhood, Samuel Young, who had resigned. While holding this office he was stricken with paralysis and resigned. He died at Cleveland, Ohio, about fourteen years later. He is buried in the cemetery near his home in Ballston Spa.

Legal and Judicial History of New York.
Vol. III p. 156
Alden Chester, Editor
New York
1911.

* Thirteenth

John W. Taylor of New York---on the platform of loose construction, protective tariff, internal improvements, and opposition to slavery extension ---was elected to the Chair. Friendly to President Monroe and loyal to John Quincy Adams, his election was an index of the strength of the latter in Congress. Taylor, while an able man, was dwarfed into insignificance by the fame and ability of his predecessor (Henry Clay). His conduct of the office, however, met with general commendation.

The political intrigues inspired by the approaching Presidential struggle exerted a powerful influence upon the conduct of the seventeenth Congress which convened December 3rd, 1821. Immediately an animated and exhilarating contest over the Speakership was launched. Three competitors were presented to contest for the honor with John W. Taylor who, though he had proved acceptable to the last Congress, was far from attractive either in manners or personality. McLane, the venerable Rodney of Delaware, and Samuel Smith of Maryland, were the original entries. On the following day Philip P. Barbour of Virginia gradually fused the opposition until on the twelfth ballot he was elected by a modest majority. Taylor's supporters never once wavered during the balloting and even then his strength gradually increased from vote to vote, but the combined power of the Cabinet and the dissensions of the Middle State Republicans proved too great a handicap/ pp.51-52

In 1823 Clay returned to the House stronger in popularity than ever before and in better sympathy with the administration. Of the two men who had occupied the presiding Chair since his retirement, Taylor declined to offer himself as a candidate,--- p. 53

After Clay had quit Congress in 1825, to accept the portfolio of State under President Adams, John W. Taylor of New York was elected by a small majority (99 to 94) to the office which he had held five years previously. His term was without particular incident-- it was the darkness that brightened the candle of Clay's glory. p.59

Taylor polled 94 votes (Dec. 1827) for Speaker against 104 for Andrew Stevenson of Virginia. p. 60.

The Speakers of the House
Hubert Bruce Fuller
Little, Brown, and Company
Boston, Mass. 1909.

The new Constitution changed the date of elections from April to November, and reduced the gubernatorial term from three years to two, thus ending Governor Clinton's administration on January 1, 1823. As the time approached for nominating his successor, it was obvious that the Bucktails, having reduced party discipline to a science and launched the Albany Regency upon its long career of party domination, were certain to control the election. Indeed, so strong had the party become that a nomination for senator or assemblyman was equivalent to an election, and the defeat of John W. Taylor of Saratoga for speaker of the Seventeenth Congress showed that its power extended to the capital of the nation. Taylor's ability and splendid leadership, in the historic contest of the Missouri Compromise, had made him speaker during the second session of the Sixteenth Congress; but Bucktail resentment of his friendly attitude toward Clinton, in 1820, changed a sufficient number of his New York colleagues to deprive him of re-election. It was not until the Nineteenth Congress, after the power of the Albany Regency had been temporarily broken by the election of John Quincy Adams to the Presidency, that Taylor finally received the reward to which he was so richly entitled.

Vol. 1 p. 312

It was the breaking-up of the old parties. The great political crisis which had been threatening the country for many years was about to burst, and, like the first big raindrops that precede a downpour, the changes in 1854 announced its presence. It has been so long in coming that John W. Taylor of Saratoga, the champion opponent of the Missouri Compromise, was dying when Horace Greeley, at the anti-Nebraska convention held in Taylor's home in August, 1854, was writing into the platform of the new Republican party the principles that Taylor tried to write into the old Republican party in 1820. "Whoever reads Taylor's speeches in that troubled period," says Stanton, "will find than as sound in doctrine, as strong in argument, as splendid in diction, as any utterances of the following forty-five years, when the thirteenth amendment closed the controversy for all time."

Footnote:- H.B. Stanton, Random Recollections, p. 164. John W. Taylor served twenty consecutive years in Congress--a longer continuous service than any New York successor. Taylor also bears the proud distinction of being the only speaker from New York. Twice he was honored as the successor of Henry Clay. He died at the home of his daughter in Cleveland, Ohio, in September, 1854, at the age of seventy, leaving a place in history strongly marked.

Vol. 2 p. 204.

1803

JOHN W. TAYLOR:

(2) (Alexander)

Declined nomination for lieutenant governor in 1824.

Vol. 1 p. 331

So overwhelming was the victory that Van Buren had no trouble at the opening of the Twentieth Congress to defeat the re-election of John W. Taylor for speaker.

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CLASS OF 1803

JOHN W. TAYLOR

At this point, it is proper to digress from the chronological order and bear testimony to the merits of a son of Saratoga and a talented member of our early bar. Hon. John W. Taylor was born in Ballston, (now Charlton) March 26, 1784. He was the son of Judge John Taylor. After graduating from Union College in 1803, he studied law and established an office in connection with Samuel Cook at Court House hill about the year 1806. They afterwards embarked in the lumber trade and Mr. Taylor removed to Jessup's Landing in Hadley, (now Corinth) to superintend the business. In 1811, he was elected to the state assembly and was re-elected the next year. In the fall of 1812 he was chosen to represent the eleventh district (Saratoga county) in the thirteenth congress. He removed, soon after, back to his former residence, and in 1819 to the house now occupied by Justice John Brown in Ballston Spa. He was elected to congress for ten consecutive terms. Mr. Taylor was twice chosen speaker of the house of representatives: first of the sixteenth congress, in 1821, for the second session to succeed Hon. Henry Clay, who had resigned his seat; and, again, in 1825 of the nineteenth congress, for the full term. In 1840 he was chosen state senator and served until August 19, 1842, when he resigned. He subsequently removed to Cleveland, Ohio, where he died September 18, 1854. His remains were interred in the cemetery at Ballston Spa, and a plain slab, modestly inscribed with his name and dates of birth and death, marks the last resting place of the venerable statesman, who was the only citizen of New York who ever held the third place in our government.

FROM The Bench and Bar of Saratoga County
 Enos R. Mann
 Waterbury & Inman
 Ballston, N. Y. 1876.

HON. JOHN W. TAYLOR, A.M., a resident of Ballston, 1803, was a member of the Philomathean Society. He died in 1854.

(Letter of Elisha)

1803

JOHN W. TAYLOR.

Ballston Spa. Saturday, 10 P.M.

Dear Sir:

I perceive that in yesterday's Evening Journal, you announce the death of my brother, the Hon. John W. Taylor, as having occurred at his residence on the preceding day. I hope you, and these journals which may have copied from yours, will correct the mistake. By the blessing of a kind Providence, he is not only alive, but hopes are entertained that he will continue to be a rich comfort to his friends and a blessing to the country.

Just as he rose on Tuesday morning the 9th inst., and while dressing, he was visited with a paralytic stroke, which partially palsied his left side; but with a little assistance from his son, Charles E., he made his toilette. In about 15 minutes the physicians were with him, and took from him twenty-four ounces of blood, administered a powerful cathartic, and applied a blister. During the day they took from him another twenty-four ounces of blood. Cupping and repeated cathartics have been applied. He has been no time since the commencement of his attack, but he could speak intelligently. There has been a manifest improvement to-day. The paralyzed side is more sensitive; he knows those about him, and several occasions has conversed perfectly rational. His physicians tell us, also, that they feel quite encouraged respecting his case.

I was informed of his situation on Wednesday evening and was here early the next morning. - If there should be any material change either way, I will inform you.

Very respectfully yours,
Elisha Taylor. (1810)

(Correspondence of the Albany Evening Journal.)

From: Daily Albany Argus, Nov. 16, 1841.

CLASS OF 1803

JOHN W. TAYLOR.

One of the most distinguished men in political life, in both state and nation, that Saratoga county has ever produced, was throughout his public career a resident of Ballston Spa. He was born in the town of Charlton (then Ballston) March 26, 1784. His father was John Taylor, who moved from Freehold, New Jersey, to the "new country" in the state of New York, and settled in Charlton in 1774. John Taylor was Supervisor of Charlton in 1794 and 1798, in the former year being chosen Moderator of the Board; judge of the county court from 1809 to 1818, inclusive; Member of the Assembly in 1797; justice of the peace in 1808, and State Commissioner of Loans in Saratoga county. He died at the home of his son in Ballston Spa at the age of eighty years.

John W. Taylor graduated from Union College, Schenectady, in 1803, at the early age of nineteen years, and was valedictorian of his class. The same year he organized the Ballston Academy in the "old red meeting house," in the locality which since then has been known as Academy Hill. He also began the study of law with Samuel Cook, and in 1807 opened an office at Court House Hill in connection with that gentleman. Subsequently they engaged in the lumber business, to superintend which Mr. Taylor removed to Jessup's Landing, then in the town of Hadley. In 1811 he was elected Member of Assembly, and at the close of the legislative session in 1812 he purchased the residence of Epenetus White, Jr., on West High street, and soon after removed the house to an adjoining lot, and erected the large mansion which was his home for thirty years, and is now the residence of Mr. John Brown. Miss Winifred Louise Taylor, a grand-daughter, has written the author in a most entertaining manner concerning her illustrious ancestor, and with her permission we shall quote liberally from her letter. Regarding the home in Ballston Spa she writes:

"In a very interesting old letter, written in February, 1812, by Mayor Richard Cox, of Mt. Holly, N. J., who was making a journey of 'upward of 1,600 miles,' with his family in his own carriage to visit his relatives--he was a brother to my grandfather's mother--I find this statement relative to my grandfather: 'John is building him a house; at their last election he was chosen representative in their legislature.' Probably the beautiful old mantel and woodwork imported from England still remain in the house. The fine old brass knockers, also an importation, remained on the door of the house until some ten years ago, when Mr. Brown sold it to my brother, and it is now on the front door of my father's house."

In 1813 Mr. Taylor was again a member of the Assembly, and at the election in this year he was chosen to represent Saratoga county (the eleventh district) in the Thirteenth Congress, and was a member of congress uninterruptedly for twenty years. He was elected Speaker of the House of Representatives for the second session of the Sixteenth Congress, as successor of Henry Clay, and in 1825 was chosen Speaker of the Nineteenth Congress for the full term. He was the only citizen of New York who ever held the third place in our government. On the admission of Missouri he

CLASS OF 1803--John W. Taylor--2

delivered the first speech ever made in Congress squarely opposing the extension of slavery. A contemporary of Webster, Clay and Calhoun, a brilliant orator and statesman, a man of rare judgment and experience, he was a leader of public opinion in his time, and was often consulted in national affairs by President Madison, Monroe and Adams.

The Ballston ~~Gazette~~ Spa Gazette, in its issue of December 13, 1825, said editorially of the election of John W. Taylor as Speaker:

"We felicitate the freemen of this country in the result of the choice of our honorable representative, Mr. John W. Taylor, as Speaker of the House of Representatives of the United States. This is not alone a triumph over the machinations of Van Buren and the Crawford party, but it is a triumph of modest merit over a clan of political disorganizers, headed by the honorable Mr. Van Buren. Yes, freemen of Saratoga, the man of your choice has proved himself worthy of the high station of Speaker of the 19th Congress of the United States. And what better evidence of his standing can you require, than that of his receiving the support of such a constellation of talents as compose this Congress. Mr. Taylor was elected on the second ballot by the following vote: For John W. Taylor, 99; John W. Campbell of Ohio, 42; Louis McLane, Delaware, 44; A. Stevenson, Virginia, 5; scattering 5."

In 1840 he was elected to the State Senate which was then the highest court of appeal in the State. In 1841 while preparing opinions in cases argued in that court he was stricken with paralysis, permanently disabled, and resigned his senatorial office. He removed to Cleveland, Ohio, in 1843, making his home with his eldest daughter, Mrs. William D. Beattie, his wife having died about five years previously. He died September 18, 1854, aged seventy years, and his body was brought to Ballston Spa and buried by the side of his wife in the family lot, in the village cemetery. A plain white stone marks the gravestone bearing this inscription: "John W. Taylor, Born March 26, 1784: Died Sept. 18, 1854."

"Mr. Taylor was a gentleman of the old school, polite and courteous, an eloquent and forcible speaker, and delivered frequent orations on literary and national topics. He was a National Republican and a Whig. In private life he was retiring, fond of cultivating his garden, and generous in distributing its fruits and flowers. He hated corruption in politics and spurned the use of money for political personal success, and his constituency always retained unwavering confidence in his sterling integrity."

July 4, 1826, he delivered the oration at the celebration in this village on the fiftieth anniversary of American Independence. A member of the Phi Beta Kappa, he delivered before that society, at Harvard College, the commencement oration in 1827. He was a vestryman of Christ Church (Episcopalian) in this village, and was one of the founders of the Saratoga County Bible Society in 1815. On the last visit of General Lafayette, of France, to the United States, in 1824, he accompanied him through the New England states.

Miss Taylor writes:

"I never saw my grandfather, but I have a number of letters in his own ~~handwriting~~ beautiful, clear handwriting. Perhaps the strongest impression that they gave me is of the courtly dignity of the man; but in his business letters I always find the most scrupulous regard for the rights and claims of others,--and in friendship, always the most grateful remembrance of kindnesses received. As an example I quote from a letter written in 1846. Referring to an old friend who was ill, he writes:

"I pray for her speedy recovery. My recollections of her are associated with those days full of hope, when life was young. One incident among a thousand now occurs. Soon after marriage I went with my wife to Union College to deliver a Master's Oration and receive the degree of A. M. Carriages being all engaged we walked from Given's Hotel after dinner to the church; a storm arose and flooded the streets; my wife was with thin kid slippers and silk gauze stockings, and before reaching the church they were well soaked. The prospect of thus setting through the long exercises was anything but comfortable. I could not go out with her and neglect my part, but we were scarcely seated when Mrs. Foot, taking the stove from under her feet, drew my attention with a parasol, and reached the stove to me over the intervening seats, which made my wife quite comfortable during the meeting. It was so considerate, self-denying and motherly that my wife remembered it to the last." "This quaint picture of by-gone days in Schenectady is worthy of preservation.

"My grandfather's letters to his wife are classics in their line, expressing romantic devotion in forms as delicate and stately as the minuet of their youthful days. A letter to his eleven year old daughter is an extreme example of his ceremonious manner. but shows also his characteristic attitude of deference towards the fair sex:

"Washington, March 9th, 1826.

"Accept, dear Malvina, the congratulations of a parent who loves you, on the returning anniversary of your birth. Entering now in your twelfth year, the improvement of every week becomes more and more important to your future respectability and usefulness. Cultivate, my sweet girl, habitual kindness in your intercourse with your brothers and sisters; affectionate respect and confidence in your dear mother, and perfect truth in your communications with everybody. Observe these rules and honor and happiness are sure to be yours. If I remember rightly you encouraged me to expect a letter from you during the present session. Pray don't dissappoint me.

From your affectionate father,

John W. Taylor.

Miss Malvina Taylor."

"In social life everywhere he seems to have been distinguished for his brilliant and genial urbanity. My grandfather's eldest son, John W. Taylor, who died in New York five years ago, knew and remembered more of the life in the Ballston home than any other member of the family, and in one of his letters to me I find this interesting bit:

"Henry Clay was visiting my father at Ballston Spa when I was a lad, and I remember Mr. Clay placing his hand on my shoulder, with the remark, 'You don't know how popular your father was in Washington. Dolly Madison used to say there was always something wanting at a dinner or a party if Mr. Taylor was absent.'

"Of Dolly Madison's friendship for my grandfather we have a most valuable token, preserved in a beautiful family heirloom. Dolly Madison gave to my grandfather a small piece of cloth of silver of Lady Washington's wedding dress. This precious fabric my grandfather had mounted as a brooch encircled with pearls--and the silver fabric is crossed by a true-lover's knot of the hair of himself and wife, and was given by him to my grandmother. This pin was worn by my mother, Mrs. Oscar Taylor, in 1903, when she unveiled, in the presence of President Roosevelt a memorial stone erected by the Freeport Woman's Club, to mark the spot where the great Lincoln and Douglas debate took place in Freeport in 1858. So do lives long past into the Great Beyond reach down through the vista of years and link themselves with present events."

Miss Taylor sends a description of a dinner given by the British Minister in Washington. It is a glimpse of official life in the nation's capital in early days, that is as interesting as it is rare. Mr. Taylor, then Speaker of the House of Representatives, writes under date of April 24, 1826:

A DIPLOMATIC DINNER.

"I attended a grand diplomatic dinner given by Mr. Vaughan in commemoration of the birth-day of His Britannic Majesty. The presiding officers of both Houses of Congress; the heads of departments and the Foreign Ministers with their secretaries and attaches were their guests. The ministers with their suites were in court dresses, embroidered with gold--all wore swords and carried chapeaux in their hands while waiting in the reception room for an hour until dinner was announced. The presiding officers of the two houses led the way into the dining room, and were followed by the Ministers according to their respective rank. After these came the secretaries of legation and the attaches. I did not observe whether the heads of departments, Secretary of State, Secretary of War, of the Treasury, etc., preceded or followed the Ministers Plenipotentiary. The contrast of all the finery of the Diplomatic Corps exhibited in the plain citizens dress worn by Mr. Calhoun and myself, was heightened by the consideration that precedence in rank was assigned to us. Without insignia of nobility or knighthood, without ribbands stars or crosses, we occupied a station in advance of Barons, Counts and Chevaliers. The variety and exquisite flavor of the wines; the delicacy of the almost endless succession of dishes; the ingenuity in the forms of their preparation; the superbly wrought and massive plate; the discipline of the numerous and well marshalled waiters and attendants, with their red velvet vests and small clothes, white stockings and large drab coats lined with silk, and powdered heads, all gave an appearance of stateliness to the ceremony calculated to produce considerable effect. After the last course of dessert, bouquets were distributed made up of hyacinths, tulips, wall flowers and cedar leaves. Having retired to the drawing room coffee was served, and afterwards liquor. I forgot to mention that the health of the King and President were drank standing, in champagne, between the meats and the dessert..We were invited at 5, sat down at 6, and retired at 9. We had green peas brought from Norfolk, in Virginia."

In the faithful discharge of his public duties; in responding to the frequent demands for addresses on a great variety of topics on public occasions, and in the practice of his profession, Mr. Taylor led a busy life. He found time, however, to engage in religious work. One of the organizers of the Saratoga County Bible Society in August, 1815, in October following he organized an auxiliary society in the town of Ballston, and was its first president. He also organized a large Union Sunday School in Ballston Spa, which met every Sunday afternoon in the Baptist Church, and of which he was the president, as well as the teacher of a large Bible class of adults.

In the Museum in the High School building, a record of this Sunday School, in the handwriting of Mr. Taylor is preserved.

There is also a separate record of a class taught by Mr. Taylor, which is evidently of an earlier date. The class numbered one hundred and thirty-four members.

Mr. Taylor also made a record of the Presbyterian members of his class, September 20, 1819.

The following account is from the Ballston Journal of September 20, 1854:

"The news of the decease of Hon. John W. Taylor, was received with deep sorrow in this village, the place of his former residence, and which he always delighted to call 'his Home.' His last request was that his remains should be buried here; and the affection for the place in which he had received his many and gratifying political triumphs which this request exhibited, produced a deep feeling of honor and respect on the part of our citizens, and revived with all its former intensity the love of those of his associates who are still alive. The proceedings which are reported below, express the deep and fervent feeling which pervaded all parties, and the speeches and resolutions are worthy the occasion--worthy alike of the honored dead and those who assembled to pay respect to a neighbor whose friendship they had enjoyed, and a statesman whose position and talents had conferred honor on his constituents and prominence on his native county.

"Upon the announcement that his remains would reach here on Wednesday noon, a public meeting was immediately called at the Court House, and a large number of citizens assembled to take part in the proceedings. Lebbeus Booth was chosen chairman, and Moses Williams, secretary. The chairman briefly alluded to the object of the meeting, and on the motion, Wm. T. Odell, Arnold Harris and John C. Booth were appointed a committee to reportsuitable resolutions. A committee consisting of Abel Meeker, Geo. G. Scott, James W. Culver, J. H. Spier and Moses Williams, was appointed to receive the remains in behalf of the citizens of the village. While the committee on resolutions was preparing its report, Judge Scott and Abel Meeker addressed the assemblage.

"George G. Scott remarked as follows: 'This is a solemn occasion. The mortal remains of an old and esteemed friend and neighbor are about to arrive amongst us from a distant State, on their way to yonder cemetery, where many, if not all of us, before many years shall elapse, will follow.

'The deceased, in his time, filled for many years a large

space in the public eye. Among the many distinguished men of whom this county can boast, there has not been one who has held such high official position, and whose name has been so widely and extensively known, as the individual whom we are now about to follow to his grave.

'Mr. Taylor, as it is well known, was a native of Charlton, in this county. He graduated at Union College, in 1803, with the highest honors of that institution. On leaving college, he entered upon the study of law, and on his admission to the bar, he commenced its practice in this immediate vicinity. Before he had an opportunity to distinguish himself in his profession, to any considerable extent, he was sent from this county to the House of Assembly. This was about the year 1812--an exciting period in both state and national politics. In December of that year he was elected to the House of Representatives in the Congress of the United States from this District, which was then composed of Saratoga, and two or three of our northern counties, and subsequently reduced to Saratoga alone. Soon after he had entered upon his parliamentary career, it was discovered that his talents were admirably fitted for that branch of the public service. Such was the stand that he took in the House of Representatives, that he was twice elected as the presiding officer of that body, the third ~~position~~ in position in rank and dignity in the General Government, and through four sessions discharged the duties of that difficult and arduous station with signal ability and to the general satisfaction. For twenty consecutive years he was continued by a confiding constituency a member of the House--a distinction, which, if I mistake not, has in no other instance been attained by a northern representative. At each successive election (with the exception of 18240 he encountered the most systematic, well organized and powerful opposition; but he seemed to be enthroned in the hearts of the people of his district, and, as was said of him by a contemporary, 'he was cheered when he flourished, and strengthened when he fainted, as scarce ever was man before.' His commanding abilities and national reputation, no doubt, contributed essentially to his home popularity; but the greatest secret of his ~~happy~~ success was a happy combination of rare social qualities, seldom found united in the same individual. It was difficult to resist the fascination of his polished manners, and the charm of his society and conversation.

"It is a source of consolation to know that the strong and prevailing desire of the last years of his life is about to be accomplished. that he will be laid by the side of the partner of his youth, and that his bones will repose so near his birth-place, at the home of his manhood, and 'among the people whom he loved so well.' "

"Abel Meeker, Esq., also alluded to some appropriate remarks to the many virtues of the deceased, and related some very affecting reminiscences of the private life of Mr. Taylor.

"Col. Wm. T. Odell, chairman of the committee on resolutions, made the following remarks on the introduction of the subjoined resolutions:

"Mr. Chairman--The committee appointed to draft the resolutions expressive of the sense of this meeting, on this solemn occasion, have discharged that duty, and are now ready to report. But before reading the report, permit me, as a member of the committee, to speak for a moment of the veteran statesman, the news

of whose death has called us together. Brought up within a short distance of the residence of the deceased statesman, whom I well remember, my earliest recollections of a public man is of John W. Taylor. His polished and affable manners excited my admiration. Perhaps no man in this country understood so well the rules that govern public assemblies, whether deliberative or popular, and no one presided with greater dignity. Long Speaker of the House of Representatives; and after he was succeeded by another gentleman, it is said that no appeal was ever taken from the decision of his successor, without first offering to submit the point to Mr. Taylor. There his word was law.

"Few young men (with whom he was acquainted) studying for the profession to which he belonged, will ever forget his salutary advice. He must have been thoroughly acquainted with history, for his constant advice to young men was to study well the history of their own and their mother country. In his death one more of the statesmen of an age that is nearly passed, has gone to his long home, where political strife and party contests shall ~~no~~ no more disturb his rest."

The following are the resolutions reported and unanimously adopted:

'Whereas. We have learned with grief of the death of our late distinguished fellow citizen, the Hon. John W. Taylor, and being desirous of testifying our respect for his character as a citizen, a man of noble and generous nature, a lawyer of eminent ability, and a statesman who in his long and distinguished career in both State and National councils, exhibited in the highest degree his intelligent and disinterested patriotism, and his untiring devotion to the interests and prosperity of his country.

'Resolved, That while bowing in humble submission to this dispensation of an All-wise Providence, we look back upon the life of the great and good man who has gone to his rest with a worthy pride in the memory he has left behind him: That from his first entrance into public life as the representative of this, his native county, in the State Legislature in 1812, and during his distinguished career, extended from 1814 to 1834 as our representative in Congress, in which he stood side by side with Clay, Webster, Calhoun and other worthies in the laudable rivalry of patriotic services, and was chosen to succeed the former great statesman as presiding officer of the House of Representatives, we find no stain upon the record to mar the symmetry of a reputation founded upon abilities of the highest order and a patriotism of the purest integrity.

'Resolved, That his memory has been kept ever green in our hearts since his departure from our midst years ago on account of his declining health, and as a citizen, neighbor and friend we ever have, and ever shall cherish the liveliest recollection of his many virtues: That in his earnest desire to be brought back and buried among us, with whom he had so often sympathized in distress and rejoiced in prosperity, we recognize the warm-hearted affection he ever bore for us and ours.

'Resolved, That we tender our warmest sympathy and condolence to his afflicted family and relatives in their great loss, and recognizing therein the hand of Him 'who doeth all things well,' we are comforted by the assurance his well spent life afforded that he was not found unprepared for his end, but wnet down into the 'dark valley of the Shadow of Death' full of years and

honors, and sustained by a firm and unwavering faith in the promises of the gospel.

'Resolved, That a copy of the proceedings of this meeting be sent to his family, and that they be published in the papers in this county and those of the city of Albany. L. Booth, Chairman; Moses Williams, Secretary.' "

The Ballston Journal, Albert A. Moer, editor, said editorially:

"Hon. John W. Taylor, died in Cleveland, Ohio, on the 17th inst, aged 70 years. It will be recollected that he was a native of this county and a resident of this village until 1843, when he removed to the State of Ohio to spend the remainder of his days with his son-in-law, Mr. Beattie.

"He had manifested great anxiety that his body should be interred in the cemetery of Ballston Spa, among his old neighbors and friends, who had always been dear to him. Previous to his death he had written to his valued friend, Lebbeus Booth, requesting that his funeral might be attended from his house; and in accordance with his wishes funeral ceremonies were observed on Thursday, the 21st inst at the Episcopal Church, by a large concourse of old citizens and friends, whose memories called forth many important events of his life, and dwelt with pleasure on his many virtues.

"He was undoubtedly the most popular man we ever had in this county, was chosen a Republican member of the Legislature in 1811, and was the ablest debater that party had in the Assembly. He was elected to Congress in 1813, and represented this District for twenty successive years. He was chosen Speaker twice from among such men as Randolph, Lowndes, Sargent, Archer, Barbour, Floyd, McLane, Mercer, Cobb, Gilmer, etc., a list of great names never surpassed by any deliberative body. He supported the administrations of Madison, Monroe and Adams, and became a firm supporter of Mr. Clay instead of General Jackson. He was a warm advocate of the Missouri Compromise, and his speech upon that question was able and fearless, and was widely circulated.

"He was influential in bringing forward his old friend, Gen. Harrison as a candidate for the Presidency, and was elected to the Senate of this State in the fall of 1840. During the session of '40 and '41 he was attacked with paralysis, from which he never entirely recovered. While he was a Member of Congress, Mr. Taylor was distinguished for soundness of judgment, cautious forecast, and as an able debater. He was eminently useful to the people of his District in procuring pensions for war-worn veterans, and although these duties were promptly discharged, they were always gratuitous."

"He was also remarkable for his social qualities. Affable, generous and polite, he was the delight of his friends. His hospitalities were cheerful and earnest, and no friend left him without a higher estimation of his worth and happier for his visit. His sympathies and liberalities reached the poor, and they have been heard often to bless his name.

"The State of New York may have regarded him as her most distinguished Representative in Congress; but Saratoga county claimed him as her son."

1803
John W. Taylor mg
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Commemorates Taylor birth

The Charlton Historical Society on the evening of March 24, 1984, is commemorating the 200th birthday of John W Taylor.

The committee, chaired by Frederick W Hequembourg includes Paul Borisenko, president of the Charlton Historical Society, and members Damasita and Francis Miner, and Steve and Betty Jordan.

A dinner featuring an early 19th Century menu will be held at the Academy of the Freehold Presbyterian Church, Main Street, in the hamlet of Charlton at 6 pm, followed by a commemorative service in the church proper beginning at 7:30 pm.

John W Taylor was born in Charlton on March 26, 1784, the fifth son of Judge John Taylor. The Taylor homestead was located on Charlton Road near the intersection of Valentine Road where a commemorative marker will be erected later in the spring, and presented to Charlton Supervisor John B Simoni at the service. Taylor graduated as valedictorian from Union College. His legislative career which began in 1811, included a distinguished congressional career spanning 20 years, and he twice served as Speaker of the House of Representatives—the only New Yorker ever to achieve that honor. Later he served as a State Senator.

Congressman Gerald Solomon, who is the present day counterpart of Taylor, will be the principal speaker. His tentative topic will be—Congress 1820 vs 1984.

Master of ceremonies for the event is Francis H Miner. Rev Robert Bunnell of the Freehold Church will give the invocation and benediction. Borisenko will welcome the guests and lead the pledge of allegiance.

Musical selections will be given by a quartet from the Saratoga Racing City Chorus, Robert Youmans and David Howland, organist of the Freehold Church.

Frederick Hequembourg will speak on Taylor's Saratoga County and the Empire State, circa 1810-1825. Pete Murray will introduce Congressman Solomon, as well as direct descendants of Taylor, including the Orville Curtiss family.

The pamphlet—Charlton Worthy, John W Taylor, written in 1976 by Frederick Hequembourg will be given to all those attending the service.

Seating for the dinner is limited, and tickets will be sold on a first come, first served basis. Tickets are \$9 per person. Reservations may be made by contacting Mrs Damasita A Miner, Rd 3, Vines Road, Ballston Lake, 12019.

The commemorative service is open to the public without reservations.

14 Saratoga County Men Served In Congress Since 1791, Record Of Office Surprisingly Reveals

Had Better Recognition Preceding Days Of George West, Last from County, Who Completed Term in 1889

How many members of Congress have represented Saratoga County? Politicians, lawyers and historians in City Hall knew George West, great Ballston Spa paper-maker and father of Mrs. D. W. Mabey, was the last one, and guessed he finished his term 50 years ago. One recalled reading of a John W. Taylor in the county's early history.

The record shows there were 14. It also reveals this county has the proud distinction of sending John W. Taylor to Congress, the only New York State Representative ever to become Speaker of the House.

Taylor, a Phi Beta Kappa graduate of Union College at the age of 18, was born in the Town of Charlton, then Ballston, Mar. 25, 1785. On his graduation from Union in 1803

he originated the Ballston Academy in "the old red meeting house" in the locality in Ballston since known as Academy Hill. He studied law with Samuel Cook and in 1807 opened an office on Court House Hill. They went into the lumber business and Taylor went to Jessup's Landing, near Hadley, to supervise it.

After being Assemblyman in 1811 and 1812, he was elected to Congress in 1813, and served there continuously for 20 years.

Taylor delivered the first anti-slavery speech in Congress, and during the Presidency of the second Adams, was leader of administration policies. He was elected speaker for the Nov. 15, 1820 to Mar. 3, 1821 term and was defeated for re-election by the pro-slavery faction. He was again elected speaker for the term from Dec. 5, 1825 to Mar. 3, 1827, and was again defeated for re-election by the same interests. A contemporary of Webster, Clay and Calhoun he succeeded Henry Clay as speaker each time he was elected.

New York State has had no other Speaker before or since Taylor.

Others from Saratoga County, who represented the district in Congress, were:

1791 to 1795—James Gordon of Ballston.

1799 to 1801—John Thompson,

Continued from preceding column
Stillwater.

1803 to 1805—Beriah Palmer, Ballston.

1807 to 1811—John Thompson, Stillwater.

1813 to 1833—John W. Taylor, Ballston.

1833 to 1837—John Cramer, Waterford.

1839 to 1840—Anson Brown, Milton.

1840 to 1841—Nicholas B. Doe, Saratoga Springs.

1843 to 1845—Cheselden Ellis, Waterford.

1845 to 1851—Hugh White, Waterford.

1859 to 1863—James B. McKean, Saratoga Springs.

1863 to 1869—James M. Marvin, Saratoga Springs.

1873 to 1877—Henry H. Hathorn, Saratoga Springs.

1881 to 1885—George West, Milton.

1887 to 1889—George West, Milton.



JOHN W. TAYLOR

From a portrait in the Capitol at Washington

Courtesy of the Hallston Spa Journal

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Feb 1920

For rest of this article.

JOHN W. TAYLOR

NEW YORK'S SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

If we excepted Theodore M. Pomeroy, of Auburn, who served as Speaker of the House of Representatives for an hour while Schuyler Colfax withdrew in 1869 to take the oath as Vice-President, John W. Taylor is the only Speaker to hail from New York. Kentucky has had five speakers; Virginia and Massachusetts four each; and New Jersey, South Carolina, Tennessee, Georgia and Maine, two each; but the Empire State, with five Presidents and ten Vice-Presidents to its credit, has had but Taylor, who also had the exceptional honor of remaining in Congress for a period exceeded up to the present time by no other New Yorker save one, Sereno Payne of Auburn.

Taylor's portrait in oil has long hung in the Capitol at Washington. The large eyes, high square forehead, and full round face, cleanly shaven, indicate that he belonged to the American type of handsome men, who so often served the Republic in its early years. Moreover, it is the face of a man men love. There are lines of sensitiveness, lines of sympathy and tenderness, unbroken by stern, forbidding brow, but strengthened with lines that mark courage. Intelligence is under the high forehead, fluent speech in the expressive mouth, and strength in the contour of the chin. If the eyes at times seemed cold gray to his opponents, they looked a warm, deep blue to his friends. Taken as a whole, the face expressed a deep sense of duty, blended with tolerance and an abiding firmness.

Behind such a face and such a record there was good blood. The family came from the British Isles in 1692; it fought for the capture of Quebec and distinguished itself in the War of the Revolution; it regarded public office a sacred trust; it planted one of the earliest homes in Saratoga county; and it aided in building the first Presbyterian Church in that vicinity. John W. Taylor, born in Charlton in 1784, could say with Daniel Webster, two years his senior: "I was raised amid the snow drifts at a period so early that when the smoke rose first from the rude chimney of the humble cabin and curled over the frozen

hills, there was no similar evidence of a white man's habitation between it and the settlements on the rivers of Canada." In his early teens he read the *Federalist*, found among his father's papers, and disclosed such a mastery of books that his parents sent him to Union College, which he entered at the age of fifteen, five years after that institution opened. Here he was first called John W., the added initial distinguishing him from another John Taylor of the class. Although "W" stood for no name, he retained it through life. (1)

Three incidents established his character as a student. He was a Phi Beta Kappa; he delivered the valedictory; and he early became distinguished as a brilliant debater, becoming president of the Philomathian Society, which selected him in his Junior year as its anniversary orator. A month after his graduation, although still in his teens, with the down upon his lip, he delivered the Fourth of July address in his native town. He manifested then the same completeness and fulness in his views, and the same power of expression, which he displayed in 1829, when, laden with the honors of a highly successful life, he returned to his Alma Mater to deliver the Phi Beta Kappa oration.

Leaving college in 1803, he founded an academy at Ballston, giving to its locality the name of "Academy Hill," which still survives. It was said of him that he became a professor while still a boy. Nevertheless, upon the advice of Chancellor Kent, who recognized his unusual gifts, he entered the law office of Bleecker and Sedgwick at Albany. (2) Here he met Jane Hodge, a Scotch lassie, noted for her beauty. Although Jane was perfectly conscious of her charms, and many suitors had fanned into a glow the coquettish spirit caught from her Huguenot grandmother, John's large, blue eyes and handsome face destroyed his spirited rivals and brought Jane to his arms. It indicates the high esteem of their neighbors that Governor Morgan Lewis and other state officials called in a body to pay their respects on the wedding day. (3) Jane proved an affectionate wife and devoted mother, rearing a family of five sons and three daughters, all of whom survived her save the eldest son, a graduate of West Point, who met his death while on duty at Fort Towson, Indian Territory.

After maintaining for a brief period a law office on Court House Hill in Ballston, young Taylor removed to Hadley Landing, now Corinth, and engaged as a silent partner in a mercantile business. He also became postmaster and clerk of the town. That his business ventures prospered was evidenced by the erection, in 1912, of a large two-story house on West High street in Ballston Spa, in which he resided for thirty years. Yet notwithstanding his prosperity he was discontented. Having inherited his father's Jeffersonian principles and love of office, the call of the public life lured him. Finally, in 1811, when the town of Hadley elected him to the Legislature, he came into his own.

Although the Assembly of 1812 had a Republican majority, the Federalists possessed the ablest men. Abraham Van Vechten of Albany was the Achilles. Keen, logical, witty, and a powerful debater, he commanded the respect and the fear of his colleagues. Near him sat Elisha Williams of Columbia county, the able opponent of Martin Van Buren, whose sarcasm left a wound like the thrust of a rapier. At their side was Daniel Cady, the father of Elizabeth Cady Stanton, still in his thirties, but destined to become the rival of Ogden Hoffman and Marcus T. Reynolds of the New York Bar. Equally interesting was Jacob R. Van Rensselaer, also a bold, active disciple of Hamilton. With an iron logic he blended a vivid imagination, making him charmingly tolerant, or, as Taylor once expressed it, "fiercely reasonable." Then there was Thomas P. Grosvenor of Hudson, a younger man, full of push and power, but well poised and self-contained.

To compete with this array of talent, the Republicans happened to be illy prepared. Such men as Erastus Root, Obadiah German, Nathan Sanford, Peter A. Porter and Brockholst Livingston, had already left the Assembly, while William A. Duer, Samuel Young, William C. Brouck and others destined to earn a state-wide reputation, had not yet appeared. Several members like Alexander Sheldon, the Speaker, had seen much of public life, but they were of little use on the floor. In such an emergency John W. Taylor, the youngest member of the Assembly, was an agreeable surprise, proving an able, independent

debater, capable of hurling a lance with clever skill. His party recognized him at once as its ablest champion. (4)

In acknowledgment of this superiority, the Speaker picked him to investigate "Union College Lottery No. 2." No objection then existed to lotteries. The money so derived paid for public improvements, founded colleges, and erected churches. Until a small tax rate yielded sufficient revenue for making needed public improvements, the lottery continued necessary and was considered moral. But the state comptroller's settlement of "Union College Lottery No. 2," revealing a loss of \$61,585, indicated bad faith in the management, and after an investigation Taylor found that two directors of supposedly high character had surreptitiously taken large commissions in cash and accepted worthless notes for amounts due the state. Notwithstanding party influence to defeat their exposure, he fearlessly recommended prosecution, and with forceful argument induced the Assembly to instruct the Attorney-General to take such action. (5)

Then came the historic struggle over the charter of the Bank of America. Jefferson's followers did not believe in banks. To them a bank was a menace to free institutions. Yet in 1803, when capitalists recognized the benefit of having the State Bank of Albany controlled by Republicans, these scruples were overcome by disposing of the stock to Republican legislators, with assurances which were soon realized that it could be quickly resold at a large advance. To Erastus Root such a system of bribery did not seem unmoral. Ignoring the fact that it was the promised profits that captured the legislators, he declared that "nothing in the transaction had the least semblance of a corrupt influence." Again in 1805, when the Merchants Bank of New York City obtained its charter, Ebenezer Purdy, a Republican senator, offered Republican members a profit of twenty-five dollars a share. This bold play for votes resulted in his forced resignation; but many members, recognizing no difference in morality between it and the offer previously made by the State Bank of Albany, since each involved the promise of profits, accepted Purdy's bribe.

It required similar methods to pass the charter of the Bank of America in 1812, and its promoters not only scattered their

money among Republicans, sowing with the sack and not with the hand, but they refused DeWitt Clinton a legislative endorsement for President until the accomplishment of their purpose. This silenced the ambitious Clinton and aroused the jealousy of Governor Tompkins, who, to defeat the bank and retard the nomination of Clinton, prorogued the Legislature for sixty days. In the midst of the historic excitement that followed, Taylor kept his head. He denounced bribery; he voted against the bank; he approved the Governor's activities; and then, in spite of Tompkins' opposition, the hostility of the powerful Livingston family, and the absolute hatred of the Martling Men, already known as Tammany, he endorsed Clinton for President. This startling independence of the machine attracted wide attention. Taylor was not insensible to Clinton's personal defects, or to the irregularity of his nomination; but he believed that New York, being a Middle State, in sympathy with the commercial life of the East and the agricultural pursuits of the South, was a fit depositary of power to neutralize the existing distrust between the two sections; and that Clinton, with his rugged, inflexible determination to succeed, would not only make a better war President than Madison, but would start trade, strengthen commerce, and encourage a broadening industry. This view, though perhaps overdrawn, if not wholly fanciful, represented the temper of the times, especially in the Eastern and Middle States, and indicated Taylor's sympathy with a wider country than that of machine politicians.

Measured by his fitness Taylor had fairly won a return to the Legislature. In an atmosphere of bribery he had justified the trust reposed in his integrity; among lawyers of state-wide reputation he had gained laurels as a debater; and his labors had earned for him recognition beyond the narrow limits of an Assembly district. It is not strange, therefore, that before he had completed his second term in the Legislature the people of Saratoga county had elected him to Congress. Accordingly, Taylor ended his work at Albany on April 12, 1813, and on May 20 started on his journey to Washington. He traveled by the usual route, taking a steamboat at New York for Elizabethport, thence across New Jersey by stage to Bordentown, and thence by boat on the Delaware to New Castle. Here he took

stage to Frenchtown, thence by boat on the Elk river to Baltimore, whence he reached Washington by stage over a turnpike so rough that Daniel Webster, in 1814, preferred the back of a horse. The journey usually took four days, including a night's stop at Philadelphia, but by traveling nights it could be made in sixty hours.

On arriving at Washington, Taylor found a city of 8,500 inhabitants, then not larger than Albany, of whom 1,500 were slaves. It was called the "City of magnificent distances," a title that included all it had of magnificence. Pennsylvania avenue resembled a country road, thick with dust in summer and deep with mud in winter. John Randolph dubbed it "The great Serbonian bog." President Jefferson had it lined with two rows of Lombardy poplars on either side, between which an open ditch, often filled with stagnant water, made bridges necessary at intersecting streets. *Faro* banks, with well supplied sideboards, free to all comers, filled the north side of the avenue near the Capitol, while a small brick edifice at the corner of Fourteenth street, subsequently known (1859) as the New York Avenue Presbyterian Church, had the distinction of being the first place for Protestant worship. Here John Quincy Adams regularly attended and for twenty years John W. Taylor made it his church home. Along the avenue, between the *faro* banks and the church, appeared at lonesome intervals the residences of foreign ministers and well-to-do citizens, their yards in front bordered by a brick pavement with insecure foundations. In a conspicuous place on the other side of the street stood the slavepen and the auction-block.

The White House, gleaming through the enveloping foliage, was surrounded by four modest, brick department buildings. At the opposite end of the avenue the Capitol, standing on the brow of a steep declivity, which was clothed with old oaks and seamed with numerous gullies, consisted of two wings connected by a corridor of rough boards. Unimproved sidewalks and driveways added to its forlornness. "The new city," says Gaillard Hunt, "was absolutely without friends." (6a) A lady wrote of it as "the most disappointing, disheartening conglomerate

Calhoun showing a preference for the contestant. On the roll-call the Republicans divided, seating the Federalist contestant. Taylor took no part in the debate, but voted for the contestant, although two of his Republican colleagues from New York sided with the Federalist. In voting with his party it is probable that Taylor, having in mind the irregularity of DeWitt Clinton's nomination for President the year before, desired by his vote, in such a crucial test of party fidelity, to extinguish so far as possible any ill-feeling which that fiasco had aroused in the South against New York Republicans. But whatever the reason for his action, the Speaker soon after assigned him, in place of a Virginian on leave of absence, to the Committee on Foreign Relations, headed by John C. Calhoun. This also associated him with Daniel Webster. At the beginning of the next session, (December 7, 1813) Taylor became second on Ways and Means, with John W. Eppes as chairman. When the Fourteenth Congress (1815-1817) opened, Speaker Clay honored him with the chairmanship of the Committee on Elections.

The seniority of that committee, being the first one created by the House (April 13, 1789) indicates its rank as well as its importance. The Constitutional provision that "each House shall be the judge of the elections, returns, and qualifications of its own members" (7) gives it autocratic power when backed by a party majority. Although precedent be ignored, statutes neglected, and the rules of evidence disregarded, there is no appeal. At the outset the House had evinced a desire to recognize the sacredness of seat titles; but the rule that might makes right appeared early in its history, and at the close of the first century Speaker Reed declared "the decision of election cases almost invariably increases the party which organizes the House and appoints the Committee on Elections." (8) A careful study of Taylor's decisions, however, is sufficient evidence that the fidelity and impartiality displayed in the investigation of "Union College Lottery No. 2" guided him during the six years he served as chairman of the committee.

One decision which attracted wide attention because of its new and startling doctrine, arose in the case of *Hammond vs. Herrick of Ohio*. When elected to Congress in October, 1816, Herrick held the office of United States District Attorney, which

he resigned on November 29, 1817, two days before Congress convened. The question arose, did Herrick by holding the office of District Attorney nine months after his congressional term began, abrogate his election under the Constitutional provision that "No person holding an office under the United States shall be a member of either House during his continuance in office." (Art. I, Sec. 6.)

Taylor held that an election merely designates the individual who may claim title to a seat; that he does not become a "member" until he qualifies and takes his seat. This was the rule of the House of Commons. Prior to that he may be a candidate in other districts, or hold an office incompatible with membership. But when he appears and takes the oath, his membership begins. In the House of Representatives, he declared, a person is not entitled to vote or perform any function of membership until sworn in. He enjoys immunity from arrest, but that is a privilege for the benefit of the public service, which continues after membership ceases. The franking privilege is likewise for the benefit of the public service, and prior to the sixteenth Congress it did not become active until the organization of the House. The committee reported, therefore, that membership begins when the person elected qualifies by taking the oath, and since Herrick resigned the office of District Attorney before he had thus qualified as a "member" of the House, he had not voided his title to a seat.

The House hesitated to accept such a decision. Under it a member-elect could serve as a Presidential elector, and afterwards take his seat and aid in counting his own vote; or, if under age when chosen, he could wait until of sufficient age to qualify. It was a surprising doctrine, and the Committee of the Whole, by a vote of 67 to 66, refused to adopt the report. On a fuller vote, which Taylor's vigilance as a whip quickly obtained, the House disagreed to their action (74 to 77) and then seated Herrick (77 to 74). It was a great victory, and the precedent, perhaps the most important ever established, remains unchanged to this day. In 1882, Mr. Blaine, in his eulogy of President Garfield, spoke of the latter as wearing the uniform and holding the office of a Major-General in the United States Army on Saturday, and on Monday, in a civilian's dress,

qualifying as a member of Congress, although he had been elected a year before.

Taylor was an expert parliamentarian, fruitful in apt suggestions, in time-saving procedure, and in happy solutions of parliamentary tangles. Speakers as well as members leaned upon him. For years he performed the delicate task of referring recommendations and suggestions in the President's message to proper committees, and his tactfully prepared resolutions pleased the House as much as Clay's courtesy. His remarks upon routine legislation rarely exceeded five minutes. He regarded speaking as a mere instrument for the transaction of business, and with few words and slight emphasis he went directly to the heart of a subject. Lowndes was more redundant; Forsythe more ardent; Troup more sarcastic and scornful; and Eppes more argumentative; but none were more effective than Taylor. He had abundant language, a clear, far-carrying voice, and although he rarely if ever became impassioned or dramatic, with emotional climaxes and thrilling appeals, he spoke at times with eloquent fluency and great earnestness. Nevertheless, he never made a speech for the mere love of talking. He was in nowise a show man, but on subjects which involved policies that deeply concerned the country, Taylor took his part with commanding ease. He had none of Clay's suavity or Webster's captivating grace; he lacked the persuasiveness of John Sergeant and the quick, piquant replies of Henry R. Storrs; but like a racer that cannot go faster than every rival, he could win as many races as any other.

It is not necessary here to follow him minutely through the successive stages of parliamentary action. He supported the War of 1812 even to the extent of advocating conscription; he stood for a steam navy; and insisted upon the thorough discipline of the militia. He took a deep interest in patents, in the encouragement of vaccination, and in a more extended census. Although his party, by the casting vote of Vice-President George Clinton, had defeated in 1811 a renewal of the charter of the United States Bank, he held that the exigencies of the war, due to the suspension of specie payments and a disordered currency, demanded a new bank and he aided in creating the last Bank of the United States. He also voted for Calhoun's general

system of internal improvements, and evinced a deep interest in the tariff, supporting the distinctively protective Acts of 1816 and 1824.

One of his five-minute speeches illustrates his forceful, business way of handling questions. Congress had contracted with John Trumbull, the noted artist, to furnish at \$6,000 each the four great paintings that adorn the rotunda of the Capitol. Upon the completion of the first one, entitled "The Declaration of Independence," Trumbull exhibited it in Boston and other cities, charging a fee of twenty-five cents admission, from which he realized upwards of \$10,000. When the question of payment came up in the House, it met serious objection. John C. Spencer of New York, in his sharp, often harsh manner, censured the artist for "hawking about the country and treating unworthily a subject so dignified and so sacred to American feeling"; and as the painting was not yet delivered he opposed the appropriation. To these censorious remarks Taylor replied that until the painting was delivered to Congress, the artist could certainly use it as he pleased, and as the contract was already made, and the painting approved as a masterpiece, an appropriation could not in honor be withheld. This settled the controversy.

Upon questions governed by sentiment it warms one's heart to think of his noble courage in successfully opposing a motion that the House adjourn and attend in a body the funeral of Commodore Decatur, killed in a duel by Commodore Barrett. At that time the pistol was the arbiter of honor. "A case of pistols, some of them inlaid with gold," says Poore, "was a part of the outfit of Southern and Western Congressmen, who spent more or less time in practising." (9) Within a brief period Henry Clay had exchanged shots with John Randolph and George W. Campbell of Tennessee had severely wounded Barant Gardenier of New York. The night before his duel with Burr, Hamilton wrote in his diary: "I am opposed to duelling. It is contrary to my religion; it is unjust and settles nothing; but in obedience to the prevailing customs and ideals, I feel bound to expose my life." And following this low and false ideal representative men in all wakes of life, save perhaps the Gospel ministry, shot each other to death on what they called the "field of honor." Yet Taylor did not hesitate to condemn the

custom which his best friends recognized. He professed great respect for Decatur's character, but "the representatives of this nation," he said, "should not approve, directly or indirectly, a practice violative of the laws of God and of the country." (10) Such a declaration at such a time required the possession of even more courage than a Congressman showed half-a-century later, after the moral sense of mankind had outlawed the iniquitous institution, who replied: "I have a family and a soul, and since you have neither we could not fight on equal terms, and therefore I decline your challenge."

It was not until Taylor endeavored to halt slavery where he found it that he revealed the transforming vision and noble temper that possessed him. With none of the mental exclusiveness of the professional moralist, Taylor thought about life as a whole, sympathizing with the oppressed and resenting their enslavement. With none of the shiftiness common to the ordinary politician, he strove to build for the future, conscious of the mastery of laws and institutions over the character and happiness of men. Thus he became the prototype of the anti-slavery reformer. The work that John Quincy Adams and Joshua R. Giddings continued, and that Abraham Lincoln finished, he began. He never missed an opportunity of assailing the African slave trade, which he denounced as piracy, and although he displayed none of the highly wrought, imaginative enthusiasm to free the negro in states originally devoted to slavery, which at a later day characterized the great upheaval of progressive humanity against cruelty, yet in 1819 he heard with rising indignation the proposition to organize Missouri into a slave state out of territory which belonged to the Louisiana Purchase and had taken no part in the Revolutionary struggle. When this bill came up in the House, therefore, he promptly seconded an amendment, providing that "the future introduction of slavery be prohibited, and that all children born of negro parents be free at the age of twenty-five years."

The effect of this amendment was magical. In twenty years the cotton-gin had not only quadrupled the production of cotton but trebled the value of slaves, and Southern Congressmen quickly resented crippling such prosperity by limiting the right of slavery to spread. Among the first to criticize the amendment

was Speaker Clay. Although early in his public life he had advocated emancipation in Kentucky, he now stigmatized the restrictionist, declaring him afflicted with negromania. Taylor answered Clay, and from that moment he took charge of the amendment and became the great apostle of restriction. His speech at once broadened the discussion into a national issue. "Cast your eyes," he said, "on that majestic river which gives its name to the territory; trace its meanderings through fertile regions for more than 2,000 miles; cross the stony mountains to the Pacific Ocean; contemplate the states hereafter to unfurl their banners over this fair portion of America, and you will then be able, in some measure, to appreciate the importance of the subject before us. Our votes are to determine whether the high destinies of that region shall be fulfilled or defeated by permitting slavery, with its blighting, baleful influence, to inherit the land." (11)

The long controversy profoundly impressed the country. Other debates had continued for days — this lasted for weeks; other controversies had excited Congress — this alarmed the country. The people of the North, having no thought of the formation of another slave state, denounced the attempt as a political crime, their petitions beginning: "In the name of freedom and humanity." The South, more deeply stirred, resented Northern interference, claiming a right to take slaves into territory whose climate invited slave labor, whose acres joined their own, and whose fertile valleys had already been settled exclusively by their own people. "The Missouri question," wrote Thomas Jefferson, "is the most portentous one which has ever threatened the Union." Clay expressed the belief that within five years the Union would divide into three distinct Confederations. (12)

In the meantime the Senate, on the balance-of-power principle that one free State and one slave State should always be admitted at the same time, passed a bill admitting Maine as a free State and Missouri as a slave State, with the famous Compromise prohibiting slavery in the rest of the Louisiana Purchase north of 36° 30', being the southern boundary line of Missouri. On motion of Taylor the House twice rejected this compromise, several Southerners declaring, in the heat of the controversy, that if slavery be restricted the Union will be dissolved. To this Taylor

replied: "The honorable gentleman greatly mistakes the people of this country if he supposes this Union, cemented by strong interests, consecrated by glorious achievement, sanctified by the blood of heroes, and endeared by victories won by the exertions and treasure of all, the preservation of which is the first lesson of lisping infancy and the last prayer of expiring age, can ever be destroyed or in the least impaired by promoting the cause of humanity and freedom in America." (13)

Forty years later Abraham Lincoln took the same position. South Carolina seceded on December 20, 1860, and to escape civil war Senator Crittenden of Kentucky, on the following day, presented his compromise, proposing to amend the Constitution by continuing slavery on the line of the Missouri Compromise. But Mr. Lincoln, then the President-elect, vigorously opposed it. "Entertain no proposition for a compromise in regard to the extension of slavery," he wrote. "The tug has to come and better now than later. On that point hold firm as a chain of steel." (14) Thus the threat of disunion did not terrify the great Emancipator in 1860, any more than it did the fearless opponent of slavery extension in 1820, and not until sinister influences had changed the minds of four New Yorkers was the Missouri Compromise adopted by a vote of 90 yeas to 87 noes. "The slave states have triumphed," wrote Rufus King. "Meigs and Henry R. Storrs fought under the black flag; Caleb Tompkins, brother of the Vice-President, and Walter Case fled the field on the day of battle." William W. Van Ness spoke with less caution. "That miserable sycophant betrayed us to the lords of the South," he explained, "to enable him to subserve his own purpose. I allude to that smallest of small men, Daniel D. Tompkins."

Taylor's reward came as promptly as it was merited. Obligated to give attention to his private affairs, Henry Clay, after the opening of Congress on November 13, 1820, resigned as Speaker, and the suggestion that Taylor succeed him met a hearty response. During the Missouri controversy he had had no equal in boldness, persistency, or vigilance. He left to others nothing he could do himself. Combining the duties of whip and floor-leader, he made every motion for his side, kept in touch with every absentee, and marshalled his forces at every roll-call.

Such an achievement inspired the highest confidence in his fitness for Speaker, and without the formality of a caucus nomination his friends proceeded to an election. On the first ballot Taylor received 40 votes; William Lowndes of South Carolina, 34; John Sergeant of Pennsylvania, 18; and William Smith of Maryland, 27, with 10 scattering, making 65 necessary to a choice. This division reflected the Missouri contest, Taylor and Sergeant representing slavery restriction, Lowndes and Smith its extension. As the balloting proceeded, the Taylor and Sergeant vote united, and although the jealousy of Henry R. Storrs and the distrust of the anti-Clintonians of New York acted as a head-wind, Taylor received on the twenty-second ballot 76 votes to 44 for Lowndes and 27 for Smith.

With a judgment never in suspense, Taylor as Speaker measured up to the highest standard. He served no master, he nourished no resentments, he favored no party. His policy resembled that of the Speaker of the House of Commons, who, upon his election, renounces party and merges the office of member with the greater one of speaker. At the close of the session the usual expression of thanks declared that Taylor had "performed his extremely difficult and arduous task with assiduity, impartiality, ability, and promptitude," the resolution being adopted with but one dissenting vote.

This confidence, so generously expressed, continued to the end of his congressional career. Although re-elected speaker but once afterwards (1825), he ever remained the candidate and the forceful leader of his party—a menace to the policies of the Jackson administration and the acknowledged friend of John Quincy Adams.

This historic friendship, which began soon after Taylor entered Congress, was based upon an abiding tenderness and sympathy for down-trodden men. Although Adams maintained kindly relations with most officials of the Government, he rarely became the intimate of any. His admiration for Clay finds frequent expression; yet he distrusted the Kentuckian's judgment, thought him addicted to intrigue, and too ardent to be scrupulous or delicate. For eight years while he served with Calhoun in President Monroe's cabinet, the

story of their relations is seldom clouded; but he regarded him "of no steady principles, and the dupe or tool of every knave cunning enough to drop the oil of fools on his head." (15) Henry R. Storrs' marked taste for literature commended him. Adams delighted to talk of Shakespeare, especially of his heroines — often contrasting Desdemona's sensual passions with the innocence of Miranda or the rosy pudency of Imogen. Storrs touched such subjects with a light and dainty play of humorous fancy, blended with keen wit and piquant replies; but if "lack of judgment and firmness" did not bar Storrs' way to Adams' regard, his course on the restriction of slavery completely closed the door. "The Missouri question," Adams wrote, "has blasted him, and the loss of his influence in the House has driven him to vicious habits." (16)

Very likely this is the judgment of a man inclined to be censorious and often uncharitable. Yet in a Diary that teems with censure, there is no criticism of Taylor. "I have great confidence in John W. Taylor," he says. (17) He is sensible of Taylor's limitations. Clay is more eloquent; Webster stronger in logic and speech; Calhoun more acute and philosophical; and Lowndes gentler and more persuasive. If one may judge by inference, Adams thought John Sergeant superior in debate and less inclined, perhaps, to disagree with his views. "I called upon Taylor this morning," Adams wrote in January, 1830, "and had much conversation with him. He seemed surprised at my opinions respecting the Indians, the overthrow of the tariff, the putting down of the navy, and our foreign policy. He thought there was no danger for the tariff and no disposition to put down the navy. On some other points we also disagreed." (18) But of all of Adams' contemporaries, Taylor touched his heart at more points. He possessed unswerving love of truth and great tenderness for the slave. Besides there was a growing sympathy in their political views, into which the forces of time were silently breathing a new spirit.

Adams showed great devotion to Taylor during the latter's Speakership contests. His defeat in 1821 turned largely upon Calhoun's attitude. "I endeavored to persuade him merely

to permit Taylor's election," wrote Adams. Afterwards, when Calhoun spoke with great bitterness of Speaker Barbour, Adams said to him: "Mr. Calhoun, you may thank yourself for it all. You, and you alone, made him Speaker; and I trust you have not forgotten how earnestly I entreated you not to prevent Taylor's re-election." (19) In 1825 Adams persuaded Daniel Webster, who aspired to the speakership, not to get in Taylor's way. (20) Two years later, when a change of six votes would have elected Taylor, Adams declared that "within three days of the election these men had voluntarily promised to vote for him." (21a) Yet in that election Taylor received nine votes more than his party strength.

It was during this contest in 1827 that the Crawford, Jackson, Van Buren combine, fearful of Taylor's election, charged him with "unpopularity." Of the conduct that occasioned it we are not informed. The exciting cause of the criticism of other Speakers of that day is specific. The dominating arrogance of Sedgwick, the servility of Macon, the fallibility of Varnum, the infirmities of Clay, the selfishness of Cheeves, the haughtiness of Barbour, and the subserviency of Stevenson, are as familiar to us as to their contemporaries; but the character of Taylor's offending is nowhere specified, except that Adams attributed it "to Southern rancor against him upon the Missouri question, the jealousy of New York anti-Clintonians, and his attachment to me." (21b) This explanation relieves Taylor of any offensive personal defect.

In 1831 Adams and Taylor became colleagues in the House of Representatives, where their close intimacy continued. When the former persisted in his refusal to answer a roll-call, Taylor, clearly discerning that such action must inevitably invite a "disappearing quorum," endeavored by every parliamentary expedient to have him excused from voting. But an angry House declined the relief while the stubborn Adams refused to vote, thus establishing the vicious custom which Speaker Reed destroyed half a century later by counting a quorum.

Taylor found little difficulty in returning to Congress term after term. His bold opposition to the extension of slavery,

his growing influence at Washington, and his rare social qualities greatly endeared him to his freedom-loving constituents. But in 1830, after the inauguration of President Jackson, whose policies Taylor's forceful leadership impeded, the Democrats determined to end his long and honorable career by making Samuel Young of Ballston his opponent.

It rarely happens that a small town, at any period of its history, possesses at the same time two such conspicuous citizens. They had long lived as neighbors, organizing the Saratoga County Bible Society, delivering addresses on anniversary occasions, and taking a deep interest in whatever made for better citizenship. Young was perhaps the more accomplished orator, possessing special gifts of voice and presence, with graceful, fascinating speech. He had, too, a fund of humor and a vein of sarcasm, often caustic, sometimes offensive, but always effective. In his prime he was undoubtedly the most brilliant speaker in the state. He was not always consistent. He censured the privileges of legislators and connived at their observance; he pretended to hate slavery and backed the party that extended it; he opposed duelling and accepted a challenge from Calhoun; he professed Christian meekness but never turned the other cheek. He might be called "a gesture of the time-spirit," nervously restless, self-confident, and a believer in words.

When Taylor entered Congress, Young took the former's place in the Assembly, becoming Speaker in his second term. Failing to be returned in 1816, he obtained an appointment as canal commissioner, secured a term in the State Senate, became a candidate for United States senator, and served as a delegate to the Constitutional Convention in 1821. He was defeated for the nomination for governor in 1822 and as a candidate for governor in 1824. However, he quickly rallied, and in the following year went to the Assembly, again becoming Speaker. But in 1830 he happened to be without a political job, and when invited to make the race for Congress against Taylor, he promptly accepted.

Taylor had then been in Congress eighteen years. As Speaker, floor-leader, and forceful debater he had met the

fiery spirits of the South and the noisy declaimers of the North, and with coolness he accepted Young's challenge, letting the eloquent sarcastic tongue do its best. When the smoke of the contest had settled, however, it was found that the people still backed the fearless champion of an oppressed race.

But the desire to eliminate Taylor still obsessed the Jackson leaders. They had made highways out of cow paths in their tramps through his district, charging him with duplicity, accusing him of scandalous conduct, and rejoicing when beaten for Speaker, although his defeat left the Empire State without a voice on the Committee that controlled the revenue. Even Silas Wright exulted and declared him "destroyed." Finally they enlarged the district, making it safely Democratic by adding to it Schenectady County. When thus gerrymandered, Young naturally wished to run again, but John Cramer of Waterford planned otherwise. In modern parlance Cramer was a political boss. He was not a talker and rarely took part in public debate, but he was a rich, money-making lawyer and a born organizer of men, who worked and planned and cajoled and threatened. He had a passion for power. Political aspirants sought his permission to stand for office, and occasionally he became a candidate himself. He had served two terms in the Assembly, one in the Senate and held a seat in the Constitutional Convention of 1821, where he did himself credit by voting to abolish the property qualification of voters, thus enfranchising fifty thousand citizens. But nine years had elapsed since he presumed to test his popularity with the people, and as he saw a certainty in the reconstructed district, he coolly took the nomination himself.

Taylor understood the danger of a new apportionment, and before leaving Washington he told Adams the change would exclude him from Congress. (22) Moreover, the National Republican platform became a handicap. Although associated with Henry Clay upon a committee to co-ordinate party issues, (23) his views, often backed by a clearer understanding of Northern sentiment, did not control the dominating Kentuckian. Taylor disapproved the rejection of Van Buren as minister to England, since it would provoke the President to

anger and enlist New York's sympathy; he saw no reason for raising the United States Bank issue in 1832 as its charter did not expire until 1836; he opposed Clay's public land scheme which fixed the price per acre too high; and he deeply regretted Clay's attitude towards the anti-Masons. As early as January, 1831, he agreed with Adams that the Bank was doomed, (24) and that "Clay has not and never had any party in New York." (25)

When Taylor reached home in mid-summer (1832) he found his party laboring in heavy seas. Clay's public land scheme classed him as hostile to "cheap lands"; his tariff act had not stopped the cry of "high prices"; while the rejection of Van Buren and the President's veto of the Bank charter had solidified the Democrats whose garish processions, everywhere picturing Jackson as the "old hero" engaged in a struggle with the "monster Bank monopoly," like St. George killing the dragon, exercised a wonderful charm over the popular imagination. Jackson became the invincible champion of the "yellow boys." Never before had the spectacular been so largely substituted for pamphlets. Clay charged it to the inability of Democrats to read, but it proved a great setback to his hopes.

A local historian pronounced the universal judgment when he wrote that the campaign of 1832 was "the hardest fought political contest which the state had then witnessed." (26) It was, in fact, the first national campaign since 1816 in which two parties, reformed on specifically opposing lines, had squarely confronted each other, and its tendency to sunder ties of friendship cut deep into neighborhood pride. Although Taylor's handsome face still shone without a stain, and the familiar voice which had spoken words of sympathy in every sorrowing home, still aroused interest-bearing memories, political bitterness separated him from scores of life-long friends, who hated "the bank," distrusted "Clay's rags," resented Van Buren's rejection, and chafed at the Kentuckian's Masonic record.

Nevertheless, Taylor did not waver. Unlike many Congressmen who changed their position after the President's

veto had made the Bank an unpopular issue, he boldly stood for the platform, which demanded protection, internal improvements, the abolition of the spoils system, and the distribution of public land sales to the States for educational and other purposes. The acid test at the polls, however, fulfilled Taylor's pre-election prophecy that Clay had no party in New York. Indeed, of 288 electoral votes he received only 49, representing Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Maryland, Delaware and Kentucky. Taylor's vote, under the conditions, held up marvelously well. Nevertheless, Cramer had a majority of 131 in Schenectady and 169 in Saratoga. Thus those who desired a change finally succeeded, and in the next fourteen Congresses the district changed representatives thirteen times.

On leaving Congress Taylor continued in the practice of the law and in the enjoyment of his Ballston home. His life had been strenuous. During his attack upon slavery and the African slave trade he could well say with Adams: "I walked between burning plough-shares with a fearful foreboding that every effort I made for my country would recoil in evil upon myself and family." (27) But in his retirement he never lost courage or a watchful interest in passing events. Although the opposition to the Jackson administration, first known in 1834 as the Whig party, was gradually strengthening, its day of success seemed far distant. Taylor mourned the defeat of William H. Seward for governor in 1834, and was in despair after Marcy's great majority for governor in 1836. Then came the "hard times" of 1837, the choice of Seward for governor in 1838 and the election of President Harrison in 1840. Fearful of the Bank issue and the smouldering hostility of the Anti-Masons, Taylor had preferred Harrison to Clay in 1836, as he did in 1840, earnestly supplementing the efforts of Governor Seward, who received credit for securing Harrison's nomination. (28)

In the same year, the Whigs of the fourth senatorial district, composed of nine counties, nominated and elected Taylor for State senator, an office then of unusual importance, since the Senate constituted a Court for the Trial of Impeachments and the Correction of Errors. At the conclusion of the Legis-

lature in 1841, this Court held sessions in New York City, Buffalo and Albany, and then recessed to prepare opinions. While thus engaged in his library Taylor was suddenly stricken with paralysis, which settled into a permanent disability, compelling his resignation in 1842. At this time an unmarried daughter kept his home, but after her marriage his oldest daughter, Mrs. William D. Beattie, of Cleveland, Ohio, took him to her home. Here he lived, tenderly cared for, with a composed spirit to which time had made all things clear, and with hopes undimmed for mankind. Almost the last glimpse we have of him is the record of a visit of John Quincy Adams, who, although seventy-seven years old, broke his journey to Cincinnati "to see my old and true friend, John W. Taylor, now a helpless cripple." (29) But Taylor, destined to outlive his venerable friend, lingered until September 14, 1854, dying at the age of seventy. His end, however, was made glorious, for he lived just long enough to see the new Republican party assembled in state convention at Saratoga on August 16, 1854, write into its platform the principle of slavery restriction which the old Republican party, under his leadership, endeavored to enact into law.

In accordance with his wishes, Taylor's remains were laid at the side of his wife in Ballston Spa cemetery. The great assembly that gathered in and about the Episcopal Church, of which he had long been a vestryman, evinced the truth of a speaker's statement that "he seemed enthroned in the hearts of the people." A public meeting, held at the court house, adopted a resolution "that his memory has been kept green in our hearts during his long absence on account of his declining health, and we shall ever cherish the liveliest recollection of his many virtues. We find no stain upon his record to mar the symmetry of a reputation founded upon abilities of the highest order and upon a patriotism of the purest integrity. For these reasons we desire to testify our respect for him as a citizen of clean life; as a man of noble and generous nature; as a lawyer of eminent ability, and as a statesman, who, in his long and distinguished career, both in the State and National counsels, exhibited in the highest degree

an intelligent and disinterested patriotism, and an untiring devotion to the interests and prosperity of his country." (30)

Let us hope that some day Saratoga County will erect to his memory a suitable monument. But whether it does or not, as his life-work is studied and better known, John W. Taylor must ever be recognized as one of New York's most illustrious sons.

D. S. ALEXANDER.

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NEW YORK AND THE NATIONAL BANKING SYSTEM

The sound and elastic currency of the present day and the wonderful facilities which the banks afford for making payments in any or all parts of the world through the mechanism of exchange, make the constrained and feeble efforts at trade in the days of barter, which characterized the early settlement of this country, almost unbelievable. New York had its experience with wampumpeage, the Indian currency, which by many colonies was made legal tender for brief periods. The making of wampumpeage was an industry that appealed to the white man, and the greatly increased quantity soon drove it out of use as currency.

We find a decree in the colony of Massachusetts reading in part as follows: "It is likewise ordered, that muskett bullets of a full boare shall pass currantly for a farthing a peece, provided that noe man be compelled to take above twelve att a tyme". "Peltry" was also given the character of currency by legal enactment. They not only passed laws regulating the use of commodities as currency, but they enacted laws against profiteering which were by no means a dead letter as the following quotation from a decree of a Massachusetts Court illustrates: "Joshua Huyes hath forfeet Vs for knyves, and iiis ViId for scythe, which hee solde for above iiid in the shilling profitt".

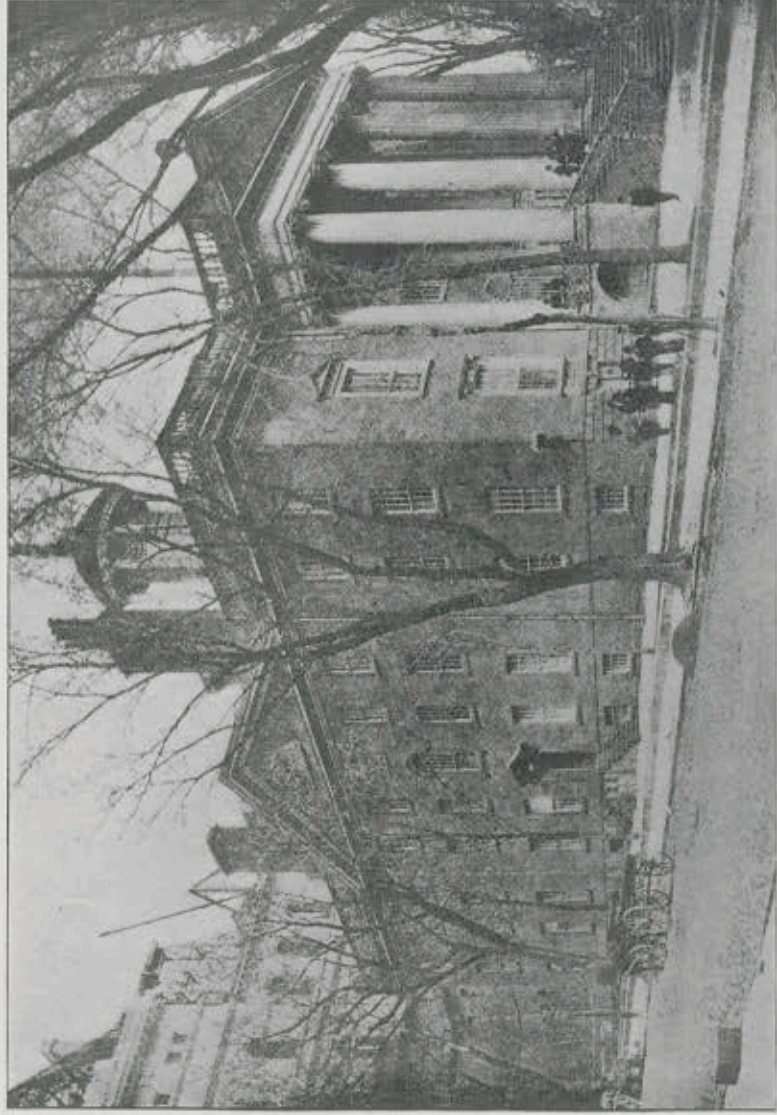
By no means can the progress of the world be shown more forcibly than by contrasting the currency conditions of one hundred years ago with the present. New York City was in the possession of the British the greater portion of the Revolutionary War and therefore presents less varied experiences than some of the other colonies. Our rapid growth after peace was declared made possible her leadership in commercial and financial legislation. In those early days, bank charters were considered patronage, to be granted by the legislature to individuals in political sympathy with the domi-



JOHN W. TAYLOR'S HOUSE AT BALLSTON SPA

From a photograph

Courtesy of the Ballston Spa Journal



THE OLD CAPITOL AT ALBANY — CONSTRUCTED 1806 — RAZED 1879
From a photograph

1803

JOHN W. TAYLOR

John W. Taylor, lawyer and congressman, was born at Charlton, Saratoga co., N. Y., March 26, 1784, son of Judge John and Chloe (Cox) Taylor. He was graduated at Union College in 1803; studied law at Albany; was admitted to the bar in 1807, and began to practice at Ballston, N. Y., becoming a justice of the peace in 1808, and subsequently state commissioner of loans. He was elected to the state legislature in 1811, and while in that body was elected to congress, where he served from 1813 to 1833, being speaker of the house for the second session of the 16th congress during the passage of the Missouri Compromise, and also speaker of the 19th congress. Mr. Taylor was one of the organizers of the National Republican, and afterward of the Whig party. In 1841-42 he was a state senator. He accompanied Lafayette through New England on his last tour. In 1827 he delivered the annual address before the Phi Beta Kappa Society of Harvard. He was married at Albany, in 1806, to Jane Hodge, who died in 1838. Removing to Cleveland, O., in 1843, Mr. Taylor died there, Sept. 8, 1854.

The N. C. of A. B., Vol. XI, Page 159.

Note sent in January 28, 1928.

Descendants of JOHN W. TAYLOR, 1803 --

Grandson - John W. Taylor, 2089 Mound St.,
Hollywood, California.

Great grandson - Carl Taylor, 15 Sutton Place,
New York City.

Great granddaughter - Miss Ella S. Goddard,
561 Laurel Ave., St. Paul, Minn.

Alumni Gleanings

John W. Taylor

By Joseph R. Brown, Jr., '03

John W. Taylor, 1803, who was a member of Congress from the Saratoga district for twenty consecutive years and twice Speaker of the House of Representatives, was born in the town of Charlton, N. Y., March 26, 1784. After graduation he studied law with Samuel Cook in Ballston Spa and, upon admission to the bar, formed a partnership with him.

He was a member of the State Assembly in 1811 and 1812 and in the latter year was elected a member of the Thirteenth Congress from the Saratoga district, continuing as a member of the House of Representatives from March 4, 1813 to March 3, 1833, inclusive.

These were momentous years in the country's history. We were at war with Great Britain; Washington was burned on May 15, 1814; Florida was purchased from Spain; the Spanish-American colonies revolted and the Monroe Doctrine was announced; there was an increasing immigration to the West; new systems of transportation were started with the opening of the Erie Canal in 1825 and the building of railroads; and the slavery question became a sectional issue with the Missouri bill and Compromise arousing excited feelings in Congress and the nation.

In politics Mr. Taylor was a National Republican and later a Whig. He supported the administration of Madison, Monroe and John Quincy Adams and was the leader of the latter's policies in the House.

He favored a protective tariff for the encouragement of domestic manufactures, but opposed the Cumberland and Maysville road bills as unconstitutional, inclining to the view that internal improve-

ments generally were left by the Constitution for the Commonwealths to construct and control.

He came into prominence when he seconded and supported the Tallmadge Amendment to the Missouri bill in 1819, which would prohibit the further introduction of slavery in the proposed State and would free all children at twenty-five years of age born of slave parents. He also spoke for the restriction of slavery in territories north of 36 degrees and 30 minutes. These were among the first anti-slavery speeches in Congress.

He argued that if Congress had the power of altogether refusing to admit new States, much more had it the power of prescribing such conditions of admission as might be judged reasonable. He pointed out that Ohio, Indiana and Illinois were admitted on the condition that their Constitutions should exclude slavery and that Louisiana was admitted on the condition that there should be trial by jury in all criminal cases and that English should be used in all judicial and legislative proceedings. He also held that slavery was incompatible with the Republican form of government.

In the first session of the Sixteenth Congress, Mr. Taylor deprecated the aroused feelings caused by the discussions on the slavery question in the last session. He said that "All who love our country, and consider the Union of the States as the ark of its safety, must ever view with deep regret sectional interests agitating our national councils." He did not know whether conciliation were practicable, but he considered its attainment worthy of an effort. He was desirous that the question should be settled in that spirit of amity and brotherly love

which carried us through the perils of a Revolution, and produced our Federal Constitution.

Mr. Taylor is the only New York citizen who has ever held the office of Speaker of the House of Representatives. He was first elected Speaker on November 20, 1820, at the second session of the Sixteenth Congress, to fill out the term of Henry Clay, who had resigned the office because he was unable to return to Congress until early in the next year. Although there was some dissatisfaction with his election, his impartial and conciliatory course tended to allay much of the feeling at first aroused and his conduct of the office was generally commended. Nevertheless, he was defeated for re-election by the opposition of some of the Cabinet members and by several New York members who thought he was a Clintonian, which he denied.

He was elected Speaker for a second time on December 5, 1825, for the full term of the Nineteenth Congress to succeed Henry Clay who had quit Congress to become Secretary of State under John Quincy Adams. He was once more defeated for re-election. The South never forgave him for the part he took in the Missouri question and once more several members from his own State failed to support him, as he was unpopular with the Van Buren Democrats.

Such was his popularity with his home constituents that he was able to overcome strong opposition in his campaigns for re-election until the November, 1832, election when he was defeated, largely through the opposition of the Van Buren Democrats.

He was elected to the State Senate in 1840. In 1841 he was stricken with paralysis and resigned in 1842. Later he went to Cleveland, Ohio, to live with a daughter and died there on September 18, 1854. He was buried in the village cemetery in Ballston Spa.

Princeton and Cal. Tech., was Research Associate at Chicago, and in 1931 went to M.I.T. as Professor of Electrical Measurements. In between times he pursued cosmic rays on the highest mountains he could find in California, Colorado, and Alaska. He went to the Naval Ordnance Laboratory on July 22, 1940.

Since that time he has been even busier. While the N.O.L. was expanding its personnel fifty-fold, he had charge of the employment of every physicist and engineer on the staff. He has visited many of the government, college, and industrial laboratories in the United States and in Great Britain. And he has had an important part in planning the new Whiteoaks development.

In the architect's drawing, this new laboratory looks like one of the more practical visions of the world of tomorrow. The field of activity of the Laboratory was briefly outlined by Capt. Bennett before an AIEE gathering in Washington last October.

"The Laboratory began as a mine and fuze development organization just after the last war. It has continued to function in these capacities during the present war, with a considerable expansion in scope as a result of the introduction of magnetic and other influence devices into warfare, and the use of mines as offensive weapons when laid by aircraft. In the future, the Laboratory will undoubtedly have to interest itself in such other ordnance equipment as guns, fire control, torpedoes, rockets, and other missiles."

Capt. Bennett pointed out that the Laboratory will probably act as a clearing house for naval ordnance research, assigning work to other laboratories and industrial concerns which may be interested, but keeping a staff of technical civilians fitted to serve as a liaison between sea-going officers and the development resources of the country.

The future of the Naval Ordnance Laboratory depends, of

course, upon the post-war attitude of the country. But Capt. Bennett closed his AIEE remarks with this significant comment. "The cost of providing continuous development of new weapons and associated equipment is infinitesimal compared to the mounting costs of the present war. The cost of not providing them may next time be defeat."

Anyone who remembers Ralph from his Union days, remembers

his enthusiasm for new things like radio, his interest in noise-makers like railroad torpedoes and dynamite, and his ability to make sophomore calculus seem easy—will agree that the Naval Ordnance Laboratory has chosen its technical director well. Some of Union's most valuable contributions to this war will be the unspectacular work of its faculty and alumni in the classroom and the laboratory.

Military Intelligence

New Inductions

1946	Lester J. Ferguson	Peter King
D. Corigliano	Army	Navy
Merchant Marine	P. Goetz	Willard P. Winters
R. Marcus	Navy	Navy
Merchant Marine	Samuel M. Guttenberg	1948
1947	Navy	
Gilbert J. DeLucia	Richard Insogna	Ralph C. Reed
Army	Army	Navy
Robert J. Dunning	James Kontoleon	Malcolm G. Thomas
Navy	Navy	Army

Missing

Cpl. Raymond Twardzik, '46, December 18, 1944, in Belgium.
Lt. (jg) Franklin McKeever, '44, missing in action in the Battle of the Philippines, December, 1944.

Prisoners of War

Lt. Charles L. Gould, '44, Lt. William Cummings, '43 and Lt. Robert W. Nothacker, '42 are reported as prisoners of war in Germany.

Service Record

As of February 1 we have in the armed forces 2,626. The deaths of 49 have been listed in the Review, eight are now listed as missing and fourteen as Prisoners of War. (A total of 26 Union men lost their lives in World War I.)

IN LINE OF DUTY

MYRON L. STILLMAN	JOHN W. LARSON
A.B. 1940	1945
Captain, U. S. A.	Pfc., U. S. A.
Killed in action in the Philippines	Died in a hospital in France December 15, 1944.
November 10, 1944	
MARVIN ISENBURG	JOHN E. FORD
1945	1945
Pfc., U. S. A.	2nd Lieut., A. A. F.
Killed in action in France December 15, 1944.	Killed in France, December 18, 1944
WALTER C. WARNER, JR.	DONALD M. SULLIVAN
1945	1946
Pfc., U. S. A.	Pvt., U. S. A.
Killed in action in Germany December 18, 1944	Died in a hospital the day he was wounded in Germany, November 11, 1944.

Tentative draft of biography of JOHN W. TAYLOR, sent by Congress, Joint Committee on Printing

Taylor, John W., a Representative from New York; born in Charlton, N. Y., March 26, 1784; was graduated from Union College Schenectady, N. Y.; in 1803; studied law, was admitted to the bar in 1807, and began practice in Ballston Spa, N. Y.; organized Ballston Centre Academy; justice of the peace in 1808; member of the state assembly, 1812-1813; elected as a Democrat to the Thirteenth, and to the nine succeeding Congresses (March 4, 1813-March 3, 1833), and served as speaker during the second session of the Sixteenth Congress, and in the Nineteenth Congress; resumed the practice of law in Ballston Spa, N. Y.; member of the state senate 1840-1841, but resigned in consequence of a paralytic stroke; moved to Cleveland, Ohio, in 1843, and died there, September 8, 1854.

✓ TAYLOR, John W., a Representative from New York; born in Charlton, N. Y., March 26, 1784; received his early education at home; was graduated from Union College, Schenectady, N. Y., in 1803; studied law, was admitted to the bar in 1807, and commenced practice in Ballston Spa, N. Y.; organized the Ballston Center Academy; justice of the peace in 1808; member of the State assembly in 1812 and 1813; elected as a Democrat to the Thirteenth and to the nine succeeding Congresses (March 4, 1813-March 3, 1833); unsuccessful candidate for reelection in 1832 to the Twenty-third Congress; served as Speaker during the second session of the Sixteenth Congress and during the Nineteenth Congress; resumed the practice of law in Ballston Spa, N. Y.; member of the State senate in 1840 and 1841, but resigned in consequence of a paralytic stroke; moved to Cleveland, Ohio, in 1843, and died there September 8, 1854; interment in the City Cemetery, Ballston Spa, Saratoga County, N. Y.

Congressional Biographical Dictionary • p. 1600.



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John W. Taylor of Ballston Made History in Early 1800's

Bessie C. Newkom, a long-time resident of Ballston Spa, has made a hobby of local history. She lives at 88 Ballston Ave. She has written the following as the first in a series of historical articles about Ballston Spa.

By BESSIE C. NEWKOM

Ballston Spa—The village of Ballston Spa is not only noted for its beautiful trees, health-giving waters and climate, but also for its historical facts and Indian lore. Its townsmen have had contact with county, state and national affairs.

One of the most important men of earlier history was John W. Taylor. In 1803, at the age of 19, he was valedictorian of his class at Union College and four years later he opened a law office at Court House Hill nearby.

In 1811 he was elected a member of the Assembly and the following year he built a large mansion, now 139 West High, in this village. It later was sold to John Brown.

Mr. Taylor was again elected in 1813 to represent Saratoga County in the 13th Congress and continued in this office for 20 years. He was also elected speaker of the House for the second session of the 16th Congress as successor to Henry Clay, and in 1825 was chosen as speaker for the full term. He was the only citizen of New York who ever held the third place in our government.

First Speech Against Slavery

When Missouri was admitted to the Union, Mr. Taylor delivered the first speech ever made in Congress squarely opposing the extension of slavery. A contemporary of Webster, Clay and Calhoun, a brilliant orator and statesman, he was often consulted in national affairs by Presidents Madison, Monroe and Adams.

During 1840 Taylor was elected to the New York State Senate, which at that time was the highest court of appeal in the state.

On July 4, 1826, he delivered the

oration commemorating the 50th anniversary of American Independence. Being a member of Phi Beta Kappa, he gave the commencement oration before that society at Harvard College in 1827.

When General Lafayette made his last visit to the U. S. in 1824 he was accompanied through the New England States by Taylor.

Portrait at High School

An original portrait of Mr. Taylor hangs in the office of Mr. Jones, superintendent of schools, and in the High School Museum may be found in Mr. Taylor's handwriting a record of Saratoga County Bible Society founded in 1815. He also organized a large union Sunday School which met every Sunday afternoon in the First Baptist Church. There is a separate record of an earlier class of over 100 members. Four years later he made a record of the Presbyterian members.

In 1854, at the age of 70, he died at the home of his daughter in Cleveland and was buried in Ballston Cemetery. A plain white stone marks his grave and beside it is a cross bearing the name of his daughter Malvina. These markers can be plainly seen by anyone passing the cemetery as they are directly west of the large monument owned by the Blood family.

Taylor was a warm advocate of the Missouri Compromise and his speeches were widely circulated.

Unpopularity of John W. Taylor: Dec. 4, 1827.

General Van Rensselaer spoke of the failure of Taylor's election (1827) as Speaker, and said that he had made himself odious to all parties in New York by his selfishness. The General himself is prejudiced against him. I have seen in the political conduct and character of Taylor no peculiar marks of selfishness, and he certainly has been one of the most popular men in the State of New York--a State, however, the most fickle in the dispensation of its popular suffrages of any one in the Union. But Taylor's manners are not attractive, and are sometimes repulsive. The members from the South will never forgive the part he took in the Missouri question, and they have recently assailed his private life with charges of dissolute conduct here, which have deeply affected his reputation. It is a remarkable circumstance that these charges proceed from men of the most abandoned morality themselves--men who, having neither reputation to lose nor principle to restrain them, are invulnerable to the poisoned shafts which they hurl against others. On a slender foundation of truth they raised a fabric of falsehood against Taylor, and widely circulated reports affecting his personal courage, as well as his chastity. The difficulty of the situation was, that the falsehood could not be refuted without bringing the truth to more conspicuous light, and there was of truth enough to sully his fair name. I deeply lament it; for Taylor has been one of the few men in whom I have hoped to find a friend of whom I could be proud, as well as a virtuous politician.

Vol. 7, p. 368.

Dec. 5, 1827

Mr. Taylor called in the evening, and gave me some particulars of the election for Speaker. His failure was again owing to the defection among the members from his own State of New York; of their 32 votes, besides his own, he obtained not more than 12. Oakley was absent. He lost 8 to 10 votes upon which he had counted, some of which given by persons who had voluntarily told him within 3 days that they would vote for him. Stevenson solicited the votes of the Administration, and obtained several votes of tariff men by promising to appoint a committee in favor of that measure, though himself deadly hostile to it. Taylor thinks there is no question that may arise on which the Administration can

expect a stronger vote than that for him as Speaker. He said he was willing to do anything in his power for its support, but he thought that it would be best to leave to the opposition to move the usual distribution of the message into parcels for reference to communities. Vol. 7 p. 369.

1827 Election:

Andrew Stevenson, Va.	104 votes
John W. Taylor M.Y.	94 "
Philip Barbour	4 "
Scattering	3 "

Vol. 7 p. 367

Nov. 15, 1820.

The House of Representatives, at the third ballot, being the 22nd from the meeting of the House, made choice of John W. Taylor, of New York, as Speaker. There were 148 members present, consequently 75 votes necessary for a choice. Taylor had 76. The two Houses immediately gave notice by a joint committee to the President that they were organized and ready to receive any communication from him. Vol. 5 p. 202.

Nov. 20, 1820

The Speaker, John W. Taylor, was in his chamber, and I had half an hour's conversation with him. He took some pains to convince me that he was not a partisan of De Witt Clinton's. He had been so considered, and that was the ~~cause~~ cause of the great difficulty with which a majority was at last obtained for him as Speaker. The Anti-Clintonians or Tompkinsian New York members held back, and would not vote for him until he had explicitly declared to one of them that he was not a Clintonian. He spoke to me this evening of Clinton very lightly, and said that the southern people had ascribed to Clinton the origin of the Missouri question without a shadow of foundation; that, so far from it, Clinton had in the first instance entirely discouraged, and never gave any countenance to it until he discovered its great popularity in the State. Taylor also told me that he was friendly to the Administration, but intimated that the President once promised to appoint him District Judge of the Western District of New York, and afterwards appointed another person. Taylor also told me that on the Missouri constitution he had appointed a committee who would report

in favor of the admission of the State. This was according to the usual principle that committees should be selected favorable to the object of their appointment--because their report then brings the subject in in the fairest way before the House for consideration. Vol. 5 pp.203-4.

Memoirs of John Quincy Adams,
comprising portions of His Diary
from 1795 to 1848.

Charles Francis Adams, Ed.

J.B.Lippincott & Co.

Philadelphia, Pa.

1874.

Mr. John W. Taylor, of New York, was elected Speaker, upon the declination of Mr. Clay, after a constant succession of ballotings for three days. Mr. Taylor was of that section of Republicans of the State of New York, who supported DeWitt Clinton, then Governor of the State. He was decidedly favorable to a tariff for protection to domestic manufactures, and opposed to the extension of slavery in Missouri. The election of a Speaker with these views was of course the cause of some excitement and dissatisfaction, at a time when questions of great interest were to be determined by the action of the Congress, which for a time seemed even to threaten the dissolution of the Union. The mild, impartial and conciliatory course of the new Speaker, however, tended to allay much of the feeling at first excited, at the same time that the respect of the members was elicited toward himself.

Political Landmarks, or History of Parties
p. 91
Daniel Munger, compiler.
Detroit, Mich. 1851

SEE: History of the United States
vol. 3 pp. 255-56; 269; 271; 273; 290; 295 and 416
George Tucker
Philadelphia 1858

He (Henry Clay) did not come to the second session of the Sixteenth Congress until January 16, 1821. Pressing business matters kept him away, and he resigned the Speakership, to which John W. Taylor, of New York was chosen after a hard fight and 22 ballots. When Clay finally arrived, he found the Missouri situation in a condition worse than the first.

p. 140

House voted its thanks to Taylor at the close of the session. There was one dissenting vote.

p. 147

Life of Henry Clay
Glyndon G. Van Deusen
Little, Brown & Co.
Boston 1927

Taylor, John

Records show one

John Taylor

Pvt. in Capt. John O'Hara's Co.,
1st Regt.(Bloom's) N.Y.Militia.

Commencement of service: Sept 11, 1813

Remarks: "Deceased Dec 4, 1813".

Taylor, John

From: Schenectady, N.Y.

Last residence: Lansingburg, N.Y.

03

Records show one

John Taylor

Pvt., Capt. Joel Gillett's Co.,

Farrington's Regt., N.Y. Militia

Commencement of service: Sept 10, 1814

Expiration of service: Dec. 10, 1814

Taylor, John

03

Records show one

John Taylor

Pvt. in Capt. Archa Campbell's Co.,
2nd Regt. (Dobbin's) N.Y. Militia

Commencement of service: Jan 17, 1814

Expiration of service : Apr 17, 1814

Taylor, John W.

From: Charlton, N.Y.

Last residence: Cleveland, O.



03

War 1812

No record found

CLASS OF 1803.

JOHN TAYLOR.

DIED:-In Lansingburgh on Monday, May 14th at 7 o'clock
P. M., Doctor John Taylor, aged 76 years and six months.

Lansingburgh Democrat, May 18, 1860.
Troy Daily Times, May 15, 1860.

1803

JOHN W. TAYLOR

DIED: At Ballston Spa on Wednesday, June 27, 1838,
after a long and painful illness, Mrs. Jane Taylor,
wife of Hon. John W. Taylor, in the 53rd year of
her age.

The Reflector
Schenectady
July 13, 1838.

JOHN TAYLOR , 1803, of Lansingburgh, N.Y., was a member of the Adelpic Society.
Adlphic Catalogue 1830 (Died: 1860)

1803 John Taylor

Died Lansingburgh, May 14, 1869. Director of Bank of
Lansingburgh.

1803

JOHN W. TAYLOR

Married:-On Thursday last, by the Rev. Mr. Romeyn,
Mr. John W. Taylor, of Charlton, Student at Law, to
Miss Jane Hodge, daughter of Mr. James Hodge, of this
city.--The Albany Centinel, July 15, 1806.(Tuesday)

January 6, 1951

Mr. Meldrim Thomson
Edward Thompson Company
399 Gold St., Brooklyn, N.Y.

Dear Mr. Thomson:

Your letter concerning a portrait of John W. Taylor (Union 1803) has been referred to this office.

In February 1920 our alumni magazine carried an article and picture, of which I enclose a copy.

Another copy of the same picture says that it is from a portrait in the Capitol at Washington, and that it is used "courtesy of the Ballston Spa Journal."

Kindly accept our apologies for the delay in answering your letter, and be assured that we shall be glad to reply more promptly if you have any other request. Please address the Graduate Council, which is the alumni office.

Sincerely yours,

Adm. Asst.

Enc. 1

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EDITORIAL

MELDRIM THOMSON, JR.

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

HAROLD A. HUNTER

ASSISTANT MANAGING EDITOR

Grad. Council

December 11, 1950

Union College
Schenectady 8, New York

Gentlemen:

It has been suggested, since John W. Taylor was an alumnus of your college, that you may be able to assist us in obtaining a picture of Mr. Taylor. He was Speaker in the House of Representatives from 1820 to 1821 and from 1824 to 1825.

Any assistance you can give us will be appreciated.

Cordially yours,

EDWARD THOMPSON COMPANY

BY: *Meldrim Thomson, Jr.*
Editor-in-Chief

MT:SK

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EDITORIAL

MELDRIM THOMSON, JR.

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

HAROLD A. HUNTER

ASSISTANT MANAGING EDITOR

January 11, 1951

Mr. P. L. Webster
Graduate Council, Union College
Wells House, 1 Union Avenue
Schenectady 8, New York

Dear Mr. Webster:

We wish to express our sincere appreciation for your kind letter of January 3 enclosing a picture and article on John W. Taylor. This will be very helpful to us in preparing our series on the "Speakers of the House".

Cordially yours,

EDWARD THOMPSON COMPANY

BY:

Meldrim Thomson

Editor-in-Chief

MT:SK

1803

1803 JOHN W. TAYLOR

Married:-On Thursday evening last, by the Rev. Mr.
Romeyne, Mr. John W. Taylor, son of Judge
Taylor, of Saratoga county, to Miss Hodge, only
daughter of Mr. James Hodge, of this city.

Albany Register
July 15, 1806

1803

JOHN TAYLOR

Dr. John Taylor, aged 75 years, one of the oldest citizens of Lansingburgh, died last evening. His disease was old age. He was Director in the Bank of Lansingburgh. Dr. Taylor formerly practiced medicine, but gave up the profession some six or eight years ago.

Troy Daily Whig
May 15, 1860.

ADMISSION OF MISSOURI:

If the few citizens who now inhabit the Territory of Missouri were alone interested in the decision of this question, I should content myself with voting in favor of the amendment, without occupying for a moment the attention of the Committee. But the fact is far otherwise; those whom we shall authorize to set in motion the machine of free government beyond the Mississippi, will, in many respects, decide the destiny of millions.

First, Has Congress power to require of Missouri a constitutional prohibition against further introduction of slavery as a condition of her admission to the Union?

Second, If the power exist, is it wise to exercise it?

But, if Congress has the power of altogether refusing to admit new states, much more has it the power of prescribing such conditions of admission as may be judged reasonable.

Ohio, Indiana and Illinois were admitted on the condition that its constitution should not be to the Ordinance of 1787, the 6th Article of which declares, "there shall be neither slavery nor involuntary servitude in the said Territory, otherwise than in the punishment of crimes whereof the party shall have been duly convicted.

The Treaty of 1803 with the French Republic did not restrain imposing this condition.

Congress in admitting Louisiana made trial by jury secured to the citizens by a constitutional provision. Even the language of the Territory was required to be changed as a condition of admission; and their legislative and judicial proceedings should be conducted in English.

The sovereignty of Congress in relation to the States is limited by specific grants; but, in regard to the Territories, it is unlimited.

Argument that the amendment is a violation of the treaty, because it impairs the property of a master in his slave.

Heretofore slaveholders have openly said they deplored slavery and have said "we wish their (their father's) decision had been different." Now is the time to prove the sincerity of their principles.

Annals of Congress

15th Cong. 2nd Sess. pp. 1170-1193

December 1819:

Mr. Taylor, of New York, said he rose to invite the attention of the House to a subject of great moment. The question of slavery in the Territories of the United States west of the Mississippi, it was well known, had at the last session of Congress excited feelings, both in the House and out of it, the recurrence of which he sincerely deprecated. All who love our country, and consider the Union of these States as the ark of its safety, must ever view with deep regret sectional interests agitating our national councils. Mr. Taylor said he could not himself, nor would he ask others, to make a sacrifice of principle to expediency. He could never sanction the existence of slavery where it could be excluded consistently with the Constitution and public faith. But it ought not to be forgotten that the American family is composed of many members; if their interests are various, they mutually must be respected; if their prejudices are strong, they must be treated with forbearance. He did not know whether conciliation were practicable, but he considered attainment worthy of an effort. He was desirous that the question should be settled in that spirit of amity and brotherly love which carried us through the perils of a Revolution, and produced the adoption of our Federal Constitution. If the resolution he was about to introduce should be sanctioned by the House, it was his purpose to move a postponement of the Missouri bill to a future day, that this interesting subject, in relation to the whole Western territory, may be submitted to the consideration of a committee. Mr. Taylor then introduced the following resolution:

"Resolved, that a committee be appointed to inquire into the expediency of prohibiting by law the introduction of slaves into territories west of the Mississippi. "

Annals of Congress
16th Cong. 1st Sess.
p. 732.

Cadets at West Point:

The House resolved itself into a committee on the whole on the bill, reported at the last session, "for the admission of cadets into the military Academy."

Mr. Taylor observed that, notwithstanding what had been said in defense of this bill, its effect was certainly to create a privileged order in the country; that, although the selection proposed might be expedient and laudable to a certain extent, there was no doubt that the department now vested with the selection would keep in view, as far as was proper, the principle proposed; but it would in his opinion be highly improper for Congress by a formal act to sanction such a distinction. (that is, that preference should be given to sons of officers and soldiers killed in battle or who died in military service of the United States in the late war; and to those least able to educate themselves, and best qualified for the military service). He wanted the benefit to be general.

15th Congress
2nd Sess.

Taylor and Tallmadge stated the argument strongly for the restrictionists, and Scott, Missouri's territorial delegate, the right of unqualified admission. The restrictionists justly contended, Congress had the discretion to admit or not admit, and meantime to regulate public territory for which the Union had paid, as in fact belonging to the Union.

It was too late now to deny that Congress had power to impose conditions precedent on the admission of new States. Such conditions, as part of a fundamental compact, were to be found in all of these new State constitutions.

Taylor made a striking anti-slavery speech.

Vol. 3 pp. 149-50

Dec. 28, 1819:-A House committee which had been appointed to consider the expediency of prohibiting slavery in the territories west of the Mississippi could not agree and asked to be discharged; whereupon, Taylor of New York, one of that committee, who had led the anti-slavery wing, of which he had been a prominent member the previous winter, moved that the House order the report of a bill embodying such a prohibition.

Vol. 3 p 157

As for dividing the Louisiana region into a slave-holding and non-slave-holding portion, Taylor himself had in the Fifteenth Congress offered such a proviso to the bill for organizing the Territory of Arkansas, namely, that there should be no slavery in any part of the territories of the United States north of 36 degrees 30 minutes. The northern boundary proposed for that territory; a proposition which, as Livermore conceived, was made "in the true spirit of compromise," but which, for want of support, the proposer withdrew.

Vol. 3 p. 161

Dec. 31, 1821:-The two houses (of the 17th Congress) assembled in their respective wings of the Capitol on the 3d day of December. The first session lasted until the 8th day of the following May. Scarcely had the calling of the House roll shown a quorum present, before a brisk contest arose for the Speakership. John W. Taylor, of New York, who had filled Clay's place the previous Congress most ably and acceptably, though not popular in manners, found competitors on the first ballot; McLane and the veteran Rodney of Delaware, and Samuel Smith of Matyland. There was no election that day; but on Tuesday's balloting Philip P. Barbour of Virginia, gradually united the opposition, until at the twelfth trial he was chosen Speaker by a bare majority. Taylor's supporters stood firmly by him and ~~were~~ even increased his vote, but Cabinet influence, together with a division among the middle State Republicans, bore him down. It was really a victory for Crawford, or so at least it turned out, and Calhoun had paved the way for it by indulging a personal spite for which

he soon was sorry. (See Nile's Register; 5 J.Q. Adams's Diary; newspapers of the day). Vol. 3 p 244.

Footnote to p. 244:

Adams, who ~~was~~ made a later political alliance with Taylor, explains why the Speakership went to Barbour. Calhoun took a dislike to Taylor because of the attack made on his department while Taylor presided at the former Congress. The New York "Bucktails" cast their votes against Taylor, because they thought him a Clintonian. Taylor denied the grievances, but admitted that he had undertaken to be neutral between the Clinton and anti-Clinton factions, and that this had placed him in a false position in his State.

This doggerel verse from the National Intelligencer is in point:

"To rule in our Congress, a Taylor once sought--
He'll suit us.....they all said,
But the Bucktails consider, and so the House thought,
A Barber more fit for its head."

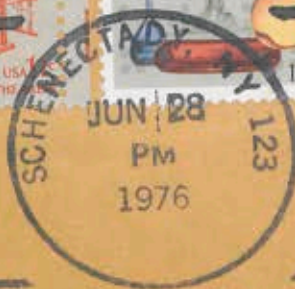
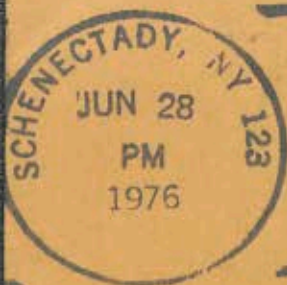
Barbour betrayed at once his partisan temper in making up the House committees. For Smith and McLane he found good positions, but both Taylor and Rodney were passed over; Taylor's friends, among them Adams himself, could not hide their chagrin. Vol. 3 p. 245

Monday, the 5th of December (1825) saw the Nineteenth Congress assembled at the Capitol. The house organized by choosing John W. Taylor, of New York, Speaker on the second ballot. Taylor, Clay's whilom predecessor in the chair, having ranked of late years among Adams' confidential friends, his election by the popular branch seemed an assurance of strength to the Administration, but his majority of two ~~was~~ votes was close figuring, and the course of a single session showed an unsteadiness of support by the House, ominous of defeat, upon the chief points of Executive policies.

Col. 3 p. 355

History of the United States of America
James Schouler
Dodd, Mead & Company
New York 1885

F. W. HEQUEMBOURG
P. O. BOX 953
SCHENECTADY, NY 12301



*file: John W. Taylor
1803*

MRS. MARY VAN LOAN
LAMONT HOUSE
UNION COLLEGE
SCHENECTADY, NY 12308

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M E M O from the desk of

Frederick W. Hequembourg, Supervisor
Town of Charlton

June 28, 1976

Mrs. Mary VanLoan
Lamont House
Union College
Schenectady, New York 12308

Dear Mary:

As always, you were most helpful with finding material in the alumni files on my research covering John W. Taylor. As a result of your help I am enclosing a pamphlet which was published by the Charlton Town Board and the Town Bicentennial Committee on Mr. Taylor. Charlton's Town Hall was rededicated on June 1, 1976 to the memory of Mr. Taylor.

I am enclosing a personal check for \$25 payable to Union College. I hope this is at least partial payment for the many kindnesses you have shown Betty Jordan and myself.

Kind personal regards,


F. W. HEQUEMBOURG

Encls.
FWH/baj

ack. mrvh 6/29/76

June 29, 1976

Mr. F. W. Hequembourg
Supervisor, Town of Charlton
R. D. No. 3, Westacres
Ballston Lake, N. Y. 12019

Dear Fred,

Thank you for your gift in appreciation of my assistance with your research covering John W. Taylor. You will receive an official receipt from the Annual Fund Office.

As you know, I enjoy providing you with the material on file for your "Charlton Worthy" each year and am impressed continually with the number of alumni who have had a part in shaping the Charlton area, and its residents, down to the present day. Thank you for sending the John W. Taylor pamphlet for the Union files. This is a most valuable addition as our file does not contain a complete biography on Mr. Taylor; in fact, there wasn't any until you produced it. I shall put it away but only after I have read it.

It is good of you to share the information you find on alumni from time to time. Perhaps after you retire, you will be able to spend a great deal of time at it. Who's the subject of your next research?

Sincerely yours,

Mary P. Van Loan
Supervisor of Records and Research

CHARLTON WORTHY

JOHN W. TAYLOR



PUBLISHED BY
CHARLTON TOWN BOARD &
TOWN OF CHARLTON
AMERICAN REVOLUTION
BICENTENNIAL COMMITTEE

CHARLTON WORTHY



JOHN W. TAYLOR

NEW YORK'S SPEAKER OF THE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
(1820-21, 1825-27)

BORN MARCH 26, 1784
CHARLTON, NEW YORK

Worthy, A: A distinguished or eminent person, especially a man of courage or of noble character . . . having a marked personality.

Oxford English Dictionary

TAYLOR CREST



MOTTO:

Consequitor quodcunque petit—
**"HE ACCOMPLISHES
WHAT HE UNDERTAKES"**

PURPOSE

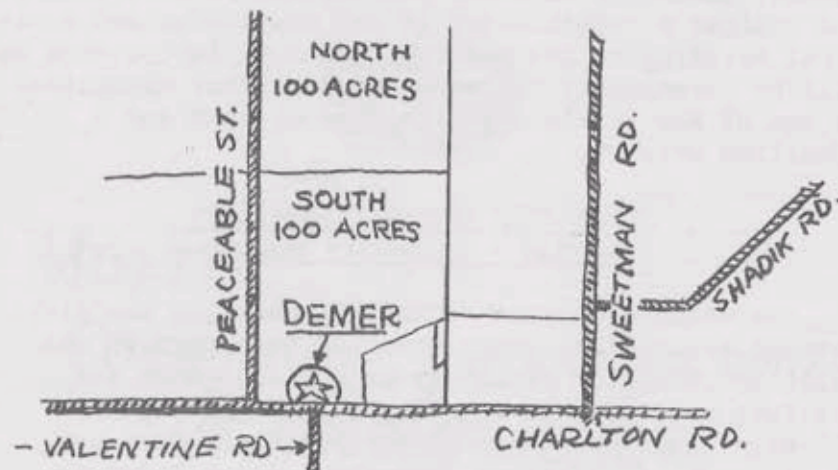
With the 200th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence fast approaching, it is appropriate to again underscore the importance of understanding how our country came to be and how its institutions and systems evolved. Except for being the scene of the pivotal Revolutionary battles at Bemis Heights and Freeman's Farm the great events of our past and the familiar stalwarts who brought them about took place and lived outside Saratoga County. It would be incorrect, however, to therefore conclude that Charlton and its residents played no active part in our country's beginnings and its subsequent development.

Thanks to the constructive works of our valued town historian, Frank J. Lafforthun, a permanent memorial is now in place to remind those who pass through the hamlet that Gideon Hawley, the acknowledged Father of this State's common school system, was reared in Charlton. Less well known and remembered is a Hawley contemporary who was born and raised in Charlton and who at the time of his death was lauded as New York's most distinguished Representative in Congress and "undoubtedly the most popular man we ever had in this (Saratoga) county".(1) It is the hope of the Charlton Town Board and its Bicentennial Committee with the publication of this pamphlet and tonight's rededication of our newly acquired municipal building to the memory of John W. Taylor that he will be permanently restored and hereafter recognized as one of New York's most illustrious sons and a "Charlton Worthy".

JUDGE JOHN TAYLOR (1749-1829)
Patriot - Community Leader

The eastern section of today's Charlton was first settled about 1774. That area was then part of the Ballstown District of Albany County and among its earliest settlers was John Taylor who purchased a 200-acre tract where Adelard and Gladys Demers now reside. The family came from the British Isles in 1692, settled in New Jersey and John Taylor who was born in Freehold in 1749 moved with his young wife, Chloe, to Charlton where the first of ten children, Joseph, was born in 1775.

John Taylor, in addition to being a successful farmer and a community leader, in later years became widely known and respected as Judge John Taylor. He was an active Patriot being elected in 1776 to the Albany Committee of Correspondence (2) and was also enrolled as an enlisted man in Colonel Van Schoonhoven's (12th) Regiment of the Albany County Militia. (3) Taylor became an Assessor in 1779 and then a Justice of the Peace in 1780 and was re-appointed to that office in 1786, 1795 and 1797. He was also elected Judge of the Court of Common Pleas in 1806. He was Supervisor of Charlton both in 1794 and 1798 and was Moderator of the County Board of Supervisors in 1794. He also served as a member of the State Assembly in 1797. Judge Taylor was a trustee of the Freehold Presbyterian Church and active in building its first church. He was also an original member of the Saratoga County Bible Society and served as its Charlton Manager in 1815. Judge Taylor died in 1829 and is now buried in the Pine Grove Cemetery. The inscription on his gravestone reads in part - "For 30 years he was a member of the Presbyterian Church in this place. He saw his children's children to the third generation. He died without a struggle or groan in the full possession of his faculties and in firm faith of a glorious resurrection."



LOCATION OF TAYLOR HOMESTEAD
(Researched by F. Lafforthun)

JOHN W. TAYLOR

HIS EARLY LIFE

Judge Taylor's fifth son, John W., was born in Charlton on March 26, 1784. As a boy he began reading the Federalist, found among the Judge's papers, and developed such a mastery of books that he enrolled in Union College at the age of fifteen, five years after that institution opened. There he was first called John W., the added initial distinguishing him from another John Taylor of the class. Although it is said that "W" stood for no name, he retained it through life.

At Union he became a Phi Beta Kappa, he delivered the valedictory, and was recognized as a brilliant debater. A month after his graduation and still a teenager he delivered the fourth of July address here in Charlton.

The next eight years of Taylor's life witnessed a flurry of activities and responsibilities typical of an aspiring person actively and simultaneously training and searching for his major calling. First, he founded an academy near what is now Ballston Center. The academy was closely associated with Union College, and reportedly Union President Eliphalet Nott spoke at commencement exercises there. Gideon Hawley was one of its graduates. John W. next studied law at the office of Bleecker and Sedgwick in Albany where he also met and married Jane Hodge. In 1807 he was admitted to the bar and opened a partnership with Samuel Cook near Court House Hill in the Town of Ballston. In 1808 he was elected a Ballston Justice of the Peace and a State Commissioner of Loans. The law partners next decided to open a lumber business at Jessup's Landing in the Town of Hadley and Taylor moved north to supervise it. While in Hadley he had a brief stint as postmaster and was elected town clerk. Finally in 1811 he was elected to the State Assembly where he began his long and distinguished career as a legislator.

When John W. Taylor entered the Assembly, the two parties in power were the Federalists and the Democratic-Republicans. Taylor was a member of the latter group. Although Taylor's group was in the majority, he was the only one with special "talent as a debater, or tact in legislation". (4) Thus he immediately became a party champion.

Before completing his second term in the State Legislature John W. Taylor chose to campaign for Congress against Samuel Stewart of Waterford. Although Taylor was attacked as a "war" candidate he won election to the Thirteenth Congress thereby beginning an uninterrupted twenty-year congressional career from March 4, 1813 - March 3, 1833.

At 29 John W. Taylor was the youngest of New York's twenty-seven member delegation. One writer suggests "it is doubtful if any Congress ever held more young men destined to be known to fame". John C. Calhoun was only 31, Daniel Webster the same, and Henry Clay just turned 37. Taylor was "ranked fifth on Military Affairs", placed on "Foreign Relations, headed by Calhoun", and at the beginning of the second session (December 7, 1813) "Taylor became second on Ways and Means. When the Fourteenth Congress (1815-1817) opened, Speaker Clay honored him with the chairmanship of the Committee on Elections."

Taylor's congressional service spanned momentous and turbulent years in the country's history. At the outset we were at war with Great Britain, Washington was captured and set afire in 1814, and Florida purchased from Spain. Taylor supported the administrations of Madison, Monroe, and John Quincy Adams. He favored a protective tariff for the encouragement of domestic manufactures but opposed federal appropriations for roads and canals as unconstitutional, inclining to the view that internal improvements generally were delegated to the states to construct and control. He supported the War of 1812 even to the extent of advocating conscription. It was not until near the close of the Fifteenth Congress, however, that John W. Taylor became a conspicuous national figure as an anti-slavery advocate.

Missouri and Maine applied for admission to statehood in 1819. At that time there were twenty-two states in the Union, eleven slave and eleven free. Since 1802 the political balance between North and South had been maintained by admitting alternately slave and free states. The slave states, however, had only 81 votes in the House of Representatives as against 105 for the free states. Thus to preserve the sectional balance, the South had to depend on its equal vote in the Senate.

When the legislation to admit Missouri came before the House, Representative James Tallmadge of New York proposed an amendment prohibiting the further introduction of slaves into Missouri and further providing that all children born of slaves after Missouri's admission should become free at the age of 25. John W. Taylor seconded the proposal setting off a fierce and vitriolic debate. Two weeks later when the organization of the Arkansas Territory came before Congress, John W. Taylor proposed an amendment forbidding the further introduction of slavery. The House approved the Tallmadge amendment but defeated Taylor's, and both were lost when the Senate rejected the Tallmadge bill. Next the Senate, on the balance-of-power principle that one free state and one slave state should always be admitted at the same time, passed a bill admitting Maine as a free state and Missouri as a slave state. The bill further provided that slavery in the rest of the Louisiana Purchase north of 36° 30' was prohibited. In the House, twice on motions by John W. Taylor, the Senate compromise was rejected. Although Taylor continued to lead the fight with boldness, persistency, and vigilance as both whip and floor-leader, the eventual disaffection of four New Yorkers resulted in the Missouri Compromise which had been championed by Clay. Thereafter Henry Clay became nationally renowned as "the great pacificator".

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Taylor now a strong national figure was nominated as Speaker at the opening of the second session of the Sixteenth Congress to succeed Clay who had resigned. There were three other active candidates for the post

and the result hinged principally on the Missouri question. (5) After 22 ballots Taylor finally received a bare majority of the votes (76 out of 148) and became Speaker on November 15, 1820.

Taylor's first stint as Speaker lasted three and one half months. At the close of the session (March 3, 1821) Clay moved a vote of thanks stating that Taylor had "performed his extremely difficult and arduous task with assiduity, impartiality, ability, and promptitude". The motion was adopted with a single dissenting vote.

Taylor returned home to face an unfortunately divisive campaign. New York's political offices at that time were hotly contested between the partisans of DeWitt Clinton and the so-called Albany Regency or buck-tails who were dominated by Martin Van Buren. Taylor's hope to stay aloof from their internal bickerings was destroyed. When the Clintonians nominated him along with their assembly ticket, the bucktails put up Guert Van Schoonhoven of Waterford as an opponent. Taylor won re-election but became thought of by many of his congressional colleagues as a Clintonian. This Taylor protested was false. (6)

When Taylor returned to Washington in November to help organize the Seventeenth Congress he discovered that Calhoun was "decidedly against" him, and President Monroe "decided to take no part" whatsoever in the selection of the Speaker, and the majority of the New York congressional delegation were openly opposed. Secretary of State John Quincy Adams who had "great confidence in J.W. Taylor" (7) backed his re-election but Philip P. Barbour of Virginia was selected Speaker on the twelfth ballot.

AN ALLY OF JOHN QUINCY ADAMS

Although Taylor's star waned temporarily he had become a staunch supporter of Adams who was a presidential candidate in 1824 along with Andrew Jackson, Henry Clay, and William Crawford. Taylor declined the nomination for governor that fall with the result that DeWitt Clinton was again nominated and subsequently re-elected Governor of New York after a rough

and tumble campaign against the Regency candidate, Samuel Young, a Ballston neighbor of Taylor's. (8) Most of the Clintonite votes went to Adams for president even though Clinton himself favored Jackson.

Andrew Jackson received both the highest national popular and electoral vote, but since he did not receive an absolute majority of the electoral count the election was submitted for decision to the House of Representatives. There the vote of the New York delegation proved to be the decisive factor. Of New York's thirty-four congressmen, seventeen including Taylor favored Adams, sixteen were opposed to him, and Stephen Van Rensselaer was "on the fence". If Van Rensselaer voted against Adams, it would have tied the delegation and excluded New York from the state count thus depriving Adams of the necessary thirteen favorable states he required to win. The House roll call took place the morning of February 9, 1825 and Van Rensselaer's climactic vote for Adams made him President. Taylor immediately became Adams' personal choice for Speaker of the Nineteenth Congress.

SPEAKER A SECOND TIME

President Adams and Henry Clay, the new Secretary of State, together persuaded Daniel Webster not to oppose Taylor. Voting took place on March 5, 1825 with one hundred and ninety-three members present thus requiring ninety-seven votes to elect. Administration members barely outnumbered the Jacksonians. Taylor was elected on the second ballot with 99 votes. Henry Clay claimed this a strong administration victory "insisting that many of the members have strong personal objections to Taylor". (9)

Adams' term as President was generally a disappointment. He was a man of impeccable character, an accomplished statesman and a trained diplomat. His intellect and capacity for work were extraordinary. It has been suggested that "he was better equipped for the presidency than any other man who has ever filled the chair". He proposed a progressive program of internal improvements but each suggestion was debated and defeated. Adams was plagued with a

reputation for being cold and heartless, for being antislavery and pro-Indian, and he was bitterly opposed by a well-organized machine headed by Andrew Jackson, the most popular military hero in America since George Washington. Taylor meeting with Adams in 1826 suggested that the majority of his southern colleagues were convinced "of a fixed determination of the present Administration to emancipate the Southern slaves". (10)

Taylor too was beginning to face systematic and powerful political opposition at home as well as in Congress. DeWitt Clinton had become an open Jacksonian and allied himself with the Albany Regency (Van Buren) "to get up an opposition to Taylor's re-election". (11) Although Taylor was still too popular to be defeated in his own district, both statewide and nationally in the fall of 1827 the Jacksonian candidates won control of the legislatures. When the House met to organize in the Twentieth Congress on December 3, 1827 the Jacksonian members outnumbered Adams' supporters by a margin of 119 to 94. Of the 205 votes cast for Speaker, Taylor received 94 but the Jacksonian candidate, Andrew Stevenson of Virginia, was chosen with 104. (12) Taylor later informed Adams that of the New York delegation's thirty-two votes, "he obtained not more than twelve", and of those who voted against him four were "friends of long standing" who broke "their promises, under the spell of party management". (13) In another view "Mr. VanBuren again exerted his influence against Mr. Taylor; again it was in the power of the members from this state to have elected him speaker and he was again defeated by the votes of the friends of Mr. Van Buren from his own state". (14) Taylor in a letter to his son said, "I lost my third election as Speaker through my direct opposition to slavery".

John W. Taylor, except for Theodore Pomeroy who served a single day in 1869, is the only New Yorker who ever held what is generally regarded as the third place in our national government - Speaker of the House of Representatives. President Adams found Taylor "a friend of whom I could be proud, as well as a virtuous politician". Another who examined his activities as Speaker suggested "perhaps no man in this country understood so well the rules that govern

public assemblies....and no one presided with greater dignity". Taylor then as Speaker seems to have served his country with honor and distinction.

SOURCES OF POLITICAL SUCCESS

John W. Taylor's "commanding abilities and national reputation, no doubt, contributed essentially to his home popularity; but the greatest secret of his success was a happy combination of rare social qualities....It was difficult to resist the fascination of his polished manners, and the charm of his society and conversation"."His sympathies and liberalities reached the poor, and they have been heard often to bless his name."

Like every successful elected public servant Taylor remained active and visible in his congressional district. For example in 1815 we find him as an organizer of the Saratoga County Bible Society along with his father and for years was a Sunday School teacher. According to Sylvester in 1819 the Town of Corinth held its "first regular meeting" out of doors and in the road. John W. Taylor was there and acted as clerk. At the semi-centennial celebration in Ballston Spa on July 4, 1826 Taylor delivered the principal oration. He seems to have continued his private legal profession whenever he was home and generally led an extremely busy life.

ASCENDANCY OF THE JACKSONIANS

The end of Taylor's long and honorable public career was foreshadowed with the election of Jackson as President. The Adams party was disintegrating with some of his followers joining the fledgling Anti-Masonic party; the Jacksonians were firmly in the saddle. It was an excellent time to move vigorously against John W. Taylor.

Colonel Samuel Young of Ballston was carefully selected as the opponent most likely to win. In his prime Young was acknowledged as the "most brilliant orator in the state". He had a fund of humor with a vein of sarcasm, often caustic, sometimes offensive, but always effective. Young had served as canal commissioner, a delegate to the state constitutional

convention in 1821, as state senator, as well as speaker of the state assembly. He had also been a candidate for governor against DeWitt Clinton. By any standard Young was a tough opponent! Taylor was still equal to the competition, however, and was returned to Washington "by a small majority". In the selection of Speaker for the Twenty-Second Congress Taylor was a token candidate. John Quincy Adams now a fellow congressman voted for Taylor as did some of the new anti-masonic members. Taylor, however, received only 15 of the 195 votes cast, but it was a nice gesture. (15)

The 1830 census gave the Jacksonians an added advantage. The eleventh New York congressional district was reapportioned with Schenectady County being added. Taylor predicted to Adams that the makeup of this new district would "exclude him (Taylor) from Congress". (16) The fact that the next election (1832) was to decide a presidential as well as a congressional contest also proved to be a disadvantage to Taylor. The triumph of the Jackson party in both the state and nation would be complete.

Writing to a loyal county constituent in May 1832 Taylor suggested that only by Clay and his party joining hands with New York's anti-masonic ticket could Jackson be defeated. Although such unification was actually carried out and the combined party thereafter became known "as the whig party", the popular current for Jackson and his supporters was too powerful for either Clay or Taylor.

Taylor's opponent in the enlarged district was John Cramer of Waterford - the Democrats long-time Saratoga county political boss. Cramer was not a talker and rarely took part in public debate, but he was a rich attorney with a passion for power. He was indomitable in his energy and he knew how to plan, cajole, and even threaten. He had served in both the state senate and assembly. As a delegate to the Constitutional Convention of 1821 he had done himself credit by voting to abolish the property qualification of voters, thus enfranchising thousands of citizens. When Taylor reached Ballston in the mid-summer of 1832 he found Clay and his own fortunes in deep

trouble. Sylvester suggests that the campaign of 1832 was "the hardest fought political contest which the state had then witnessed". Taylor was still a popular figure but he soon discovered that "scores of life-long friends" were this time separated from him by political bitterness. The final results in the eleventh congressional district revealed Jackson victorious by a 251 margin and Cramer by an even 300. Thus those who desired a change had finally succeeded.

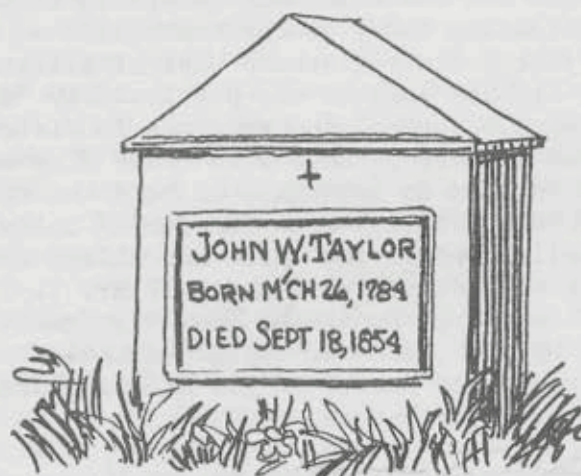
THE FINAL YEARS

When Taylor left Congress he was just 49, but his life had been strenuous. He resumed the full-time practice of law and the enjoyment of his Ballston Spa home (still standing today on the south side of West High Street just a short distance west of Ballston Avenue). It is said that he was particularly "fond of cultivating his garden, and generous in distributing its fruits and flowers". Once when Henry Clay was visiting the Taylors in Ballston, he told the family about John W.'s popularity with the fabled Dolly Madison. "Dolly used to say there was always something wanting at a dinner or a party if Mr. Taylor was absent." Although separated from his family for long periods of time, John W. Taylor was an affectionate and concerned parent to his nine children - six sons and three daughters.

It was characteristic of the man that he could never actually "retire" or lose interest in politics. He joined the Whig party and in 1840 was elected to the State Senate from the fourth senatorial district. While in the act of dressing at his Ballston Spa residence the morning of November 9, 1841 John W. Taylor was stricken with a paralytic stroke. Although at least one newspaper mistakenly reported his immediate death, he partially recovered his health. However, a permanent disability ensued and he moved to Cleveland, Ohio where he lived with his eldest daughter, Mrs. William D. Beattie. The last glimpse we have of him is the record of a visit of John Quincy Adams in November 1843, who, although seventy-six years old, broke his journey to Cincinnati to see "my old and true friend John W. Taylor....a helpless cripple with the numb palsy". (17) But Taylor, destined to outlive

his venerable friend, lingered until September 14, 1854 - just long enough to learn that the new Republican party assembled in state convention at Saratoga on August 16, 1854 had written into its platform the principle of slavery restriction.

In accordance with Taylor's own instructions his remains were brought to the side of his wife, Jane, in the Ballston Spa cemetery on Ballston Avenue. His final resting place is marked by a simple white stone situated behind a rather pretentious monument which was erected to the memory of Isaih Blood. Both gravesites are located directly across Ballston Avenue from a residence at 119 Ballston Avenue.



GRAVESTONE OF JOHN W. TAYLOR

HIS PLACE IN HISTORY

At the funeral services attended "by a large concourse of his old neighbors and friends, who had always been dear to him" Taylor's manifold contributions were summarized by the sentiments in a duly adopted resolution -

"...Hon. John W. Taylor, a man of noble and generous nature, a lawyer of eminent ability, and a statesman who in his long and distinguished career in both the State and National councils, exhibited

in the highest degree his intelligent and disinterested patriotism, and his untiring devotion to the interests and prosperity of his country, Resolved....we find no stain upon the record to mar the symmetry of a reputation founded upon abilities of the highest order and a patriotism of the purest integrity...." (18)

Residents of Charlton it is right and proper that in this bicentennial year of our Country's birth we dedicate this town meeting building to the memory of John W. Taylor, a most distinguished native son, who concluded an oration at the semi-centennial celebration of American Independence in Ballston Spa, July 4, 1826 with -

..."that though man dies his country lives; that your bodies, resting from their labors, will repose in a land of freedom; and that your sufferings and achievements, will be held in remembrance by a grateful people, until earthly distinctions shall be lost in the brighter glory of celestial existence." (19)

Frederick W. Hequembourg
FREDERICK W. HEQUEMBOURG
Supervisor, Town of Charlton

June 1, 1976



RESIDENCE OF JOHN W. TAYLOR
1907 Photograph

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Research and Writing by Frederick W. Hequembourg

Steve T. Jordan
Cover and Drawings by Steve T. Jordan

Photograph of John W. Taylor from a portrait -
Courtesy of Brookside Museum

John W. Taylor - AB-1803

John W. Taylor

H. B.
1803