RÉSUMÉ OF THE FAMILY HISTORY OF THE

"TAYLOR" FAMILY OF DYER, ARKANSAS

As I sit and ponder the history of our family, I am filled with nostalgia and longing for the peace and simple joy of our childhood days. When we were growing up life seemed a bit harsh at times. But, in retrospect, we realize that in reality it wasn't, and that the experiences we thought of as being difficult to cope with served to enable us to understand, and be more capable of dealing with life as adults. Our home was simple, comfortable, and happy. It took so little to bring joy and gladness into our lives. For this we are most grateful.

Samuel Lee Taylor and Missouri Ovelyn Dobson Taylor came to Arkansas from Georgia. They were a young couple looking for new and greater horizons, as people have always been prone to do.

They settled in an area known as Georgia Ridge, due to the fact that numerous other people from Georgia had located there. Georgia Ridge was in Crawford County, Arkansas, USA.

They were an enterprising young couple and soon acquired a farm of eighty acres. The farm was divided into two sections at forty acres each. The "Big Road" as it was known then, was the dividing line, with a North forty and a South forty. They built their home on the North forty. The original house was constructed of logs. There were two rooms and a front porch. The living-sleeping room had a huge fire-place for heating, and also some cooking during the winter months. In the kitchen there was an iron cook stove and near it was the "proverbial" wood box. Needless to say, furniture in this home was sparse in the beginning.

Two children were born to this union: Ora Lee Retta Elizabeth Taylor on March 28, 1880, and Moses Franklin Taylor, our father, September 3, 1881. The children grew up on the farm and lived at home until they were married. They attended a country school. The teacher in charge was a Mr. Bucy. He was a hard task-master and a very strict disciplinarian—almost to the point of cruelty. He taught grades 1 through 8, as compared to our grading system today. Just how far our father and his sister progresses in this school I do not know. But certainly they learned the "Rs" and learned them well.

As time went on the original log cabin became a five room house. The porch was extended across the new addition. This extension took in the well and that was a luxury for few people had a well on the front porch. The entire structure was covered with pine siding and was painted white with a blue trim. There was a log smokehouse in the back yard. In the side yard was the wooden ash-hopper, the container for all the ashes from the fireplace and the cook stove. This was a great fascination to me as a child. The large and well tended garden produced a store-house of food which was canned or dried and stored for the winter.

The log cabin had become a beautiful country home. The front yard was a panoramic array of the smaller, old fashioned flowers. Rambler roses, honey suckle, and hollyhocks grew at random and bloomed profusely.

Our Aunt Ora Taylor married Homer Lee Coker who was a singing teacher at the time. They lived in Greenwood, Sebastian County, Arkansas. They had two sons: Merle Coker the first born, died in infancy. Hubert Taylor Coker was born October 23, 1903. He was preschool age when the family moved to Dyer. When he was twelve years of age they moved to Vian, Sequoyah County, Oklahoma where Uncle Homer worked as a clerk in Bynum's mercantile store. The farming he did in Dyer was not for him and he was not reluctant to leave it. From Vian they moved to Bixby, Tulsa, and Wagoner Counties, Oklahoma. This was at the time of the oil booms in the vicinity of Tulsa, Tulsa County, Oklahoma. Uncle Homer continued in the same line of work and worked at Dunlap Brother's Store until he retired. He passed away in 1947 and Aunt Ora left us in 1964. Taylor graduated from Bixby High School, where he was outstanding on the football team. He then entered Tulsa University on a athletic scholarship and continued to be just as outstanding. He was known as " the boy with the educated toe." After graduating he started a career of teaching and coaching. He married Hallie Wade of Tulsa who was also a teacher. They had one son, Taylor Duane Coker born May 14, 1948. Taylor and Hallie retired from teaching in Coweta, Wagoner County, Oklahoma, and continue to make that their home. Their son and his wife live there also. In passing, I should like to add that Taylor possesses a sense of humor and sparkling wit that would put Alan King to shame if he could have been in the right place at the right time.

Our parents, Moses Franklin Taylor and Maud Amby Wallace, were married in 1903. They lived with our father's parents and Dad continued to work on the farm and do carpenter work. His father gave him the "South forty" of the farm. He built our first home there soon after I was born, June 29, 1904. It was a two-room frame house with a porch and was located several feet back from the "Big Road" as was the custom then. The area in front of the house was a beautiful grove of oak and hickory trees—our play ground. Two more children were born in this home: Eulalia arrived June 10, 1906, and Muriel put in her appearance October 22, 1908. We continued to live on the farm [until] I was seven years old. We moved to Dyer in order for me to start to school. This I was longing to do. Our brother, Keith Franklin Taylor, was born January 15, 1914, and our baby sister, Genevieve, was born March 12, 1917.

Dyer was our home for many years and those were good years. However, we didn't realize it at the time.

Eventually Dad sold the farm on Georgia Ridge and concentrated on farming the "Bottom" land South of Dyer. Our crops essentially were cotton and corn. He continued to do carpenter work when he was not farming. All of us worked on the farm, but to us girls I must say that it was not our "first Love." Maybe this work awakened in us ambitions to do other things, however.

Eulalia and I finished High School in Dyer. I became a teacher and she went into the business world after taking a course at Draughon's Business College in Fort Smith. Her first experience was in the Bank of Dyer. My first experience as a teacher was in a country school at Armada, Crawford County, Arkansas. What an experience! I taught five years before I was married.

The family moved to Bixby, Tulsa and Wagoner counties, Oklahoma, in October 1923. Our father worked for the Oklahoma Natural Gas Company as a carpenter. Eulalia went to work in the First National Bank of Bixby. Muriel entered High School and Keith and Genevieve entered Elementary School. I remained in Arkansas to teach at Pleasant Hill, Garland County, for one term before joining the family in Bixby. I had signed a contract to teach in Bixby before I left Arkansas.

Muriel, Keith, and Genevieve graduated from Bixby High School. We were a very close family. True, we had our individual differences, but we were "All for one and one for all."

The first break in our family came when Eulalia married Fortson Willis of Mulberry, Crawford County, Arkansas, May 24, 1925. They lived in Bixby for awhile then moved to Fort Smith, Sebastian County, Arkansas, where their son, Forton Morris Willis, was born May 9, 1926. This marriage did not last, and Eulalia and their son returned to Bixby where she went back to work in the bank. This was during the Depression Years and the First National Bank had become insolvent. She worked for the receiver while it was being liquidated. She later started working in the Citizens Security Bank. On February 25, 1931, she married Roman A. Alby of Bixby. They had a son, Roderick Allan Alby, born January 24, 1932. He died in infancy. Roman and Eulalia have continued to make Bixby their home.

At the time of Eulalia's retirement in 1967, she was a teller in the Citizen's Security Bank of Bixby. Norris Willis grew up in Bixby and graduated from Bixby High School. He was a talented musician, as is his mother, and was active in all sports. He finished college at Oklahoma A and M in Stillwell, Adair County, Oklahoma, now known as Oklahoma State University, in 1947. He married Laverne Stephens of Tulsa, August 16, 1947. Presently he is in Civil Service employment under the Department of Commerce in Austin, Travis County, Texas. He and Laverne have four children: a son and three daughters.

I brought the next break in the family when I married George N. Ferguson of Muskogee, Muskogee County, Oklahoma, June 2, 1926. This was our home until he passed away March 25, 1935. We had a daughter, Gloria Nanette, born August 8, 1927. Gloria and I moved to Tucson, Pima County, Arizona, in June 1936 where I worked as the assistant manager in a millinery store for three and one-half years. From this I went to work for Drs. Gore, Secri, and Lewis. I left the doctor's office in April 1941 and went to work for Tucson Public Schools as a Registrar in a Junior High School. I was an employee of Tucson Public Schools for twenty-six years and retired on June 15, 1968. Gloria grew up in Tucson and after graduating from Tucson High School, she attended the University of Arizona for two years. She had training in dramatic arts and dancing aside from her school work. She was married to Herbert R. Wood II of Tucson, November 1, 1947. They have three sons and one grandson, Herbert R. Wood, IV. This entire family lives in the vicinity of Phoenix, Maricopa County, Arizona at present.

We learned about grief and heartaches when our dear and wonderful mother passed away July 8, 1928—the first death in our immediate family

Muriel entered the teaching profession and taught school the year of 1927-1928. She became ill and had to spend the next three years in a tuberculosis sanitarium. During this time our father remarried and home was never the same. Muriel returned to Bixby but soon left for Tucson, Arizona, where she married William O. Beard in 1931.He passed away in October 1940. She then went to work at the Davis-Monthan Air Force Base of Tucson where she met and married Lt. Col. Albert C. Stutts in 1946. They had one son, Alan Taylor Stutts, born March 14, 1948. Alan received his education in the schools of Tucson and is a graduate of the University of Arizona. He was married to Cheryl Newton of Morenci, Arizona, November 21, 1968, and they have two sons. Alan is now a member of the faculty —Western Illinois University in Macomb, Illinois.

Death struck again in our family October 19, 1968, when our dear Muriel passed away. She was the third member of our family to go. We lost our beloved father June 13, 1960. He had continued to live in Bixby.

Keith Taylor entered the University of Arizona after graduating from Bixby High School. He, too, was a talented musician and started instrumental music in the eight grade. He continued his music in college and was a member of the University band. He graduated from the University June 2, 1937, with a major in Chemistry and a minor in music. He returned to Bixby and entered the teaching profession. He taught band in High School for a period of five years. He was married to Vivian Brown of Sand Springs, Osage and Tulsa Counties, Oklahoma, on March 27, 1942. On May 5, 1942, he enlisted in the army and was assigned to the Post at Fort Sill, Oklahoma, where he was in charge of the Reception Band. After three years of service he was discharged in June 1945. He and Vivian returned to teaching at Sapulpa, Creek and Tulsa Counties, Oklahoma. After one year he decided to become a Doctor of Optometry. Subsequently, he entered the School of Optometry in Chicago, Illinois, and graduated in June 1948. He returned to Oklahoma and opened his office in Sand Springs in September 1948. He has remained there and has a most successful practice. He and Vivian had a son, Keith Franklin Taylor II, born October 10, 1952. He grew up in Sand Springs and graduated from Charles Paige High School. He followed in his father's footsteps in music and was a member of the High School Band.

Between his junior and senior years he was privileged to be a member of a select group from Tulsa for a European tour, giving concerts in many places. He attended college at Northeastern Oklahoma, A and M, Miami, Oklahoma and Northeastern at Tahlequah, Oklahoma. Presently he is employed in Tulsa. Keith and Vivian were divorced in April 1973. He and Mary E. Brenneman of Sand Springs were married October 19, 1974, and continue to live there.

Genevieve was eleven years old when our mother died. This is a most precarious age and had to be a contributing factor to her independence and early maturity. She graduated from Bixby High School in May 1935. After working a year as a book keeper in a Department Store in Bixby she came to Tucson in 1936 to join Muriel, Keith, Gloria, and me. She went to work as a dental assistant. By this time her High School sweetheart, Edwin Ingram and his family, were living in Clovis, Curry County, New Mexico. She was invited to spend the holidays in the Ingram home in December 1936 which she did and did not return to Tucson. She started to working as a cashier in a Drug Store and later was employed as a Receptionist and Bookkeeper in a Physician's office. She and Edwin were married May 29, 1937, and continued to live in Clovis, New Mexico until June 1973 when they moved to Albuquerque, Bernalillo County, New Mexico. They had two children: Joel Dee Ingram born January 15, 1940, and Judith Ann born June 13, 1941. Joel Dee is a pharmacist, presently living in Albuquerque. He has a daughter, Judith Ann Ingram, a nurse, is married to Dale Folkman. They have a daughter and two sons. Their home is in Reno, Washoe County, Nevada.

In closing this résumé of the History of the "Taylor" family I must say it has been a pleasure to turn back the pages of time. It has brought back many memories, both sad and joyful, certainly the ones of our childhood in Dyer are among the joyful ones. Our origin was a humble one, but we were taught values and principles that stemmed from love and faith in God. This teaching has been our bulwark against the storms of life that we have encountered through the years. Thank you, God, for our heritage.

Respectfully submitted to the Dora Moss Library, Dyer, Crawford County, Arkansas, as per request from Lorena Moss Lancaster.

by:

Decima Taylor Ferguson of Tucson, Arizona,

in Collaboration with Eulalia Taylor Alby of Bixby, Oklahoma.

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