

Samuel R. Taylor

contributed by Denise Ellis

Samuel R. Taylor was born February 16, 1828, Mount Carmel, Wabash County Illinois, the son of Hays Taylor and Mary Valuntine (Balentine, Robintine). Mary was born in Ohio. Samuel had an older sister, Cynthia Ann Taylor (m. James Harvey Embree) and a younger brother, Hayes Ballentyne Taylor. His sibilings stayed in Illinois and Indiana.

In 1850 Sam was living with his mother in Mount Carmel and operating the Wabash House, a hotel, inn and livery stable.

Sam came to Portland in 1852 on foot (some sources say 1851 but appear to be in error), having joined an emigrant train in Kansas City in the spring. He quickly came to the Applegate Valley where he had a varied career as a miner, mine supervisor of Steamboat Ledge (1861) , and a stage driver operating a service between Myrtle Point through Jackson County and on to Crescent City as well as a service between Jacksonville and Waldo in Josephine County. He served two terms as deputy sheriff and was appraiser for a number of estates.

January 18, 1872, he married Melissa Charity Rogers (daughter of Amanda Benedict and John C. S. Rogers), niece of Rial Benedict and Mary Jane Cogle Benedict. She came to Jacksonville with Rial in 1870 from Kane County Illinois. They were married in Applegate by Rev. J. H. Skidmore (Methodist Episcopalian).

The 1880 Census reports Sam as a stock raiser and from 1890 to his death he is a hotel keeper on Main Street. Sam and Melissa operated the Taylor House, the largest hotel in Jacksonville at that time. Sam died 2 May 1908 in Jacksonville, Oregon.

Sam and Melissa had four children, Edward Everett 1873-74, Marvel Merritt Taylor Sr., 1874-1966, Hayes Benjamin 1876-1899 and Lillian Melissa 1882-1945. Hayes died at the Battle of Malabon in the Phillipine Islands.

Sam, Melissa, Edward and Hayes are all buried in the Taylor family plot in the Jacksonville Cemetery.

There are many Peter Britt photos of this family in the collection of the Southern Oregon Historical Society in Medford.

DIED

TAYLOR—At the family home in Jacksonville, Oregon, Saturday, May 2, 1908, Samuel R. Taylor.

Samuel R. Taylor was born at Mt. Carmel, Illinois, February, 16, 1828, of a christian mother, and lived at the place of his birth until 24 years of age, when he crossed the plains with an ox team, arriving in Oregon in the fall of 1852. He has resided in Jacksonville most of the time since coming to the coast.

In the year 1872 he was married to Miss Melissa C. Rogers. To this union four children were born, Edward E., Marvel M., Hayes B., and Lillian T. Hayes B. was killed on the battlefield in the Philippine Islands, March 25, 1899.

Mr. Taylor was well known throughout Southern Oregon, having been a member of the Pioneer Society of this section.

He leaves a wife, daughter and son, who reside in Jacksonville, and a brother in Princeton, Ind.

It will be remembered that Mr. Taylor was one of the first stage drivers in Oregon and also an early freighter. He drove the stage from Myrtle Point through the rich mineral belt of Jackson county to Crescent City. His habits were temperate, and he bore an excellent social reputation.