

# The Baptist Examiner

A nation-wide, independent paper, standing foursquare for the distinguishing doctrines of Baptists, and shunning not to declare all the counsel of God.

"To the law and to the testimony; if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them" (Isa. 8:20).

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## The Life of H. Boyce Taylor

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### Installment No. 1

#### HIS ANCESTORS

(This is the first installment of *The Life of H. Boyce Taylor*, of which we have made previous announcement. The author was first a student under Brother Taylor, and then an associate with him in the West Kentucky Bible School and an intimate friend. He has now been elected to succeed Brother Taylor as president of the school. The Lord willing, Brother Beaman is to write the complete life history of Brother Taylor for the Baptist Examiner. We expect to carry an installment in each issue from now until his entire life has been covered. The life story of this great man of God should appeal strongly to his many friends and admirers. We invite them to read it as it shall appear, the Lord willing, in this paper. We urge pastors that can do so conscientiously to make announcement concerning this feature of the Baptist Examiner, and seek to get subscriptions from their people. Pastors may also well mention the series of articles presenting a systematic study of Bible doctrine, the first of which appears in this issue.—Ed.)

The Taylor family is one of the most prominent and numerous in both England and this country. The name Taylor is worn, according to expert genealogists, by over a half million. Over fifty places in the United States bear this name. More than twenty-six hundred Taylors were enrolled in the Revolutionary War. Biographical sketches of ninety-seven Taylors appear in "Who's Who in America." Brother Taylor once said there were more Baptist preachers in Kentucky by the name of Taylor than any other name. Among them all none was greater than H. B. Taylor.

Since our brother was related on both the paternal and maternal side to the Taylors, it seems peculiarly fitting that we trace the Taylor history.

The line is traceable to the year 58 B. C., at which time Julius Caesar was surrounded by murderous barbarians while he was inspecting his camp at twilight. The courage and bravery of the Roman elicited the support of one of the barbarians. In return for this life-saving act, the barbarian was made a personal attendant of Caesar. He was allowed to bear arms (a sword and dart), from which his name Taliaferro originated. Compounded from the Latin "tatum" (a dart) and "ferro" (I bear), the name signifies "one who carries the dart."

A branch of the family descended from the heroic Taliaferro wandered to the ancient French province, Normandy, and, centuries later, the Norman Baron Taillefer accompanied William the Conqueror across the English Channel to England and fell in his presence in the van of his army at the battle of Hastings, England, October 14, 1066.

The death of the gallant Taillefer received vivid description in "The Last of the Saxon Kings," by Bulwer Lytton. The bold warrior of gigantic height rode in front of the cohort and seemed beside himself with the joy of battle as he chanted. He wildly threw his sword into the air and, catching it as it fell, he proudly flourished it. He spurred his horse to the front and challenged someone to a single combat. The fiery young sol-

dier who choose to match swords with him was soon pierced through by Taillefer's sword and trampled under foot by his fiery steed. A second shared the same fate at the hands of the laughing and shouting Norman.

But Taillefer must meet his death. Then Leofivine, the brother of the Saxon king, came forth with his spear over his head and covered by his shield. The daring Taillefer rushed forward, shivered his sword on the Saxon shield, and fell a corpse under the hoofs of the steed of his slayer, transfixed by the Saxon's spear. William the Conqueror led the wail of woe that came from the Norman ranks. Such is war which his noble descendant held to be unchristian!

The Conqueror rewarded the family of Taillefer with large landed estates in Kent County, England. Hanger Taylefer, his descendant, held lands in the tenure of Ospringe, County of Kent, in 1256, and from him comes the paternal progenitors of H. B. Taylor. Edward Taylor, of this line, came to New Jersey from London, England, in 1692. Richard Taylor, a maternal forbear, came to this country from Kent County, England, in 1608.

Through French influence the spelling of Taliaferro became Taillefer, later Taylefer, and then merged with Taylor. One part of the name tells a story of heroism; the other the story of a trade. Taylor is from the Latin "talea" (a rod or stick) used by the cutter and maker of clothes. "Tailor" became the spelling of the trade-name and "Taylor" of the surname. Stories in a name!

The Taylor Coat of Arms bears this motto in Latin: "Consequitur quodquaque petit," that is, "He obtains what he seeks," or "He accomplishes what he undertakes." The motto was exemplified in the descendant, H. B. Taylor.

Edward Taylor, mentioned above, came to this country to receive land bequeathed to him by Matthew Taylor, his brother. The Taylor family was related by marriage to Sir George Carteret, proprietor of East New Jersey. A deed dated November 19, 1681, conveyed from Poward and other Indians to the Lady Carteret, in trust for Matthew Taylor and others, a large tract of land in Somerset County, New Jersey. The grandsons of Edward and his wife, Catherine, settled in New York, Ohio, and the West and South.

Two brothers, Moses and Zachary, direct descendants of Edward Taylor, went south. Zachary (1707-1768) settled in Orange County, Virginia, and became the father of Col. Richard Taylor (1741-1826) and the grandfather of Zachary Taylor (1784-1850), the twelfth President of the United States. Moses settled in North Carolina in an adjoining county to his brother. MOSES TAYLOR (1729-1819) married Elizabeth Pervat, a French woman, who died March 3, 1833, and raised a large family of boys on a farm.

About the time the boys were grown and most of them married, Moses and his sons, falling in with the great rush of that day from North Carolina, moved west. At the headwater of the Cumberland River, they with some of their friends and