



The Glynn

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*Mr. Heritage of Glynn County
Captain Doug Taylor
Age 97*

*Chosen by the Glynn County Bicentennial Committee and
The Alpha Psi Sorority*



Nonagenarian Honored At Oatland Plantation

By SUSAN MOUM

Birthdays are always special occasions, and Douglas Taylor's 98th at Oatland Plantation recently was no exception.

The Taylors, Goulds, Bruces and friends numbered over 100 came to commemorate the man affectionately known as Cap'n Doug or Uncle Doug.

In the southern tradition of family reunions, the festivities began about noon and ended at dusk when everyone had finished one more taste of cake and one more bite of pie. The barbeque had been simmering slowly for two days (will 150 buns be enough?), potato salad, macaroni and cheese, green vegetable casseroles of every sort were plentiful with ham and fried chicken and all kinds of relish trays and goodies long associated with celebrations of life in abundance. Iced tea and other potables refreshed the crowd with the cold keg on the front porch providing a place of special attention from members of the younger set.

The babies were there, too, peering in and out among the grown ups in search of their favorites on the long table laden with the best of old fashioned recipes. Then they were off to visit with cousins and wander through the gate in front of Taylor's cottage to the woods beyond and finally the stables.

The guests were from near and also from afar as two young men, Kim Sigar and Mike Milstead from South Dakota, friends of the family, had stopped by for a few days on their way to Florida. Milstead talked about never seeing the ocean before that morning and not knowing about sand dollars or other marine life common on the coast.

In the midst of the family get together, the honoree sat in front of the fireplace or on the porch talking with his kin and receiving their good wishes and happy birthdays. Always nearby was Mrs. Lillian Lee who has stayed in the house every other week for three years to help care for Taylor. (Alternating weeks Mrs. Rhoda Register has done the same for over two years.) Plentiful white hair deny his age as do his blue eyes which still enjoy watching the birds in the yard and take pleasure in reading novels of the old west. Earlier times are his best remembrances and he talks of living on St. Simons his entire lifetime.

Charles Stevens, his grandfather, came from Denmark as a young man of 24 and settled on the coast in the early 1800's. During the years Darien exceeded Brunswick in population, Stevens hauled cargo from Darien to the islands in his boat. The family moved to Fort Frederica where Taylor's mother was born in a large, two story house built on top of

at home, but soon the family built and occupied another house near the fort until the National Park Service took over the property. Oatland was then purchased and its hundreds of acres of natural beauty became home to succeeding generations.

The Gould family joined the Taylors when Cap'n Doug married the late Berta Gould Hazell. Their daughter, Mrs. Lloyd Grider (Kitty), introduced the Bruce ancestry to the lineage when she was married to the late Robert Bruce. Mrs. Grider and her husband live on St. Simons as do the Taylor's son, Nat Hazell, and his wife Jackie (the former Jackie Vickers of Brunswick) and are at Oatland.

The talk that day, however, was not restricted to who was who and their relationships to each other. It was a combination of past fun, present past times and future plans with the man of the hour calmly sitting in his chair enjoying this day on which so many people had come to honor him.



OATLAND PLANTATION CELEBRATION — Douglas Taylor in repose as he celebrated his 98th birthday recently at Oatland Plantation on St. Simons Island. Over 100 family members and friends came to the birthday party which doubles as an annual reunion. (Photo by Harriet Langford)

... Taylor

(Continued From Page 12-A)

was condemned, though the families were allowed to remain on the land until after World War II. It was then that Taylor and his family moved to Oatland on the north end of St. Simons Island. The State Park Service purchased Fort Frederica and later gave it to the National Park Service and is now known as Fort Frederica National Park.

Taylor was manager of Little St. Simons until his retirement in 1969, having started work there at the age of 16.

Survivors include a daughter, Mrs. Lloyd Grider; a son, Nathaniel L. Hassell; five grandchildren; ten great-grandchildren; and many

nieces, nephews, great-nieces and great-nephews.

Active pallbearers are Johnny Ream, Wray Avera, Rudolph Beggs, Charlie Strickland, Drue Linton, and Bob West Jr. Honorary pallbearers are John Rollinson, George Buchan, Bob Monroe, Bill McDonald, Frank O'Brien, H.G. Summers, Charlie Thawley, Eston Harden, Charles F. Estes, W.J. Backus,

T.M. Baumgardner, John Ringling, Bernard Nightengale, Edward C. Micheal and Phillip Beroelzheimer.

The family will be at Taylor's Oatland home and requests those wishing to make contributions to the Glynn County Heart Fund.

Edo Miller and Sons Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

Taylor Funeral To Be Saturday At Christ Church

Funeral services for Herman Douglas Taylor, 98, who died Wednesday at the Brunswick hospital, will be held at 11 a. m. Saturday at Christ Church, Frederica with interment to follow in the church cemetery. The Rev. J. Junius Martin, assisted by the Rev. Edward C. Chapman and the Rev. Talbert Morgan, will officiate.

Born at Frederica, Mr. Taylor was the son of Belle Vincent Stevens and William Curtis Taylor. He was the last surviving of eight children, all having been born, baptized, confirmed and married at Christ Church. He was married to the former Alberta Gould who was treasurer of Christ Church for 26 years.

Taylor's mother, after her husband's death, gave Fort Frederica and one acre of land to the Colonial Dames, and after her death in 1937, the land surrounding the Fort where all the married children were living

(Continued On Page 12-B)