

# THE SILAS WESLEY TAYLOR FAMILY OF GLYNN COUNTY, GEORGIA

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## *SILAS WESLEY TAYLOR*

On July 20, 1836, Silas Wesley Taylor married Margaret Charlotte Lowrie (sometimes "Lowry") in Glynn County, Georgia (Glynn County Marriages Webpage n.d.). This is the earliest record found of Silas Taylor in Glynn County, where he lived until his death in about 1879. Exactly when he arrived in Georgia is unknown, however, his name does not appear in the 1830 census for Glynn County, suggesting he settled in the county sometime between 1830 and his marriage in 1836 (U.S. Census 1830). Almost nothing at all is known about Silas Taylor's life before moving to Georgia, although Burroughs (1936) states that he was born in Maryland on December 11, 1808, the son of John Taylor and Margaret Williams. Subsequent census records affirm Maryland as his birthplace. Other than census records, few documents survive to tell us about Silas Taylor. It is known that he was a plantation overseer and a farmer and that he achieved modest success in life. Silas and his wife Margaret had six children. Most of the children remained in Glynn County and today many of Taylor's direct descendents reside in the county. This brief history of Silas Taylor and his family is intended to provide those descendents with some understanding of their family history and heritage.

What initially brought Silas Taylor to Glynn County is unknown, but within two years of his marriage he was hired by Roswell King, Jr., to be the overseer of Hampton Plantation at Butlers Point, located on the north end of St. Simons Island. Hampton Plantation was then owned by John Mease Butler and Pierce Mease Butler, grandsons of the founder of the plantation, Major Pierce Butler. The year that Taylor began as overseer at Hampton seems to have been 1838, because in October of that year he is first mentioned in a journal kept by Roswell King. One volume of this journal covers the years 1838 to 1845 (King 1838-1845) and another the years 1845 to 1854 (Sullivan 2003). King and his father, Roswell King, Sr., both had served as overseers and property managers of the Pierce Butler family lands on St. Simons Island and at the mouth of the Altamaha River. The father had managed the Butler properties from 1802 to 1819, while the son held this position from 1820 until his death in 1854. Roswell King, Jr., had been serving as the overseer at Butlers Point and, apparently residing there, when he hired Silas Taylor as his replacement. After hiring Taylor in 1838, King moved to property he had recently purchased from his brother, Barrington King, near Colonels Island in Liberty County, but he remained overall "manager" of all of the various Butler properties in Georgia, including Hampton Plantation (Sullivan 2003:22).

It is unknown if Silas Taylor was specifically brought to Georgia by the Butler family or by Roswell King to work at Butlers Point, or if he was already living in the area and was then hired by King. The rather extensive Butler family papers apparently make no mention of Silas Taylor (Bell 1987), possibly indicating that he was hired after moving to Georgia. In any event,

Silas Taylor must have had some farming and managerial experience for King to hire him to oversee what was the Butlers principal plantation and at the time one of the largest and richest sea island cotton plantations on the coast. Taylor may have obtained his position in part through his father-in-law, William Lowrie, a native of Scotland, who seems to have been working as a plantation overseer in Glynn County prior to 1830 (Deborah Gaudier, personal communication 2004). Silas Taylor moved to Butlers Point and lived in a house located near the north end, presumably the house previously lived in by the Roswell Kings, father and son. The brick ruins of the chimney and foundations of this house were extant in the 1970s.

The 1840 census shows Silas Taylor living on St. Simons Island with a household consisting of 4 persons. These were one male infant under 5 years old, one adult male between 30 and 40 (Silas Taylor), one female infant under 5, and one adult female between 20 and 30 (Margaret Taylor). The two infants are believed to be the Taylor's two oldest children, Julia King born on June 17, 1837, and John Wesley born in 1839 (U.S. Census 1840). It is possible that Silas and Charlotte Taylor named their daughter after Roswell King's wife, Julia Maxwell King. Julia King Taylor was born in 1837 and, if she was named after Julia King, it suggests that Silas Taylor was acquainted with Roswell King before he first appears as the Hampton Plantation overseer in 1838. The 1840 census, also, shows that Silas Taylor "owned" 290 slaves, making him the largest slaveholder on the island. Actually, Taylor did not own these slaves, they belonged to the Butlers and are listed under Taylor's name simply because he was the overseer on their Hampton Plantation. Silas Taylor is enumerated in the census adjacent to John Couper, the owner of Cannons Point Plantation. This property abutted Butlers Point, verifying Taylor's residency at Hampton Plantation.

Few records have been found that describe Silas Taylor's or his family's life while he was overseer at Butlers Point. Overseers often kept journals or other plantation records, but none kept by Taylor are known. The journals kept by Roswell King, Jr. do mention Silas Taylor several times, usually in relation to King's periodic trips to St. Simons to look over the Butler property. For example, in late March, 1841, King visited St. Simons and wrote, "Mr. Taylor has all things in pretty good condition some cotton & corn planted..." (King 1838-45).

On October 26, 1841, King wrote "Mr. Taylor came up from St. Simons to get surveyor to go to St. Simons to point out the line between Mr Butlers & Haggards [*sic* 'Hazzards']." Apparently, Silas Taylor had gone to Darien or up to King's plantation in Liberty County to get the surveyor. Just a couple of years earlier, Dr. Thomas Hazzard, owner of Pike's Bluff Plantation, had shot and killed John Wylly of the Village Plantation over a property boundary dispute and it is possible that Hazzard was taking up a similar dispute with the Butlers (Vanstory 1970:158). On November 17, 1843, King recorded in his journal that "Mr. Taylor injured by gunpowder." What this injury may have been is unknown (King 1838-45).

Silas Taylor is also mentioned several times in the second volume of the plantation journal kept by Roswell King, covering the years 1845-1854 (Sullivan 2003). For example, on January 18, 1845, King wrote:

Went to St. Simons with A. Blue [Alexander Blue, manager of Butler Island property near Darien] & SW Taylor, examined & found a human skeleton

had been hastily and imperfectly interred in the marsh 2-300 yds from St. Ann Settlement apparently there about 6 months & evidently done by violence, the left front of the skull caved in, fracture extending down the face . . . [Sullivan 2003].

Elsewhere, King notes the body was believed to be that of a slave named "cooper Scipio" who was thought to have been killed by another slave, a woman named Sally Watkins (Sullivan 2003). The "St. Ann Settlement" was the area known as "St. Annies" on the southwestern side of Butlers Point, just north of West Point and Pike's Bluff plantations, properties owned by the Hazzard brothers, William Wigg and Thomas (Vanstory 1970:158). .

King's journals indicate that the plantation at Butlers Point did not always produce satisfactory crops. In June 1845, he wrote that the corn crop would not make more than two bushels per acre because of drought and directed "Mr. Taylor to cut it up & plant pease." In 1846, Roswell King wrote that Silas Taylor was undertaking a "manuring" program at Butlers Point, which they hoped, would aid the cotton crop. The sandy soils of the island were quickly depleted and a variety of efforts like this to increase productivity were attempted in the nineteenth century. Despite the "manuring," the 1846 crop at Butlers Point was small, consisting of only 40 bales of sea island cotton, 1800 bushels of corn and 400 bushels of peas. Apparently, the sweet potato crop was better. The sea island cotton was the money crop at Hampton and would have been loaded on schooners or sloops and shipped to market in Savannah or Charleston in November or December after it had been ginned. One of the boats that carried the Hampton crop was the schooner *Roswell King*, named after Pierce Butler's first overseer, Roswell King, Sr. In later years, some of the Hampton cotton was carried aboard sailing vessels owned by Captain Charles Stevens who lived at the old colonial town of Frederica (Pearson 1991). After the Civil War, one of Silas Taylor's sons, William Curtis, married Charles Stevens' daughter Isabelle.

Silas Taylor is last mentioned in Roswell King's journal on February 11, 1848 (Sullivan 2003), and it appears that he left the position as overseer at Hampton Plantation sometime during 1848 or early 1849 and was replaced by Dr. Samuel W. Wilson (Sullivan 2003). Why Taylor left his position with the Butlers is unreported, however, it correlated closely with the death of John Butler, one of the two Butler brothers who owned the plantation at the time. The brothers, Pierce Mease Butler and John Mease Butler, had inherited the plantation from their grandfather, Major Pierce Butler. Before his death in Mexico in 1847, John Butler was the brother most active in the management of the Georgia property (Sullivan 2003:32). It is possible that changes in plantation management after John Butler's death resulted in Silas Taylor leaving, or losing, his position as overseer. Additionally, the position of overseer on a southern slave plantation was often a very difficult, and thankless, job. The overseer was caught between owners, who were often absentee owners, like the Butlers, who demanded profits but had little first-hand knowledge of what efforts were involved to make those profits, and the slaves who had to be coerced or forced to work. After 10 years as overseer, Silas Taylor may have tired of the pressures of the job or had failed to consistently satisfy the Butlers in his performance.

Even though he left his position at Hampton Plantation, Silas Taylor did continue living on St. Simons Island until 1852 or 1853. Precisely where he resided is unknown, but based on the population and agricultural census schedules for the year 1850, it appears he lived at the

north end of the island, somewhere in the vicinity of Frederica. In the 1850 population census, Taylor's household was listed between that of James Hamilton Couper and those families known to have been living at Frederica, specifically Sarah Armstrong, James Frewin, Charles Stevens and John Davis (Otto 1973). Samuel Wilson, who had recently replaced Silas Taylor as overseer at Hampton Plantation on Butlers Point, is listed immediately before J.H. Couper. In 1850, Couper was residing at Cannons Point, which lies immediately adjacent to Butlers Point. Assuming the census recorder collected information in some orderly manner, this arrangement of names suggests that Taylor was living somewhere near the old Frederica settlement, or at least between there and Butlers Point and Cannons Point. The 1850 agricultural census enumerates Silas Taylor between J. Hamilton Couper and William W. Hazzard, who resided just above Frederica at West Point Plantation, again seeming to place the Taylor household somewhere between Frederica and Cannons Point and Butlers Point (U.S. Census 1850a).

The 1850 census identifies Silas W. Taylor as a 41-year-old farmer from Maryland. In his household were his wife Margaret Charlotte (37 years old) and their six children: Julia King (13 years old); John Wesley (11); Anne Elizabeth (9); Margaret Adeline (or Adelaide) (7); Henry Clay (5); and William Curtis (3). An 1850 mortality schedule for Glynn County notes that a 36-day-old infant named Silas Taylor died in October of that year; possibly a son of Silas and Margaret (Shaw n.d.:26). The 1850 census indicates that Silas' wife, Margaret Charlotte, was born about 1813. Her date of death is unknown, but records do indicate she was still living in 1891.

The 1850 agricultural census provides some insights into the life that Silas Taylor lived on St. Simons. This census shows that he owned 100 acres of "improved land" and 100 acres of "unimproved land," all valued at \$1500.00. On his land, Taylor raised a variety of crops and livestock. As of June 1, 1850, he owned 8 horses, 12 milk cows, 6 working oxen, 20 other cattle and 2 hogs, all valued at \$668.00. In 1850, Taylor produced 104 pounds of butter from his milk cows and he slaughtered animals valued at \$65.00. Silas Taylor owned \$50 worth of farm equipment which, with his oxen, he used to cultivate his land. In 1850 he harvested 200 bushels of corn, 60 bushels of peas and beans, 500 bushels of sweet potatoes, and 9 bales of ginned cotton. He also kept bees, because that year he produced 30 pounds of beeswax and honey (U.S. Census 1850a). In 1850, Silas Taylor was the owner of 3 slaves, a 45-year-old female and two 11-year-old children (U.S. Census 1850b).

This census information reveals that Silas Taylor operated a farm, rather than a true plantation, and he apparently used little, if any, slave labor on his land, but did produce a small amount of cotton for sale. The nine bales harvested by Taylor, presumably sea island cotton, represented about 3600 pounds of fiber and would have sold in Savannah that year for between about \$720.00 and \$1080.00 (*The Daily Georgian*, commodity prices, April 10, 1850). There were several large and wealthy cotton plantations on St. Simons Island at the time, but even they produced fairly modest amounts of cotton in 1850. For example, Samuel Wilson, overseer on the Butler family's Hampton Plantation, produced only 35 bales of cotton on 900 acres and J. Hamilton Couper at Cannons Point produced only 37.5 bales on 600 acres (U.S. Census 1850a). Thomas Butler King, owner of Retreat Plantation on the south end of St. Simons, had the largest cotton crop that year for the entire county, producing 83 bales, but it is unknown if all of this came from his St. Simons property. Although these large island plantations are most prominent

in the modern view of nineteenth century St. Simons, there were a few property owners on the island who operated their lands as farms, as Taylor did. Among these were James F. Gould, who produced 10 bales of cotton on his 150 acres of improved land, and owned a small number of horses, milk cows and cattle, and his brother, Horace Gould, who produced only 2 bales of cotton on his 70 acres of land, all of which was identified as “improved.” Horace Gould, also, owned a small quantity of livestock that included horses, milk cows, oxen, cattle and hogs (U.S. Census 1850a).

Other than Roswell King’s journal and these census records, little to document Silas Taylor’s life on St. Simons has been found. His name does appear in a few public documents of the period. For example, on June 5, 1849, Taylor was one of several island residents to purchase items from the administrator’s sale of the property of recently deceased Frederica resident, Mary Abbott. Silas Taylor paid a total of \$5.37 for his purchase, but what he bought is unknown. Other buyers at the sale included E.P. Brown (the minister at Christ Church, Frederica), John Cole, James Gould and his sons, Horace B. and James F. Gould, William Whig Hazzard, B.B. Gowen, Dr. Samuel Wilson and William A. Couper (Glynn County Ordinary Court, Wills and Appraisements Book F, pp. 162, 197).

#### ***William Lowrie, Father-in-Law of Silas Taylor***

On October 28, 1852, Silas Taylor’s father-in-law, William Lowrie, died and Silas was appointed administrator of his estate. On November 13, 1852, G.W. Wright, James D. Piles and R. Pritchard, serving as appraisers, certified an inventory and appraisal of the Lowrie estate and reported that Silas Taylor was administrator (Glynn County Ordinary Court, Wills and Appraisements Book F, p. 291). William Lowrie was born about 1780 in Scotland. It is unknown when he came to Glynn County, but he was living there by 1814 if Burroughs (1936) is correct in stating that his daughter Margaret Charlotte was born in Glynn County on April 25 of that year. Lowrie was definitely residing in Glynn County in 1820 because he is enumerated in the census of that year as “William Loury.” In his household were 1 male child under 10 years old, 1 adult male between 26 and 45 years old, (William Lowrie), 4 female children under 10 years old and 1 female between 26 and 45 years old (William Lowrie’s wife, Mary Ann Curtis Lowrie) (U.S. Census 1820). The young son is believed to be David Curtis Lowrie (sometimes listed as Curtis D. Lowrie). The census notes that one person in the household, obviously William Lowrie, was engaged in agriculture. In addition, the census shows that Lowrie owned 66 slaves. There is some indication that William Lowrie was a plantation overseer in Glynn County at the time, but where is unknown (Deborah Gaudier, personal communication 2004) and it is believed that these 66 slaves were the property of the plantation owner, not William Lowrie. This seems to be supported by the fact that ten years later, in 1830, Lowrie is reported to have owned no slaves at all (U.S. Census 1830). Exactly where William Lowrie resided in 1820 is unknown, but it seems to have been on the mainland, near Brunswick. Among his neighbors in the census listing were John Burnett, Sr., James Pritchard and John McLeod, men who are thought to have resided near Brunswick. Little is known about William Lowrie’s wife, Mary Ann Curtis, but the presence of five children in the household in 1820 suggests that the two had been married for several years by that time. Burroughs (1936) reports that Mary Curtis was a native of Savannah, Georgia.

In the Glynn County census for 1830, William Lowrie appears as “Wm. Loure” and in his household are one male age 5-10, (David C. Lowrie), one male 40-50 (William Lowrie), two females age 10-15, two females age 15-20 (one of whom was daughter Margaret Charlotte), and one female 40-50 (Mary Ann Curtis Lowrie) (U.S. Census 1830). The census indicates that he owned no slaves. On July 10, 1837, Lowrie gave one of his daughters, Eliza Morgan, 27 head of cattle, possibly as a wedding gift (Glynn County Superior Court, Deed Book G-H, p. 545).

William Lowrie is also listed in the 1840 and 1850 censuses for Glynn County. In 1850, William Lowrie, then 70 years old, was living near Brunswick, next door to his son, 27-year-old David C. Lowrie (Otto 1973:6). The only person living with William was his 64-year-old wife, Mary Ann. Residing in the immediate vicinity of the two Lowrie families were Elizabeth Nicolan, William Burney, James Stafford, James Gowen and Robert Hazlehurst (Otto 1973:11). Lowrie, also, is listed in the agricultural census for 1850. This document shows that he operated a small farm, somewhat similar to that of his son-in-law Silas Taylor. The census shows that Lowrie owned 250 acres of land, of which only 30 acres were identified as “improved,” meaning used for cultivation or structures. Lowrie’s land was valued at \$500.00 and he owned farming equipment worth \$35.00. His livestock consisted of 1 horse, 20 milk cows, 20 other cattle and 12 hogs, all valued at \$214.00. From his milk cows he produced 75 pounds of butter and the value of animals he slaughtered in 1850 was \$42.00. On his 30 acres of improved land that year, William Lowrie produced 60 bushels of corn, 10 bushels of peas and beans, 2 bushels of Irish potatoes, 100 bushels of sweet potatoes, and 1.5 bales of ginned cotton. As did many Glynn County farmers, Lowrie also grew a small amount of sugar cane, because the census notes that he produced 5 gallons of molasses and 100 pounds of cane sugar (U.S. Census 1850a).

William Lowrie’s son, David C., who resided on adjacent property, also, was a farmer. David C. Lowrie is believed to be the same person as the “Curtis D. Lowrie” who married Mary Hunt of Florida on January 6, 1846 (Glynn County Marriages Webpage n.d.). Living in David Lowrie’s household in 1850 were himself, his 23-year-old wife Mary A., and their two children, Samuel C. (3 years old) and Margaret C. (4 months old) (Otto 1973:6). In 1850, David owned 649 acres of land of which only 22 acres were improved. David Lowrie’s farm was valued at \$450 and he had farming equipment valued at \$60.00. Like his father he owned a small quantity of livestock, consisting of 1 horse, 17 milk cows, 16 other cattle, 4 sheep and 27 hogs, all valued at \$210.00. He obtained 50 pounds of butter from his milk cows and slaughtered animals valued at \$60.00. In 1850, David Lowrie produced 70 bushels of corn 15 bushels of peas and beans, 60 bushels of sweet potatoes, 6 gallons of molasses and 100 pounds of cane sugar. He obviously grew some cotton, but his ginned production in 1850 was only 50 pounds (U.S. Census 1850a).

William Lowrie died two years after this census was taken, on October 28, 1852. The inventory of Lowrie’s estate made in 1852 recorded two slaves and a rather modest list of material possessions:

|                       |           |          |
|-----------------------|-----------|----------|
| Beck, a negro woman   | valued at | \$400.00 |
| Nancy, negro girl     |           | \$350.00 |
| Cart                  |           | \$15.00  |
| Waggon [ <i>sic</i> ] |           | \$20.00  |
| Bay Horse (blind)     |           | \$5.00   |

|  |               |
|--|---------------|
| 15 Head Stock Cattle @ \$4.50 per head   | \$67.50       |
| 3,800 lbs seed cotton @ 8 cts per lb     | \$304.00      |
| 50 Bushels Corn @ 62 1/2 cts bush        | \$31.25       |
| 1,500 Fodder @ 75 [cts] pr hnd [hundred] | \$11.25       |
| Grind Stone                              | \$2.00        |
| Hand Mill                                | \$5.00        |
| Bedsteads and Beds                       | \$8.00        |
| 2 Tables                                 | \$6.00        |
| 1 shot Gun                               | \$3.00        |
| lot old chairs                           | \$2.00        |
| pair of Fire dogs                        | <u>\$1.50</u> |

Total \$1231.50

William Lowrie's estate was kept open to at least April 1854. Documents in the estate records detail various expenses that Silas Taylor settled as administrator, as well as income that Taylor received from the sale of items in the estate or from debts owed to William Lowrie at the time of his death. For example, income from the sale of items listed in the inventory above included \$13.00 for the cart; \$75.00 for the 15 head of cattle, \$32.50 for the 50 bushels of corn, \$1.75 for the grind stone, \$3.25 for the hand mill (identified as a "corn mill" in the sale accounts), \$2.75 from J.W. Moore for the fire dogs, \$3.50 from J.D. Piles for the shotgun, \$9.11 for the two tables and one mattress, \$25.00 from A. Hooker for the wagon, \$5.25 from Alex. Scranton for the blind horse, \$323.00 from William Gignilliat for the 3,800 pounds of cotton seed and \$60.00 for the hire of the "Negro woman Beck" for one year.

Out of the estate, Silas Taylor had to pay a number of expenses, including several accounts that William Lowrie had with local stores. For example the estate paid \$56.85 to J.M. (John M.) Tison's store, \$17.35 to S. Mumford's store, \$31.60 to G. (Gustavus) Friedlander's store, and \$3.11 to R. Wood & Co. store. In addition, Taylor had to pay \$53.75 to J.M. Tison and \$116.94 to S. Mumford for notes they held against Lowrie. The estate also paid \$20.00 to Silas Taylor for a "bill negro hire," \$15.00 to Dr. Hazlehurst, plus various property and estate taxes (Glynn County Ordinary Court, Wills and Appraisements, Book F, p. 81).

Vouchers submitted to the estate and recorded in court records sometimes provide detailed information on what various payments were for and supply some unique information on William Lowrie's last year of life. For example, the payment of \$20.00 for "negro hire" represented payments for the "Boy Smart & Girl Autanett" to pick cotton on Lowrie's land for two months. The money was paid to S.W. Taylor, suggesting that Smart and Autanett were slaves that he owned, possibly, the two 11-year-old children listed in the 1850 slave schedule (U.S. Census 1850b). The voucher from J. M Tison shows purchases that Lowrie made at Tison's store between January and October 1852. Items included clothing and cloth, such as shoes, buttons, calico, "check coating," satinett, osnaburg (a canvas-like cloth often used for slave clothing), scissors, and "1 hat for grandson" that cost 87 cents, as well as foods and medicines, such as butter, flour, salt, candy, coffee, tea, nutmegs, "nox vomica," camphor and saltpeter. Also included was what seems to be a considerable quantity of gin, whiskey and

brandy; a total of 10 gallons over the 10 months (Glynn County Ordinary Court, Wills and Appraisements, Book F, p. 83). From the Mumford (“Silvester Mumford,” apparently in Wayne County) and Friedlander stores, Lowrie purchased similar sorts of items, including cheese, shirting, homespun, shoes, socks, onions, flour, coffee, soap, etc.

In addition to the large quantity of liquor, these store accounts show purchases of a considerable amount and variety of cloth. In 1852, Lowrie purchased over 150 yards of cloth, including 32 yards of “shirting,” 7 yards of gingham, 26.5 yards of calico, 2 yards of satinett, 2 yards of “jackonett,” 4.5 yards of “check coating,” and 20 yards of osnaburg. This large quantity and variety suggests that Mary Lowrie was working as a seamstress or, at least, was doing a considerable amount of sewing for her family. The five yards of “Blue Homespun” two yards of “Alpaca,” and eight yards of “Black Delane” [delaine] purchased from Gustav Friedlander in December 1852, shortly after William Lowrie’s death, may have been used by Mary to make mourning clothing, which was commonly worn by widows (Glynn County Ordinary Court, Wills and Appraisements, Book F. pp. 83-84).

William Lowrie seems to have purchased relatively few farm-related items in the year before his death. Those that do appear include two “Pat. [patent] hoes” from S. Mumford, one bucket from Friedlander, and two files from Tison. The \$15.00 paid to Dr. Robert Hazlehurst was to cover a house call and “mileage (by night)” for a visit made on August 31, 1852, and for medicine. This visit might mark the beginning of an illness that led to Lowrie's death two months later. One expense out of the estate was \$150.00 for “Board & clothing for Mrs. Lowrie one year” and a voucher signed on October 23, 1853, by Mary Ann Lowrie confirms that she received this money from S.W. Taylor “for her board and support for one year after the decease of said William Lowrie” (Glynn County Ordinary Court, Wills and Appraisements, Book F, pp. 82, 85). This entry confirms that William Lowrie’s wife, Mary Ann Curtis Lowrie was living in 1853, but it is unknown when she died.

### *Silas Taylor moves from St. Simons Island*

Shortly after his father-in-law’s death, Silas Taylor moved his family off of St. Simons Island and to the mainland. On December 9, 1852, Taylor purchased 148 acres of land in Glynn County outside of Brunswick from S.A. Hooker and, apparently, soon moved to this property, which was called “Wallace Hill” (Burroughs 1936). This property and its purchase are referenced in a division of the 148 acres among Silas Taylor’s heirs made in 1891 (Glynn County Superior Court, Deed Book LL p. 617). It is possible that the land acquired by Taylor was near the property formerly owned by his father-in-law, William Lowrie, and he had moved to be close to his mother-in-law, Mary Ann Lowrie. It is unknown if she continued to live on the Lowrie property or, possibly, moved in with the Taylor family.

In the 1860 census, Silas Taylor was living on the 148 acres he had purchased eight years earlier. This land lay in the 26<sup>th</sup> Militia District of Glynn County and Taylor’s household was adjacent to Henry duBignon, the son of Christopher P. duBignon owner of Jekyll Island. The 1860 census lists Silas Taylor as a 51-year-old farmer from Maryland possessing real estate valued at \$1,000 and personal property valued at \$3,000. In his household were his 46-year-old wife, Margaret C. (Charlotte) and six children. These were: J. (John) Wesley (21 years old and

working as a clerk); Margaret A. (17), Henry C. (Clay) (15); William C. (Curtis) (13); Richard (10), and Mary A. (Augusta) (6). Two of Silas Taylor's daughters had married by this time and were not living in the household. His eldest child, Julia King Taylor, married Julien Moses Burnett in July 1857 and his daughter Ann (or Anne) Elizabeth Taylor married George Washington Wright (1830-1895) in May 1857. This seems to have been true, although Ann Elizabeth was only 16 years old at the time. These two men were first cousins, both grandsons of Moses Christopher Burnett and Sarah Moore Burnett. Silas Taylor's mother-in-law, Margaret Lowrie, is not named in the 1860 census for the county and it is possible that she had died in the period since her husband's death in 1852.

The 1860 slave census notes that Silas Taylor owned two slaves, one male age 21 and one female age 17 (U.S. Census 1860c). The agricultural census for that year reports that Taylor owned 140 acres of land, 50 acres of which were identified as "improved." The cash value of his farm was \$1,000.00. Taylor owned 5 horses, 40 milk cows, 60 head of other cattle and produced 400 bushels of corn, 27 pounds of rice, 3 bales of cotton, 20 bushels of peas and beans, 200 bushels of sweet potatoes, 150 pounds of butter, and 100 gallons of molasses. The value of animals slaughtered during the year was given as \$150.00. As had been the case when living on St. Simons Island ten years earlier, Silas Taylor was operating a farm raising crops and livestock to feed his family and producing a small amount of cotton for sale. Although rice was typically a cash crop in Glynn County, the very small quantity harvested by Taylor, 27 pounds, suggests it was grown for home consumption.

Other than the census records, only a few documents have been found that provide information on Silas Taylor's life after moving to the mainland. In June 1856, Hugh Fraser Grant, one of the largest rice planters in the county, recorded a payment of \$400.00 to Silas Taylor for "adm Lowry," evidently referring to a debt that Grant owed to the William Lowrie estate (House 1954:238). In January 1860, Silas Taylor was elected a Receiver for Tax Returns for Glynn County (Deborah Gaudier, personal communication 2004). That same month he sold a "black mare with a long maine [*sic*] and tail about thirteen hands high" and her colt to his son-in-law Julian M. Burnett for \$6.00. Silas sold the horses to Burnett specifically to be held in trust for his wife, Julia Taylor Burnett, and any children she may have because of "the natural love and affection" he had for his daughter (Glynn County Superior Court, Deed Book N, pp. 233-234).

What Silas Taylor did after the start of the Civil War is unknown. Through 1862, the war had little direct impact on most of those living on mainland Glynn County, although most of the residents of the sea islands were forced to abandon their homes. Some Glynn County residents moved inland to get away from periodic raids of the mainland undertaken by forces of the U.S. Navy involved in the blockade of the coast. Whether the Taylor's moved inland or not is unknown. Silas Taylor was over 50 years old, too old to serve in the regular army, but he did serve in the local militia. In December 1863, he was listed as a member of the Glynn County Militia Company for the 4<sup>th</sup> Senatorial District, 26<sup>th</sup> Militia District. In the militia roll, he is identified as a 51-year-old farmer who owned a shotgun in "good" condition, as well as a horse, saddle and bridle (Georgia Department of Archives and History 1863). Also on this militia roll was 49-year-old coasting captain Charles Stevens. Stevens was actually a resident of Frederica on St. Simons Island, but he had moved his family to the mainland when the island was occupied

by Union forces in early 1862 and apparently was residing in the 26<sup>th</sup> Militia District when this muster was made in December 1863 (Pearson 1991).

Although Silas Taylor was too old to serve in the regular army, two of his sons did. His eldest son, John Wesley Taylor, originally served in Company A, 26<sup>th</sup> Regiment of Georgia Volunteer Infantry, known as the "Glynn Guards" and comprised of men from the county. Captain George C. Dent was the original commander of the company. On August 14, 1861, John Wesley was listed as "3<sup>rd</sup> Sergeant" in the company. He, and most of the other members of the Glynn Guards, transferred to Company B, 4<sup>th</sup> Regiment of Georgia Cavalry (Clinch's Cavalry) in May 1862. He eventually rose to the rank of 1<sup>st</sup> Sergeant. This unit served along the Georgia coast, principally as scouts, from 1862 to 1864. In 1864, the unit was moved to north Georgia and was involved in the fighting around Atlanta and, later, they fought against General Sherman in his march to Savannah. It is believed that John Wesley Taylor was with the unit during part of this time, but he was at home on furlough on April 1, 1865 and could not reach his command (Henderson 1955-1964, Vol. 3:186). Another of Silas Taylor's sons, Henry Clay Taylor, also served in the Confederate Army. Apparently, when only 16 or 17 years old, Henry enlisted as a private in Company B, 4<sup>th</sup> Regiment of Georgia Cavalry (Clinch's Cavalry) on September 12, 1862. This was several months after his brother, John Wesley, had joined the company. Henry appears on company muster rolls through June 1864.

The 1870 census lists Silas Taylor as a 58-year-old farmer, apparently still residing on the property he had purchased near Brunswick in the 1850s (U.S. Census 1870). The 1870 census indicates that Silas Taylor's farm was valued at \$3,000.00 and the value of his personal property was \$1,000.00. Living in the Taylor household were his wife Margaret (53 years old), his sons William Curtis (23 years old) and Richard (19 years old), both of whom were identified as "farm laborers," and his youngest daughter, 13-year-old Mary Ann. Also living in the household was a granddaughter, Ida Burnett, listed as 8 years old. Why Ida is listed in her grandparents' household is unknown, because in the same census she is also listed as 9-year-old Ida Higginbotham living with her mother Julia, who had married Frank Higginbotham in 1867 after the death of her first husband Julian Burnett in 1865. The 1870 census indicates that Silas Taylor's daughter Margaret and her physician husband, Joseph B.L. Baker, resided on the adjacent property.

Silas Taylor lived on his farm near Brunswick until his death, which apparently occurred in 1879 (Burnett Family of Glynn Co., GA webpage:rootsweb.com). He is presumably buried at a cemetery in or near Brunswick, but where is not specifically known. It is possible that he is interred in Oak Grove Cemetery in Brunswick, where his son John Wesley and some other members of the family are buried. Silas' wife, Margaret, survived him by several years and resided at what was referred to as the "Taylor Homeplace" ("Wallace Hill") outside of Brunswick. The 1880 population census lists Margaret Taylor as a head of household residing in the 26<sup>th</sup> District of Glynn County, revealing that Silas died before that year (U.S. Census 1880b). Living with her were four individuals, all identified as her grandchildren and all with the surname Taylor. These were granddaughters Ida (listed as age 29 and a schoolteacher), Fleider (?), age 11 and Matti, age 7, and grandson Emmet, age 13. The granddaughter Ida, was the daughter of Margaret Taylor's eldest daughter Julia and her last name was Burnett or Higginbotham, not Taylor, plus she was 19 years old, not 29. The other three grandchildren

were the children of Margaret's son, Henry C. Taylor. For some reason, the census also lists the three younger children in the household of their father, Henry C., meaning that the census taker made a mistake and included the children twice (U.S. Census 1880b).

The property description provided in the 1880 agricultural census indicates that Margaret Taylor still owned the farm her husband had purchased in 1852 (U.S. Census 1880a). It contained 45 acres of "tilled land" and 100 acres of woodland, all valued at \$1000.00. Margaret owned \$10.00 worth of farm machinery and she produced 300 bushels of corn on 39 acres of land, she obtained 40 gallons of molasses from her one-half acre of cane and 125 bushels of potatoes from the 1.5 acres planted. Livestock identified on the Taylor farm consisted of 2 horses, 2 oxen, 15 milk cows, 10 other cattle, 40 hogs and 40 hens, all valued at \$500.00. The total value of Margaret Taylor's farm production that year was \$300.00, which included income from 10 cattle that were sold (U.S. Census 1880a).

Margaret Charlotte Lowrie Taylor is reported to have died in July of 1898 at her home "Wallace Hill" (Burroughs 1936). Several years earlier, in March 1891, Silas Taylor's farm property had been divided equally among his eight heirs, each receiving 18.5 acres. These heirs were: Mrs. M.C. Taylor (wife), Mrs. Maggie A. Baker (daughter), Mrs. Augusta Rhodes (daughter), Mrs. Annie E. Wright (daughter), Mrs. Julia K. Higginbotham (daughter), Henry C. Taylor (son), William C. Taylor (son), and Clyde A. Taylor (grandson) who was the son of J. Wesley Taylor (deceased) and his still-living wife Mary Ellen Taylor. All of these heirs resided in Glynn County, except for Augusta Rhodes who lived in Hernando County, Florida (Glynn County Superior Court, Deed Book LL, pp. 615-617, July 22, 1891). The property division is referenced in a July 22, 1891, document that also "sells" one of the eight tracts of land (Tract 3) to William C. Taylor by the other heirs for \$100.00. This document specifically notes that the division of the property had been made so the heirs could hold their property individually rather than jointly, so it is unknown why William Taylor had to purchase his inherited tract from the others. One of Silas Taylor's children, Richard, who is listed in the 1860 and 1870 censuses, is not identified as an heir in the 1891 land division, indicating that he had died prior to the division and, because no widow is named, before marrying.

### *The Children of Silas Wesley Taylor and Margaret Curtis Taylor*

**Julia King Taylor**, the eldest daughter of Silas and Margaret C. Taylor, was born June 17, 1837, and died on December 7, 1915. She resided in Glynn County her entire life. As noted earlier, she seems to have been named after Julia Maxwell King, the wife of her father's employer in the 1830s, Roswell King, Jr. On July 5, 1857, Julia Taylor married Julian Moses Burnett (August 29, 1829-1865), member of an old Glynn County family (Glynn County Marriages Webpage n.d.). Julian M. Burnett was the son of John Burnett, Jr., and Margaret Moore Burnett, both of whom were born in Glynn County, and he was the grandson of Moses Christian Burnett and Sarah Rebecca Moore.

Julia King Taylor would have been acquainted with her future husband's family when she was young, because the Taylors, after they moved to the mainland in the early 1850s, resided near the Burnetts. The 1860 census lists 31-year-old Julian Burnett as a farmer residing in the 26<sup>th</sup> District, only 6 households away from Silas Taylor (U.S. Census 1860b). The census notes

that Julian's real property had a value of \$2500.00 and his personal property a value of \$5000.00. In his household were his 22-year-old wife, Julia King, their one-year-old daughter Julia, and two elderly individuals. These were Julian Burnett's 64-year-old mother, Margaret Burnett, and a 79-year-old white male named William Moore. William Moore was apparently Margaret Burnett's brother and Julian's uncle.

In 1860, Julian Burnett was operating a small farm, like his nearby father-in-law, Silas Taylor. The agricultural census for that year reports that Julian owned a farm valued at \$2500.00 containing 60 acres of improved land and 985 acres of unimproved land. He possessed farm machinery and implements valued at \$50.00 and \$600.00 worth of livestock consisting of 3 horses, 20 milk cows, 4 working oxen, 15 other cattle, 6 sheep and 6 hogs. In 1860 he harvested 300 bushels of corn, 20 bushels of peas and beans, 15 bushels of Irish potatoes, 300 bushels of sweet potatoes, and 200 gallons of molasses. From his milk cows he obtained 100 pounds of butter and the value of animals he slaughtered that year was \$50.00 (U.S. Census 1860a). The slave census for 1860 shows that Julian Burnett owned 11 slaves residing in three houses (U.S. Census 1860c). Living next door to Julian Burnett in 1860 was his brother John J. Burnett and just three properties away was a Christopher C. Burnett, apparently another relative, although the relationship is unknown.

Julian and Julia Taylor Burnett had three children; daughters Julia, born August 2, 1858, and Ida M. born December 30, 1860, and son Julian Moses Jr., born September 4, 1863. Julian Moses Burnett, Jr., lived his entire life in Glynn County. On April 2, 1901, he married Ada Toccoa Wright, who was his first cousin, daughter of his mother's sister Ann Elizabeth Taylor Wright. Julian Jr., died on November 30, 1930, and is buried in the North Brunswick Cemetery. The youngest daughter, Ida, became a schoolteacher (Deborah Gaudier, personal communication 2004).

In the Civil War, although not in Confederate service, Julian Burnett was arrested by Federal soldiers for reportedly firing on a U.S. Navy boat in Buffalo Creek. He was taken north to a prison at Washington, DC and he died in South Carolina in 1865 while returning home (Burnett Family of Glynn Co., GA webpage:rootsweb.com; Jodie Thrasher, personal communication 2002).

On January 28, 1867, two years after her first husband's death, Julia Taylor Burnett married Francis (Frank) Higginbotham, also, of Brunswick (Glynn County Marriages Webpage n.d.). The 1870 census lists the Higginbotham family only ten households away from the Silas Taylor residence. For some reason, the father, Francis Higginbotham is not listed in the home. Those identified in the household are 30-year-old Julia Higginbotham, and three children, Julia Burnett (11 years old); Ida Higginbotham (9), and Julian Higginbotham (6) (U.S. Census 1870). These were the children from Julia's first marriage, even though the two youngest seem to have taken the Higginbotham name. Francis Higginbotham and Julia had four children of their own. These were William Percy (or Perry) Higginbotham born May 5, 1871, Francis Elliott Higginbotham, born April 28, 1875; George Curtis Higginbotham, born February 22, 1878, and a daughter, Trussie Addison Higginbotham who was born on January 20, 1869, but survived only a few months (Burnett Family of Glynn Co., GA webpage:rootsweb.com).

**John Wesley Taylor** was Silas and Margaret Taylor's oldest son. He was born January 4, 1838, possibly when the family was living at Butlers Point on St. Simons. Little is known about his life, but in the 1860 census his occupation was given as "clerk," although he was living at home. As noted earlier, John Wesley Taylor did serve in the Confederate Army during the Civil War, first with the Glynn Guards and then with the 4<sup>th</sup> Regiment of Georgia Cavalry, eventually rising to the rank of 1<sup>st</sup> Sergeant (Henderson 1955-1964, Vol. 3:186). Many relatives, neighbors and friends of Taylor served in these same units, among them were his brother Henry Clay and his brothers-in-law Francis S. Higginbotham and George Washington Wright. On June 29, 1863, John Wesley Taylor's commanding officer, Captain William M. Hazzard of Company B, wrote a report praising Sergeant Taylor's action in repelling a Union landing party at the docks in Brunswick. Captain Hazzard wrote "I also take pleasure in calling attention to the forethought and gallantry displayed by Lieutenant Grant, Sergeants Taylor and Burney, and Corporals Foreman, Lamb, and Hazzard. Their promptness in assisting the Brunswick picket added much in deceiving the enemy in regard to our strength. After this effort the largest boat, which was recognized as the blockader, returned to the sound, whilst the others again ascended the river" (Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies in the War of Rebellion, report from Capt. W.M. Hazzard to Brigadier General Thomas Jordan, Charleston S.C.).

Several years after the war, on March 16, 1868 (some records state 1869), John W. Taylor married Mary Ellen Bailey at St. Marks Episcopal Church in Brunswick (Glynn County Marriages Webpage n.d.). Mary Ellen Bailey was born in St. Marys, Georgia, on June 29, 1848, and died in Brunswick on August 2, 1923 (Burroughs 1936). John Wesley and Mary Ellen established their home at the corner of Union Street and J Street in Brunswick. The 1870 census identifies 31-year-old John Wesley as a "dry goods dealer" residing in or near Brunswick (U.S. Census 1870). That year he owned real estate valued at \$1000.00 and personal property worth \$4000.00. The relatively high personal property value presumably reflects the merchandise in his dry goods establishment. Living with John Wesley Taylor in 1870 were his wife Mary Ellen (21 years old), a 19-year-old white female named Terrence (?) Bailey, a 36-year-old black domestic servant named Grace Cooper, and a 10-year-old white boy named William. Terrence Bailey was probably a younger sister of Mary Ellen Taylor, and William may have been her brother, although the census does not provide his last name. John Wesley and Mary Ellen had one son, Clyde Afton Taylor, born May 6, 1871, in Brunswick. Clyde Taylor, in a brief account of his life written in 1950, stated that when he was very young his father operated a shoe store on Newcastle Street (Taylor 1950).

About 1875, J.W. Taylor moved his family to Woodbine Plantation in Camden County, property that belonged to his wife, her brother John Bailey and her sister Mrs. W.H. Berrie (Taylor 1950). John Wesley took over the management of the plantation and was involved in rice planting and operated a commissary store for plantation workers. In 1882 a tornado struck the Taylor home at Woodbine Plantation and both John Wesley Taylor and his 11-year-old son Clyde were injured. The two were taken to Brunswick aboard the tugboat *Flora Temple* for medical attention. The son Clyde recovered, but John Wesley Taylor, only 44 years old, died on May 17, 1882, from his injuries (Taylor 1950).

John Wesley Taylor is buried in Lot 120 in Oak Grove Cemetery in Brunswick. In this same lot are four unmarked graves, plus the grave of Mary Taylor Bliss who died August 1,

1923, at the age of 75. This is John W. Taylor's widow, Mary Ellen, who married R.J. Bliss after the death of her first husband. The several unmarked graves in the lot may be other members of the Taylor family. In Lot 121, adjacent to the Taylor lot, are several Wrights and Forresters, some of whom were in-laws of the Taylors. Among those buried in Lot 121 is George W. Wright, apparently John W. Taylor's brother-in-law and husband of his sister, Anne E. Taylor (Glynn County Marriages Webpage n.d.; Oak Grove Cemetery Webpage n.d.).

Clyde Afton Taylor, grandson of Silas Taylor and the only child of John Wesley and Mary Ellen Taylor graduated from the Georgia Military College in Milledgeville and returned to Brunswick where he went on to become a successful businessman. He became a regional broker for the North Packing & Provision Company of Boston, and regional representative for Swift and Company and the Mutual Life and Prudential Life insurance companies. On April 12, 1899, Clyde Taylor married Josephine Burroughs of Camden County. In 1905, he became associated with the Glynn Canning Company, involved in the oyster canning business, and went on to become president of that firm. In the 1920s, Clyde Taylor purchased a similar company, known as Georgia Cannery, in St. Marys. During this period, he also served as President of the Bank of Camden County and the Vice President of the St. Marys Railroad. In 1930, Clyde Taylor moved to St. Marys to more closely manage his canning business, which was principally involved in packing and shipping shrimp. At one time his company operated twenty five shrimp boats out of St. Marys and thirty out of Darien. During his life, Clyde Taylor served as mayor of Brunswick for eight years and mayor of St. Marys for four (Taylor 1950). Clyde A. Taylor died in Brunswick on September 14, 1954, at the age of 83 and is buried in Palmetto Cemetery.

**Anne Elizabeth Taylor**, the third child of Silas and Margaret Taylor, was born on October 17, 1840, at Hampton Plantation on Butlers Point on St. Simons Island. She died in Brunswick on May 25, 1923 (one source says 1928), at the age of 83. On May 28, 1857, at the age of 16, Anne Elizabeth married George Washington Wright (October 17, 1830-April 8, 1895) (Glynn County Marriages Webpage n.d.). G.W. Wright was a member of another old Glynn County family and one that had numerous marriage and kin ties with the Burnett family into which Anne's sister Julia King had married. George Wright's parents were James Bruce Wright and Ann Burnett and his grandfather was Major Samuel Wright who had come to St. Simons in 1790 and acquired the property known as Orange Grove Plantation. Major Wright became a large landowner and prominent citizen of Glynn County, serving in the state legislature, as commissioner for the town of Frederica and as a Justice of the Inferior Court (Vanstory 1970:159-160). Growing up on Hampton Plantation, Anne Elizabeth and her family would have known the Wrights well, plus both families were members of Christ Church, Frederica. In 1850, however, G.W. Wright, then 20 years old, seems to have been living in or near Brunswick, with his older brother Samuel, in the household of his mother Ann Wright. Next door was the household of M.C.B. Wright, sheriff of Glynn County and apparently another brother of George Washington Wright. During the Civil War, George W. Wright served in the same army units as his future brother-in-law, John Wesley Taylor. On August 14, 1861, Wright was listed as 1<sup>st</sup> Sergeant of Company A, 26<sup>th</sup> Regiment Georgia Volunteer Infantry, the "Glynn Guards," although it is noted that he was discharged the following month with a disability. He then enlisted as private in Company B, 4<sup>th</sup> Regiment Georgia Cavalry, known as "Clinch's Cavalry," on July 1, 1862, and was with this unit until at least June 30, 1864 (Henderson 1955-1964, Vol. 3:185-186).

The 1870 and 1880 censuses list the George W. Wright family residing in Glynn County. In 1870, G.W. Wright is identified as a 40-year-old farmer owning real estate worth \$2000.00 and personal property worth \$1000.00 (U.S. Census 1870). In his household were his 27-year-old wife, identified as “Anna,” their six children, and John L. Whitman, listed as a 52-year-old white “farm laborer.” The children were: Clifford(?) (15 years old and identified as a female), George W. (12 years old and working as a “laborer”), James S. (9 years old), Charlotte (6 years old), “Letta” (4 years old), and Ada (2 years old). In the 1880 census, George Washington Wright is identified as a 50-year-old “Dry Goods & Grocery Merchant” (U.S. Census 1880b). The other members of his household were his wife Ann (38 years old), their three sons and their five daughters. The sons were “Washington” (22 years old and working as a clerk), James (20 years old and working as a clerk) and Charlton (17 years old and “at school”). The daughters were Letitia (15 years old and “at school”), Ada (12 years old and “at school”), Daisy (7 years old and “at school), Bessie (3 years old) and “Baby” (two months old and born in April 1880) (U.S. Census 1880b). There are some minor discrepancies in the children named in these two census. For instance, the daughter whose name seems to be “Clifford” in the 1870 census is believed to have been a daughter named “Madge,” the daughter identified as “Charlotte” in the 1870 census was actually the son Charlton, while the “Baby” identified in the 1880 census was Maggie L. Wright. Other sources indicate that Ann Elizabeth Taylor Wright and George Washington Wright had ten children, most of who remained in Glynn County (Burnett Family of Glynn Co., GA webpage:rootsweb.com). These were:

1. Madge Wright
2. George Washington Wright, Jr., (1858-?)
3. James Silas Wright (1860-July 22, 1928), married Ann L. Tison in 1884.
4. Charleton Wright (January 13, 1863-December 28, 1929), died in Sterling, Georgia.
5. Mary Letita Wright (March 16, 1865-?), married Pete Winn Fleming, December 6, 1888, in Brunswick.
6. Ada Toccoa Wright (November 1868-May 1952), born at Dover Hall. Married her first cousin Julian Moses Burnett, Jr. on April 2, 1901, in Brunswick. J.M. Burnett, Jr. was the son of Julian Moses Burnett, Sr. and Julia King Taylor, sister of Ann E. Taylor Wright.
7. Louise Estelle Wright (1870-March 23, 1873)
8. Daisy Beatrice Wright (May 24, 1873-January 11, 1937)
9. Bessie Juanita Wright (November 1877-?)
10. Maggie L. Wright (April 1880-September 28, 1884).

**Margaret Adelaide (or Adeline) Taylor** was born at Hampton Plantation on St. Simons on December 23, 1843, and died in Glynn County on September 13, 1921. Known as “Maggie,” she married Dr. Joseph B.L. Baker on November 27, 1862. The marriage was performed by Margaret’s brother-in-law, Julian M. Burnett, who was a Justice of the Inferior Court of Glynn County (i.e., a Justice of the Peace) at the time (Glynn County Marriages Webpage n.d.). Joseph and Maggie Baker had four children: Joseph B.L., Jr.; Jodiah B.L.; Lewis; and Bertha. The 1870 census shows the Bakers living next door to Maggie’s father, Silas Taylor. In the census, Joseph Baker is identified as a 31-year-old physician with real property valued at \$1000.00 and personal property valued at \$5,000.00. In his household were his wife, 26-year-old Margaret A., their two

children, 5-year-old Joseph and 3-year-old Jodiah (?), plus an 8-year-old boy named William Holcomb (U.S. Census 1870). Who this boy was is unknown. The 1920 census shows that one of their sons, Lewis Baker, was a lodger with Donald C. and Anna Belle McCaskill (U.S. Census 1920). Anna Belle Taylor McCaskill, a first cousin of Lewis Baker, was a daughter of Maggie T. Baker's younger brother, William C. Taylor.

**Henry Clay Taylor** was born at Butlers Point on St. Simons Island on June 7, 1846, and died in Waycross, Georgia, on August 16, 1893. In September 1862, at the age of only 16 or 17, Henry enlisted in Company B, 4th Regiment of Georgia Cavalry (Clinch's Cavalry). He served as a private, appearing on company muster rolls until June 1864. Henry's older brother, John Wesley, was a member of the same unit. On November 15, 1866, Henry married Martha Forrester in Glynn County (Glynn County Marriages Webpage n.d.). They had three children: Emmett T., Fleda ("Freddie"), and Martha E. ("Mattie"). In 1870, the census lists 24-year-old Henry Taylor as a "laborer" residing in Brunswick with personal property valued at \$300.00, but owning no real estate (U.S. Census 1870). In his household were his wife Martha (20 years old), their son, Emmett (listed as 2-year-old "Emma"), their daughter "Freddie (one month old) and a 15-year-old black domestic servant named Jessie Taylor. Martha Forrester Taylor seems to have died sometime between 1872 and 1876 because in that year Henry married Susan Ella Smith in Glynn County (Deborah Gaudier, personal communication 2004; DVG Family Tree on Ancestry.com). In the 1880 census, Henry Taylor is identified as a 33-year-old "Conductor R. Road" (U.S. Census 1880b). Living with him were his wife, Susan E. (21 years old), and their children, Emmit J. (13 years old), "Floda" (10 years old) and Martha E. (8 years old). As previously noted, these three children were also listed as living with their grandmother, Margaret Taylor, that year.

Henry Taylor is known to have worked as a conductor on the B&W Railroad and as an assistant marshal and assistant chief of police for Brunswick, Georgia. On May 3, 1882, he and W.E. Burbage jointly purchased 57.25 acres of land in Brunswick, located on Fifth Street and the Altamaha Canal. A year later Henry sold his one-half share of the property (Glynn County Superior Court, Deed Book TU, pp. 73-74). On March 3, 1883, the newspaper *Brunswick Advertiser & Appeal* reported that Henry Taylor's horse, Black Frost, "one of the finest specimens of horse flesh we have seen in many years" could be seen at the Keystone Stables. The following month, on April 28, 1883, the newspaper reported that Henry Taylor had shot and killed a "colored stevedore" named Columbus Hippard, after an altercation. The paper reported that Hippard was drunk and had verbally abused Frank Higginbotham, who was Taylor's brother-in-law, and R.M. Tison, and then had pulled a pistol and attempted to shoot Taylor. The gun misfired and Henry Taylor pulled his own pistol and shot Columbus Hippard. Taylor turned himself into authorities, but it was determined that he fired in self-defense and the case was dismissed (*Brunswick Advertiser & Appeal* April 28, 1883).

Henry and Ella Smith Taylor apparently had three children: Myra May, Ella Hall ("Sissie"), and a son who died as an infant. In 1892, shortly before his death, Henry Taylor was living at 803 E Street in Brunswick. On June 13, 1893, just two months before Henry Taylor died, his sister, Annie E. Wright, transferred 18.5 acres of the old Silas Taylor homestead to his wife, Mrs. Ella Taylor for \$5.00. This was probably Tract 5 of the property that Henry had been given in the 1891 division of Silas Taylor's homestead. After Henry Taylor's death, and

sometime before 1900, his widow, Ella Smith Taylor, married Turner Bibb (Deborah Gaudier, personal communication 2004).

**William Curtis Taylor** was born on Hampton Plantation at Butlers Point on St. Simons on December 26, 1847, and died at Frederica on St. Simons Island on July 7, 1917. He is buried in the Frewin-Stevens-Taylor lot at Christ Church, Frederica. William's middle name, Curtis, is the family name of his mother and is a name that appears periodically among descendents of Silas and Margaret C. Taylor. On April 11, 1876, William C. married Isabelle ("Belle") Vincent Stevens (October 17, 1850-November 14, 1937), daughter of Captain Charles Stevens and Sarah Dorothy Hay Stevens, who resided at Frederica on St. Simons. After their marriage, William C. and Belle Stevens Taylor resided in the old Stevens home at Frederica. William seems to have made his living farming and raising livestock on Stevens' land on St. Simons. The 1880 census lists William C. Taylor as a 34-year-old farmer residing at Frederica (U.S. Census 1880b). In his household were his wife, Isabelle (27 years old) and three children, Charles W. (2 years old), Annie Belle (3 years old) and Richard Roy (9 months old).

Belle and William Taylor had nine children (Parker and Langley 1984). These were:

1. Annie Belle Taylor (January 18, 1877-1933), married Donald Cameron McCaskill, one child, D.C. McCaskill, Jr.
2. Charles William Taylor (February 26, 1878-December 8, 1933), unmarried
3. Richard Roy Taylor (Sept 17, 1879-1882), died as a child
4. Arthur Allen Taylor (August 26, 1880 (1881?)-1950), married Willie O. Knudsen, four children: Althea, Arthur Allen, Charles Douglas and Elizabeth.
5. Herman Douglas Taylor (March 2, 1883-December 14, 1977), married Alberta Gould Hassel, no children
6. Edna Gertrude Taylor (August 6, 1885-?), married Malcolm McCaskill, two children: William Bruce and Maude Estelle.
7. Maude Estelle Taylor (February 8, 1889-?), married James Shadman, one child Postell, died in service in World War II
8. Archibald Robert Taylor (April 18, 1890-June 6, 1964), married Olive Waite, one adopted child, Archibald, Jr.
9. Reginald Arnold Taylor (September 10, 1891-October 15, 1962), married Banford L. Bush (April 21, 1920, Christ Church, Frederica), four children: Isabelle V. Stevens, Reginald A. Jr., Banford Lafleva and Sarah Elizabeth.

In 1919, four of William Taylor's sons, Charles, Arthur, Archibald and Reginald, formed an enterprise called "Taylor Brothers." As Taylor Brothers, these grandsons of Silas Taylor and Captain Charles Stevens farmed and raised livestock on family-owned land on St. Simons, as well as extensive acreage that they purchased or leased. During the 1920s, these properties included Lawrence Plantation at the northeastern end of the island and "Longview" near the center of the island, both of which the Taylors' purchased, as well as the Stevens-Taylor family lands around Frederica, and all of Cannons Point, Butlers Point and "Long Island" (now known as Sea Island), which they leased. Taylor Brothers, also, ran a fishing guide business, principally from their property "Lawrence," and owned tourist cottages at the "South End." The one brother

not involved in “Taylor Brothers,” H. Douglas Taylor, became manager of Little St. Simons Island, a position he held for over 60 years until his death in 1977.

**Richard H. Taylor** appears in the Silas Taylor household in the 1860 census as a child of 10, indicating he was born in 1850 or 1851 (U.S. Census 1860b). He is listed as a 19-year-old in his father’s household in the 1870 census, but he does not appear in the 1880 census for Glynn County, nor is he named as an heir of Silas Taylor in the 1891 land division. This suggests he died before 1880 and certainly prior to the 1891 division and, because no widow is named in the land document, before marrying.

**Mary Augusta Taylor**, the youngest child of Silas and Margaret Taylor was born in September 1854, after the family had moved to the mainland. Mary Augusta married Dr. N. B. Rhodes, a native of Kentucky, prior to 1874. Mary Augusta may have been the only Taylor child to move from Glynn County. In the 1900 census she and her husband were living in Tampa Florida with their three children, Louis Leroy (born in 1874 before the family moved to Florida); Nella (born in Florida in 1880) and Barney (born in 1886) (Deborah Gaudier, personal communication 2004).

### ***Concluding Remarks***

This brief history of Silas W. Taylor and his family represents an effort to bring together information principally to provide his descendants with some understanding of his life. In most respects, Silas Taylor exemplified the typical middle class, or “yeoman” farmer of the south of the period. He owned a modest acreage and few slaves and his farm production consisted largely of foods for his family’s consumption. He did produce small amounts of cotton that would have brought him some cash each year. In one respect, however, Silas Taylor differed from the small farmer of the region. For ten years he served as overseer of one of the most important sea island cotton plantations in coastal Georgia; Hampton Plantation on St. Simons Island. But even in this position we know very little about his life, other than a few comments on his activities provided in journals kept by Roswell King, Jr. It is possible that Taylor kept records during his tenure as overseer, but these have not been located. Similarly, information on his life outside of his years as overseer is sketchy and derived principally from readily available public records such as censuses and court documents. A more careful search might locate records that could fill the many gaps that exist in our story of Silas Taylor and it is hoped that this brief account will lead someone to do this.

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