

IN THE FOOT-PRINTS
OF THE PIONEERS
OF STEPHENSON COUNTY, ILLINOIS



A Genealogical Record



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SCAR TAYLOR, the veteran insurance and real-estate man of Freeport, is one of the earliest settlers and first banker of the city of which he has been an honored citizen for more than half a century. His grandfather, John Taylor, a farmer in Saratoga county, New York, died there in 1826 at the age of eighty, having spent his entire life in his native place. The father, John W. Taylor, also a native of that county, was born in 1784 and died in Cleveland, Ohio, in 1855. He was prominently active in politics having served in the legislature of New York many terms and represented his district in congress for twenty years, being twice speaker of the house, succeeding Henry Clay. He married Jane Hodge, a native of Albany, who died in 1838 at the age of forty-five.

Mr. Taylor was born at Balston Spa, Saratoga county, February 16th, 1822, and passed the first fourteen years of his life in his native place. After the death of his mother he remained in the east two years, clerking in Albany part of the time, and in 1840 came west with a brother, sojourning one year at Joliet. Thence he removed to Rockford where he served as the first town clerk. Three years

later he came to Freeport where he has since resided. For a few years he clerked in his brother's store and then in 1844 opened a store of his own at Freeport. Five years later he opened the first bank in the new and growing town, which he conducted some six years, since which time he has been engaged in insurance and real estate business. In 1850 he was admitted to the bar and was in practice until his other interests demanded his entire attention. His books of abstract of titles form one of the most complete in the northern part of the state.

Mr. Taylor was married three miles east of Freeport August 2nd, 1842, to Miss Malvina M. Snow, a native of Hamilton, Madison county, New York, born April 24th, 1817. Her father, Loring Snow, was one of the earliest pioneers of the county, having settled on a fine tract of land three miles east of the city in 1837, bringing with him to the prairie wilds all the taste and refinement of the eastern states. His birth occurred at Plainfield, Massachusetts, in 1794 and his death in Stephenson county, September 12th, 1866. He was a man of liberal education and because of his superior qualifications served many years as justice of the peace in the pioneer

days of the county. His parents, Abigail and Sarah (Porter) Snow, were natives of the Bay state. Loring Snow married Miss Roxana Gilbert, a native of New Lebanon, Columbia county, New York. She was a daughter of Elijah and Pattie (Hubbard) Gilbert. Elijah was a son and descendant of Nathan Gilbert, first, second and third, who participated prominently in the Colonial and Revolutionary wars.

To Mr. and Mrs. Taylor six children have been born, three of whom are deceased. Two died in infancy; Elizabeth was the wife of Mr. Jerome Maynard, a leading merchant of Freeport. Of their five children Miss Elsa is the only one living. The surviving children of Mr. Taylor are Winnie; Oscar L., who married Nora T. West of Madison county, Illinois. Her father, Hon. Edwin T. West, was the pioneer

banker and an early settler of Edwardsville in that county. He held many offices of honor and trust in the gift of the people and was a man of rare gifts and literary attainments. To Oscar and wife two sons have been born—Donald West and Gilbert Morris. The youngest child of Mr. Taylor is Charissa who was married on her parents' golden wedding day to Mr. Frank N. Bass of Chicago.

Mr. Taylor has for years been a democrat in politics and is a charter member of Evergreen lodge, A. F. and A. M. of Freeport, which he was instrumental in organizing. Mr. Taylor and wife are of the few left who have seen the development of the country from a wilderness of waving prairie flowers and the growth of the city of Freeport from a few cabins to one of the most refined and progressive little cities of the northwest.

