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HON. C. A. TAYLOR

One of Tishomingo County's most estimable citizens, prosperous merchants and successful politicians was Hon. Calvin A. Taylor. Over thirty years of his life were spent in old Tishomingo, and the remainder in Alcorn County, and he was ever regarded as a man of superior intelligence and great managerial ability. At the breaking out of the civil war he was one of the wealthiest men in the county, but the surrender found him financially ruined, owing to the great depreciation in property values, and those to whom credit had been extended by the different mercantile establishments of which he was the moving spirit being unable to liquidate their accounts. At the beginning of the war, he owed large sums in the Northern markets for goods, and refusing after the surrender to take advantage of the bankrupt law, settled down to hard work, and the leniency of his creditors enabled him to pay off the total amount of indebtedness and again accumulate considerable property before death ended his earthly labors. Recognizing in him a man of more than average ability, the people of old Tishomingo County called him to positions of profit and trust when but 28 years of age, and faithfully and honestly serving his constituency he was repeatedly elected to office.

John Taylor, the father of the subject of this sketch, was born in Leesburg, Loudoun County, Virginia, in February, 1776, and married Miss May Knott of Granville

County, North Carolina, January 6, 1813, and when Calvin A. had arrived and was six years of age, his parents emigrated to Georgia, and thence to Tishomingo County, Mississippi, in 1837, settling near old Danville. He received a good education in the common schools of Georgia, and taught a few years prior to removing with his parents to Mississippi. In 1838 he entered the Randolph-Macon College, Virginia, but the following year was compelled to return home owing to ill health. In the fall of 1839, he began teaching in Farmington, Tishomingo County, and in 1840 opened a private school in Marshall County, which he conducted for two terms. He was an uncompromising Whig, and although his party polled less than one-third of the votes in the county, at the earnest solicitation of numerous friends he announced for the office of circuit clerk in 1841, and being an eloquent speaker and talented debater made a strong and successful canvass of the county, being elected at the November election and serving a two years' term. During his second year in office he opened a mercantile establishment at Jacinto, the county seat, in partnership with his next oldest brother, John, under the firm name of C. A. Taylor & Co. Later the firm opened a branch in Claborne parish, Louisiana, both establishments handling an immense volume of business. Mr. Taylor devoted his entire attention to his mercantile business during 1844 and 1845, but was elected county treasurer of Tishomingo in November, 1845, and was twice re-elected, holding continuously until the end of 1851. He served as county school commissioner during 1854 and 1855, and was then elected to the legislature. He was elected a member of the county Board of Police in 1858 and served as president for the succeeding term of two years, when he was again returned to the Legislature, which place he held throughout the war. Mr. Taylor was opposed to secession, but after Mississippi withdrew from the Federal government, he rendered the State all the assistance in his power. After the war, Mr. Taylor engaged in merchandising in Rienzi and Booneville, and successfully managed a plantation near Rienzi. He was married in Tishomingo County to Miss Elizabeth Haigh, a native of Tuscumbia, Ala. She was a daughter of Jacob Haigh, a German by descent, and for a number of years a leading merchant at Tuscumbia. Mr. Haigh moved to Tishomingo County in 1837 and twenty years later settled in Arkansas County, Arkansas, where he died in 1870. Of the six children born to Mr. and Mrs. Calvin A. Taylor, four are living: John J. and Dr. James F., residents of Booneville;

George C., a resident of Corinth; and Katie, the wife of R. F. Arnold, a well known attorney of Graham, Texas, at one time a judge of the circuit court. The last years of Mr. Taylor's life were spent in Rienzi, he being Mayor of that town from 1884 until the time of his death, July 3, 1891. He was a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and lived the life of a conscientious and consistent Christian. Mrs. Taylor is still living, residing with her son, Dr. J. F., at Booneville.