

John James Taylor as remembered by Granddaughter Vera Taylor

(from family search.org)

My Grandfather, John James Taylor was born in Hullett, Twp. Huron Co. Ontario, Canada on the 27th of December 1884. He was the 6th of 9 children. His lineage goes back to Scotland. His Father, Grandfather and Great Grandfather all came from Balfour, Stirlingshire, Scotland. As to education, Grandfather held a 3rd Class Steam Engineers Ticket. He founded Demuth and Taylors Sawmills in Princeton B.C.



Canada. The lumber industry was his life's employment. My Grandfather will be remembered for his contributions to the community in donating wood for at least 5 skating rinks and other recreational outlets in Princeton. Grandfather had 4 sons and 1 daughter that died within the year of her birth of whom I am named after, Verna Isabelle Taylor. The four sons all worked at the Taylors Mill each being responsible for an area of its operation. In 1966 it was not feasible for small mills to continue and the mill was disassembled and sold. Each of the four sons remained working in the lumber industry. My Grandfather in stature was perhaps 5'9" tall and of slight build. I recall him having a fair complexion, light brown hair and wore glasses. He was a man of few words. As a young man he married my Grandmother, Elizabeth Annie Graham in Kelowna B.C. in 1913 he being 29 yrs. old and she 19 years of age. Having a sawmill he built his house a mile east of the sawmill. That house burned to the ground and was replaced by a large white house of which I remember as a child. Since it necessitated us children walking by the house each day to and from school I recall two large lilac trees that adorned the front gate to the house - their fragrance still lingers in my memories and of this grand house for its day. I was the oldest and favoured granddaughter until my cousin was born and several other grandchildren followed him. One day Grandpa held a dinner for all his grandchildren I was given a watch that belonged to my grandmother and a diamond ring. The diamond ring was kept in the mill business office safe. It was

there until there was a robbery of the office. The robbers were caught but the ring, perhaps forgotten, was never recovered. Since I was the first to graduate from High School Grandpa bought me a typewriter since I was on my way to attend a business College. My Grandmother died in 1943 leaving my Grandfather a widower. Lonely he put an ad in the paper for a housekeeper. The housekeeper, Maude Myrtle Patterson became his second wife of whom we all grew fond of. Her son lived in Vancouver and she often took the train there to visit he and his wife Peggy. My stepmother was a great cook and Grandpa was not so while "Grandma Pat" as she was affectionately called by us grandchildren, was away Grandpa would eat a hot

lunch with Dad at our house. Us children ate after they returned to the Mill for the afternoon work. My Father Graham Taylor was a good son to his Father. Each night on his way home from the Mill Dad would stop and tell Grandpa who was then retired and his health was slowing down, how the mill had done that day. Us children were asked to keep an eye out at the front window to see when Dads pickup arrived at Grandpa's house as it was time for Mom to put the potatoes on to cook. In preparation for my leaving B.C. to work in Salt Lake City, Utah I went to visit my Grandfather. As I got to the porch a sweet spirit flooded my senses and I felt this would be the last time I would see my Grandfather here on earth. Because of our beliefs I felt I would see him when it was my turn to leave this world. He passed away in the Vancouver St. Paul's Hospital on December 10, 1961 and he was buried in Princeton B.C. Canada