



Robert B. Taylor Collection

1886-1972

32 textual records, 36 photographs, 11 artifacts, 5 Albums

The Robert B. Taylor collection provides invaluable information on Corona's earliest days and its principal founder, Robert B. Taylor. Taylor was born in Millbrook, Wayne County, Ohio on October 26, 1849. Though he attempted to join the army as a flag bearer in the Civil War, he was rejected. Instead, he went to college to become a teacher. After teaching for 6 months, Taylor bought his father's store in Indiana and set about becoming a merchant. He also began buying land in other states and selling off subdivisions. In 1873, he married Emma S. Mason. Several years later in 1886, he and Emma moved to California at the urging of his father, who lived in Anaheim. Immediately, Taylor purchased 105 acres in Anaheim and sold it one year later at a profit. Soon after viewing the property the Yorbas had put up for sale near Riverside, he began making plans to begin the community of South Riverside. He went to Iowa to gain support for his venture. In 1886, Taylor purchased 12,000 acres of the Yorba Ranch property south of Riverside with partners George L. Joy, A.S. Garretson, Samuel Merrill, and H. Clay Kellogg. Together, they incorporated a company and were known as the South Riverside Land and Water Company. Emma Mason Taylor and R.B. Taylor had three children: Emma Josephine Taylor (known as "Ocie") in 1877, James DuVergne Taylor (known as "Verne") in 1906 and Harry Garfield Taylor. He later moved to Los Angeles with Emma, but his children lived in Corona most of their lives and the entire family are buried in the local Sunnyslope cemetery. R.B. Taylor died at 1251 W. 54th St, Los Angeles on August 30th, 1940 of pneumonia. See attached BIOGRAPHY for more information.

This collection consists of autobiographical sketches and a history of early Corona by Taylor himself, a family bible, several scrapbooks/photo albums, various newspaper clippings and wedding announcements. In addition, several letters and photos that evidence Taylor's connection to the White House; 2 letters from Vice President Thomas Marshall, and a photo with President William Henry Harrison in Corona. Additional items include Taylor's South American mining interests, business ventures in Los Angeles, and articles written and published by the Garretson family. The collection has little information of R. B. Taylor after 1900 to his death in 1940 other than his contributions to recounting early Corona history for civic anniversary events. The Songer collection (M001) should be examined in conjunction with the Taylor collection, as it contains more information about the R. B. Taylor family and the founders of Corona. Some of the items in the collection have been photographed or scanned and are available to view via the Corona Public Library website in our online digital database, *Corona Heritage Online*.

The collection came to the library without a particular order and it has been arranged into time frames of major interest and subdivided into types of materials.

Location: A1 & A21

W.D. Addison Heritage Room, 650 S. Main Street, Corona, CA 92882, (951) 279-3593

Hours: Monday & Tuesday 3 p.m. to 7 p.m., Wednesday & Thursday by appointment only, Friday - Sunday CLOSED.

Gift of Levora Raney Smith, grandniece of R.B. Taylor (1982)

Inventory List for the Robert B. Taylor Manuscript Collection (M002):

Call Number	Folder	Title/Content
M002		Finding Aid and Biography
SERIES #1: R.B. Taylor and Family in the Midwest		
M002/1	F1	Handwritten copy of Autographed Letter Signed, from R. B. Taylor to Captain J. L. Merriam of Corona, Apr. 14, 1913, describing Taylor's history of settling South Riverside. Includes names, water development, surveys, and the formation of the First Congregational Church. (14 pages) envelop addressed to Mrs. Clark Songer of Corona.
M002/1	F1	No envelope addressed to Mrs. Clark Songer of Corona.
M002/1	F2	Handwritten autobiographical sketch by R. B. Taylor, 1934 at age 85 years. Includes early founding of Corona (South Riverside), founding of Wayne Nebraska by R. B. Taylor and his early business ventures in Granville College in Ohio, as well as other early business ventures in Colombia City and Ida Grover, Iowa. Also early partnerships, such as with Mr. McHugh. (14 pgs). List pages include a news paper clipping of R. b. Taylor's letter to M. j. L. Merriam (see folder, this will include typewritten transcription of notes).
SERIES #2: Taylor & family in early South Riverside (Corona), see series 1		
M002/1	F3	TD. Carbon copy of typed early history of Corona (5 pgs), including railroads, driving routes and R. B. Taylor's recollections on early street planning, businesses and early inhabitants – 1886 – 1895.
M002/1	F4	Newspaper: <i>Press Enterprise</i> , Diamond Jubilee of Riverside County, Sunday May 5, 1968. Page C-6 by Iris Hayward gives Corona History of May 9, 1893 to May 9, 1968.
M002/1	F5	Photo: Temescal Hotel, first hotel in South Riverside (Corona), 1888, by A. S. Garretson at a cost of \$15,000 and operated by O. A. Smith. Photo: Temescal Hotel (Bus-Lod 007a) Coldwater Canyon - Temescal Canyon (TEM Aaa-016a).
M002/1	F6	Photo: Citizen's Bank and First National Bank, 1890 w/write-up Photo: Bus-Ban-003b
M002/1	F7	Photo: Train and President Benjamin Harrison at stop in Corona on way to Temescal Tin Mines in 1891. R. B. is on right side of picture with his hand on his hat. On display are flags, plates of oranges, and bars of tin in a large stack, Apr 26, 1891. Photo: President Harrison's 1891 visit – listed as SPE-Aaa 001 But <u>not in file</u> or photo book.
M002/1	F8	Bird's Eye View of South Riverside and Xerox copy. Four months after its founding in 1886. Includes a short history of the founders. [HIG-aer-003] Aerial view of Corona, taken from 5000 ft. in airplane from March Field. (CA 1920's) [HIG-aer-008] Photo illustration of South Riverside, original is Hig-Aer 001a.
M002/1	F9	Handwritten history of the founding of the Congregational Church (2 pgs, blue ink – author unknown). On back is listing of ministers, wives and children, and dates of services. Typed history of the founding of the First Christian Church (author & date unknown – (3 pgs).
M002/1	F10	Letterhead of Hotel Temescal, dated Jul 13, 1888, with notes written on back dated Jul 13, 1889, signed by Emma (Ocie) Taylor.
M002/1	F11	Yellow ribbon commemorating the "10 th Anniversary of Corona (1887 – 1897)"

		"Compliments of Mr. and Mrs. R. b. Taylor" and California Seal Printed on front. Also see MSS COLL #1, Box 2, Folder 4, COLL #4, Box 1 Folder 1
M002/1	F12	Souvenir Ribbons from Corona Road Races 1913 and 1916. (1916 red printed with "Tickets" and 1913 lavender "Compliments of Newton and Warner TWO STORES")
M002/1	F13	Newspaper and Magazine clippings (6 articles from undated Newspapers and 1 Magazine page showing scenes from Corona, updated) plus 1 envelope from Citizens Band. No envelop from Citizens Bank
SERIES #3: R. B. Taylor Family: Articles Regarding Family and Friends		
M002/1	F14	Wedding announcement of Mary Inez and Frank Burman Ware, 1915. Photo – HR Per-aaa-266
M002/1	F15	Newspaper clippings – article on King George VI; poetry written by Dr. E.H. Smith of Corona; Ocie Taylor Songer is only survivor of founding family; 60 th Anniversary of R. B. Taylor; family picture CA 1927; death notices of Judge Geo. R. Freeman and Mrs. Clara Rimpau; Ocie Taylor at age 92 honored at Corona's Pioneer Picnic on Jun 2, 1969.
M002/1	F16	Brochure: Marlborough School for Girls Los Angeles – Handbook and Graduating Class Address by Mrs. Geo. A. Caswell, Jun 22, 1969. Typed copy for newspaper article – Songer-Taylor marriage.
SERIES #4: Memorabilia of Clark. E. Songer		
M002/1	F17	Corona Lodge 291, Knights of Khorassan Certificate of Sep 1917 Past Chancellor's Credential, Dec 31, 1918
M002/1	F18	Badge of Lodge 291, Corona K of P Grand Lodge Ribbon, Yosemite 1920 Envelope of McLilly & Co., Ohio A Red Ribbon with saying attached – "Absence makes the heart grow fonder"
SERIES #5: Correspondence		
M002/1	F19	Letters from Vice President Thos. R. Marshall, Sep 6, 1913 and Mar 31, 1914 (2 leaves)
SERIES #6: R. B. Taylor – South American Mining Interests (1900 – 1910)		
M002/1	F20	Passports – R. B. Taylor: USA – Jan 19, 1910; Columbia, So. America – Oct 13, 1902 Columbia, So. America – Oct 21, 1902, envelope and 3 leaves
M002/1	F21	Antioqua Gold Mining Company One letterhead – R. B. T., General Manager One business card – R. B. T., General Manager (CA 1900)
M002/1	F22	Diary – of Mary Taylor Mathis, sister of R. B. T. and wife of Page Mathis (Black 6 ¾" x 8 ¼". 120 pages). Describes day to day life, from Los Angeles to New York to South America – thoughts of Mary as she waited for Page and R. B. as they inspected mines. Includes descriptions of Caribbean Islands and Bolivia. (CA May 1, 1900 – after Mar 1902) Three separate leave of diary writings.
SERIES #7: R. B. Taylor – Business Ventures in Los Angeles		
M002/1	F23	AMS. Autograph Manuscript describing the manufacture of smokeless fun powder CA 1900 (4 leaves)
M002/1	F24	Brochure – Community Oil Produces of California, Aug 15, 1919. R. B. Taylor Trustee/Manager and Xerox copy. Pictures show investors and well, Burbank, CA. Photograph – Well # 1 of Community Oil Producers
M002/1	F25	Article – American globe, February 1922 – on Wilshire Oil Producers, R. b. Taylor's lease of Rimpau land near La Brea Tar Pits and Xerox cy.

M002/1	F26	Pass – So. California Motor Road Co. to R. B. Taylor, until Dec 1888 Business card – Associated Oil Syndicate
SERIES #8: Published Articles by Garretson Family		
M002/1	F27	Tales of Death Valley, Interested in Gold in 1887, Revisited in 1897 A. S. Garretson (mimeographed cy – fading needs retyping) 10 leaves. A Bit of History by a Son of a Pioneer, by S. A. Garretson, 1963 (mimeographed cy – good condition, should be Xeroxed) 18 leaves.
SERIES #9: Ephemeral of R. B. Taylor		
M002/1	F28	Name card – Miss Charlotte Root (addresses of Aunt Mary, 3610 Broadway and Mrs. Woodall, 2443 Broadway, written on back) B.P.O.E. Card – E. h. Porter, P.E.R. (Aunt Jorusin's son, Father's nephew written in hand of Ocie Songer) A saying written on a scrap of paper Picture button of R. B. Taylor, CA 1880s.
M002/1	F29	2 Commemorative silver spoons, with enameled handles hand painted with fruit and flowers, and a picture engraved on the bowl of the spoon. 1 – Hotel Temescal, Corona, CA (engraved) 1 – Bank Building, Corona, CA (engraved) (CA 1900)
SERIES #10: Photographs – R. B. Taylor Family Collection		
M002/1	F30	Ancestry chart for RB Taylor, Emma Mason Taylor and Emma Taylor Songer (Ocie). Compiled by Heritage Room Staff. Miscellaneous Census records used in ancestry chart research. Individual Logs for the 7 Songer-Taylor Photo Albums (See Series #11) Index of names and places for Scrapbooks/Photo Albums (See Series #11)
M002/1	F31	Photos – R. B. Taylor – mounted for display (CA 1880) Pers aaa 28 Emma Taylor – age 26, CA 1870 (8" x 10") Pers Aaa 283
M002/1	F32	Photograph – Skyline Drive Dedication (CA 1926) Pers-Aaa 279 R. B. Taylor 1928 Pers-Aaa 280 R. B. & Emma Taylor Pers-Aaa 281 Photographed – R. B. Taylor (CA 1928) R. B. & Emma Taylor, CA 1928, large R. b. & Emma Taylor, CA 1928, small
M002/1	F33	Photographs – R. B. Taylor residences: 948 Santee St. LA Bui-Res 141 Belmont St. LA Bui-Res 142 519 Temple St. LA Bui-Res 143 54 th St. LA Bui-Res 144
M002/1	F34	Photographs – Family R. B. Taylor, Aug 12, 1899 Pers Aaa 275 Harry Taylor, about 2 yrs old (by Off, Denison, Iowa) 1886 Pers-Aaa 276 Harry Taylor, about 10 yrs (by Dewey, LA, CA) 1890 Pers-Aaa 277 Great Grandfather Washburn – photo from book (Emma Mason Taylor's great grandfather) Pers-Aaa 278
M002/1	F35	Photos – 3 on partial album page 2 – Lucille Songer (adult) Pers-Aaa 267 & 269 1 – Lucille Songer (child) Pers-Aaa 268

		<p>Lucille Songer 2 ¾ x 4 Pers-Aaa 271 Lucille Songer 1 ½ x 2 ½ Pers Aaa 270 Likeness of Clark Songer Pers-Aaa 272 Marilyn Johnson & husband Pers=Aaa 273 Prof Talbot Pers-Aaa 274 Sugar Loaf, Catalina Out-Call 107a Sugar Loaf, Catalina Out-Call 108a Hotel Action Out-call 106a 2 graves – unidentified</p>
SERIES #11: Bible & Scrapbooks/Photo Albums– Family of R. B. Taylor		
M002/1	F36	Description of Taylor Family Bible
M002/1	F37	<p>Description of Albums 001,002,003 and 004. *Supplemental Info: The Emma (Ocie) Taylor Songer Collection (M001) also contains a scrapbook of photos of early Corona and the Taylor family. It is located in Box M001/2.</p>
M002/1	F38	<p>Album 005 -- Bound black pages with no cover. Photos of the Songers and Taylors. See index of names and places in M002/1, Folder 30.</p>
M002/2		<p>Album 00 1– Large Brown Photo Album. 50 pages, contains: several generations of the Taylor, Mason, and Songer families. Created by Emma “Ocie” Taylor Songer. See index of names and places in M002/1 Folder 30.</p>
M002/3		<p>Album 002 -- Black material bound book given to Emma Josephine Taylor (Ocie) by Clark Songer, Jun 14, 1907. Includes family pictures, and those of So. California and South America. Includes Mission Inn, Mt. Rubidoux, Beach, Corona, Victorville, Chatsworth, farms, and residence interiors and exteriors, as well as scenic views in Mexico and South America and the people of those areas. See index of names and places in M002/1 Folder 30. Album 003 – Reddish-brown leather scrapbook contains 35 pages of photos and newspaper clippings. See index of names and places in box M002/1 Folder 30. Album 004 – Located in Box M002/3 Robert B. Taylor Collection Loose black pages with no cover. 32 pages of family pictures by Ocie Taylor Songer, ranging from 1900-1910. 15 pages of Blue Tone and 17 pages of black and white prints. From unknown scrapbook containing photos and clippings. See index of names and places in box M002/1 Folder 30.</p>
M002/4		<p>Taylor Family Bible– Large, brown Bible with gold lettering, leather bound, contains genealogical material.</p>