

[Taylor, Harry L.]

H. L. Taylor Dies; Judge For 38 Years

Harry L. Taylor, 89, former County, Supreme and Appellate Court judge over a period of 38 years, died yesterday in Buffalo General Hospital after a long illness.

The son of the late Frederick H. and Hannah Sairs Taylor, he was born in Halsey Valley in Tioga County April 14, 1866. He was graduated from the Spencer Union School in 1882 and from Ithaca High School in 1884. He earned his bachelor of arts degree and Phi Beta Kappa distinction at Cornell University in 1888.

A varsity baseball player at Cornell, he taught school from 1888 to 1890 and then embarked on a brief career as a professional ball player. He played shortstop for the Elmira State League Club in 1889 and first base for the Louisville (Ky.) National League and American Assn. teams in 1890, 1891 and 1892, and for the Baltimore Orioles in 1893.

Studying in the off-season, he was graduated from Cornell with a doctor of laws degree in 1893. During his graduates studies, he continued to play baseball for the university.

He came to Buffalo in 1894 and, in 1906, was appointed Erie County judge by Gov. Frank W. Higgins. The following year, he was elected to a six-year term on the bench. He was elected to 14-year terms on the Supreme Court bench in 1913 and 1927. In 1924, Gov. Alfred E. Smith designated Judge Taylor as associate justice of the Appellate Division and Gov. Franklin D. Roosevelt re-designated him several times.

While he still was serving on the Appellate bench, he retired from his Supreme Court duties when he reached the 70-year constitutional age limit Dec. 31, 1936. Appointed an official referee, he served in that capacity until 1944. He then became associated with the law firm of Steele & Schultz until July 1, 1947.

Judge Taylor was president of the Eastern League of Professional baseball Clubs in 1906 and later president of the Buffalo Baseball Club. He was secretary of the University Club of Buffalo from 1903 to 1906 and president in 1905. He was master of Lodge of the Ancient Landmarks 441, F&AM, in 1910 and potentate of Ismailia Temple of the Shrine in 1912.

He was a 33rd degree Mason, a trustee of Cornell University from 1904 to 1913 and a member of the Buffalo Canoe Club, Buffalo Athletic Club and Park Country Club.

A bachelor, Judge Taylor had made his home with his sister and sole survivor, Miss Mary Taylor, in Hotel Lenox since the death of their mother nearly 20 years ago.

The Rev. Robert L. Cope, pastor of the Unitarian-Universalist Church of Williamsville, will conduct a memorial service Thursday afternoon at 2 in Forest Lawn Chapel.

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