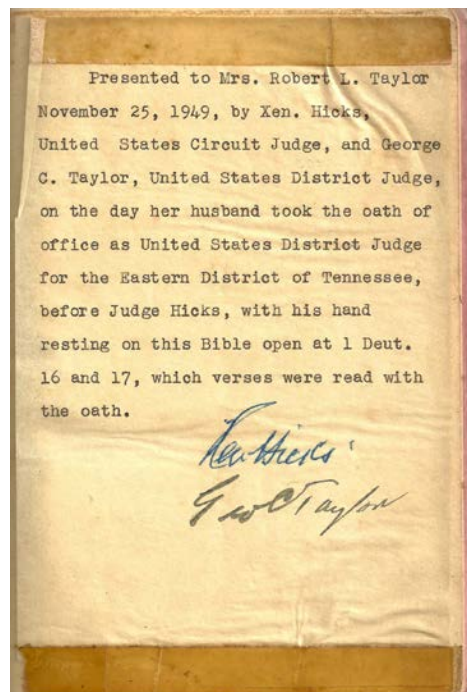


A NEWS MEMO TO COURT HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEMBERS

Donated Memorabilia

The Bible on which **U.S. District Judge Robert L. Taylor** placed his hand when he took the oath of office on November 25, 1949, is among several items of the late judge's memorabilia that have been donated to the Court Historical Society by his son and daughter.

A typed inscription on an inside cover page of the Bible describes the oath administration and is signed by the two judges involved in the ceremony, **U.S. Circuit Judge Xenophon Hicks** and retired **U.S. District Judge George C. Taylor**, who Judge Robert Taylor succeeded. The page bearing the inscription is shown here.



Judge Robert L. Taylor's appointment was a recess appointment, made while Congress was not in session. He was appointed by **President Harry Truman**, but Congress adjourned before confirming him. Judge Taylor served until he was reappointed in March 1950 and was confirmed immediately.

Other items donated by **Dr. Robert L. Taylor Jr.**, Murfreesboro, and his sister, **Ann Taylor**, New York City, include the following:

(1) A handsome sterling silver wine cooler inscribed with words of high praise given to the judge when he took senior status in 1985; (2) a picture of the full U.S. Supreme Court in the 1980s, signed by **Chief Justice Warren Burger** "To Bob Taylor, with Best Wishes"

and autographed by the other eight justices; **(3)** and a collection of four caricatures of the judge drawn by four news artists who covered the trial of **U.S. Court of Appeals Judge Otto Kerner** on charges that stemmed from his days as the governor of Illinois. The framed sketches contain a joint handwritten note from the artists and reporters that reads: “Best wishes to a very dedicated and competent judge.”

The Taylor items are on display in the History Suite on the first floor of the Howard H. Baker Jr. U.S. Courthouse in Knoxville. (Please see photograph below.) The History Suite is maintained jointly by the court and the Court Historical Society.



Other Gifts

Court Historical Society friends **H. Travis Parker** and his wife, **Dorothy**, a retired deputy clerk of U.S. District Court, some time ago gave the Society several documents relating to the notable father and uncle of **Judge Robert L. Taylor**. One of these is a copy of a speech by then-former Tennessee **Governor Robert L. Taylor**, uncle of the judge, as he opened his campaign for the United States Senate in 1906 at the Tabernacle (Ryman Auditorium) in Nashville.

Other items donated by the Parkers include a speech titled “War of the Roses,” given by Judge Taylor at the Tennessee Bar Association meeting in January 1967. It is about the famous campaign by his father (**Alf Taylor**) and uncle (**Robert Taylor**)--brothers--when they ran against each other for the Tennessee governorship in 1886.

[The Society is grateful to the Taylors and the Parkers, as well as to several others, who, over the years, have donated various items to the Court Historical Society. All donated items are preserved in the archives in the History Suite and a few are displayed from time to time.--EDITOR]

The Hoffa Story Continues

A Harvard Law School professor who is writing a book about the late Teamsters Union president **James Hoffa** and his foster son, **Charles O'Brien**, contacted the Society recently, seeking a copy of the documentary that was done in 2008 about the Hoffa trial in Chattanooga's federal court in 1964. We assisted him with that request and also provided him with information from two oral histories we conducted and which are in our archives--those of the late **U.S. Marshal Harry Mansfield**, who supervised security at the trial, and the late **Deputy Marshal Granville Sertel**, who provided around-the-clock personal security to the late **U.S. District Judge Frank W. Wilson**, who tried the case over a period of nearly seven weeks.

The professor also bought a copy of *Justice in the Valley*, a history of the Eastern District of Tennessee court, written by **Dr. Patricia Brake** and published by the Court Historical Society in 1998. It contains seven pages about the Hoffa trial.

The Archives

We have completed an updating of the index or finder's guide for the Court Historical Society's archives. A printed list of the items in the 11 filing cabinets in the History Suite is available in a notebook in the History Suite, and the information is on a flash drive enclosed in that notebook, making a search by computer easy. Please feel free to contact us if we can help pinpoint a fact about an event or someone in the court's history. We will do our best to help. This is all made possible through the support of our members and the support by the court.--EDITOR

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