



Who was Joe Taylor?



The photo above appears in the book 'Llandudno Through Time', by Christopher Draper and John Lawson-Reay. It shows employees of Dunphy's Warehouse on Market Street, Llandudno in about 1910. Among the twenty-two faded faces are, perhaps surprisingly for the time, two Black men. On the extreme left of the front row is, the caption tells us, Joe Taylor, "a black Welshman who ran a boxing club in Back Madoc Street". Intrigued, we endeavoured to uncover the story of Joe Taylor's life in Llandudno, using the resources available to us at Conwy Archives. What we discovered was a life in equal parts fascinating and well-lived.

Joe Taylor and the Census:

What better place to start our search than the census?

Administrative County		Civil Parish		Ecclesiastical Parish		County Borough, Municipal Borough, or Urban District		Ward of Municipal Borough, or of Urban District		Rural District		Parliamentary Borough or Division		Town or Village or Hamlet				
Carnarvon		Llandudno		Llandudno		Llandudno		Llandudno		Llandudno		Llandudno		Llandudno				
Code	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
No. of Entries	ROAD, STREET &c. and No. or NAME of HOUSE	Uninhabited	In Habitation	Not in Habitation	Building	Name and Surname of each Person	RELATION to Head of Family	Condition as to Marriage	Age last Birthday	PROFESSION OR OCCUPATION	Employer, Worker, or Own account	If Working at Home	WHERE BORN	(1) Desc' and Desc' (2) Blind (3) Deaf (4) Lunatic, Epileptic, etc.	LANGUAGE spoken (unless under 10 years of age to be included)			
118	Back Madoc St					Samuel Wood Jones	Boarder	M	21	Stone Mason	Worker		Cheshire Chester		English			
						Robert J. Harris	Head	M	24	Copack Smith	do		Lancashire Liverpool		English			
						Marg A. do.	Wife	F	25				Carnarvon Llandudno		Welsh			
						Rebecca Williams	Niece	S	13				do do		English			
119	9 do.					John Owens	Head	M	39	Blacksmith	Own acc		Anglesey Bangor		Welsh			
						Marg E. do.	Wife	F	40	House-keeper			do do		Welsh			
						Robert do.	Son	M	10				Carnarvon Llandudno		Welsh			
						Kelly do.	Son	S	9				do do		Welsh			
						Esther do.	Son	S	6				do do		Welsh			
120	10 do					John H. Jones	Head	M	35	Blacksmith's Striker	Worker		Wiltshire Rhyl		Welsh			
						Elizabeth A. Jones	Wife	F	30				do do		Welsh			
121	11 do					Robert Wood	Head	M	54	Blacksmith	Worker		Lancashire Liverpool		Welsh			
						Marg E. do.	Wife	F	53				Carnarvon Llandudno		Welsh			
						Eliza do.	Son	S	11				do do		Welsh			
122	12 do					William Brooks	Head	M	38	Blacksmith	Worker		do do		Welsh			
						Marg do.	Wife	F	37				do do		Welsh			
						John do.	Son	S	7				do do		Welsh			
123	13 do					John S. Davies	Head	M	30	Blacksmith	Worker		do do		Welsh			
						Jane do.	Wife	F	32				do do		Welsh			
						Edward Williams	Boarder	S	25	Blacksmith	Worker		Anglesey		Welsh			
124	Boxing Saloon					Joseph Taylor	Head	M	26	General Labourer	do		U.S.A. (American Subject)		English			
125	1 Ruthe Cottage					Owen Owens	Head	M	50	do	do		Carnarvon Llandudno		Welsh			
						Elizabeth do.	Wife	F	44				do do		Welsh			
						Harold J. do.	Son	S	22	General Labourer	Worker		do do		Welsh			
						Owen do.	Son	S	16	do	do		do do		Welsh			
						John R. do.	Son	S	13				do do		Welsh			
						John Jones	Boarder	M	61	General Labourer	Worker		do do		Welsh			
						John Jones	Boarder	S	13				do do		Welsh			
						Frank Everett	Boarder	S	20	General Labourer	Worker		America		English			
8	Total of Schedule of Houses and of Tenements with less than Five Rooms	5																
							Total of Males and of Females		18	11								

Note.—Draw your pen through each word of the headings as are inapplicable.

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We found Joe in the 1901 census, aged 27, living alone at a boxing saloon on Back Madoc Street. This document helped us discover that Joe came to Wales from America. A search of the 1891 census first for Llandudno, then for the whole UK, turned up no trace. Therefore, we can assume that Joe most likely arrived here no earlier than 1891, and no later than 1898, when he first appears in newspaper records.



Jumping forward a decade to 1911, Joe had moved to Taliesin Street, Llandudno – a short walk from his work at Dunphy's Warehouse – where he would live for the rest of his life. The 1911 census revealed a significant new insight. Then aged 37, Joe was widowed and living with his daughter Elsie Josephine, aged 9. Interestingly, Elsie had been born, not in Llandudno, but in Longton, Staffordshire, one of the five towns constituting Stoke-on-Trent. We shall return to Elsie and her mother a little later on.

CENSUS OF ENGLAND AND WALES, 1911.

Before writing on this Schedule please read the Examples and the Instructions given on the other side of the paper, as well as the headings of the Columns. The entries should be written in Ink.

The contents of the Schedule will be treated as confidential. Strict care will be taken that no information is disclosed with regard to individual persons. The returns are not to be used for proof of age, as in connection with Old Age Pensions, or for any other purpose than the preparation of Statistical Tables.

Number of Schedule, 156
(To be filled up by the Enumerator after collection.)

NAME AND SURNAME	RELATIONSHIP to Head of Family	AGE (last Birthday) and SEX	PARTICULARS as to MARRIAGE				PROFESSION or OCCUPATION of every Person				BIRTHPLACE of every Person	NATIONALITY of every Person born in a Foreign Country	INFIRMITY	LANGUAGE SPOKEN	
			State, for each Married Woman entered on this Schedule, the number of—	Children born alive to present Marriage (If no Children born alive write "None" in Column 7.)	Children born alive to previous Marriage (If no Children born alive write "None" in Column 8.)	Children still Living.	Children now Dead.	Personal Occupation.	Industry or Service with which worker is connected.	Whether Employer, Worker, or Working on Own Account.					Whether Working at Home.
1 Joseph Taylor	Head	27	Married	—	—	—	—	—	—	320	General Carpenter	Wales	—	—	English
2 Eliza Taylor	Wife	9	Married	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	English
3															
4															
5															
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13															
14															
15															

(To be filled up by the Enumerator.)

I certify that—
(1) All the ages on this Schedule are entered in the proper columns.
(2) I have counted the males and females in Columns 3 and 4 separately, and have entered their sum with the total number of persons.
(3) After making the necessary inquiries I have completed all entries on this Schedule which appeared to be defective, and have corrected such as appeared to be erroneous.

Initials of Enumerator: J.T.

Males: 1 Females: 1 Total: 2

(To be filled up by, or on behalf of, the Head of Family or other person in occupation, or in charge, of this dwelling.)

I declare that this Schedule is correctly filled up to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Signature: Joseph Taylor
Postal Address: Barmouth, Gwynedd, Wales

Joe Taylor and Boxing:

We wanted to learn more about Joe's boxing connection, and if it offered any explanation for how a Black American found himself living in North Wales.

There are a couple of great online resources which you can use to search through old newspapers: The British Newspaper Archive (free for public use at Conwy Archives) and Welsh Newspapers, a free resource provided by the National Library of Wales. A search of both sites revealed quite a few references to Joe Taylor and boxing.

BOXING IN NORTH WALES.

VICTORIA GYMNASIUM, LLANDUDNO.

THIS COSY LITTLE CLUB, presided over by Joe Taylor (black), was packed to its utmost capacity to witness a couple of contests between local men. The first was a six rounds contest between Bob Roberts, of Llandudno, and an unknown; and the second, which created a considerable amount of interest, was between W. Williams, of Llandudno, and Jack Roberts, a well-known footballer, of Llandudno, who met to box the best of eight rounds for a gold medal and purse subscribed by a few gentlemen. **Six Rounds Contest.**—Bob Roberts and an Unknown.—The first three rounds were well contested, but both seemed to tire in the following rounds, and after an interesting bout the referee declared it a draw. **Eight Rounds Contest.**—W. Williams beat Jack Roberts.—Roberts had the advantage of

height and reach, but Williams was the cleverer boxer. The first round was pretty even, both going for all they were worth, but in the second Williams had got the measure of his man, sent in a terrible left on the ribs which seemed to stagger Roberts, and then crossed in with the right, knocking his man out. Referee, Bill Johnson; timekeeper, D. Roberts. During the evening Joe Taylor boxed three interesting rounds with Bill Johnson, which pleased the audience. The wind-up was between Edwin Williams, an old veteran who has boxed with all the old champions, and Joe Taylor (black), both displaying a considerable amount of science, and both were deservedly applauded at the end of three rounds.

JOE TAYLOR,

A Coloured Youth who has Travelled Great Britain with a Boxing Booth.

(With Portrait.)

JOE TAYLOR, the black, late of America but now of Llandudno, North Wales, was born in Baltimore, America, on January 26, 1875, stands 5ft 8½in, and weighs 11st. He has travelled the whole of Great Britain with a boxing booth, and has boxed with some of the best men in England, including Jackson, of Crewe; Lachie Thomson, of Glasgow; Jack Brierly, of Liverpool; John Seenan, of Belfast, and many others of some note. He has also beaten in contests "Darkey" Parker, 1rd; Hutchinson, of Newcastle, 1rd; sparred four rounds with Bert Smith at Llandudno; fought a draw of six rounds with Alf Banister, of Camden Town; sparred four rounds with George Nixon, of Hyde; and is now instructor to the Victoria Gymnasium, Llandudno, North Wales.

BOXING. — A (boxing exhibition) was given at the boxing saloon last week as a benefit to Joe Taylor and Billy Johnson. There was a large audience, and a good sum was realised for the object in view.

ASSAULT - AT - ARMS AT THE

Masonic Hall, Llandudno.—The above hall was packed again on Wednesday last, when Joe Taylor and Bill Johnson had their annual benefit. The programme consisted chiefly of boxing, but in addition to that there were a few variety turns, the most prominent being that of Professor Delmar, the great Continental ventriloquist and society entertainer, whose performance alone brought the house down. Then came Professor Morton's cinematograph, showing some of the war scenes in South Africa, which was very touching. Alf Mackey, the well-known comic singer, sang three of his favourite songs, which were well received, after which the ring was occupied by the boxers, the first pair being Harry Sharples, of Liverpool, and Frank Briscoe, of Cheltenham, who boxed four rounds for a splendid meerschaum pipe. Sharples always held the trump card and won comfortably. Six rounds contest between Jem Owen, of Llandudno, and Young Breese, of Birmingham.—Owen led off twice without a return, which seemed to stagger Breese, but Breese being the heavier and stronger, went in to have a fight, and Owen, not being able to mix it, lost after an extra round. Bill Johnson, of Farnworth, and Jack Owen, of Liverpool, next donned the gloves for a three rounds display, Johnson showing that he had lost none of his old cleverness. Charlie Blackburn, of Liverpool, and Glen Revell, of Newcastle, boxed three merry rounds; also did "Dido" Lorne, of Liverpool, and Harry Brown (black). Then came Wallace and Johnson in their funny boxing act, entitled, "Fun in a French Boxing School," who surprised the audience by their feet and hands. The grand wind-up was between Joe Taylor, of Llandudno, and Harry Brown (black), whose boxing was enjoyed by all present. The referee for the contests was W. Williams, of Llandudno, and the timekeeper, that Llandudno sportsman, Will Owen.

BOXING AT LLANDUDNO. — ON Wednesday evening last a grand boxing tournament was held at the Victoria Club, Llandudno, under the able management of Prof. Joe Taylor, when the following programme interested the audience. Prof. Joe Taylor (Llandudno) and Alf Harry (Cardiff) boxed three exhibition rounds, which continually brought forth rounds of applause, as both men were in excellent trim. The spectators now got ready for the event of the evening, a six rounds go between Johnny Roberts (Llandudno) and Frank Everett (America), Roberts being seconded by Alf Bright (Newcastle-on-Tyne) and Willie Williams (Llandudno); Everett was looked after by George Harry (Cardiff) and Willie Thornton (Llandudno). Referee, Alf Harry (Cardiff), while Will Owen held the watch. The fight was very hotly contested throughout and kept the onlookers brimful of excitement, a draw being the verdict after the lads had gone the full six rounds. Neither of the contestants looked any the worse after the encounter, and a return battle between the two will be waited for with interest. The evening's performance ended with a four rounds bout between Alf Harry (Cardiff) and Alf Bright (Newcastle-on-Tyne), and here again the spectators were treated to a rare display of ring craft, and everyone left after thoroughly enjoying themselves. Professor Taylor wishes to thank Davy Roberts, M.C., Will Owen, timekeeper, Alf Harry and Alf Bright for their assistance at the performance.

BOXING. — Boxing took place at Professor Taylor's Rooms, in Back Madoc-street, on Thursday evening. There was a good attendance. Four scientific rounds were given by Alf. Harry, Cardiff, champion of North and South Wales, and Alf. Bright, Newcastle-on-Tyne, heavy-weight champion of the North of England. Frank Everett, America, and Jack Roberts, Llandudno, boxed for a silver watch. The former was declared the winner. Professor Joe Taylor, Llandudno, and Alf. Harry, Cardiff, gave four exhibition rounds.

JOE TAYLOR'S ANNUAL BOXING AND WRESTLING EXHIBITION.

Mr Joe Taylor announces in our columns that a boxing and wrestling entertainment will be given at the Masonic Hall on Wednesday next, September 29th, when some of the present day champions will take part. Nixon, the colouredbantam of America, will meet Charlie Arrowmith, of Walsall, the 9st. undefeated champion of the Midlands; Charlie Blackburn, of Liverpool, 9st. 4 champion of Lancashire, and Harry Mansfield, of Bristol, 9st. 7 champion of England, will box four rounds. Bob Agle, of Austria, 10st. 4 champion and Ernie Vogel, of Australia, will engage in a wrestling bout, best of three falls in Graeco-Roman style, and Harry Eaman, of Wellington and Johnnie Roberts, of Llandudno, will box four rounds. For a grand wind-up Harry Brown, the coloured 9st. 8 champion of England, who has just beaten Ted Costello, of Birmingham, in ten rounds, will meet Joe Taylor, of Llandudno.

BOXING AND WRESTLING AT LLAN-
DUDNO.—On Wednesday evening last at the
Masonic Hall some good sport was witnessed
at Prof. Joe Taylor's annual boxing and wrest-
ling entertainment, which was altogether free
from that bad feeling and brutality, which
some of the public would have us believe, is
part and parcel of anything appertaining to the
noble art of self-defence. By this we of
course refer to the action of certain of the
officials in cancelling an agreement to let the
Town Hall to Joe Taylor. In view of the re-
cent deplorable reports re the lack of stamina
and low standard of physique amongst the
would-be candidates for the army, it is some-
what surprising that cold water should be
thrown over the desire of working men to take

exercise in this manner, and we would advise the well meaning but mistaken gentleman who were responsible for this cancelling of the agreement to attend the next entertainment and see for himself whether the roughness takes place which they pretend does. Amongst the items a good three-round contest was witnessed between Breeze and Rawlins, in which the verdict was awarded Rawlins. The contest between Tommy Pop, of Llandudno, and Pat Strong, of Dublin (who is shortly entering the bords of matrimony) was a very vigorous contest, as was to be expected from the ominous look in Tommy Pop's eye, which bade evil for his Hibernian opponent. The sport of wrestling now so popular found its exponents in the young Austrians, Alge and Vogel, both the possessors of several medals. They contested in the Græco-Roman style, and the hearty burst of applause at the termination of their efforts testified to the unmistakable approval of the large audience present. The tit-bit of the evening was the four-round contest between Charlie Arrowsmith, of Walsall, and the coloured boxer, Geo. Dixon, of Boston, U.S.A., ex-feather weight champion of the world, whose visit 16 years ago the sporting public will remember. Dixon, it may be added, has won more money in stakes than any man since the days of John L. Sullivan, and when one saw the lean, little broad-shouldered figure step into the ring with the action unexplainable, yet different from the amateurs, one could understand that here was a man to reckon with. The show concluded with an exhibition match between Prof. Taylor and Blackburn, of Liverpool, which was by no means a gentle affair, but shewed strong hitting between these veterans.—Communicated.

According to an article from Boxing World on 16th August 1899, Joe Taylor was born in Baltimore, Maryland on 26th January 1875, and had toured the whole of Great Britain with a boxing booth, before settling in Llandudno as the instructor at the Victorian Gymnasium on Back Madoc Street. Boxing booths were features of travelling fairs in Britain for around 200 years, until they died out in the 1970s. The booth boxers travelled from town to town with the fair. For each show, or 'house', a crowd would gather to watch the boxers take on a succession of contenders – men in the crowd who thought themselves tough enough to win. Typically, the challenger would win a cash prize if they managed to survive three rounds against the professional. The booths have an important place in British boxing history as the training grounds for many successful fighters, although it must have been, if you'll pardon the pun, a hard-knock life. Though there was a tradition of Black boxers in the booths, there was a 'colour bar' which prevented them competing for the professional belts in Britain until

well into the 20th century. It is noticeable from several of the boxing articles we found that a Black fighter's ethnicity was frequently drawn attention to. Sadly, we don't know how or why Joe Taylor came to be a fighter on the British boxing booth circuit. We do know that Joe came from a very poor area. Perhaps he was recruited by a fair owner who paid his Atlantic crossing, but we cannot be sure of what really happened and how Joe became involved in boxing in the first place.

How and why Joe settled in Llandudno specifically is also unknown. It is likely that he visited Llandudno whilst travelling. As a popular seaside resort, Llandudno hosted travelling performers of myriad varieties. Maybe Joe liked it here and decided to stay. Perhaps he was tired of travelling and wanted to settle down. Maybe he was stranded here for one reason or another, like Richard Codman – whose descendants still run Llandudno's Punch and Judy show to this day! Sadly, we just don't know.

Between 1898 and 1904, Joe organised a number of boxing 'entertainments' in Llandudno – at the Victoria Gymnasium and the Masonic Hall on Upper Mostyn Street. Each consisted of a number of contests, and usually Joe would take part in exhibition rounds. Although, as the Llandudno Advertiser reported on 1st October 1904, despite being exhibitions, these were not necessarily gentle affairs, but "shewed strong hitting" between the two participants! On that same occasion the paper reports that Charlie Arrowsmith of Walsall fought George Dixon, a Black Canadian fighter (not, as the paper reports, an American), who had the distinction of being the World Featherweight Champion, and the first Black athlete to win a world championship in any sport.





Joe and a Surprising Football Connection:

During our research we came across quite a few references to Joe Taylor in relation to football. These all date from the period between 1906 and 1910. It seems that Joe ended his involvement with boxing in about 1905, instead channelling his sporting prowess into training one of the local football teams, the Llandudno Celts. The Celts were part of the North Wales Wednesday League. Traditionally workers had a half-day on Wednesdays, and often competed in afternoon sports – Sheffield Wednesday FC preserve their origin as a midweek team in their name. According to newspaper reports, the Celts players were younger than other Wednesday League players, and Joe Taylor was something of a father-figure to them. He developed his own training scheme, and by 1910 he was the vice-chair of the club, and was held in high regard. By the time of Joe's involvement in football there were a few pioneering Black players in Britain, notably Arthur Wharton and Walter Tull; but there was, and still is, a lot of racism in football. For perspective, it was not until 1960 that the FA got its first Black manager, and 1978 before the English national team gave its first full cap to a Black player (Viv Anderson of Nottingham Forest). That Joe was a highly respected Black coach active in the UK in the early 1900s, is inspirational and hugely important to both sporting and local history.

A RISING FOOTBALL CLUB—THE CELTS.

Under the excellent system of training invented by Prof. Joe Taylor this club is just now making progress, and is a shining example of how the knowledge of this one-time "Bruiser" stands a young club in good stead when the reducing of weight and raising the muscles is the main idea. Mr Taylor at one time believed in the fruit diet, but although he took a light stock with him to the last Bangor match he must have changed his mind and consumed it himself, at least so it is surmised.

There were two matches to be played that afternoon, the other being the Llandudno Celts and Colwyn Bay Wednesdays. This came off, but what a wind was blowing, completely spoiling any attempts at decent play. The surprise in what took place was the excellent play of the Colwyn Bayites—the All Blacks—who were really on the day's performance superior to the Celts. The latter disappointed their supporters, and Joe Taylor will have to see to the better display of his pets. I think it only right to say, though, that the Celts have something in them, providing they do not get over-elated and place too much confidence in themselves.

That the Llandudno Celts have an air of surprising confidence as to their doings in the Duncan Cup competition.

That they have expressed a hope even thus early of meeting the Corinthians in the final.

That this may or may not be a trifle too previous.

That should they manage it, the battle will be a great one.

That Joe Taylor will be in his element, and many more besides.

That the Celts v. Corinthians football match on Wednesday last was a treat.

That a column of notes thereon appears in another column.

That the Corinthians were mostly members of the famous Swifts, who in their time gave us the most fascinating chapter in the history of local football.

That the scorer of the "Celts'" goal, Del Brookes, was in his cradle when F. W. Jones captained the best team Llandudno ever possessed.

That Joe Taylor, trainer of the "Celts," will at an early date furnish our readers with an account of how his team is trained.

That Joe Taylor's interest in the Celts is fatherly.

Llandudno Wednesdays v. Llandudno Celts.

FINAL FOR THE DUNCAN CUP.
VICTORY OF THE LLANDUDNO
WEDNESDAYS.

Much interest was shewn in the final at Llandudno, yesterday (Wednesday) on the Council Field, when the finalists, as above, met to decide who should be the proud possessors of the very handsome Duncan Cup and the splendid gold medals. The weather, unfortunately, turned out gloomy and wet at first. But notwithstanding this, there was a capital attendance. The

commencement of the second half, and was cheered by the Wednesdays' supporters. The ball was down the other end, and up again in a trice, with Francis sending in a perfect centre, which Chase headed strongly over the bar, following his attempt with a flying side run into the net, and he rebounded, falling out of it. There was no denying the superiority of the Wednesdays hereabouts. Thomas saved grandly from a corner, and David Williams shot wide. Keeping up a pressure, the Celts had very hard lines, and Thomas had to concede a corner from which an exciting bully in front of him took place, and ultimately the sphere was cleared. The Celts shot in again to Thomas, who saved grandly, and a penalty shortly afterwards was

colours of the respective sides were worn, and the Celts' supporters had a fine display of cards "Play up, Celts." There was a large number of ladies present. Referee Frank Beech, of Rhyl (Secretary to the N.W.C.F. League), was in charge of the players, who were as follows:—

Llandudno Wednesdays: W. Thomas, goal; J. Davies (captain) and S. Hammond, backs; Lewis Owen, O. E. Hughes and Sam Stubbs, halves; E. Francis, D. P. Williams, E. Chase, D. H. Jones, and H. Wynne, forwards.

Llandudno Celts: Stallard, goal; T. J. Brookes and R. Foulkes, backs; Cureton, Lloyd Elias and Hongreaves, halves; J. Owen (captain), L. Williams, MacKenzie, H. Brookes and D. Williams, forwards.

Linesmen, Messrs Thomas (Secretary of the Wednesday League) and A. C. Slater.

The Wednesdays won the toss and played towards the sea goal. The Celts worked down the right and forced a corner, and a tough tussle took place in front of Thomas until the ball was put out of play. Later David Williams centred beautifully; but the Wednesday defence prevailed, and getting down, a shot from the Wednesday front rank went flying over the bar, and a moment later Francis shot miles over with an open goal. Chase tried his luck with a hot shot that was wide, and Stallard, in a trice, was saving well. Down came the Celts, and Mackenzie shot a beauty over the bar. The Celts pressed, and Thomas saved cleverly on two occasions. Then came some good play from the Wednesdays, and Stallard's charge had a very narrow squeak. The Celts came down again, and kept Thomas busy. Davies gave a corner, and from this David Williams forced another corner, which was splendidly placed and cleared, and Len Williams ultimately shot over. Stallard saved from Francis, and Chase was showing some smart play. A magnificent run was made by the Celts' captain (Owen), and he centred grandly, and Thomas was lucky to clear. At this stage the Celts were the superior side, until Wynne ran down and a corner ensued, bringing forth some exciting play; and just before half-time Francis made a glorious run and centre, which Stallard saved in splendid fashion. Thomas was being tested just before half-time, but there was no score.

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In the second half the Wednesdays early on made a dashing run, and forced the play, and Chase netted the ball in the first minute. Francis was shewing grand form, and had hard lines with a try. Now the Celts pressed and gained a corner, which was cleared, and getting possession, Chase made a splendid run, beating all opposition, and defeated Stallard who made no attempt to save a grand shot. This second success came in ten minutes from the com.

awarded the Celts. David Williams took the kick, and Thomas saved. Another exciting bully occurred before Thomas, who was bowled over, and a corner followed, which availed nothing. David Williams was accidentally hurt at this

period, and was carried off the field by Joe Taylor, to the regret of evryone. Shortly afterwards the game ended in a victory for the Wednesdays, the score being:

Llandudno Wednesdays, 2; Celts, 0.

The cup and medals were presentd, amidst great cheering, to the captain (Davies) by Mrs Mellor, wife of Colonel Mellor, of Abergele (President of the League), in a graceful little speech from a brougham. Mr Vincent proposed a vote of thanks to Mrs Mellor, and Mr Thomas, Abergele, seconded. Cheers were raised for Mr Duncan, Mrs Mellor, and others.

THE CELTS FOOTBALL CLUB.—The Committee of this excellent Wednesday football club evidently means business next season, for the following last year's members of the Amateurs' club have joined:—Messrs. Ike Marsh, Jack Lunt, Will Lunt, Brookes-Evans, and Ted Hobson. The following have re-signed:—Charlie Stallard, Johnny Owen, W. D. Williams, James Hargraves, T. J. Brookes, Will Wynne, L. Elias, Len Williams, Hughes, Will Smith, D. Breese, G. MacKenzie, Jim Owen, and J. T. Jones. Others will follow. The trainer, Joe Taylor, is in rare spirits for training them, and the other "Joe," of Junction fame, is on the alert for wonders.

Again, in Llandudno, there are the Celts, a set of very promising, dashing, and evenly-balanced young players, prettily jerseyed in claret and blue, and with a paternal-like trainer in Joe Taylor. The ranks of the Celts have been greatly strengthened for this season, and methinks the battles between the Corinthians and them will be brimful of interest, and absorbingly exciting. With four good teams in Llandudno, the game is certainly going to be well fostered.

That all the same the Celts are a very promising team, and it is said they were not at full strength.

* * *

That they are a team of young triers that will go all the way and wear down many and older and more experienced team.

* * *

That Trainer Joe Taylor intends to make a bold bid for the chief honours this season.

* * *

FOOTBALL THATS.

That the Celts on Wednesday last met and defeated the Penmaenmawr team at Conway in a league encounter.

* * *

That this is the second meeting of these teams this season, and on both occasions the Celts have been the victors.

* * *

That Joe Taylor and Co. are naturally delighted with their boys.

* *

That the Corinthians should have been visited by a Rhyl team.

* * *

That fortunately the visitors cried off.

* * *

That the outlook, from a climatic point of view, at 2 o'clock was something appalling.

* * *

That a rain and hail storm visited the district of a severity rarely equalled.

BENEFIT ENTERTAINMENT. — On Thursday night a benefit entertainment to Mr Joe Taylor was held in the Prince's Theatre. Taylor is the vice-chairman of the Celts' Football Club.

NORTH WALES WEDNES- DAY FOOTBALL LEAGUE.

SUCCESSFUL DINNER AT LLANDUDNO JUNCTION.

OBJECTS OF THE LEAGUE.

The North Wales Wednesday Football League held their annual dinner at the North Western Junction Hotel on Wednesday evening, when Councillor T. E. Purdy, of Colwyn Bay, presided, and Mr T. J. Jones, Dinarth Hall, occupied the vice-chair. The others present included Messrs Robert Greenfield, F.R.H.S. (chairman of the League), Fred W. Jones (secretary of the League), Harold Hayden, J. M. Jones, J. H. Hughes, Joseph Owen, Joe Taylor, Llew. Jones, George Snow, J. H. Brookes, Geo. Hitchen, J. W. Arrowsmith, Will Capel, E. Price, H. E. Robertson, Llewelyn Roberts, Wm. Jones, L. J. Luther, Ted Williams, Robert Hill, J. E. Edwards, J. G. Owen, Wm. Rowlands, John Roberts, J. E. Lloyd, J. Edwards, R. J. Hill, H. Roberts (junr.), H. E. Palmer, H. Davies, and D. Clwyd Griffith ("Welsh Coast Pioneer").

North Wales Wednesday Football League.

A FESTIVE GATHERING.

A very successful dinner and social evening in connection with the above League was held on Wednesday evening of last week, at the North-Western Hotel, Llandudno Junction. The dinner was served in the spacious billiard room, which had been transformed, for the nonce, into a brilliant dining room. The tables were tastefully adorned with an abundance of stately daffodils, which had been supplied by the Chairman of the League, Mr. R. Greenfield, F.R.H.S., and the catering of Mr. and Mrs. A. Kerridge was all that could be desired.

Councillor T. E. Purdy, of Colwyn Bay (Vice-President of the Coast Association, and Treasurer of the North Wales Coast League), presided, and he was supported by Mr. R. Greenfield and Mr. T. J. Jones (Vice-Chairman), Dinarth Hall. The following guests were also present:—Messrs. J. G. Owen (Llandudno), George Hitchen, L. J. Luther, George F. Snow, J. H. Hughes, William Rowlands, Harold Hayden, John Roberts (member of the old Llandudno Swifts' Football Club), J. M. Jones (Old Crewe), H. E. Robertson, Joe Taylor (trainer of the Llandudno Celts), Llewelyn Jones, Ted Price, J. H. Brooke, Llewelyn Roberts, Will Jones, Will Capell, J. W. P. Arrowsmith, J. E. Lloyd, J. Edwards, R. J. Hill, H. Roberts (junr.), H. E. Palmer, Fred W. Jones (Secretary of the Wednesday League), D. Clwyd Griffiths, and Hugh Davies ("Vigilant").

Searching our own archive collections we found this photo of Joe with the Celts team taken around 1910.



The newspaper cuttings also give us an insight into Joe Taylor's health during this time. Between September 1907 and October 1908 there are comments about his "recent illness" and being "convalescent", until it is announced on 9th October 1908 that he is well enough to train the Celts again. Then, in May 1910, the Weekly News reports that he has "sustained serious injury" while delivering beer to the Cross Keys Inn on Madoc Street – presumably as part of his job as a warehouseman for Dunphy's.

The Llandudno Celts are in for the Duncan Cup and the League.
* * * * *

Joe Taylor is taking up the training of the team when he has fully recovered from the effects of his recent illness.
* * * * *

That we glad to hear that the Celts' trainer, Joe Taylor, is convalescent.

Mr Joe Taylor is again training the Llandudno Celts Football Club.

ACCIDENT. — Whilst carrying some beer upon his back from the road to the cellar of the Cross Keys Inn, Madoc-street, on Tuesday evening, Joe Taylor caught his foot in the kerbstone with the result that he fell heavily with his burden and sustained serious injury to his hand and arm. Taylor, who is the trainer of the Llandudno Celts Football Club, has been rather unfortunate with accidents lately. His many friends wish that he may soon be able to be about his business again.



The Strange Case of the Pigeon Feed Theft

This story started with the photograph of Joe Taylor and his colleagues at Dunphy's Warehouse. Dunphy's was a well-known local chain of grocery stores, with branches in Llandudno, Craig y Don, and Penmaenmawr.



2 - ©John Lawson-Reay

A search of our catalogue revealed papers from the Llandudno Petty Sessions Court (the precursor to the modern Magistrates Court) from 1911, relating to a case brought by R.B Dunphy against Hugh Wynne and Joseph Taylor for theft of 64 pounds of mixed corn from Dunphy and Sons. The two men did not deny the theft and were found guilty. What's very unusual about the case is that neither the court nor Dunphy and Sons punished the two men. Joe Taylor had worked for Dunphy and Sons for 12 or 13 years at the time of the theft, and continued to for decades after. A newspaper report on the case offers some more insight.

County of. Carmarvon
Division of. Conway.

Llandudno. 14th August. 1911.

R. B. Dunphy

— v —
Hugh Wynne &
Joseph Taylor

Depositions.
for Larceny.

for signature

James Porter.
Clerk to the Justices.

PETTY SESSIONAL DIVISION OF CONWAY.

BEFORE the Court of Summary Jurisdiction sitting at the
Townhall, Llandudno.

The 14th day of August One
thousand nine hundred and eleven
Hugh Wynne and Joseph Taylor, both
of 2 Taliesyn^{Int} Llandudno
(hereinafter called the Defendants) (being under the age of
~~sixteen years~~) are this day charged for that they on the
19th day of July One thousand nine hundred
and eleven at Llandudno
in the County aforesaid did feloniously steal 64 pounds
of Mixed Corn of the value of 6/4 the property
of Dumphy & Sons. Against the Peace of Our
Sovereign Lord the King His Crown & Dignity.

~~contrary to the Statute in such case made and provided.~~

AND the Court thinks that the said charge is proved, but is
of opinion that, having regard to the character, ~~of the said Defendant,~~
or age, or health, or mental condition of the said Defendant
(or to the trivial nature of the offence, or to the extenuating
circumstances under which the said offence was committed) it is
inexpedient to inflict any (or any other than a nominal)
punishment, on that it is expedient to release the said
Defendant on probation.

IT IS ORDERED that the said charge (or information) be
~~dismissed~~, or that the said Defendants be discharged conditionally
on their entering into a recognizance without sureties to be
of good behaviour and to appear for conviction and sentence
when called on at any time during a period of six months
from this day, and during the said period shall be under the
supervision of
as
and

and also

AND in addition IT IS ORDERED that the said Defendant pay to
the Informant for damages for injury
(or compensation for loss) and for costs
(by instalments of for every
days, the first instalment to be paid) forthwith,
(or on the day of 19)

~~AND WHEREAS it appears to the Court that~~

being the parent (or guardian) of the said Defendant has conduced to the commission of the said offence by wilful default (or by habitually neglecting to exercise due care of h) IT IS ORDERED that the damages and costs aforesaid shall be paid by the said parent (or guardian) instead of by the said Defendant.

AND in default of payment IT IS ORDERED that the sums due under this Order be levied by distress and sale of the said parent's (or guardian's) goods, and in default of sufficient distress that the said parent (or guardian) be imprisoned in His Majesty's Prison at and there kept for the space of unless the said sums (and all costs and charges of the (said distress and) commitment and of conveyance to the said prison) be sooner paid.

Thomas Dalton



J. A. W.
Harrington



Justices of the Peace for the County aforesaid.

County of
CARNARVON,
to wit.

The Examination of *Arthur Dumphy and*
Hugh Ellis.

taken on Oath this *14th* day of *August* in the
year of our Lord One Thousand Nine Hundred and *eleven*
at *the Townhall. Llandudno*

in the County aforesaid, before the undersigned, *Two* of His Majesty's
Justices of the Peace for the said County in the presence and hearing
of *Hugh Wynne and Joseph Taylor both*
of *2 Taliesyn. Llandudno*

who were charged this day, before the Court for that they the said
Hugh Wynne and Joseph Taylor

on the *19th* day of *July* One Thousand
Nine Hundred and *eleven* at the Parish of *Llandudno*

in the County aforesaid, feloniously did steal *64 pounds*
of *Mixed corn* of the value of *64* the property
of *Dumphy & Sons Limited.*

Against the Peace of Our Sovereign Lord the
King His Crown and Dignity.

This Deponent, *Arthur Dumphy,*

on his Oath saith as follows:—

On the 9th July 1911
Ellis came to defendant's Taylor's

I had some communication
with both defendants and Ellis.

The Constable charged the
two defendants with the larceny.
The defendant Wynne said that
Taylor had asked him to take
straw to his house. I did so.

I asked Taylor to come
and show the straw. He said "There
was no straw there"

The property produced is simply
and sons, value is 7/-

Arthur Murphy

This deponent Hugh Ellis: on his
oath swears as follows:-

I am a Constable at
Llandudno

At 3:40 a.m.
on 19th July saw Wynne
with a sack in New Street.
He said it contained corn.

Subsequently I cautioned
and charged the defendants with
the larceny.

Taylor said "I have
nothing to say it's right."
I carried it to Joe Taylor."

(2) Hugh Ellis. P. 22

The foregoing depositions of Arthur
Murphy and Hugh Ellis.

were severally taken and sworn before us
the day and year first before written

Thomas Daltore
Mary Kelly
Two of His Majesty's Justices of the
Peace for the Division of Conway.

IN THE COUNTY OF CARNARVON.

Petty Sessional Division of Conway.

BEFORE the Court of Summary Jurisdiction (being a Petty Sessional Court) sitting at Trumhall Llandudno.

The 14th day of August One thousand nine hundred and eleven.

Hugh Wynne and Joseph Taylor both of Llandudno (hereinafter called the Defendants) stands charged for that on the 10th day of July One thousand nine hundred and eleven at the Parish of Llandudno in the said County feloniously did steal 64 pounds of Mixed corn of the value of 6/4 the property of Dunphy & sons.

against the Peace of our Sovereign Lord the King, his Crown and Dignity (~~Contrary to the Statute in such case made and provided~~).

And the said Charge having been reduced in writing as aforesaid and read to the accused, and the witnesses for the Prosecution having been severally examined in his presence, ~~they~~ he is now addressed by me, one of the Justices of the said Court as follows:-

"Do you desire to be tried by a Jury, or do you consent to the case being dealt with summarily, Being dealt with summarily means that you will be now tried by this Court. If you desire to be tried by a Jury you can be so tried at the next (Assizes) or Quarter Sessions for this County.

AND the said Defendant, on being so addressed, consenting to the case being dealt with summarily, ~~he~~ is further addressed by me as follows. "Are you Guilty or Not Guilty?"

WHEREUPON the said Defendant states as follows:-

"We are guilty."

Taken before us at the place)
and on the day and year first)
before written.

Thomas Dafflow

W. J. M. J.

Two of His Majesty's Justices
of the Peace for the said County
of Carnarvon.

EMPLOYEES' LAPSE.

Joseph Taylor, a coloured man, and Hugh Wynne, both of 2, Taliesin-street, were charged with the theft of a sack containing 64 lbs. of pigeon corn and valued at 6s. 7d., the property of Messrs. Dunphy and Sons.

Mr. Charles Dunphy, who appeared to prosecute, said that both men were in the employ of Messrs. Dunphy, Taylor having been with them for 12 or 13 years. On the 19th July P.C. Ellis was on duty in New-street, just off Deganwy-street, at 5.40 a.m., and saw Wynne carrying a small sack on his back. The officer asked him what he had, and he replied "Corn." The officer became suspicious, believing it to be too early to deliver goods. He saw the firm, and Mr. Arthur Dunphy, in reply to a question, said there was no order to be sent out so early as the officer stated. The men were then charged, and Wynne confessed that he had done it at the instigation of Taylor.

Arthur Dunphy, giving evidence, said the men when charged in his presence said it was straw that was in the sack, and ultimately he asked Taylor to show him the straw. He was very confused, and afterwards said there was no straw. He identified the bag of corn produced as the property of the firm, and valued it at 6s. 7d.

In reply to Mr. Chamberlain, who appeared for the defence, witness said he believed the men said it was straw in order to minimise the offence. Taylor had been a good servant to the firm, and they did not wish to press the case against him.

P.C. Ellis gave evidence corroborating the advocate, adding that when charged Taylor replied, "I have nothing to say. It is right." Wynne replied, "I carried it for Joe."

Mr. Charles Dunphy said the firm did not wish to press the case against Taylor, but at the same time they wished it to be known that for long periods at a time he was on sick leave, and was allowed 12s. weekly in addition to his Tontine money, and they thought it was ungrateful on his part to do this.

Both men were charged, and they pleaded guilty.

Mr. Chamberlain, on their behalf, said it was fair to Wynne to say that he did it entirely on Taylor's instructions. The goods were taken, not for the purpose of selling, but Taylor happened to have pigeons, and he was tempted and gave way. He pleaded for the defendants to be dealt with under the First Offenders' Act.

Deputy Chief Constable Rees said that both men had borne very good characters hitherto.

The magistrates decided to bind the defendants over under the First Offenders' Act in the sum of £10 to come up for judgment if called upon within six months.



"Taylor had been a good servant to the firm, and they did not wish to press the case against him". However, Charles Dunphy stated that the firm had supported Joe with extra sick pay during lengthy periods of leave, and that the theft had felt "ungrateful". We know that his serious accident in 1910 occurred at work, so perhaps Dunphy's provision of sick pay is not quite as benevolent as it appears and might be masking Dunphy's responsibility for the accident. Whatever the exact situation, it is clear that Joe Taylor's work and character were held in high regard by the firm, who ultimately decided to treat the incident as a forgivable lapse. The deciding factor may have been that the two men did not steal the corn to sell for personal gain – it was to feed Joe's pigeons!

Family Life

So what of Joe's wife and daughter? In the 1901 census Joe was living alone as a bachelor. The census that year was conducted on 31st March, and less than three months later, on 27th June, Joe married Elizabeth Dimlowe at the Register Office in Conwy. A shotgun wedding, their daughter Elsie was born less than five months later, on 23rd November. Tragically, Elizabeth Taylor died on 30th May the following year, 1902.

Her death certificate shows that she died at The Infection Hospital on Maesdu Road in Llandudno of enteric fever and cardiac failure. Enteric fever is an old name for typhoid, a bacterial infection associated with poor sanitation and poor living conditions. At the time she became ill, Elizabeth, Joe and their baby daughter were still living in Back Madoc Street, but had moved from the one room boxing saloon to No 2 Hughes Yard, which had 3 rooms. The council rate books for the time show that Back Madoc Street was predominantly an area of stables, workshops and even a slaughterhouse; yet it is clear from the 1901 census that about 150 people were living in cramped conditions there – little wonder, then, that infectious diseases like typhoid thrived.

CERTIFIED COPY OF AN ENTRY OF MARRIAGE
COPI DILYS O GOFNOD PRIODAS

GIVEN AT THE GENERAL REGISTER OFFICE
RHODDWDYD YN Y GENERAL REGISTER OFFICE

Application Number 13307918-1
Rhif y Cais

1901. Marriage solemnized at The Register Office in the District of Conwy in the County of Carnarvon

No.	When Married.	Name and Surname.	Age.	Condition.	Rank or Profession.	Residence at the time of Marriage.	Father's Name and Surname.	Rank or Profession of Father.
142	Twentyseventh June 1901	Joe Taylor	26 years	Bachelor	General Labourer	1 Victoria Buildings Madoc Street Llandudno	George Taylor	Farmer
		Elizabeth Dimlowe	24 years	Spinster	Domestic Servant	The Cecil Hotel Penmaenmaur Dwygyfylchi	George Dimlowe	Gardener

Married in the Register Office according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the Church of England by Licence before me,

This Marriage was solemnized between us, Joe Taylor in the Presence of us, William Johnson George Jones Registrar Elizabeth Dimlowe Catherine Dempsey St Barry Deputy Superintendent Registrar

CERTIFIED to be a true copy of an entry in the certified copy of a Register of Marriages in the Registration District of } Conway
TYSTIOLAETHWYD ei fod yn gopi cywir o gofnod mewn copi y tystiwyd iddo o Gofrestr Priodasau yn Nosbarth }

Given at the GENERAL REGISTER OFFICE, under the Seal of the said Office the } 9th day of November 2022
Fe'i rhoddwyd yn y GENERAL REGISTER OFFICE, o dan sêl y Swyddfa a enwyd y }

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GOFAL: MAE YNA DROSEDDAU YN YMWNEUD A FFUGIO NEU ADDASU TYSTYSGRIF NEU DDEFNYDDIO TYSTYSGRIF FFUG NEU WRTH FOD AG UN YN EICH MEDDIANT. © HAWLFRAINT Y GORON

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RHYBUDD: NID YW TYSTYSGRIF YN PROFI PWY YDYCH CHL.

WMXZ 484020

2134383 1021 APS/AISP

GENERAL REGISTER OFFICE
ENGLAND AND WALES

MWI

BURIALS in the Parish of <i>Llandudno</i>				
in the County of <i>Gaernarvon</i>				
in the year one thousand eight ^{nine} hundred and <i>two</i>				
Name.	Abode.	When Buried.	Age.	By whom the Ceremony was performed.
<i>Elizabeth Taylor</i> No. 743	<i>Hughes' Yard</i> <i>BK Madre St.</i>	<i>June</i> <i>2nd</i>	<i>26</i> <i>years</i>	<i>William</i>

Joe and his daughter were still living at Hughes Yard in 1905, when Elsie started at Lloyd Street Infants School, but by 1906 the council rate books show that they had moved to the better neighbourhood of Taliesin Street. They lived first at No. 6, and later at No. 23, where Joe Taylor remained for the rest of his life.

Elsie was nine years old by the time of the 1911 census, and Joe had not remarried. So alongside working at Dunphy's, organising and fighting in boxing contests, and training the Celts football team, he was also a single parent! Whilst such a prospect faced many widowed women, it seems to have been relatively unusual at the time for a man to work full-time and be a single parent.

Evidently Elsie was a bright child, as she passed the entry examination to go to the local grammar school (John Bright's), but instead she attended Mostyn Secondary School on Trinity Avenue. The reason for this may have been financial – perhaps Joe, like other parents on a low income, could not afford the associated costs of sending a child to grammar school. Despite this, she left school educated enough to work at Dunphy and Sons, but in the office as a ledger clerk, while her father still laboured in the warehouse.

Only in October 1918, when Elsie was sixteen, did Joe finally marry his second wife, Eunice Bryan, who was sixteen years his junior. They went on to have four daughters together: Gladys May (1918-2004), Dorothy (b. 1921), Lillian (b. 1923), and Elizabeth (b. 1926).

CERTIFIED COPY OF AN ENTRY OF MARRIAGE
COPI DILYS O GOFNOD PRIODAS

GIVEN AT THE GENERAL REGISTER OFFICE
RHODDWDYD YN Y GENERAL REGISTER OFFICE

Application Number 13291321-1
Rhif y Cais

1918 Marriage solemnized at *the Register office*
in the District of *Conway* in the County of *Barrow*.

No.	When Married	Name and Surname	Age	Condition	Rank or Profession	Residence at the time of Marriage	Father's Name and Surname	Rank or Profession of Father
186	October	<i>Joseph Taylor</i>	<i>46</i>	<i>widower</i>	<i>General</i>	<i>Boston Grove</i>	<i>George Taylor</i>	<i>Farmer</i>
	1918	<i>Emmie Bryan</i>	<i>29</i>	<i>spinster</i>	<i>Teacher</i>	<i>Burton Hill</i>	<i>Alfred Bryan</i>	<i>Teacher</i>

Married in the *Register office* according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the *Anglican* by *Ernest Charles* M.A. M.C.

This Marriage was solemnized between us, *Joseph Taylor* and *Emmie Bryan* in the presence of us, *Harold Hayden* and *Alie Bryan* by *P. J. Morris Registrar*

CERTIFIED to be a true copy of an entry in the certified copy of a Register of Marriages in the Registration District of } Conway
TYSTIOLAETHWYD ei fod yn gopi cywir o gofnod mewn copi y tystiwyd iddo o Gofrestr Priodasau yn Nosharth }

Given at the GENERAL REGISTER OFFICE, under the Seal of the said Office the } 3rd day of } November 2022
Fe i rhoddwyd yn y GENERAL REGISTER OFFICE, o dan sêl y Swyddfa a enwyd y }

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GOPAL: MAE YNA DROSIEDAU YN YMMWELU A FFUGIO NEU ADDASU TYSTYSGRIF NEU DDEFNYDDIO TYSTYSGRIF FFUG NEU WRTH FOD AG UN YN EICH MEDDIANT. © HAWLFRANT Y GORON

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214383 1021 APR18/SP

WMXZ 481649

VNO

Later Years and Death

What we know about Joe Taylor's later years comes from two newspaper articles. One from the *Liverpool Daily Post* from October 1941 shows that Joe was a keen and very capable gardener, as he was awarded third prize in the Llandudno Gardeners' Club annual competition for best allotment – there were 600 allotment holders, so this was quite an achievement! The other article, Joe's obituary, also talks of his passion for gardening, and work he did cultivating allotments on behalf of the Unemployment Welfare Committee. He was also the caretaker of the English Presbyterian Church on Gloddaeth Avenue, where his funeral service was held. Joseph Taylor died in September 1943 at the age of 68, and was buried in the Great Orme cemetery.



LLANDUDNO GARDENERS' CLUB

At the annual meeting of Llandudno Gardeners' Club it was stated that the 600 local allotment holders produced over £12,000 worth of foodstuffs during the year. The Sir William Letts Cup for the best allotment was won by Mr. T. Fisher, Hazel Bank, Council Street, who returned the money prize of £4 which went with the cup to augment next year's prize fund. The other prize-winners were:—2, Mr. W. H. Thorndyke, 41 Lloyd Street; 3, Mr. Joseph Taylor, Taliesin Street; special ladies, Miss Mabel Reading, Mostyn Avenue.

OBITUARY.

MR. JOSEPH TAYLOR

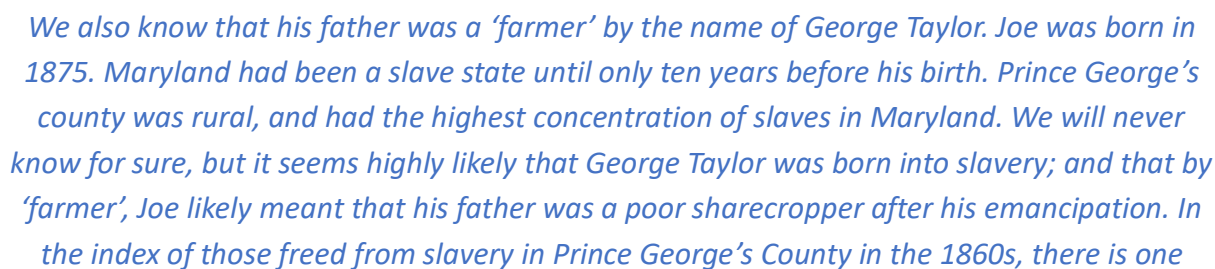
The death took place on Thursday, at the age of 68, of Mr. Joseph Taylor, 23, Taliesyn Street. Mr. Taylor, who is survived by his wife and five daughters, had been caretaker of the English Presbyterian Church for the past four years. He had lived in Llandudno for over 40 years, and for 35 years was in the service of Messrs. Dunphy's, Ltd. A keen gardener, Mr. Taylor, as a member of the Unemployment Welfare Committee, cultivated plots under the auspices of that body and continued to do so until illness prevented him from active work.

The funeral took place at the Great Orme cemetery on Monday, following a service at the English Presbyterian Church.



Joe Taylor lived in Llandudno for over 40 years. He raised 5 daughters there. We started with a picture caption which described him as a 'black Welshman'. We have no idea how he identified himself by the end of his life – was he Welsh, or still American in his heart?

We know Joe left the States in the late-1800s, but did he ever get to go back and visit? Did he maintain contact with his family? We know very little about Joe's life in the US, but we can surmise a certain amount. One newspaper article says he came from Baltimore, Maryland; but on the 1921 census he gives his place of birth as Prince George County, USA. Presumably this is the Prince George County in Maryland.



George Taylor listed as being freed by John Henry Waring in the 1860s. John Henry Waring and his family were some of the richest plantation owners in Prince George's County. George Taylor was 26 years old when he was freed. Is this Joe's father?

Taylor, George, age 26

**Declared by John Henry Waring of the 4th Election
District**

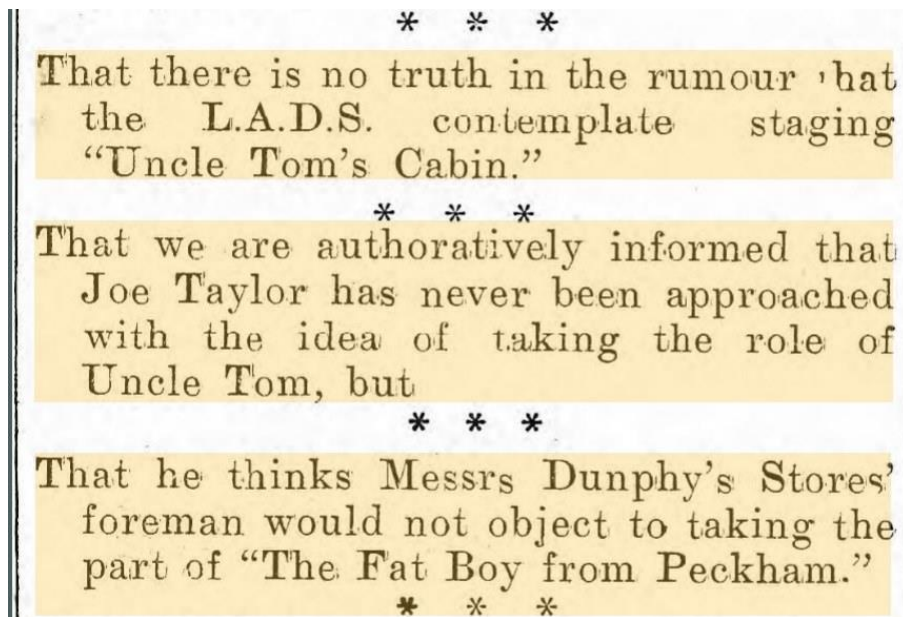
**Prince George's
Slave Statistics, 1867-1868, p. 259**



Joe's extraordinary life seems to have been full, active, and civic-minded. His presence as a Black man on the streets of Llandudno must have been somewhat unusual for the time. We have no idea of the sort of prejudices he may have encountered, but we do have a glimpse of how he may have dealt with it... In a sort of gossip column in the Llandudno Advertiser of 12th February 1904, we find the following:

"There is no truth in the rumour that the L.A.D.S. [Llandudno Amateur Dramatics Society] contemplate staging "Uncle Tom's Cabin" That we are authoritatively informed that Joe Taylor has never been approached with the idea of taking the role of Uncle Tom [a slave], but... that he thinks the Messrs Dunphy's Stores foreman would not object to taking the part of "The Fat Boy from Peckham"...

It sounds like, appropriately enough for a boxer, Joe Taylor could fight his own corner when faced with racism.



Do you know more about Joe Taylor's life? Are you a descendant? We'd love to hear from you.

You can contact the Archives at archifau.archives@conwy.gov.uk and on 01492 577550 or pop in to see us at the Culture Centre in Conwy.

Acknowledgements:

Thanks to Christopher Draper for first drawing the photograph of Joe Taylor at Dunphy's Warehouse to our attention. Thanks to John Lawson-Reay for allowing us to use his image. Also, to Huw Pritchard for comments on our original Facebook post.

Links:

Boxing:

[Boxing booths / booth boxing / boxinghistory.org.uk](#)

[History of the Boxing Booth - Research and Articles - National Fairground and Circus Archive - The University of Sheffield](#)

Black Footballers:

[Football's Black Pioneers - Timeline - Football's Black Pioneers \(footballs-black-pioneers.com\)](http://footballs-black-pioneers.com)

Maryland Links:

[Legacy of Slavery in Maryland](#)

[Freedom Records Index, Prince George's County, Maryland](#)
