

[Nov. 1890?] 2

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Mrs Mary D Hancock now living in Louisville aged 74. gives the following account of the marriage of Jefferson Davis to his first wife Knox Taylor daughter of President Zachary Taylor.

It was, she ~~thinks~~ in October 1835. Gen Taylor was then absent in the army. A week or so previous to the wedding, Mr Davis had asked Mrs Caroline Preston, mother of Gen William Preston, to let them be married at her house, her residence being then on Jefferson between First and Brook Streets just west of what is now the Holcomb mansion. This was declined Mrs Preston saying she could not do so without the express consent of Gen Taylor. Mr Davis assured her that Gen Taylor did not oppose the marriage, but it was deemed more appropriate that it should take place at the house of the bride's uncle, General Taylor where they were unavoidably married, about six miles from Louisville.



[The text on this page is extremely faint and largely illegible due to the age and condition of the paper. It appears to be a formal letter or document, possibly related to a military or official matter, given the context of the adjacent page.]

[Handwritten signature or initials, possibly "J. B. Smith", written in dark ink.]

[Handwritten text, possibly a date or reference number, written in dark ink.]



Zachary Taylor to Margaret Smith
18th June 1810

Fort Brane. Marion. Co. 10 Miles from Micanopy
named after G. S. Brane. 2^d Acty.

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on the Brownstone road East of the City. None but the immediate family were present. Miss Sallie Taylor, cousin of the bride and daughter of Gibson Taylor was the only bridesmaid. She afterward married Col Wm. J. Smith U. S. A. and died in Frankfort 1889.

After the wedding the bridal party drove into the city and were entertained with cake and wine at the house of Mrs. Pustan, Mrs. Hancock and other friends being present to meet them. From Mrs. Pustan's the bridal pair were driven in Mrs. Pustan's Carriage to Portland where they embarked on a steamboat for the South. Mrs. Maria Pustan Pope daughter of Mrs. Pustan and now living in Louisville aged 86 accompanied them in the Carriage which Col & Mrs. Hancock and Miss Sallie Smith went in Col. Hancock's Carriage. The bride was dressed in a bottle green cashmere travelling dress with a row of large brass buttons down the front with hat of similar color. Mr. Davis was a slim pale faced young man.

Mrs Hancock was mistaken about the date
of the wedding. It took place June 17th 1881
that is the license was issued that day.

J. H. J.