

INTERVIEW WITH MRS. GERTRUDE PULLMAN EVANS

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Mrs. Evans, Fighting Bob's daughter-in-law, married Frank Taylor Evans, later divorced. She worked in BuSanda many years. Confidante and friend of Teddy Roosevelt and Mrs. Roosevelt and Grover Cleveland. Has unpublished manuscript of memoirs. Describes Charlotte Taylor Evans, wife of Fighting Bob, as a fine woman, somewhat plump in later years. Knew Evans family from age 12. Met them at Fortress Monroe when Evans was Lighthouse Inspector and her father a colonel at Fortress Monroe. Married Frank Taylor as a consequence of childhood romance. He later became Aide to Teddy Roosevelt.

Charlotte Taylor, wife of Fighting Bob, was daughter of Englishman Frank Taylor who owned a bookstore on Pennsylvania Avenue when it was a mud rut. He built a red brick colonial house of 21 rooms at 324 Indiana Avenue. The spot is now the Municipal Center. Charlotte Taylor's mother was the daughter of General Sims on George Washington's staff. Her father Neville was also on George Washington's staff while his wife was the daughter of General Morgan of Revolutionary fame for which Morgantown, Virginia is named. His picture is in the dome of the U.S. capitol showing the surrender of Burgoyne and Gates.

Their children; General Daniel Morgan, U.S. Army, class of 1869, Henry Clay Taylor, U.S. Navy, who founded the Naval War College, Frank Taylor, U.S. Army Artillery, Charlotte Taylor Evans, wife of fighting Bob, Mrs. Frederick McGuire whose husband founded the Corcoran Art Gallery and Mrs. Ginny \_\_\_\_\_.

Frank Taylor married a Miss Wendell, sister of another Miss Wendell who married a prominent Washington lawyer named Wickersham. Their children Dora Taylor, spinster, Emily Kellogg, wife of naval officer, Rana Whiting who now lives in Arizona.

Mrs. Fighting Bob was engaged to another northern officer who was killed prior to her engagement and marriage to Fighting Bob. No information on him.

Mrs. Kefauver of 170A, Route 2, Frederick, Maryland is a cousin who knows the story of Fighting Bob's Confederate brother.

Fighting Bob known as "Old Gimpy" in the Navy because of his game leg. He was a renegade Catholic having been excommunicated as a youth because he and some other youngsters broke all the statutory in a church at his brother's summer home in Maryland. Fighting Bob had a tattoo on his wrist showing a crucifixion. He would squeeze his wrist and say "This is the thin Jesus" or stretch it out and say "This is my fat Jesus." He and his daughter-in-law engaged in heated arguments about religion. Mrs. Fighting Bob was a Unitarian but apparently there was no friction between them on the score of religion. Mrs. G. P. Evans was present in the house when Fighting Bob died. He had evidently strained his heart in the Lighthouse Service and his demise was sudden.

Fighting Bob had a colored steward, one Charles Duff of Virginia, who manned the hat rack at the Army-Navy Club when ever Fighting Bob had shore duty.

The whole family apparently very active in Washington society and politics. Teddy Roosevelt used to tell Mrs. G.P. Evans what her husband's ship was going to do. He would get furious getting the dope from his wife rather than officially.

Hiram Evans was the grandfather of Fighting Bob. He had four sons; Alexander H., Hiram II, George H., and Samuel Andrew Jackson. The last was Fighting Bob's father, who was a horse and buggy doctor in Floyd County, Virginia. Uncle George lived in Washington and got Fighting Bob's appointment to the Naval Academy from the Mormons, which was why Fighting Bob fought the Indians all the way to Utah.

Fighting Bob's wife loved to entertain in Washington, frequently had as many as 50-75 people for a Saturday buffet luncheon. Mrs. G.P. Evans lived with them for a number of years. She met the Kaiser and many other European notables. She is 74 years old and is a walking encyclopaedia of Washingtonia. As she put it: <sup>6</sup>there is nobody in Washington who has lived a richer life than her.'