

GRETTA LILAS VICTORIA GAULD*
&
FLORA MILLICENT (GAULD) LITTLE
Recollections of Dr. George Gushue-Taylor

Interviewed by
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*Deceased 1986.

Gretta Lilas Victoria Gauld & Flora Millicent (Gauld) Little

Guelph, Ontario, 4 July 1985

Charles G. Roland, M.D.:

Dr. Little, perhaps you will begin by telling me the story you started to tell about Dr. Gushue-Taylor's name.

Flora Millicent Little:

We asked him one day, and he told me that he went to -- he was born in Newfoundland, as I'm sure you know -- but he went to England for his medical education, and he studied in the London Hospital School of Medicine. I don't know the English side of it. The year following -- he was George Taylor at that time -- his father was Taylor and his mother had been Gushue before she was married. So she was French extraction, and the year following him in the same school of medicine was another George Taylor. When George Taylor graduated, the one we know, he went to work in a hospital, as an intern, and the other George Taylor followed him. Our George Taylor worked in a Sunday School there; the other George Taylor followed him. Our George Taylor married a Sister in the hospital that they worked in, the other George Taylor did likewise -- another Sister. Our George Taylor tried his FRCS and failed, went out to the mission field. The other George Taylor did likewise. The difference being that our George Taylor -- this is the reason that he changed his name then, was because of the two George Taylors. So he changed his last name legally from Taylor to Gushue-Taylor, taking his mother's maiden name. So actually he was George Gushue-Taylor but everybody called him Gushue-Taylor. The story of the likeness stops there

because where George Gushue-Taylor went to Taiwan and spent a term there, worked very hard, went home and wasn't well, and decided to not to go back for the time being, the other Taylor went to India and spent a term there and went home. There the likeness finishes because our George Taylor tried his FRCS again and got it and went back to Taiwan as a missionary. The other George Taylor didn't bother trying again and stayed home to practice in England. But this is where this George Gushue-Taylor came from. Now that's my story. Gretta can take over as she worked with him more than I did.

C.G.R.:

Now, before we go on....[tape off].

F.M.L.:

The only other thing I know, Dr. Taylor decided that I should be an eye surgeon, so he had me doing eye operations under his direction. I was doing an enucleation one day and he told me what to do and I repeated it. And he said, "Don't repeat what I say, just do it." [laughter] He was under more tension than I was, I think. I gave up eye surgery as soon as I left Taiwan, and I didn't follow it up. That's my only other memory of Dr. Taylor. Gretta, as I say, worked with him much more than I did. I just stayed there for a couple of years and came home.

C.G.R.:

Well, could you tell me your first recollections of Dr. Gushue-Taylor. Do you remember when you first saw him or what your impression was?

Gretta Gauld:

Yes, we went back to Taiwan together. She as a doctor, my sister is a doctor, I as a nurse. And my mother, she'd been home for six months after father died in Taiwan. Our first few days, the house we were to go into wasn't quite ready so we stayed with the Taylors.

C.G.R.:

They were there before?

G.G.:

Yes, they were there; she as a nurse, he as a doctor. Oh yes, the first night we were in there we were sound asleep in the middle of the night and I was shaken awake. I said, "What's the matter. What's the matter, mother, what's the matter." She said, "That was just an earthquake." We were in a double bed with a mosquito net. So I got up and wandered around. My sister was in another little room, and she said, "Don't bump into me. What are you bumping into me for?"

Well, the next morning, anyway, we were right with Taylors. Of course, when we got back we had to have Taiwan language, Chinese language as children, both of them. So we both go ahead to study the language again, to get perfect, to get working, before we could go into the hospital. Dr. Taylor was on the language committee. I said, "Well, I don't know about this one. Chinese characters are Greek to me. My dad couldn't do it." I said, "No, well I'd try it." He said, "If you don't get your Chinese, if you don't get the characters, you go home." I didn't come here to come home. Anyway, I swatted up? and swatted up, so I passed my exam, anyway, and I stayed there. So, anyway, Dr. Taylor was a very good surgeon, very meticulous. But in the

hospital, anyway, I never became anything but Miss Gauld to him, when he was Dr. Taylor, you know. That was the English side of him. We were very good friends otherwise, and he and mother are very good friends.

C.G.R.:

Excuse me, did he go by Dr. Taylor or Mr. Taylor?

G.G.:

No, Dr. Gushue-Taylor.

C.G.R.:

He used "Doctor."

G.G.:

In Formosa.

C.G.R.:

I know many of the British surgeons preferred Mister, that's why I asked.

G.G.:

So anyway, we worked together and then finally my sister, I finally got into the hospital language, first language exam over. And speaking more or less like a native with breaks in it.

Then my sister was coming home to get married. Dr. Taylor said, "Well, if I'm alone -- I can't carry on alone." He said, "We'll have to close the hospital." We heard -- fortunately, I think -- we heard that Bob McLure and Amy were in Hong Kong, having to leave China because of war. So we wired them, "Would they come and help us." He wired back to Toronto, and Toronto said "Yes," of course. So they came to Formosa for three years and they were our neighbors. Very good. From there we became

very good friends. He and Dr. Taylor got along very well. That's my first recollections of Dr. Taylor. What else?

C.G.R.:

What was he like as a person? What was he like to get along with -- either of you?

G.G.:

Very well. I mean, we got along with him. He was the superintendent and we knew it.

F.M.L.:

He was all right. He had a good sense of humor. I remember my youngsters were, it was just Jamie then, my one son, but he wasn't quite behaving himself, and I was a little tense because the Taylors had no family. He turned to me and he said "Look, if he wasn't energetic and full of vitality you'd be wanting some medicine for him to help him. For goodness sake leave him alone."

I'll leave you, because -- remember it's Taylor's story you're telling, not yours. Good-bye you don't need me anymore.

C.G.R.:

Well, don't go away.

F.M.L.:

I came home and I didn't work with him any more after that.

C.G.R.:

Well, still, unless you have things to do, fine, but otherwise I'm sure you'll have contributions to make and so on.

F.M.L.:

All right, you ask questions and I'll try and answer them.

C.G.R.:

Well, tell me a bit about Happy Mount.

G.G.:

Oh yes. Opposite us, MacKay hospital was here in this corner, and a very busy road here, Maryama Road, and opposite us was an old church; they had built a new one up along the road. So this empty road was there. Dr. Taylor began a parish leprosy work, as I remember -- a clinic there. I have somewhere in all our big albums, I know we have a picture of these patients sitting at a table being served Christmas dinner or something like that. Anyway, Dr. Taylor and Mrs. Taylor worked there. Of course, the rest of us we had plenty to do, but he had a staff then and he just kept this clinic going. Finally, I forget when it was, he decided he would build a leprosarium. So he went way out, beyond Tamsui to a fishing village and beyond that, overlooking the sea and mountain -- on hills, you know, and overlooking the sea -- a beautiful spot, he built Happy Mount Leprosarium. While building it, so we were told, he lived in a shack up above it with a sort of a coolie-cook, an old man, handyman looking after him and serving him meals. One day he was served a meat. "What on earth is this?" "It's a snake -- special dish."

Anyway, he got Happy Mount built. There's a lovely chapel, and a men's terrace -- cottages, you know, about four to a cottage. Depends on what size, two or more to a cottage. They were allowed to raise poultry and do little things like that to make money for themselves. Then above that was the women's terrace. And then there was office buildings, office downstairs.

Up above he and Mrs. Taylor, Margie, they had an apartment -- living room, dining room, bedroom, and the servants quarters -- very decent, liveable quarters. I spent 19 months there so I should know.

C.G.R.:

Tell me a bit about what could you do for these patients? What were your daily duties and so on?

G.G.:

At that time, it was the beginning of leprosy work, you know. We used a lot of chaulmoogra oil, I forget how you spell it, but anyway, there was not this antibiotic stuff then. It began to come in before I left. Oh, they got injections of this and they got pain killers. He had a man with him, Dr. Ko, who had been called out on the mainland. His wife was kidnapped by -- I don't know whether all this comes in or not -- by bandits, and they kept her for ransom. Well, he didn't have the ransom, so he left that and came back to the Island. Their first son was born in Amoy. But finally, she was returned to him. That man was very loyal to the colony. He worked there for some time. He had a very nice, he had houses for the staff around.

C.G.R.:

What was his name.

G.G.:

Ko, Mr. Ko, Dr. Ko, K-O, in Taiwan. I don't know what the Mandarin was. Anyway we knew him as Dr. Ko.

Anyway, the upstairs was the chapel, and the downstairs was the clinic room, where they got their treatment and so on.

C.G.R.:

How many patients would have been there, approximately?

G.G.:

Under a hundred, about that, come and go about that. I forget, that was a long time ago.

Then Gushue was part time there and he was back and forth. Finally there was a taxi, a man with a taxi that took him back and forth at a reasonable price. You could get there by bus -- I've gone by bus. But that was walk in around the hills. What else?

C.G.R.:

Tell me about Mrs. Gushue-Taylor.

G.G.:

Oh, she was a dear -- a nursing sister, an English nursing sister. During my first term, of course I was there first, I was supposed to be, sounds big, Superintendent of Nurses, teaching them and so on. Then Miss Senior, Anne Senior, English nursing sister, a friend and acquaintance of the Taylors, came to us. So there were Margie Taylor, Gushue-Taylor, and Anne Senior, and myself. We kept the nursing going. Anyway, I think we had finally got some very good staff, very good nurses who were capable and loyal.

C.G.R.:

Did she practice as a nurse, Mrs. Gushue-Taylor?

G.G.:

Oh yes, she worked with us. Especially in the operating room.

C.G.R.:

What was she like?

G.G.:

Oh very good. I mean, easy to work with and so on. So was he, but I mean....

F.M.L.:

She was the buffer between Gushue and the staff.

G.G.:

Yes, sure.

C.G.R.:

Yes, he sounds, from what Dr. McClure told me, it sounds as if he might have been difficult at times.

F.M.L.:

Oh yes he was.

G.G.:

He was, he was. I mean we were just good friends, but....

C.G.R.:

Well, that's no criticism of the man, we just all have our styles.

G.G.:

He pushed himself.

F.M.L.:

He pushed everybody else. He really demanded excellence and he got it because he demanded it. Good man.

C.G.R.:

Did he push you like that?

F.M.L.:

Oh no, I didn't stay long enough to be pushed. Except that he was going to make an eye surgeon out of me but I didn't follow

through.

I had fun one day. I was up here getting glasses, and this man told me I had cataracts. He was telling me that it wasn't a difficult operation, mechanically. I said, "I know, I've done it." "What, when, where!" [laughter]

C.G.R.:

This was somebody here in Guelph?

F.M.L.:

Far away, long ago [laughter].

C.G.R.:

Who do you see here?

F.M.L.:

Dr. Young is his name. It was just sort of fun to hear it, of my taking out cataracts. I was very much a general practitioner here. Surgery is not my bag.

C.G.R.:

Now, you said they had no children, is that correct?

G.G.:

Yes, that's correct.

C.G.R.:

Did you know anything about that? Did they not want children?

F.M.L.:

No, no, no.

C.G.R.:

Or were they unable to have children?

F.M.L.:

I don't know why they didn't have them, but I'm sure they would have loved to have had them.

C.G.R.:

Tell me, you said that you were warned, if that's the right word, that if you didn't learn the Chinese characters you would go home and so on, tell me I don't understand anything about the organization of a place like the Mackay Hospital or whatever it was....How was this run? I mean, who was it that would have sent you home, and so on?

F.M.L.:

Well, the Mission Council, you know. I mean, we had to pass that exam or else.

C.G.R.:

Yes, I understand that, but I don't understand the hierarchy of....

G.G.:

Afterwards, I know, Gushue and I were, we were never, we were walking back and the hospital is in this compound, but we'd go around the gate through this. Then four houses and the mission compound. Anyway, he'd say, "What's that character, Gretta?" I'd say, "I don't know." He's say, "What's that character Gretta." "I don't know." I passed that exam! He said, "I thought you passed that exam." I said, "I did, didn't I Dr. Taylor, the number one." [laughter].

There were others, you know. Anyway, there were quite a few of that year trying the exam for Formosan. But I just could not....I had too many other things to think about. My Dad, when I saw him studying one night when he was on furlough, the last

furlough he was home, I said, "Whatever are you doing, Father?" He said, "Studying my characters, of course." I said, "You. You, all that you've done in Formosa, and taught." I said, "What are you doing that for?" He said, "You ask any Chinese scholar. That has to be done. You can't relax." I said, "Well, what's the use of this dumb daughter of yours going back. I can never hold all that language and do the other thing." Well, I tried to but it just wouldn't stay with me. I had too many other things. I was more practical than I was a scholar [laughter].

F.M.L.:

I understand that in Gushue's first term -- which was in South Taiwan, we were in North Taiwan -- he was a perfectionist, and he really learned the Chinese. He wrote a textbook for nurses, and he taught nursing. When I was in the hospital he did everything. Well, then he sort of collapsed, I understand, and came home determined to stay home because he couldn't take the pressure, but it was pressure that he had pushed on himself, largely. So that was why, when he went to North Taiwan, when they invited him to come to the north, he said, "Not unless there was nobody else." Actually there was somebody else, Dr. Black was there when I was there.

G.G.:

Oh yes, Dr. Black and Dr. Stevens.

F.M.L.:

Dr. Stevens came and Dr. Buse came, but they needed more than one person. There were other doctors there but...

G.G.:

It was the time of the church union, you know. From North Formosa was the Canadian Presbyterian, Canadian missionaries had gone there. South Formosa was English Presbyterians. Seven years before, English Presbyterians had settled there. So the United Church said it was all Presbyterian, leave it at that, we won't be in it. So that's fine.

C.G.R.:

Anything else either of you can recollect about what I'm particularly interested in, or recollections of anecdotes about Dr. Taylor, the way he conducted himself, the way he practiced, the way he dealt with people -- nurses, patients, visitors, the Japanese, any of those things that ring any bells.

G.G.:

I don't remember, I think he got along. It was not an easy time. He lived under that.

C.G.R.:

To the best of your knowledge, were the Japanese much involved in any of the day-to-day activities of the mission or the hospital?

G.G.:

I don't think so. I know when we arrived they came to find out how much [inaudible] we were and everything, and how much our salaries were. I remember them saying, "My sister a doctor, I a nurse, getting the same salary." At that time it was not very much, but anyway, they couldn't understand that, you know, they couldn't. That's the only time I remembered definitely was that. Of course, as war came nearer and nearer, I mean, they followed us. We knew they did.

F.M.L.:

Japan governed Taiwan. I mean Taiwan was a colony at that time. So that was the official language and the language of education. But we were working in the medical field and we didn't have to learn Japanese, but Gushue did learn Japanese. Not that he was expert at it, but far more able than we were in Japanese, but that was Gushue again, he didn't do things by halves.

G.G.:

He used to keep a sheet of characters in front of him to study while he was resting. And he was that way.

F.M.L.:

He was hard on himself, and he was a little hard on other people too, but not anything personal, it was the job that he was interested in. He had a sense of humor that kept him from getting too difficult.

C.G.R.:

Where did you study medicine?

F.M.L.:

At Toronto. Of course, as far as Gushue was concerned England was the only place to study.

C.G.R.:

I gathered that from Dr. McClure, yes.

F.M.L.:

My mother happened to have her cataracts out. She had to go to London, England, because -- what was his name? the doctor who took her cataracts out, anyway, I forget -- that was the only

Doctor in the world that could take them out.

G.G.:

Well, they'd known each other.

F.M.L.:

Which was a little ridiculous. So Gretta had to bring Mother over to England to get her cataracts out when they could have done right here.

G.G.:

At Moorfield's Eye Hospital, I know.

C.G.R.:

Yes, I know of Moorfield's.

F.M.L.:

Again, this is Gushue. He went to England to get his medical education because it was the place to study medicine.

G.G.:

Really, in a way he was more English than he was Canadian. You know, he became that way naturally, and his wife was English. I'm not belittling the fact but he had that in him, you know.

C.G.R.

Yes, it's a viewpoint, an approach.

G.G.:

There's a difference, well, there it is.

C.G.R.:

Was he referred to as Dr. Taylor or Dr. Gushue-Taylor, formally, in the hospital. Would he be addressed which way?

F.M.L.:

Well in Chinese his name was Te Jin-Siu, and in Taiwan he was Te Jin-Siu, which is Dr. Taylor. But as far as anybody is

concerned he was....We called him Dr. Gushue-Taylor, but, of course we called him Gushue. But Dr. Gushue-Taylor is what he would be. What he wanted to be known as.

C.G.R.:

So he used both names. Yes, that was his....

F.M.L.:

He changed his name legally from Taylor to Gushue-Taylor.

C.G.R.:

I thought that was the case.

G.G.:

But his wife called him "Gushue."

F.M.L.:

Well, and also did all of us. We all called him Gushue.

C.G.R.:

Nobody called him George.

F.M.L.:

No.

G.G.:

Oh no.

F.M.L.:

No, he forgot about George.

C.G.R.:

When did you see him last? Did you see him when you left, did you see him after that?

F.M.L.:

No.

C.G.R.:

You left when?

F.M.L.:

1927.

C.G.R.:

So that was just about the time when McClure was coming there.

F.M.L.:

Right after?

C.G.R.:

Yes, of course, yes.

F.M.L.:

When he wrote that first book, you've read the two books haven't you? Well, in the first book you'll notice that I'm referred to, I've forgotten just how he put it, but anyway I didn't give him any trouble. Taylor gave him trouble. And Gretta, he wrote his comment about her. I was there, but I was sort of a nonentity. So the first time I saw Bob after that, I said, "Bob, you know why I didn't give you any trouble when you came to Taiwan." He said, "No, why?" I said, "Because I wasn't there." [laughter] Of course he just hooted! I mean, it was the Gauld family, Mother and Gretta and I had gone out together and when he just expected that I would be there. I had left before he came.

C.G.R.:

Tell me about Anne Senior. Who was she, where did she come from?

G.G.:

Anne Senior, she must have trained in London because that's

where she and Marjorie and Gushue became friends. They got her to come to Formosa. She was there, what, one term I think. But in that time it was seven years.

C.G.R.:

When did Mrs. Gushue-Taylor die, do you remember. It was before him, I know.

F.M.L.:

It was on Vancouver Island, wasn't it, in Qualicum Beach, when they lived at Qualicum Beach, as I remember. I think that's when she died.

G.G.:

Yes, he said that he had to get her home, she wasn't well. That's when he told me I had enough common sense to go to Happy Mount [laughter]. Oh dear, I was there for 19 months. Then we came home, Mother and I, in 1939 by freighter around by England. That's when she had her operation.

C.G.R.:

Did you know that Dr. Gushue-Taylor had -- what's the right word? -- was engaged to Anne Senior at the end of his life.

G.G.:

No.

F.M.L.:

Oh, isn't that nice.

C.G.R.:

Yes. I've seen his will and there's a codicil to the will in which he says, if he dies before he marries Anne Senior, she's to receive a certain sum of money.

F.M.L.:

Oh, isn't that nice.

G.G.:

Isn't that nice. I'm so glad.

F.M.L.:

She worked in Hong Kong. My husband and I were in Hong Kong for awhile. She was in the Peak Hospital there. We worked in the Peak Hospital. So Anne was one of the nurses there. She was a lovely person and a very good nurse, and she were always a very good friend of the Taylors, but I had never heard that. That was very nice.

C.G.R.:

Well, as I say, I just came across this document, but there it is signed by him, and there's no question about it.

G.G.:

Well, that's nice to know. Because we visited them and we had to sleep in a trailer in their back yard, you know. But it was a very pleasant visit in England.

F.M.L.:

You mean you visited the Seniors.

G.G.:

Yes, Anne and her family. That was the last I saw of Anne. I didn't know anything more about her. I don't know whether she's still living or not.

C.G.R.:

Yes, I know nothing about that. There was a nephew by the name of Allen, I believe who was with her in London. Does that have any...?

F.M.L.:

Gushue's nephew or Marjorie's?

C.G.R.:

No, Gushue's.

F.M.L.:

No, I didn't know their family at all.

C.G.R.:

Well, I'm just, you know, I'm beginning to pick away in finding bits and pieces.

G.G.:

I think his father was a Methodist minister in Newfoundland.

F.M.L.:

Dr. Taylor was invited to the North Mission in Taiwan to open the MacKay Hospital, which had been closed for a time. He came via Toronto, because it was a Canadian Presbyterian Mission. So he came to, I presume, visit the Mission Board, and so on, and he told them very definitely he would not open the hospital until he had help. My mother came home just then. My Dad had died a few years before. She came home -- and I was not planning to go out at that time. I was engaged to be married. My husband hadn't graduated and so I was going to intern and then be married when he graduated and go on into that field. We didn't get married in those days before we graduated. But Mother came home and she was so anxious to have this hospital open, and wouldn't I come right away, so that Dr. Taylor would open the hospital if I was there as somebody could help him out. Even though I just would be studying the language to begin with. So that was when

he, Gretta had no intention of going to Taiwan, but he, of course, convinced her that she should go. So that's how the three of us, Mother, Gretta, and I went out together. I was going to go to the mission field anyway. My husband and I were going to go sometime when we could do it. But it was Dr. Gushue that engineered getting us all there in 1924. He was an enthusiast.

G.G.:

He very much belonged to one or two groups.

C.G.R.:

So you were what, the Class of '24?

F.M.L.:

No, I graduated in '23.

C.G.R.:

Howard Alexander was not in your class, was he?

F.M.L.:

I don't remember, but we had a big class.

C.G.R.:

He practices in Tillsonburg and I was with him briefly, quite a few years back.