

Taylor, James Fauntleroy ^[1]

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by Maury York

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James Fauntleroy Taylor, state librarian, the son of North Carolina attorney general James Fauntleroy and Eliza Leonora Taylor, was born in [Raleigh](#) ^[2]. He attended [The University of North Carolina](#) ^[3], where he joined the Dialectic Society, and was graduated with the A.B. degree in 1841. The university, as was frequently done, granted him an unearned A.M. degree in 1844. Taylor read law and obtained a license but never practiced. In February 1843 the trustees of the state library appointed him state librarian, a position he held until February 1854. He was the first person to manage the library on a full-time basis. On 30 Oct. 1850 Governor [Charles Manly](#) ^[4] selected him to prepare North Carolina's exhibit at the Exposition of the Industry of All Nations, held in 1851 at the [Crystal Palace](#) ^[5] in [London](#) ^[5].

A member of the Historical Society of North Carolina, Taylor in 1870 was appointed to a committee to obtain from Mrs. [David Lowry Swain](#) ^[6] books and manuscripts claimed by the society. During the Civil War he was a petty officer on the blockade-runner [Ad-Vance](#) ^[7]. An active Republican, Taylor served as a trustee of [The University of North Carolina](#) ^[3] in 1868 and from 1870 to 1874. He considered himself a Roman Catholic but was not active in a specific church. He enjoyed writing poetry, for which he gained some recognition, and referred to himself as the "bard of [Rhamkette](#) ^[8]." Taylor died in [Raleigh](#) ^[2], never having married, and was buried in Oakwood Cemetery.

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[Dictionary of North Carolina Biography, University of North Carolina Press](#),^[16]

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