

Family Group - Sidney Johnston & O V [Moore] Tabor

FATHER: SIDNEY JOHNSTON TABOR

b 31 October 1866 or 1867 in Tazewell County, VA
 d 9 November 1959 in Portsmouth, Norfolk County, VA
 bur: Olive Branch Cemetery in Portsmouth City, VA
 m 7 April 1895 to Ora Virginia Moore in Tazewell County, VA

His Father: Russell B Tabor

His Mother: Elizabeth Compton

MOTHER: ORA VIRGINIA MOORE

b 22 October 1872 in Tazewell County, VA
 d 8 September 1965 probably in Portsmouth, Norfolk County, VA
 bur: Olive Branch Cemetery in Portsmouth City, VA
 m 7 April 1895 to Sidney Johnson Tabor in Tazewell County, VA

Her Father: James T. Moore

Her Mother: Sarah W.

CHILDREN:

1. Unknown child
 - b before 1900
 - d before 1900
 - bur:
 - m Unmarried

2. John "Jack" Irving Tabor
 - b 28 June 1898 probably in Pocahontas, Virginia
 - d 3 January 1957
 - bur: Arlington National Cemetery, near Washington, D. C.
 - m1 1923 to Evelyn Hope Parker at Portsmouth, Virginia
 - m2 ???

3. L. S. Tabor
 - b May 1900 in Virginia
 - d before 1910
 - bur:
 - m unmarried

Additional Information:

Sidney Johnston Tabor was the son of Russell B. & Elizabeth [Compton] Tabor and was the grandson of Daniel & Mary Martha [Flummer] Tabor of Bluestone in Tazewell County. His tombstone reads that he was born October 31, 1866, but in the 1900 Census his birth date was given as October 1867. This is no register of his birth in Tazewell County records.

Dr. Tabor graduated with a doctor of medicine from Vanderbilt University in 1892. He passed the Medical Examination Board of Virginia in 1892. He was made an Electic Fellow in 1894. He may have initially worked as surgeon for the Southern Railroad at Williamson, West Virginia, and at Catlettsburg, Kentucky.

Dr. Tabor and wife Ora Virginia Moore were married in April 1895 in Tazewell County by B. W. S. Bishop. She was the daughter of James T. & Sarah W. Moore. He began practice in Pocahontas about 1895. He was certainly he was in Pocahontas when the *New Daily Telegraph* (Bluefield, West Virginia) of April 11, 1896, stated: "Dr. S. J. Tabor, of Pocahontas, was in town yesterday." Also in May 1896 the same newspaper indicated that Dr. Tabor had been elected to the Pocahontas town council on the citizens ticket along with T. H. Whitgram as mayor.

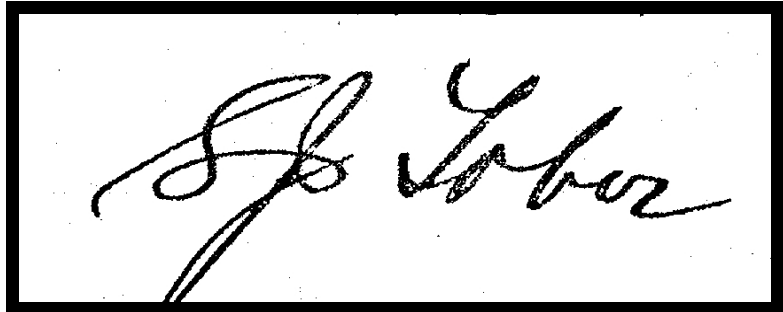
Dr. S. J. Tabor with his wife and two sons – John Irving Tabor (born June 1898 in Virginia) and L. S. Tabor (born May 1900 in Virginia) — were living in Pocahontas in 1900 along with Harry Fulton, an eleven year old Afro-American boy who was listed their servant. Virginia indicated that she was the mother of three children with two still living. Nothing is known concerning the deceased child, but there was an Alma Tabor (1896-1896) who was buried at the Pocahontas Cemetery. Whether this was Dr. Tabor's child is unknown.

Upon coming to Pocahontas Dr. Tabor appears to have gone into the drug store business. In an April 1898 Deed of Trust, Dr. Tabor was named trustee in a transaction between the Flat Top Drug Company to M. T. Browning whereby "The said S. J. Tabor hereby binds himself in the sum of five hundred dollars not engage again in the Drug Store business in the town of Pocahontas for the period of the next three years ensuing after the date of this deed." An examination of the deed of trust indicated that Dr. Tabor was selling a drug store business including its inventory to T. W. Landon & F. P. Landon doing business as the Flat Top Drug Company who were in turn selling it to M. T. Browning. Included in the inventory was such items as: "one pill case, nine show cases, one prescription case, two Tuft's Soda Fountains and all necessary fixtures, two show jars, two ice shavers, two heating stoves, two Diamond Dye cases, two cash drawers, two paper reels, eight chairs, three soda drums," assorted bottles of many kinds, and "all drugs of every kind and everything of any kind in their drug store." This may have marked the beginning of the Flat Top Drug Store in Pocahontas.

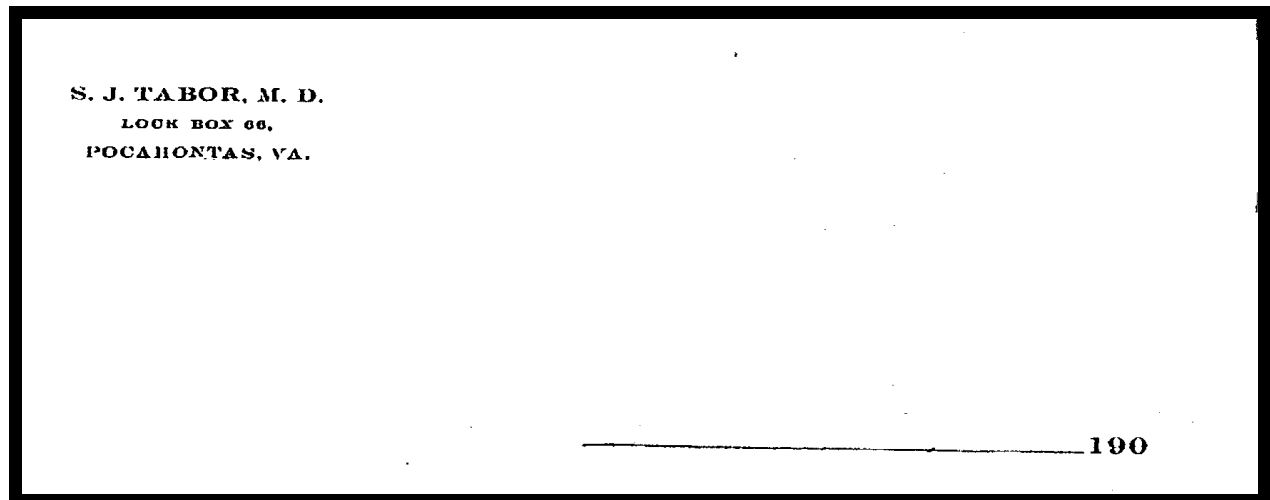
In 1898 Dr. Tabor was the Pocahontas health officer and President of the county board of health. Small-pox had broken out in Mercer, McDowell, and Fayette Counties in West Virginia, and on May 9, 1898, there were twelve cases of it reported in Pocahontas with about 50-60 more people

exposed. Dr. Tabor tried to enforce the town's vaccination ordinance but the notices were torn down. The mayor of Pocahontas tried to help Dr. Tabor with the enforcement but others including the citizens and other local physicians did not cooperate. Finally the railroad stopped all passenger trains into Pocahontas for a while and refused to sell tickets or allow passengers to board in infected areas.

Dr. Tabor was one of seven physicians in Pocahontas during 1901. In April 19, 1901, the *Clinch Valley News* stated "Submitted from Falls Mills, Va., April 17, Dr. S. J. Tabor, of Pocahontas, was over on a professional call last Thursday." In August 1901 Dr. Tabor became involved in a monetary dispute between his two brothers – Mosby "Ed" Tabor and Dexter "Deck" Tabor – with Walter W. Odor, Mosby's former partner in the Pocahontas Hardware Store. On August 17, 1901 Dr. Tabor wrote the following note to Odor:

A black and white photograph of a handwritten signature in cursive script, enclosed in a thick black rectangular border. The signature appears to read "S. J. Tabor".

Dr. Sidney Johnson Tabor's Signature in a 1901 Note

A black and white photograph of a letterhead, enclosed in a thick black rectangular border. The text is printed in a serif font and includes the name, title, and address of Dr. Sidney Johnson Tabor. At the bottom right, there is a horizontal line followed by the year "190".

Dr. Sidney Johnson Tabor's Letterhead

Dear Mr. Odor,
Deck informs me that he could not give you anything definite until Ed returns which will about 12 o'clock; he says that the books show only \$150.48 collected by old firm or for old firm since paying liabilities. I will tell him to let you know this P.M. what they can do for you; They have \$360.00 now due to pay different wholesale houses; Altho I have told them if possible to let you have some money. I could

advance the money to them but I have none on hand. I have written McNew to return \$100.00 loaned him some time ago and expect that at anytime. Should I receive it will let them have it to pay you.

Ed will let know this evening.

Yours very truly,

S J Tabor

In February 21, 1902, it reported : “Bailey, February 17. Mrs. and Dr. S. J. Tabor, of Pocahontas, accompanied by Mr. Dexter Tabor, brother of the doctor, attended church here and visited the parents of Mrs. Tabor, Mr. and Mrs James T. Moore, Sunday.”

In 1904 he left Pocahontas and moved his practice to Williamson in Mingo County, West Virginia. While in Williamson he was one of those elected to the first board for a newly formed school district of Williamson. Dr. Tabor and his family still returned to Tazewell County from time to time. *The Bluefield Daily Telegraph* of April 2, 1905 read “Mrs. Sidney Tabor, of Williamson, spent yesterday in Bluefield with friends,” and the April 12, 1905 issue stated “Dr. Tabor, of Williamson, was a business visitor in Graham yesterday.”

In May 1909 Dr. Tabor attended the New York Post-Graduate Medical School. His address at that time was given as Roanoke, Virginia. In October 1909 he attended the annual meeting of the Medical Society of Virginia at Norfolk.

In 1910 he purchased a farm in Fauquier County, Virginia. One record gives his address as Calverton in Fauquier County, Virginia. The *Clinch Valley News*, January 10, 1910, reported: “Dr. S. J. Tabor, a former citizen and physician of Pocahontas, who went to Williamson several years ago, and later to Roanoke, has bought a fine farm in Fauquier County, Virginia. Dr. Tabor was born and reared on Bluestone, and by sticking close to his business in the practice of medicine, has accumulated quite a fortune, and is still a young man.” In the 1910 their child – L. S. Tabor – listed in the 1900 census as born in May 1900 was absent and therefore possibly deceased.

By 1915 Dr. Tabor appears to entered the real estate business. And in February 1917 the *Roanoke Times* is quoted by the *Bluefield Daily Telegraph* as saying “A \$10,000 real estate deal has been closed in the west end by the West Vista Land Company, Inc.. who conveyed ten houses and a number of lots to Sidney J. Tabor. The property is on the R. J. Wright map.” Dr. Tabor lived in Pocahontas several years and is a brother of M. E. Tabor, of Bluestone.”

Sometime about 1917 he moved to Hopewell near Petersburg, Virginia. In about 1919 he and his family departed for the newly developed town of Cradock near Norfolk, Virginia, where he remained 41 years until his death. Cradock was one of the nation's first government-built planned communities. It was built as war-time measure to house blue-collar workers for the nearby shipyard and other military facilities at Norfolk and Portsmouth. In the newsletter *Good Old Days in Cradock*, November 2006, Bob & Ruth Orrt Cutchins commented that “Dr. Sidney Tabor moved to Cradock in the early days . . . his ‘flashy roadster’ auto brought excitement to the streets of Cradock as Dr. Tabor made his ‘house calls’ . . . Dr. Tabor’s automobile was one of the first

‘horseless carriages’ in Cradock. . . .” His office was at 71½ Alton Parkway on the second floor above Lee’s (later Monroe’s) Drug Store. His wife Virginia was involved in social activities in Cradock and in 1928 she was a member of the Women’s Club, the League of Women Voters, and the Thursday Morning Music Club. Dr. Tabor and his wife were charter members of the Cradock Presbyterian Church where he served as a elder for many years.

In 1922 he was elected to the board of health of the Seaboard Medical Association of Virginia & North Carolina. He was a member of the Virginia Medical Society. He was also elected in 1922 to the Norfolk County Board of Health and served as its acting director in 1925. In 1942 Dr. Tabor was appointed to the Housing Authority of Norfolk County. In 1951 he was secretary of the Norfolk County Board of Health.

Many people who lived in Cradock recalled Dr. Tabor and made the following comments on the “Cradock High School Alumni Website” in March 2010:

- Yes I remember Dr. Tabor. In fact he delivered me and we bought our first house from his wife in 1959 on Aylwin Road.
- As I remember it Dr Tabor was very old and his office was in the building, upstairs above the Kahler's Grill. In 1952-53 my husband played football at CHS, and I remember him telling me the story about all the football players had to run up the stairs to Dr. Tabor's office for physical, then he would check their blood pressure to see if they were ok to play ball
- Yes, I do remember Dr. Tabor; I delivered the *Portsmouth Star* to his home from 1947 thru 1951 at his Afton Pkwy. home. I thought his office was between Kahler Grill and the Chinese Restaurant. I remember it was on the second floor and some of us used to go up and talk to him. He did the physicals for Cradock High for those playing sports. He was a really nice man that would listen to the kids.
- In the early fifties, Dr. Tabor's in-office human anatomy book was borrowed (unbeknownst to Dr. Tabor) by some young Cradock boys eager to ogle the anatomy illustrations. They sequestered the purloined book in the Lee Hall Woods (they were afraid to take it home) where it was hungrily reviewed by their young pals in the neighborhood. Everyone remembers Dr. Tabor as being very old when they knew of him (he was born in 1866) and a very courtly gentleman.
- I grew up in a house that Dr. Tabor lived in at 14 Afton Parkway. My mother and father bought our house from Dr. Tabor and he then moved to the house on the corner of Afton and Bainbridge (I think) We moved there in 1943 (I think).
- I remember him well. He was the doctor we used for football physicals in the 6th and 7th grade ('51-'53.) His office was located

above the florist down from Kaylor's Grill.

Dr. and Mrs. Tabor's only surviving child – John “Jack” Irving Tabor – attended Virginia Polytechnic Institute at Blacksburg and became a civil engineer for the military. In 1930 he was working as a civil engineer in construction in Fayette County, West Virginia, and was boarding with John Dillard. He also indicated that he was veteran of World War I. He married Evelyn Hope Parker in Portsmouth in 1923 who were later divorced then may have married again. He died in 1957 and was buried in Arlington National Cemetery near Washington, D. C. The inscription on his marker states:

John Irving Tabor,
Born Jun 28, 1898, Died Jan 3, 1957,
LT COL HQ CO 1ST BN C E USA
WORLD WAR I, WORLD WAR II, KOREA

Dr. Tabor died at a Portsmouth hospital in 1959 at the age of 93 years and was buried at the Olive Branch Cemetery in Portsmouth. His wife died a few years later in 1965.

Source: *The Norfolk Virginian-Pilot*, November 10, 1959, Tuesday

DR. TABOR, PHYSICIAN, DIES AT 93

Dr. Sidney Johnson Tabor, 93, of 20 Afton Parkway, Cradock, who practiced medicine in Portsmouth and Norfolk County 41 years died at 4:50 a.m. in a Portsmouth hospital after three weeks' illness.

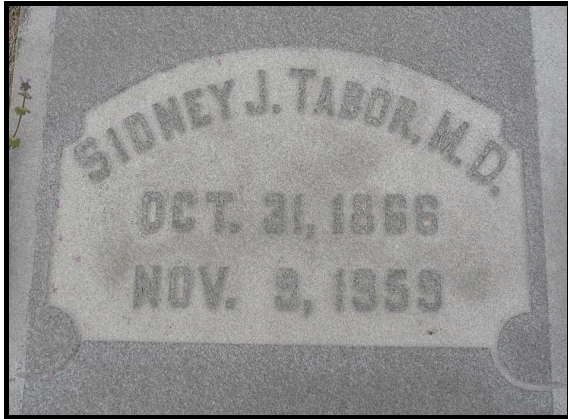
He graduated from Vanderbilt University in 1892 and was surgeon for the Southern Railway at Williamson, W. Va. and at Catletts. He went into private practice at Pocahontas, W. Va. He also practiced at Hopewell before coming to Norfolk County.

He was charter member and elder emeritus of Cradock Prebyterian Church and a member of Everyman's Bible Class. He held membership in the Virginia Medical Society and in the Southern Medical Society.

A son of Russell Vann Tabor and Elizabeth Compton Tabor, he was native of Tazewell County.

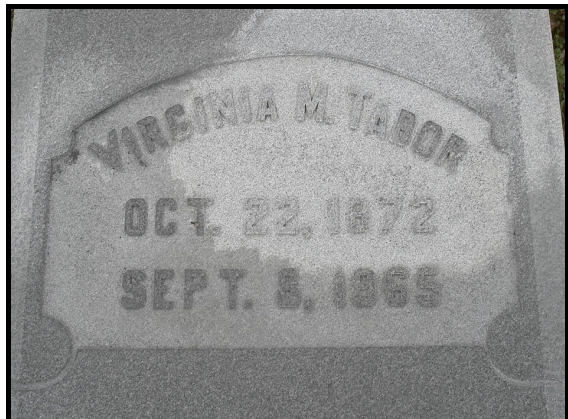
He is survived by his wife, Mrs. Virginia Moore Tabor of Cradock, and a grandson, James Michael Tabor of Alexandria.

Services will be at Snellings Funeral Home Wednesday at 11 a.m. with burial in Olive Branch Cemetery. The family has requested that flowers be omitted.



**Dr. Sidney John Tabor's Tombstone at
Olive Branch Cemetery at Portsmouth,
Virginia**

Courtesy of Janie Evans



**Ora Virginia [Moore] Tabor's
Tombstone at Olive Branch Cemetery
near Portsmouth, Virginia**

Courtesy of Janie Evans

Unknown Source & Date:

MRS. VIRGINIA M. TABOR

Portsmouth – Mrs. Virginia Moore Tabor, 92, formerly of Afton Parkway, Cradock, died Wednesday at 3:15 p.m. in a hospital after a long illness.

She was the widow of Dr. Sidney Johnston Tabor and lived her 47 years. Her parents were Mr. and Mrs. James Moore. She was native of Tazewell, Va.

She was a member of First Presbyterian Church.

Surviving is a grandson, James Michael Taylor [*sic*] of West Hartford, Conn.

The body was taken to Snellings Funeral Home, where a funeral service will be held Friday at 3:30 p.m. by the Rev. William M. Boyce, Jr. Of First Presbyterian Church. Burial will be in Olive Branch Cemetery. The family has requested that flowers be omitted.