

-year-old nephew, *Sylvester M. Taylor*, in January 1857. (see photo, opposite page, lower left) However, "S.M." served as editor and publisher for only two years before he, too, developed a wanderlust, disposing of the business to Oliver A. Campbell. He returned within a year or so, repurchasing the newspaper which he conducted until 1868 when A.V. Haight became a partner in the business, continuing as *Taylor & Haight* for four years. In the spring of 1874, S.M. once more sold the paper, which was for a period of another four years successively published by Trumbull, J.O. Fisher, F.S. Schoonmaker, and Brainard G. Smith. In 1878, it came back into S.M. Taylor's possession and it held his full interest until his death in February 1919.

S.M. sold the paper to his son, Ben M., on July 16, 1906, but remained as editor until the day of his death and, according to his successor, his wishes and views were deferred to whenever expressed or known. As an editor, S.M. was respected for "his strict insistence on accuracy in every particular."

S.M. Taylor was a well-respected, possibly revered, businessman with many friends. The famous genre painter, E.L. Henry, was one of those friends. There's a picture in the *Ellenville Public Library & Museum's* collection which carries the legend: "This photograph was made by E.L. Henry, the painter. He was a friend of S.M. Taylor and frequently visited him in the old Journal office. He was always mused to see "S.M." sitting up there at his desk in the window presiding over *Potter's* household wares whenever he came down from Cragmoor. He once said that he would like to put the editor in a picture but never did more than take the photo, touch it up by hand, sign and date it." (see cover photo for detailed view)

The "old *Journal* office" had occupied the second floor of a frame building east of the corner of **Canal & Main Streets** (see below for the Nov. 1912 *E.L. Henry* photo, and a current view of the same location). *Potter's Store* (left half) and *Campbell's Pharmacy* (right half) occupied the first floor. This framed photograph, enhanced by Henry's "touch up," which actually was the insertion of a drawing of S.M. at his desk, hung in every office of *The Ellenville Journal* since November 1912, and was presented to the *Museum* by *Journal* editor Frank Muller.



The July 18, 1907, paper carried an article (editorial?) which began "Tuesday, July 16th, marked the first anniversary of the *Journal's* career under the management of the present publisher and proprietor [Ben], and we are pleased and encouraged at being able to announce that we begin the second year under more promising circumstances than we had anticipated when the change was made." It seems that Ben applied himself to instituting a more businesslike and systematic handling of subscription accounts, which decreased the number of delinquent accounts, but lost



some subscribers. "In our campaign, we have lost some subscribers...and we are firmly convinced that ... the loss is more than made up by the increased reliability with which we can reckon upon those that remain." A year's subscription at that time "remained" at \$1.50.

S.M. Taylor was survived by five of his eight children: Ben M., publisher of *The Journal*; Paul F. of Walton, Mrs. John H. Divine of Ellenville, S. Maxwell Taylor, Jr., of Ellenville, (also involved in the newspaper) and Ross H. of Poughkeepsie. Another son, Charles F., had been in charge of the job printing at *The Journal* until his death in July 1915, but he was succeeded in that area by his son, another R. Baxter Taylor.

When, in the mid-1920s, Ben M. and S. Maxwell Taylor sold their interest in the business, George, Edwin and Frederick, three more sons of Charles, joined their brother Baxter in the editing and publishing aspects of the company. After Fred and George died, Baxter continued with some help from Edwin, who had by then become involved with Manhattan and Brooklyn papers. Their sisters assisted with local news.

Frank Muller (see photo, above) joined the staff in November 1940, "a break in Taylor family management," said Katharine Terwilliger in *Wawarsing; Where the Streams Wind*, "but not in their responsible standards."

Baxter Taylor died in 1965, the last of the Taylor family to be actively involved with the *Journal*. The following year, Frank and Margaret Muller and Raymond and Ann Dulye purchased the *Journal* from Baxter Taylor's surviving family. At the same time, the real estate was sold to Charles Letter of *Van's Garage* on **South Main Street**, who planned to extend his garage facilities to the corner after the *Journal* building was demolished as part of the Village of Ellenville's Urban Renewal project.

The April 23, 1970, *Journal* article began "The old Ellenville *Journal* building on the southeast corner of Center and Main Streets ceased to exist as a village landmark on Monday, when SPD Construction crews demolished the 119-year-old structure under Urban Renewal."

The newspaper offices were moved from the pillared building to **99 Main Street**, almost next door to the *Journal's* location prior to moving to the 1851 building, its home for fifty years. At the same time, the printing method was changed from letterpress to offset, using the facilities of the Dulyes' Citizen Herald plant.

Frank and Margaret Muller retired in late 1979, almost forty years after Frank became the *Journal's* editor. His involvement with the paper and the community served by it included civic life as well as journalism. He served ↗