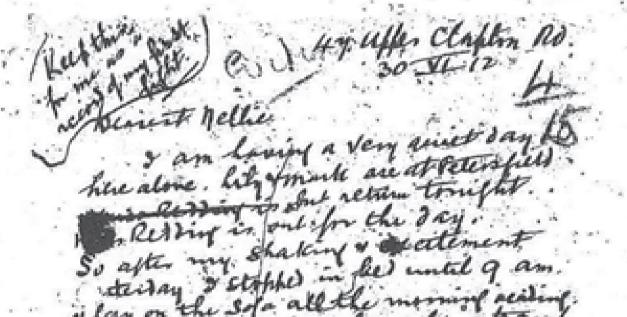


Thomas Smithies Taylor married Nellie Bennett at Narborough Independent Chapel in 1891. He was born in Holloway in London and from an early age showed a talent

Westerby House, **Smeeton Westerby**

The Taylor family lived at Westerby House from c1901 until 1912.





for wood and metal work. In 1886, after apprenticeship to a microscope manufacturer, he moved to Leicester to set up a business with his brother, William. The business they founded, Taylor, Taylor and Hobson, became scientific instrument makers of great renown and the business quickly flourished. As the fortunes of Nellie and Thomas improved, they moved out of Leicester to live at Smeeton Westerby near Kibworth.

Thomas was a very supportive husband and shared his wife's commitment to the cause of women's suffrage.

WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE December 17, 1908

An Open Letter to Mr. Lloyd George, M.P.

iet modest work have more political insight than the conventional Liberal. For oud laughter. having been spoilt is styranny." You, as Chancellor of the Exchequer, continu ncern is to decide

to tax women who have no vote. If would appear to those honest man you should when they comm as Chancellor of the Exchem n in another place

When you say that " the militant methods delay Woman' herefore, that it is ecause men must be persuaded to grant it." you insul assembly to discuss Englishmen, becaue you imply that they will not to-day grant ot swallow. justice when they see it, until it is wh n with the painted

passing of the Reform Bill—so to-day tary since the day being free by Franchise to say what is wanted ilted and outraged

hricks of "Snobber

The militant Suffragettes will thank you for one of T. SMITHIES TAYLO eral whats-is-nam

Correspondence.

Robbery, robber DEAB FELLOW-WORKER,-The Hon. Secretary of our new Woking Branch writes expressing the interest felt by her members subject introduced by me at a debate at the Central Branch

'Taxation without Representation is Tyranny'

As early as 1908, Thomas wrote an open letter to The Chancellor of the Exchequer which was published in the Journal of the Women's Freedom League. He explained why he now supported the militant methods of the Suffragettes.

ay Any high comitale 15.11.12 : Sinest mother.

Thave just called like for letters after two very bury anyo in Loursa, shefore thing to hottingham I have pist received your letter. -

The history thing to bear just new in that you feel upset is not interestand. There to not discuss it yet. - of men's opinion I care nothing. The hiberst presencent profess "Taxation with representation is Tyrany (The Consumations by not) hellie has paid Taxia in his own night for years hast the as yok. Women like touttine for nearly Sorgans take by the vote by constitutional profer sladgelike methins And heing vitiless; have deen parles inder when nellie page her there, but without a vote to reside who shall represent her. The new who only for their note by much wome violence in 1833 + 67 care little. I admini her pluget cinist Inere in her place. I quite entron her action in breaking a cost office winters in Stean It. value to 3. 14 4. Int valued in charge at 6. 7. 6 She is well bright swell took after I say her afain resteriding. The diloren are well looked after a one is frond as I am. The case comes up rest Twis or wed. here to not live in a frie country it are outpeat inthat semining it to many illight imposters on the part of a frightened weak kneed foremment catter literal.

Letter from Thomas to his Mother, 15th March 1912

Nellie's mother in law was clearly a little distressed to hear of her imprisonment. In this letter, Thomas, explained: 'Nellie has paid taxes in her own right for years past and has no vote. Women like her (taxpayers) have for nearly 50 years tried to get the vote by constitutional, proper and ladylike methods but being voteless, have been fooled... I admire her pluck. I wish I were in her place!...'

y lay on the sole all the morning seeding. This geternoon share been by a tramp. in the torest + & visit the tranes of our explorit at word for ladies were we got in all eight but ladies were sent this a separate entrance of their tickets examine three times. I then questioned as to where they for them tite name entresses weinsontten Daven & all their annours compared with official list before they were admitted that a whole let where required standing that a whole let where required I have that some women can the tent I have that some women can the tent of watcher in the shite of an army of watcher in the helpere the meeting of watcher in ticket were afain called by a women aarries out The whole andience (very-largely Stewards) was talking about Suffragetter. Are for des hilend lite setting losting women being shown into a

Thomas joins the Men's Political Union in a protest, June 1912

Amongst the papers of Nellie Taylor at the Women's Library is Thomas' account of his 'first fight' for women's suffrage. At a Liberal meeting at which Lloyd George was speaking, he interrupted the speaker shouting 'I protest against listening to Lloyd George until he gives votes to all taxpayers'.

He was seized by stewards and thrown out, narrowly escaping a ducking in a horse trough. In the struggle his hat and glasses were destroyed.

Alfred Hawkins (1858 - 1928)

Another Leicester man, Alfred Hawkins, was Thomas' comrade in the Men's Political Union and the husband of the suffragette, Alice Hawkins. In 1911, he successfully brought a case against the Liberal stewards who had thrown him down a flight of stairs when he was protesting that women should have the vote. Alfred had broken his knee badly and was in hospital for months but his triumph in court was heralded as a land mark victory by all involved in the struggle for women's suffrage. His example inspired Thomas but is now largely forgotten.



SEQUEL TO A LLOYD GEORGE MEETING.

TERRITORIAL CAPTAIN GETS DAMAGES

FOR BEING EVICTED FROM HALL.

Judge Smyly at Bow County Court yes-terday awarded £5 damages and costs to Thomas Smithics Taylor, of Leicester, cap-tain in the Army Service Corps, Territorials, in an action arising out of Mr Lloyd George's meeting at Woodford.

The Judge said he found that the elewards who took plaintiff from the meeting were guilty of assault, but it was not proved that any of the defendants laid hands on plaintiff. The stewards conducted him no further than the door. The only person near him was Mr Pollard, of Walthamstow. There was no evidence he touched him. No case had, there fore, been proved against Mr Pollard.

Regarding Messrs Bristow, Liberal agent. Walthamstow; Redman, Walthamstow, ward secretary; and J. Shepherd, Woodford, as members of the Organising Commit the, the Judge found they were liable for acts of the stewards, and therefore fo assault committed by the stewards in removing plaintiff from his seat quicker than he wished to go. Plaintiff was entitled to a small sum for his hat, umbrella, and glasses.

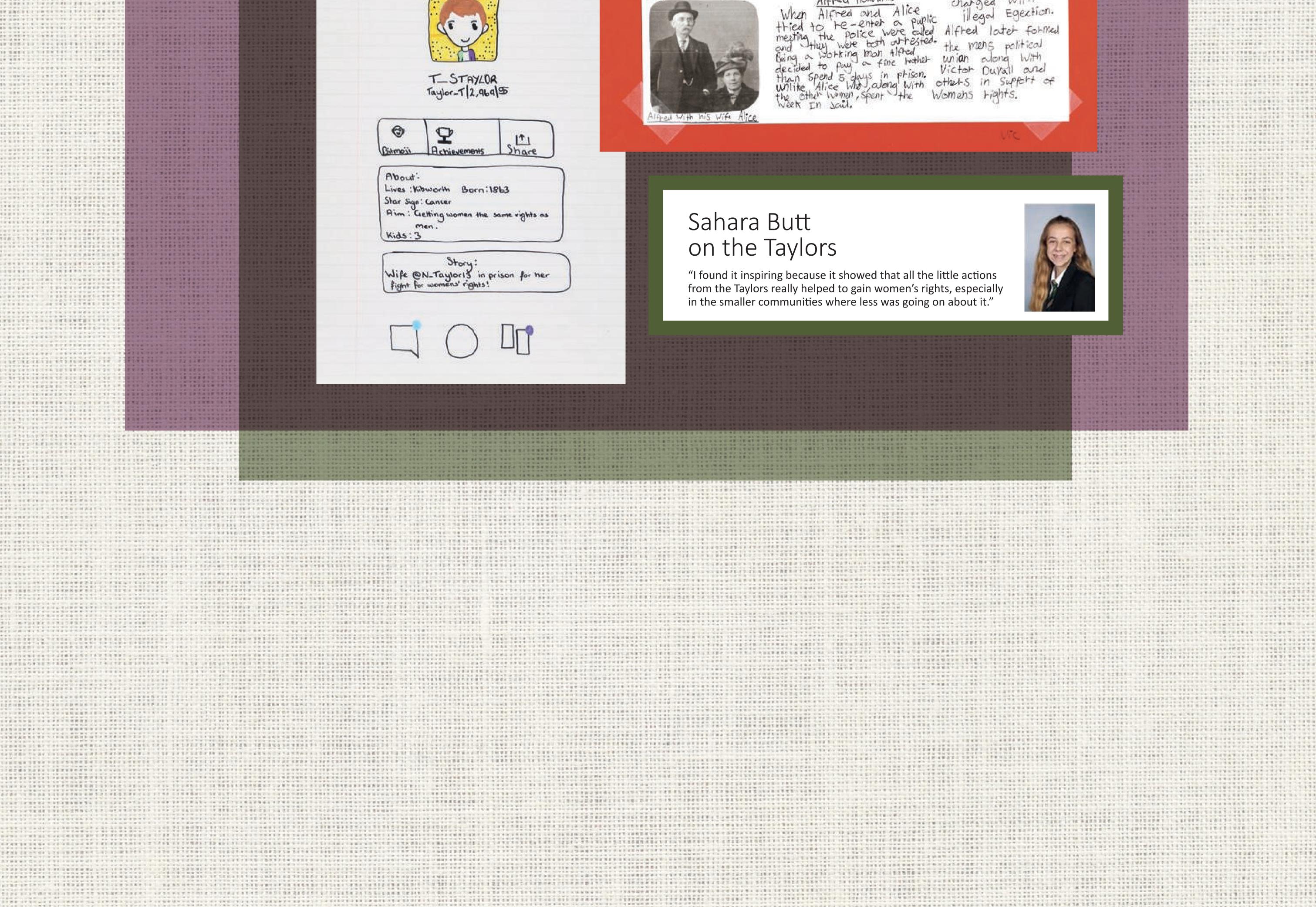
Damages awarded to Thomas, December 1912

Supported by a fund set up by his sister in law, Elizabeth Wilks, Thomas sued for damages of £3 16s for his hat and glasses and sought £50 special damages. In the end, he received only the cost of his damaged belongings.

Howkins

After being kicked out of a young Winston churchills public meeting for neckling him on womens hights Afred burking began to gain a reputation for being actille In the sufferage movements

often attesses



again heckled Right alway the and bringing hus

Alfred Howkins charged