

Hobart Chatfield-Taylor

Hobart Chatfield Chatfield-Taylor could have easily been known as Mr. Lake Forest. Chatfield-Taylor (1865-1945) was an active supporter of activities in Lake Forest and was a true Renaissance Man. He was the author of many books and organized the initial financing for Harriet Monroe's poetry magazine. He and his wife were involved in many social, charitable and artistic endeavors in Chicago and the North Shore. In addition, he was a chief founder of the Onwenstia Club.

Born in Chicago in 1860 to a wealthy family, Hobart Chatfield Chatfield-Taylor added the second Chatfield to his name in order to inherit from the Chatfield Side of the family. He traveled the world as a child and attended schools in France before entering Cornell University in 1886. Although he earned a law degree, Mr. Chatfield-Taylor's real interest was literature. Upon returning to Chicago, he co-founded the magazine *America*, a review dedicated to politics and literature. He also wrote several novels, many of them sympathetic to women's rights. Parts of one of his novels, *An American Peeress*, were set in Lake Forest. From 1892 to 1894, Chatfield-Taylor was the Honorary Consul of Spain in Chicago. He served as the secretary of the inaugural reception of the Colombian Exposition.

His association with Lake Forest began with his marriage to the beautiful Rose Farwell, daughter of former United States Senator and early Lake Forest resident Charles Benjamin Farwell. Rose had a book bindery in Chicago and she and Hobart Chatfield-Taylor were both active members in the Chicago literary and cultural scene.

Rose Farwell Chatfield-Taylor (1870-1918) was an avid golf player and it was she and her husband who were instrumental in the establishment of the Onwenstia Club in 1896. Chatfield-Taylor was reported to have been "well-spoken, well-read, and well-connected and he, more than anyone else knew it and savoured it." Who better to have spear-headed the selective private club whose name was changed by Chatfield-Taylor from the Lake Forest Golf Club to an Iroquois name, Onwentsia, which means "a meeting places in the country of sporting braves and squaws." Rose went on to win several golf championships. F. Scott Fitzgerald's image of Lake Forest in *The Great Gatsby* was intertwined with the exclusive club.

Mr. and Mrs. Chatfield-Taylor lived on the legendary Farwell estate, with its own little golf course, in Lake Forest. Four children were born of their union, Wayne, Adelaide, Otis, and Robert. Sadly, Mrs. Chatfield-Taylor died in 1918 at the age of 48 in California were the couple had just completed building a winter home in Montecito. Mr. Chatfield-Taylor died in 1945.