

Edwin Taggart

Edwin Taggart was born 6 August 1852 in Montoursville, Sullivan, Pennsylvania. He was the son of John Pitt Taggart and Phebe Ann Willets. His father was an assistant surgeon for General Grant and later an Internal Revenue Collector for Utah Territory.¹

Edwin was educated at Manuel Hall in Chicago. When he was sixteen years old, he worked on a railroad surveying party in southern Illinois for eleven months. His family moved to Salt Lake City, Salt Lake, Utah Territory in 1870.² There, Edwin (age 17) partnered with F W Ehlman to start a drug store business.³ On the 1870 census, Edwin was listed as an assistant assessor (and his father as US Assessor), living with his family in Salt Lake.⁴ Three years later, Edwin became a deputy for Salt Lake and adjoining counties. His office was in the Collector's Office, rooms 10 and 11 over the old First National Bank.⁵

In May 1874, he dissolved his partnership with Ehlman and continued the drug business at 98 East Temple St in Salt Lake City.⁶ He advertised in the newspaper at a new store address – 117 Main Street -- from June 1874 to through October 1875. His store carried drugs, medicines, chemicals, fine toilet soaps, brushes, combs, fancy articles and perfumery.⁷

Edwin married Virginia K Pitt on 11 September 1876 in Salt Lake City; they had one son.⁸ A month later, he dissolved a business partnership with his father (who probably wrote the prescriptions for the business) and continued business "at the old stand, first door north of Deseret Book".⁹ His father and partner Dr. George C. Douglas had their offices at the old drug store.¹⁰ In 1877, Edwin sold his interest in the drug store business and took his family south to Silver Reef where he mined for a year and a half. They then moved to Wood River, Idaho Territory, where he continued mining.¹¹

On the 1880 census, Edwin, his wife and son, are living with his parents in Salt Lake City, where he again worked as a druggist.¹² The next year, Edwin moved to Ukiah, Mendocino, California, where he bought the drug business of Dr. Barton Dozier. He sold the business to J R Mathews two years later, moved to Ventura and bought the pioneer drug store on Main Street in the center of town.¹³ He was registered to vote in Ventura from 1884 to 1892, and was described as five foot eight inches tall, with a fair complexion, brown hair, and gray eyes.¹⁴

¹ A Memorial and Biographical History of the Counties of Santa Barbara, San Luis Obispo and Ventura, California, by Yda Addis Storke, 1891, p. 341.

² *Salt Lake Tribune*, 23 November 1902, p. 4.

³ A Memorial and Biographical History of the Counties of Santa Barbara, San Luis Obispo and Ventura, California, by Yda Addis Storke, 1891, p. 341.

⁴ United States Census, 1870.

⁵ *Deseret News*, 1 Oct 1873, p. 3.

⁶ *Salt Lake Tribune*, 8 May 1874, p. 1.

⁷ See *Salt Lake Tribune*, 9 June 1874, p. 1 and others; *Real Estate and Mining Gazette*, 1 May 1875, p. 6.

⁸ A Memorial and Biographical History of the Counties of Santa Barbara, San Luis Obispo and Ventura, California, by Yda Addis Storke, 1891, p. 341.

⁹ *Salt Lake Tribune*, 26 October 1876, p. 3.

¹⁰ *Salt Lake Tribune*, 7 November 1876, p. 1.

¹¹ A Memorial and Biographical History of the Counties of Santa Barbara, San Luis Obispo and Ventura, California, by Yda Addis Storke, 1891, p. 341.

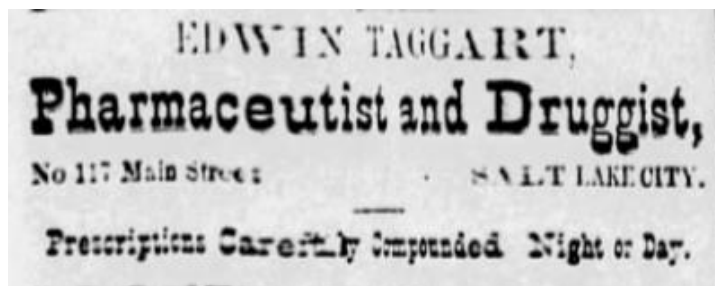
¹² United States Census, 1880.

¹³ A Memorial and Biographical History of the Counties of Santa Barbara, San Luis Obispo and Ventura, California, by Yda Addis Storke, 1891, p. 341; *Salt Lake Tribune*, 23 November 1902, p. 4; 26 November 1902, p. 8; *Cloverdale Reveille*, 17 December 1881, p. 1; *Ukiah Republican Press*, 27 January 1905, p. 1.

¹⁴ California Great Registers, 1866-1910.

On the 1900 census, Edwin was a druggist, living with wife and child in Oakland, Alameda, California.¹⁵ In 1902, he was struck with valvular heart disease, and after four months of poor health, he died 19 November 1902 in Oakland. His funeral was held at the Masonic Temple, where he was a member of the Live Oak Lodge. He was a Republican, an Oakland commandery Knights Templar, and served as the president of board of trustees of the Episcopal Church of Ventura.¹⁶

His wife Virginia remarried in 1919 and lived in Glendale, Los Angeles, California until her death in 1953.¹⁷



(Images from *Real Estate and Mining Gazette*, 1 May 1875, p. 6 and *The Salt Lake Tribune*, 9 June 1874, p. 1)

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¹⁵ United States Census, 1900.

¹⁶ A Memorial and Biographical History of the Counties of Santa Barbara, San Luis Obispo and Ventura, California, by Yda Addis Storke, 1891, p. 341; *Salt Lake Tribune*, 23 November 1902, p. 4, 26 November 1902; *Salt Lake Telegram*, 24 November 1902, p. 3; *San Francisco Chronicle*, 20 November 1902, p. 7; *Oakland Tribune*, 20 November 1902, p. 5; *San Francisco Examiner*, 21 November 1902, p. 2; *Petaluma Argus-Courier*, 21 November 1902, p. 2.

¹⁷ United States Census, 1920, 1930, 1940; California Death Index, 1940-1997.