
Grady County Historical Society. CA-002 Series 3: Files
from Sections Hawthorne Papers - I

1977-1997

Letters Between Marion R. Hemperley and J. B Boddenberry

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Recommended Citation:

Hawthorne Papers – I. Grady County Museum and History Center, *Grady County Historical Society Collection: Hawthorne Papers – I*. Series 3, Item 5. Valdosta State University Archives and Special Collections. Retrieved from <https://hdl.handle.net/10428/7266>

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Marion R. Hemperley
335 Bentley Way
Fayetteville, Georgia 30214
Phone: (770) 461-0906

Historical Consultant
Genealogist
Historian

Aug 23, 1997

Ms Rebecca Cline
1392 Stephen Drive
Cairo, Georgia 31728

Dear Ms Cline:

I have gone through all my records and, in my estimation, have little to help you in your research. The John Goff historical county maps the Archives referred to, I do have but I have only one for Grady. That is a D.O.T. map of 1951, and ALL the historical data marked on it came from the earlier 1908 Soil Map. You mentioned having the latter and you probably have the 1951 map also. At the time of Julian's visits to me at Archives, I made a copy of just about everything I had for that section of Ga.

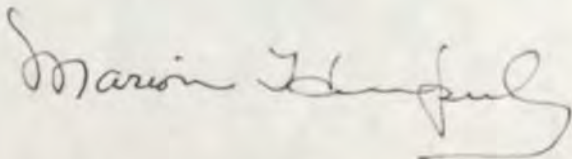
I checked out the settlement names you gave me and could find only one citation, that for Arabia. My reference is for an 1881 Map of Ga. which shows it in Thomas. Pretty vague and hard to pin point the location exactly. You need to have maps at the county level to have the detail you need, and there were no county maps created that early. Again, you should have a copy of that section of the 1881 map. If not, you would have to have a copy made at Archives as I do not have a print of it.

Rodney and North Carolina Settlement I could not find any place.

I have checked my files for the articles on Thomas Co. boundaries and roads, and could not find copies. Don't know if they would help you or not but they should be checked out. As I stated to you on the phone, I sent these to the historical society in Thomasville back in the 1950's (I think it was). Since I am a pack rat I know I retained copies some place in my files. But where! If you cannot get copies in Thomasville, let me know and I will dig deeper and see if I can find them. Pack rats, like me, have terrible filing systems.

Good luck on your project. This state needs more like you that are interested in local history and willing to spend time working on it. For years I have told anyone who would listen that Georgia had everything the far west had, but only earlier. We had stage coach robberies, bank hold ups, Indian wars, and just about any phase of history one could name.

Hang in there and let me know when I can be of further service. Keep me informed.



April 26, 1985

Mr. M. R. Hemperley
2525 Headland Drive
East Point, Ga. 30344

Dear Mr. Hemperley:

You probably will be surprised at hearing from a rather old Southwest Georgia citizen who enjoyed so much his visits with you at the Archives Building, and I am assuming in writing you at your address that you have retired, and really I hope you haven't but I vaguely remember the last time I communicated with you or visited with you, you told me you would soon.

I particularly remember your great knowledge of maps, and particularly of Georgia, and told many people about it. And also about we looking out from your desk and seeing a "sea" of row after row of cabinets in which there were maps from top to the floor.

I do need, Mr. Hemperley, information about some old maps. And I may have told you what I was doing back 10 to 20 years ago, and one was to write a Roddenbery Family Book, and it was published in 1979, and a famous author reviewing same wrote it's format was indispensable for future genealogists who wrote family books, so the work put into it was worthwhile.

Now, as I also talked with you a little about, I have been left a large volume of all kinds of documents as to deeds, maps, etc., that amount to having nearly record file for writing of a Genesis of Cairo and Grady County history book. This was left to me by the Robert Roddenberys, senior and junior, of Moultrie, and I am sure you have heard of them.

What I would like to know the number of, or how to get it if possible, to get it thru the archives or a map manufacturer, is as follows:

Earliest map in existence, or anyway in America, of what is now South Georgia, to include what was known as the "debatable land."

A map of Georgia or southern part of Georgia that takes in the Creek Indian cession to the United States in August 1818, as obtained by General Andrew Jackson.

Really I would like to have a map that has no locations of the White Man's activities, meaning it was the map when the American Indians controlled and really had not yet been surveyed, and that would give for this book what was South Georgia as wild land - about like it was when Hernandez DeSoto travelled through it in the winter of 1539-40.

4/26/85

If there is a map of that time that might have lines on it to tell what DeSoto's travels were, I would like to have that.

I expect you have at tip of your tongue what is available. It has been figured out by some people that the land cession that General Jackson got and didn't pay a nickel for it, for it was a penalty for their depredations and now there are all or part of 34 Southwest Georgia counties from that land cession and I want to show it up in maps in the book.

If, Mr. Hemperley, you know of a reliable concern that does the kind of work to reduce maps that will be wanted to go on the size book page we will have, which will be on sheets measurements I take from a book we will want it the size of, of right at 6-1/4 inches by 9-1/4 inches and the name of a company who does that kind of work from larger maps of course, I could communicate with them and have an idea I could give them some business if they were wanting such business.

I'm still referring to book now and then that has the place names of Georgia in it and I believe it was compiled by you years ago. I'm somewhat a historian buff, you will see, and welcome any ideas that people can give me.

With all this material I have of late had ³ had compunctions, that is, an uneasy feeling that I have not done what I half promised my uncle, Robert S. Roddenbery, Sr., who lived to be 104 years old and left for his ^{papers} hundreds of papers, many of which will help in such a book and it would be for my little town, which was incorporated in 1870, and that will not be as difficult as to go back of that and get a history of the environs to little Cairo, and of course formation of our county in 1905 has much material that living people know about. But I need what was before then.

And all that I can accompany the prose writing with maps would make it not only for pioneers of my town and county, but for many others for I just haven't seen anything exactly like this and can you help me with the maps? And I know you are an authority on maps for this area of our country.

I do practically no traveling, in fact, I guess I'd have to be called a little feeble, and good company is to remember of my visits and acquaintenships and friendships with many able Georgians as your good self on your specialty.

Sincerely yours,

J. B. Roddenbery, Sr.
1420 Parallel Drive N. W.
Cairo, Georgia 31725



Secretary of State

Department of Archives and History

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May 6, 1985

Mr. J. B. Roddenbery, Sr.
1420 Parallel Drive, S.W.
Cairo, Georgia 31728

Dear Mr. Roddenbery:

Wat a nice suprise to receive a letter from you after so lonw a time. Indeed, I can well remember the nice visits when you dropped in to see and we talked of your book. I an glad that you finally published your family history because you had worked so hard for so many years on it. It must be one of the finest family histories in Georgia since you put so much work in it. You are to be congratulated.

I am thinking about the maps you requested and am quite sure I have something that will interest you. I am going to have two or three copied and will send them to you when they are ready. This will take a week or two.

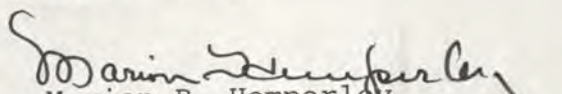
It took your letter a few weeks to reach me since I have moved from the East Point address. My new home address is:

Marion R. Hemperley
335 Bentley Way
Fayetteville, Georgia 30214

My telephone number at home is: 404-461-0906. Call me when you feel like talking. I would be delighted to hear from you and to talk about your new book.

I have not retired yet, since I am not quite to retirement age. I will probably work for a few more years since I enjoy my work so much. Helping nice people like you is a pleasure.

Yours truly,


Marion R. Hemperley
335 Bentley Way
Fayetteville, Georgia 30214

May 15, 1985

Mr. Marion R. Hemperley
335 Bentley Way
Fayetteville, Ga. 30214

Dear Marion:

I have delayed responding to your kind letter which I appreciated very much, of May 6th, until the maps arrived. They have come in and are exactly what I want.

There is one other that should I appoint the editor I plan to write the History Book, not a genealogy, and if so, I will be in touch with you. And I note your letter says what you are sending is with your compliments. But please remember, Marion, I would be very glad to remit if you will let me know the amount, for the maps already received or should others yet to come, for I note your letter said it would be a few weeks before arriving, and they have already arrived.

And, oh yes, the family book was printed in 1979, and was one of the two things I talked with you about when I was traveling, and this is a history of our little town and our new county created in 1905, that my centenarian uncle and his son, an attorney, Robert S. Roddenbery of Moultrie, left so many papers that I have compunctions or uneasiness that I should carry out what their project was.

The Family Book was not printed in large number, but I gave the Library to sell and keep the proceeds, and they have sold out, I understand. I probably will do something like this on the new book, if I make the final decision to proceed with it.

When your next birthday will be 93 years, you should not be so presumptuous to believe that you could finish a big project like that.

Anyway the Georgia Genealogical Society had a Dr. Rogers of Florida State University to review the Family Book and in his review these were some of his words: "Liberally illustrated with photographs and biographies of various lengths, the book records history of a large and successful family. The study is a model of its kind, and historians will find it useful and genealogists will find it indispensable."

I actually believe with the material I have a better job can be done with the strictly history book with not too much of genealogy in it.

Should there happen to be any certain map that you feel should be before the public, let me know the cost and send to me, for I plan to, if I go ahead with this project, to use maps rather liberally and I'm sure the editor I will appoint will cooperate in this respect.

I know there are, ^{south of} around 34 counties out of the three original counties of Early, Irwin and Appling of the cession of General Jackson of 1814, but I can pick up that very well from maps that have been printed in newspapers.

#2 Mr. Marion R. Hemperley

5/15/85.

I have a feeling that to be liberal in maps that are authentic embellishes any book they are in.

Of course, at my age I should not be much of a factor in carrying on a business and I'm happy that I have two sons and several grandchildren already active, and it all began with my grandfather, Dr. Seaborn Roddenbery, and he was succeeded by my father, W. B. Roddenbery. This heritage, in my opinion, inspires each succeeding generation to try and do a better job than the previous one did, and I believe that's true with my offspring.

Glad to have your correct address and I want you to see a little assortment of products we are packing. You may not like the Boiled Peanuts but if you have a friend who fishes, tell him to open it and drain the brine off, put it in the sack and they will be good to nibble on when the fish don't bite. I'm told that thousands upon thousands of people buy a can of these Boiled Peanuts to eat when they sit on the bank or in the boat hoping they will get a bite.

It is good to have the news you are still working at the Archives. It has to be tremendously interesting work, and again thanking you for your letter and the maps you are sending me, and if there are suggestions you might have in the way of maps of a small area in Deep Southwest Georgia, I would appreciate your advising me your views.

With best regards,

Yours truly,

J. B. Roddenbery, Sr.
1426 Parallel Drive N. W.
Marietta, Georgia 30172

P. S. I expect I'll take you up on your suggestion of telephoning, however, I am not known for good hearing and that's why I usually write at length, as you have already noted.



Ben W. Horton, Jr.
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Secretary of State

214 State Capitol

Atlanta

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Mrs. Pat Bryant
DEPUTY
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May 20, 1977

Mr. J. B. Roddenbery
Post Office Box 60
Cairo, Georgia 31728

Dear Mr. Roddenbery:

Your delightful pickles arrived this week in fine shape. This will hold me for months to come as I dole them out jar by jar and will not let anyone have too many at once. Many thanks. You are such a nice person to think of me when you are so busy.

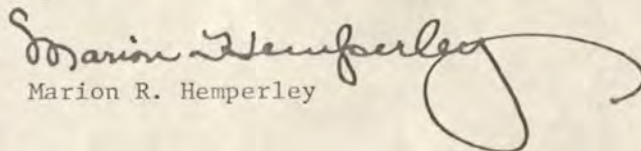
It was nice, also, to receive your letter and just to hear from you again. The two maps I sent you are dated 1796 (I placed the date on the reverse in case you forget). As you say, they are very distorted and out of proportion as the northern mapmakers just did not know what was down here in Georgia.

I have read where the Okefenokee has been spelled 76 different ways, none of which have anything to do with age or time. It seems that in olden times they spelled it just anyway it sounded.

The Treaty of New York was signed on August 7, 1790. The treaty was held in New York as that was the U. S. capital at the time.

I hope this has answered your questions. If not, please feel free to call on me again. Don't wait so long before letting me hear from you. Many thanks again for the pickles.

Yours truly,


Marion R. Hemperley