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1845-2013

Wight Family History Folder

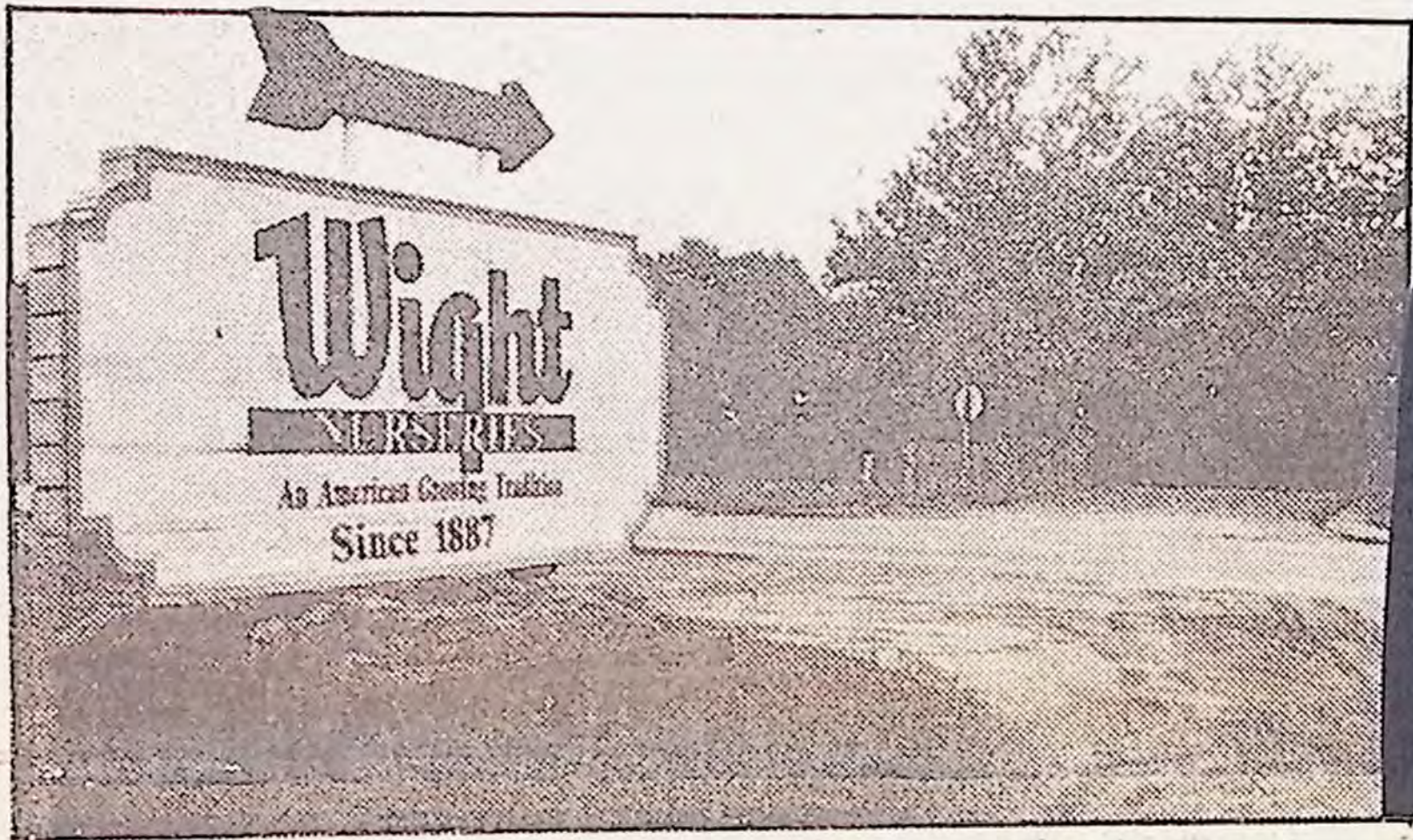
For this and additional works see: <https://vtext.valdosta.edu/xmlui/handle/10428/6885>

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Staff Photo — Greg Bryant

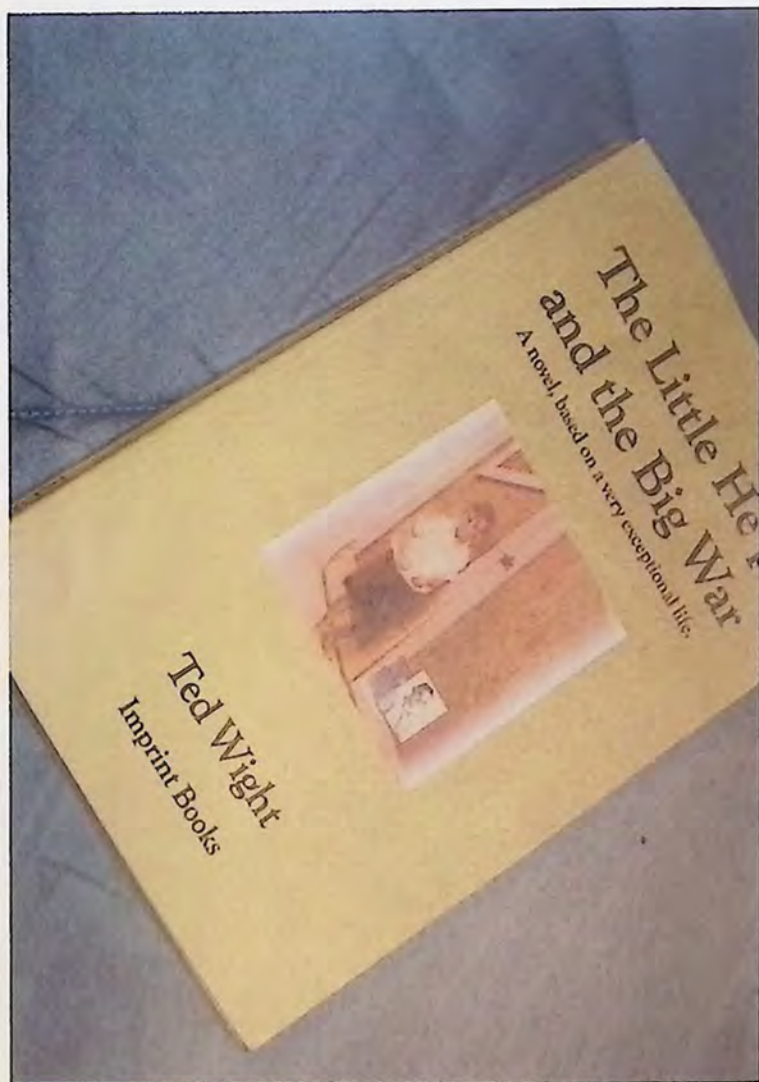
**Entrance to Wight's Nurseries,
oldest and largest business in Grady County**

Rebecca R Cline

From: Ted Wight <tewight@yahoo.com>
Sent: Saturday, May 04, 2013 7:16 PM
To: undisclosed recipients:
Subject: Tom's Story
Attachments: Tom's Story 001.JPG; Tom (back) 001.JPG; Thomas Maxwell Wight 001.JPG

I was just checking with amazon.com to see if my book on Tom was still listed with them. It is. And they have several used paperbacks for as little as **one dollar and sixty-seven cents** (I think it was). This is a thoroughly-researched story of a very dear kinsman (who was a thorough-going class act) and our (USA) early involvement in the Big War. I am sending this to some of you who are on my mailing list whom I thought might know of someone who would want to get a bargain on a pretty good story about a most exceptional young hero, plus maybe learn some more about the African/Italian part of the War. There are excerpts from the book shown on the Amazon web site that may be of interest to some. So tell anyone you know who may have some interest in this story, if you will. Thanks! - Ted

PS - I have attached shots of the front and back covers, plus one of Tom.



4889 Lake Forrest Drive
Atlanta, GA 30342
April 25, 1996

Dear Norwood,

For the last couple of years I have been working on transcribing some old letters which begin with the first Henry Wight in Bristol, RI and contain a number written to his son Henry Wight who settle in what was Sofkee in 1829. Some were addressed Bainbridge, Decatur County, some Sofkee and some Cairo. About 8 years ago Johnny was able to take us to a field in which the graves of Henry and his wife Abby were buried. He says he has completely forgotten how we got there. Have you any suggestions as to how we can go about locating the property which use to be Sofkee?

I have another historical question. Among old pictures there are three houses on which "Pop" (J.B.Wight Sr.) has written "Home". One, of course, is the current one. Another has the date 1919 and still another has six children which we can recognize as Ward, Ed, Laleah, Warren, Daddy and Robert. Since John is not in it and he was born in 1905 we assume the picture was taken about 1904. We all have heard about the house that grandmother had torn down to build the current one. I do not remember any mention of three houses. Do you have any idea of any records or someone with a memory that might shed any light on whether or not this 1919 picture is the house that was torn down? When a check was done at the time the current house was sold the courthouse had already burned but when was Grady County created?

How terrible it is to realize that when people were alive to ask I did not have the interest. Now I have a million questions. Sis is coming from California in June and we are hoping we can at least track down the location of the graves by then.

Give Madge my love and thanks so much for any suggestions you have.

Lots of love,



Helen Wight Hinson
5996 Mitchell Road NW Unit 13
Atlanta, GA 30328
May 6, 2007

Dear Becca,

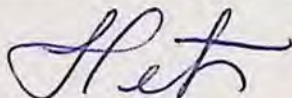
Recently I tried to call you a couple of times but between your wedding and the Picnic I missed you. I did talk to Sue and since I have not heard from her I am assuming she has not found any clues in my search for a 1791 Wight family Bible that is not where it was put for "safe" keeping in 1988-9 when Mother died. I have talked to Carolyn Chason also.

I am sending you the copies of the title page and one of several pages of genealogy from that bible. Within the bible were two handwritten notes of which copies are also enclosed. These were made in 1988 and used to explore a possible location for this Bible. Carolyn said she did not think it was at the Cairo Methodist Church but I will look into that also.

If you have any suggestions to add to my search I would appreciate them. Please show the enclosed copies to Sue and Carolyn or anyone else. I have written Alan Cates, the Georgia Archives, the Museum at Epworth-by-the-Sea, and the two Emory Libraries. An envelope is enclosed to make it easier.

Finally, do you know if my sister, Azalee Schneider in San Diego CA has ordered a copy of the History? I thoroughly enjoy mine and will send her a copy of she has not ordered one.

Thanks so very much.



Helen Wight Hinson

Rebecca R Cline

From: Helen Hinson [hhinson@mindspring.com]
Sent: Friday, May 11, 2007 7:33 PM
To: Rebecca R Cline
Subject: Re: Bible

Becca, thanks. Just between you and me Johnny is the one who took the Bible to 'his' Bank vault, then someone told him it would be safe at his house, but now says he has only a VanLandingham bible. I was the person who in 1988 looked into the places I mentioned thinking someone might want a Bible that old.....I used those pages I sent you to show rather than the Bible itself. No one would take a family bible or even express any interest. After I have contacted every place I asked back then I will go back to Johnny with their replies and see what he thinks he can do to retrace it. I am trying my best to go about it in the way most likely to yield results...just not sure what that is. I hesitate to contact Mr. McRae without Johnny's approval and/or knowledge. For all these years I thought Johnny had it and did not realize he didn't till I was at his house one time and asked to see it. If I remember correctly he thought so also until he brought it out and it was a VanLandingham Bible. I still need to check with Cairo Methodist Church although Carolyn C thinks it is not there. Thanks for your help. Het

-----Original Message-----
From: Rebecca R Cline
Sent: May 11, 2007 4:03 PM
To: hhinson@mindspring.com
Subject: Bible

Het

I wish I could help you in your search for the Wight Family bible. I have not seen it and I don't think anyone with the Historical Society would have accepted it without having a fireproof file to put it in – we just got a fireproof file cabinet in the last year or two.

I also can't tell you for sure whether Azalee has a book or not. Her name is in our database, but it does not show that she purchased a book. We have recorded many sales without the name detail, and she might have been included in one of those transactions.

Good luck in your search! You didn't mention Johnny as someone you have contacted. Wouldn't there be a possibility that he has it?

Take care.

Becca

5/13/2007

Rebecca R Cline
1393 Stephen Drive NW
Cairo, GA 39828
229-377-9728 Phone
229-377-5795 Fax

_____ NOD32 2259 (20070511) Information _____

This message was checked by NOD32 antivirus system.
<http://www.eset.com>

5/13/2007

HOLY BIBLE,

CONTAINING THE

OLD AND NEW

TESTAMENTS:

TRANSLATED OUT OF THE

ORIGINAL TONGUES.

AND WITH THE FORMER

TRANSLATIONS

Diligently compared and revised.

TRENTON:

PRINTED AND SOLD BY ISAAC COLLIER

M.DCC.XCI.

Mr. Samuel Wright and Miss Hannah Albee of Medfield, Province of Massachusetts Bay in New-England, were married by the Rev. Mr. John Watson of the Town aforesaid, on the 25 day of March A.D. 1666.

Samuel born at Ditto, November 11. D. 1665.

Hannah the 2. born, at Ditto, February 11. D. 1667.

John, born at Ditto, May 22. D. 1670.

Nathaniel, born at Ditto, October 11. 1672.

Benjamin born at Ditto, January 30. 1674.

Abigail, born, at Ditto, November 8. D. 1676.

Joseph born at Ditto, September 7. 1679.

Jonathan, born, at Ditto September 11. 1682. Grand-son to H. Wright.

Dec. 14. Mr. Jonathan Wright of Medfield was married to

Miss Margaret Furber of Medway, by the Rev. Joseph

Baxter of Medfield. And had issue — — viz —

10. Abner Wright, born at Medfield, Octo. 11. D. 1705. Ob. Feb. 19. 1779.

John, — born, at Ditto, August, 12. 1708. —

Samuel, — born, at Ditto, November 3. D. 1711.

Ohebe, — born, at Ditto, December 14. 1713.

Rafa, — born, at Ditto November 18. D. 1715.

Benjamin, — born, at Ditto June 5. D. 1720.

Baron, — born, at Ditto, November 13. D. 1722.

William, — born, at Ditto, November 7. D. 1725.

Margaret — born at Ditto, December 16. 1729. —

It seems timely to add here copies of the correspondence concerning the FAMILY BIBLE.

Marietta Ga.
May 11, 1927

Mr Byron Wight,
Cairo Georgia

Dear Cousin:

My Ann

Hannet W. Cleveland who died
a year ago, once made the request
to me that she wanted you

to have the old Wight family bible. It
belonged to her Grandfather Henry Wight.
I am writing to acquaint you with the
matter and to find where to reach you
before sending the bible to you. What
relation are you to Mrs Clyde King of
Atlanta? Very sincerely,

Alice Cleveland Reynolds,
(Mrs W.M. Reynolds)

Alice Cleveland Reynolds is the grand-daughter of Fanny Leonard Wight Cleveland no.429. Fanny's daughter, Georgia Alden Cleveland, married a distant cousin John Bomar Cleveland, who was the mother of Alice Victoria Cleveland Reynolds, born in 1887.

Georgia State Horticultural Society

ORGANIZED 1876

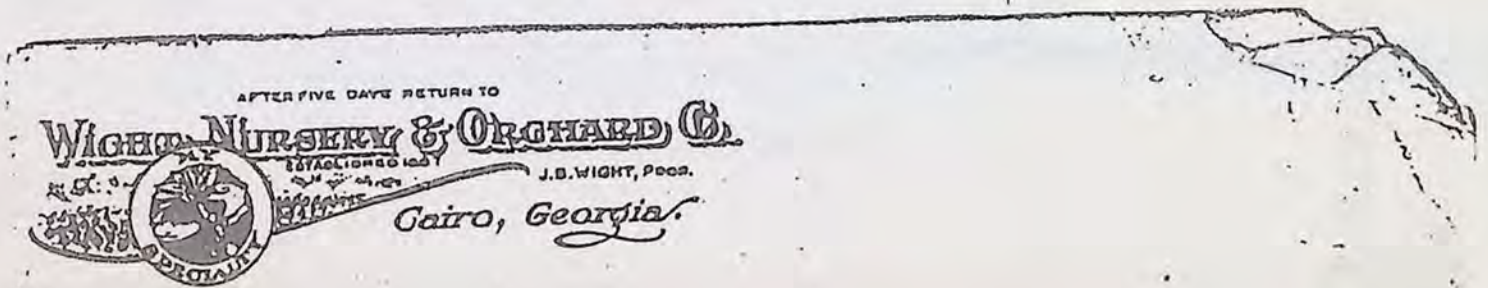
This book is the family Bible
of my great-grandfather, Rev. Henry Wight
D. D., who was for fifty years pastor of a
Congregational Church in Bristol, N. D.
See the accompanying card.

J. B. Wight

Cairo, Ga.

May 18, 1927.

This letter in handwriting of John Byron Wight no. 1897 is inside
the Bible.



File Copy

MAY 20 1955

F. W. R. Jr.

Wight Nurseries, Inc.

The letter of John B. Wight, date & May 19, and your accompanying memo. to me, completes the picture on pecans & tung oil trees in Gady County. With this & the old Savannah Morning News article & what you previously wrote me, I can write the story.

From several sources, I have the Wight family history from Henry Wight (1791-1885) and his son Geo. A. Wight (1834-1894), down to the present.

Though none of the Wights lived in Cairo during first 7 or 8 years, the mercantile business of "Wight & Powell" (with Geo. A.'s brother-in-law, John A. Powell, in charge) started at some time Dr. Rosenbery started his store - about 1868. So, the Rosenberys and Wights (and they alone) have been in business in Cairo continuously, from the beginning to now. And during all that time these two families have been dominant leaders in all worthwhile activities in Cairo and Gady County.

I am not forgetting the Powell family but, except for Louis A. Powell, in Cairo, and Willie J. Powell, in Thomasville, that family name is no longer predominant in this immediate section.

2.
Through your marriage with Margaret,
the Powell Heritage is now merged
with the name of Roddenbery and is
now carried on through your sons. You
of course know that Willie J. Powell, son
of Kader & grandson of William Powell, is
a prominent & successful citizen of Thomasville.

J. H. Hays, Wiley Pearce, W. C. Chester,
and Geo. T. Hurst, all prominent leaders
in the earliest days of Cairo, are all gone
and without descendants of their names
any longer on the scene. So it is also
with the names of Clower, Davis, Oliver,
Foulk, and others. Dr. W. A. Walker came
upon the scene about 1890 when Cairo was 70 or
more years old.

These are things your sons should know,
because in the book "Genesis of Cairo" I will not
emphasize the disappearance of these family
names, though I do intend to give full
credit to the parts played by Roddenberys,
Wights and Powells through all the period
of nearly a century. Among families that
started Cairo, these are the ones who
still run the community.

Perhaps Julian, Jr. & Ralph
should read this.

POSTED

May 31, 1965

Mr. John B. Wight
Wight Nurseries, Inc.
Cairo, Georgia

Dear Mr. Wight:

I have had the use of William Ward Wight's book "THE WIGHTS", published in 1890, and have had some correspondence with Mrs. J. Slater Wight, Sr. Also, I have a letter written a few years ago to my father by Mrs. Eugene (Pearl Wight) Clower, in which she wrote that George A. Wight (born 1834) "lived continuously at Sofkee until July 1888 when he and his family moved into Cairo". Mrs. Clower also said her brother Henry Wight moved to Cairo (several years ahead of his father) when the new Wight & Powell store was built on S. Broad St.

The original Wight & Powell store (built about 1870) was located next to the railroad right of way directly east of the J. H. Hayes building (which faced Broad St.) and it faced what became Wight St. That first store was managed by the partner (and brother-in-law) John A. Powell (who was badly crippled). After the new store was built on Broad St., and after Henry Wight came to Cairo, John A. Powell went to White Springs, Fla., where he and Geo. A. Wight owned the hotel, and Powell died there (date unknown to me). Later on Henry Wight moved to Sanford, Fla., and there died. Can you tell me: (1) when the Wight & Powell store was built on Broad St., (2) the year Henry Wight came to Cairo, (3) the year he went to Florida, (4) the year of his death, and (5) whether any of his descendants now live in Cairo?

Kedar P. and Will S. Wight succeeded Henry in the management of the Cairo mercantile business. Can you tell me when that was?

Thomas Wight (born 1870) was in banking business in Cairo. I think it was the Citizens Bank. Please tell me succinctly what you can about Tom Wight, and if he has descendants living in Cairo or Grady County.

I have no factual information on Walter Lee Wight, born 1872. What did he do and what became of him?

George A. Wight, Jr. (Wight & Brown) had a drug store in Cairo. When was that business started? What was Brown's full name? how long did the business operate? and when did G. A. Wight, Jr., die?

As a matter of fact I do not have dates of deaths of any of children of Geo. A. Wight, Sr., and would like to record them.

Gussie Wight (Born 1880) married a Brannen or Brannan. What was his correct and full name? I have no present intention of recording their descendants but, of course, Dr. Eugene Clower, husband of Pearl Wight, will be mentioned.

The 1890 book, "THE WIGHTS", records nothing on the lives of children of Geo. A. Wight, except on John Byron Wight, b. 1859; and about the marriage, in 1886, of Henry Wight, b. 1862. I understand there were 7 children of John Byron & Alice (Slater) Wight, and I would like to record full names and birth

dates of all of them, and death dates for those who are deceased, as well as residences of all either now or at dates of deaths. I know something of George Ward Wight who was so successful in Atlanta; and now his son.

Please understand that my book is only intended to tell of Cairo and its people from its birth to the time Grady County was created and organized, but it must necessarily include something of Cairo today.

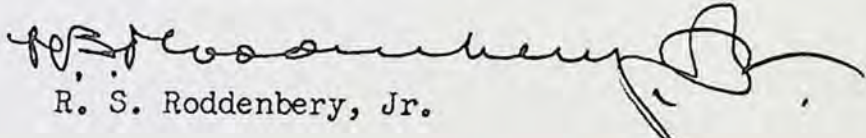
I may be mistaken but, from my limited knowledge, it seems that the descendants of J. Byron Wight, first child of Geo. A. Wight, are about the only ones of the family still prominent in Grady County. That being the case (and please correct me if I am in error), I will not undertake to follow up on the present generation of descendants of Geo. A. and Margaret Louisa (Powell) Wight.

My book will not contain many biographical and/or genealogical sketches on families, such as I will have for the Wight family, but it will contain a few. In the first place the book will be short, not exhaustive, and covering a relatively short period. Then, too, I don't have this information for many families. Also, there are only a few families who were prominent leaders at the birth of Cairo and throughout all its growth and development, and who are still leaders in the community.

I am enclosing photo copy of tentative sketch on Wights in Cairo, from which you can see what I already know of their genealogy. Please point out any errors. I want to follow this with a similarly short sketch on J. Byron & Alice (Slater) Wight and their 7 children. But I will not follow with descendants of these children.

Time is of the essence of this work and I hope it will not be an imposition on you to assist me in the matters I have indicated.

Sincerely yours,


R. S. Roddenbery, Jr.

Wights

May 31, 1965

copy for Mr. Wight

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*Cairo
Byron
1865
George A. Wight Jr. yes
Henry Wight yes
Tom Wight no
Walter Lee Wight no
Geo. A. Wight Jr. no
Walter Lee Wight no
Gussie Wight no
Pearl W. Clower*

*George A. Wight Jr.
" II
Walter Lee Wight*

dates of all of them, and death dates for those who are deceased, as well as residences of all either now or at dates of deaths. I know something of George Ward Wight who was so successful in Atlanta; and now his son.

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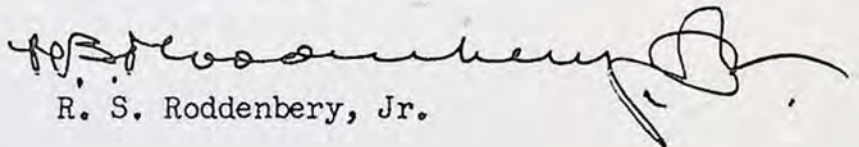
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Sincerely yours,


R. S. Roddenbery, Jr.

John - Feb 2 - 1905

Ed. Regio - 1899

George Ward Wight born Apr. 23 - 1829 - d. - buried in Atlanta

James Slater " " No. 15 May 31, 1965 1805 - d. - Oct 18 - 1905

John A. Wight " " No. 12 - 1892 - Resided in Cairo, Ga. Wight Nurseries, Inc. Cairo, Georgia

Mrs. J. Slater Wight, Jr. -

Mar. 2 1905
Cairo

Sarah Adeline Wight - U. Feb. 15 - 1895 - d. - Mar. 2 1905

Dear Mr. Wight: Warren Caudler, b. Apr. 5 - 1847

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Henry Wight came to Cairo about 1839

Geo. A. Wight moved to Cairo 1838

William Powell returned to Cairo about 1908

about 1885

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1964

Mr. John E. Wight
May 31, 1965
Page 2

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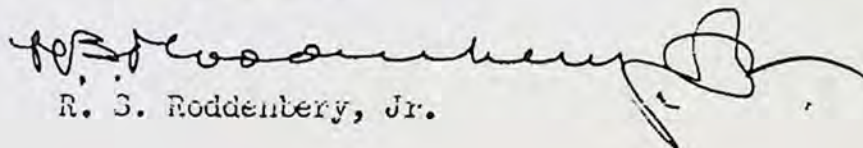
*Wight
Alice Slater
Frances*
13
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Sincerely yours,


R. S. Roddenbery, Jr.

Ceys 1900/46

*B3
P3
817*

Small Claims Court
of Colquitt County
Moultrie, Georgia
May 31, 1965

*File
Agriculture
Suite 1400
May 1900*

Mr. John E. Wight
Wight Nurseries, Inc.
Cairo, Georgia

Dear Mr. Wight:

I was delighted to get copy of your May 19 letter to J. B. Roddenbery, Sr., concerning paper shell pecan and tung oil tree pioneering and development, with particular reference to the Cairo territory. The Savannah Morning News of Feb. 24, 1924, carried a two page feature story on Cairo and Grady County, a most laudatory (and sometimes seemingly extravagant) story, and much of it was devoted to the paper shell pecan industry, the Wight nurseries, the pioneering and accomplishments of the Wights in pecans, and other nut, fruit, and ornamental trees; also beginning of the collard seed business; and of course the sugar cane and syrup industry. Your letter substantiates much of what was then printed (in 1924) and (also from what I personally know) I have concluded that there was not much exaggeration in that newspaper story.

*This has been copied & filed under
Pecans
Agriculture*

I lived in Albany from 1922 to 1926 and during that time Albany began to advertise itself as "the paper shell pecan center of the world". That slogan was not then true and is not true today, except it may be true that today it is near the geographical center. Forty years ago there were relatively few paper shell pecan trees north of Albany. At that time most of them, near Albany, were around Putney and Baconton. I remember (above Albany and on to Macon) when hundreds of acres of peaches were replaced with paper shell pecans. Of course I remember at that time there were several large pecan dealers (and confectionary manufacturers) in and near Albany, and they began building shelling plants. So that slogan, whether true or false, was good advertising.

*Tung
oil*

I understand the tung oil industry, at least around Cairo, has not developed and expanded as was once anticipated, but it can hardly be written off as a thing of the past. Whether or not crushers and tung oil is now profitable in this locality, I should think the tung oil tree is here to stay. Besides shade, I understand they make excellent living wire fence posts.

Thanks again for your letter. It will greatly assist me in the preparation of my little book on the "Genesis of Cairo".

Wight Family

I need some other help on the more personal matter of the Wight family in general—at least the first 3 generations in southwest Georgia—but I will make that the subject of a separate letter.

Of course I know Geo. A. Wight (1834-1894) had but one child by his first wife, and nine by the second, and it is my understanding that all those now connected with Wight Nurseries are descendants of the first son, John Byron Wight (born 1859), and that he was the father and developer of Wight Nurseries. I also know of his occupation as a teacher in the early schools of Cairo, and his activities and influence in all his adult life in the building of Cairo. You can give me needed information concerning him and his immediate family, but I hope you will also help me with some information concerning his half-brothers.

Sincerely yours,

[Handwritten signature]

ROBERT RODDENBERY
TELEPHONE 885-1354

Small Claims Court
of Colquitt County
Moultrie, Georgia
May 31, 1965

Mr. John E. Wight
Wight Nurseries, Inc.
Cairo, Georgia

Dear Mr. Wight:

I was delighted to get copy of your May 19 letter to J. B. Roddenbery, Sr., concerning paper shell pecan and tung oil tree pioneering and development, with particular reference to the Cairo territory. The Savannah Morning News of Feb. 24, 1924, carried a two page feature story on Cairo and Grady County, a most laudatory (and sometimes seemingly extravagant) story, and much of it was devoted to the paper shell pecan industry, the Wight nurseries, the pioneering and accomplishments of the Wights in pecans, and other nut, fruit, and ornamental trees; also beginning of the collard seed business; and of course the sugar cane and syrup industry. Your letter substantiates much of what was then printed (in 1924) and (also from what I personally know) I have concluded that there was not much exaggeration in that newspaper story.

I lived in Albany from 1922 to 1926 and during that time Albany began to advertise itself as "the paper shell pecan center of the world". That slogan was not then true and is not true today, except it may be true that today it is near the geographical center. Forty years ago there were relatively few paper shell pecan trees north of Albany. At that time most of them, near Albany, were around Putney and Baconton. I remember (above Albany and on to Macon) when hundreds of acres of peaches were replaced with paper shell pecans. Of course I remember at that time there were several large pecan dealers (and confectionary manufacturers) in and near Albany, and they began building shelling plants. So that slogan, whether true or false, was good advertising.

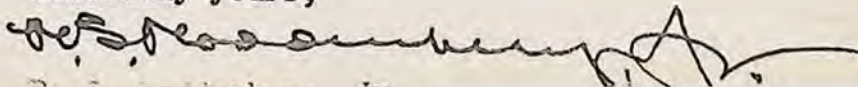
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Sincerely yours,



June 4, 1965

X
not needed
5
P.S.
13 7
4 16

Mrs. J. Slater Wight, Sr.
307 S.E. 2nd Street
Cairo, Georgia

My dear Mrs. Wight:

Many, many thanks for the use of your WIGHT family genealogy. It is, indeed, a monumental work. After so long a time, I yesterday returned it under separate cover and will thank you to write and assure me of its safe return in good order. The Wights may well be proud of their overall family history, as well as their great contribution to the development of Cairo and southwest Georgia.

You will see how much I have relied on the WIGHT BOOK when you read enclosed copy of my tentative and incomplete sketch. I am also enclosing copy of my May 31st letter to Mr. John B. Wight, and I request that you, too, assist me in answering questions therein contained.

Of course, throughout the main text of my book, I will record incidents involving activities and accomplishments of the Wights, and all others who were principal actors on the scene. Family sketches, such as I am doing on the Wights, will be few indeed and it is my present purpose to arrange them somewhere near the close of the book. But people make the history of any community and, where certain families (and sometimes many individuals in the family) are predominant actors in the history, it is necessary and proper to tell who those people were and show their relationship to each other, and in some instances their connection with other families.

Please help me to complete the sketch on John Byron Wight (born 1859) and his family, and note my questions regarding his half-brothers and their descendants. Of course I have what you previously wrote me and what William Ward Wight printed regarding education of J. Byron Wight. I also know that at least some of his half-brothers went to Emory College (when it was at Oxford, Ga.) but I have no details.

This work is growing and it is getting to be quite an undertaking. I hope to have it completed and published in the near future.

Sincerely yours,

R. S. Roddenbery, Jr.

Mrs. J. Slater Wright, Jr.
Cairo, Ga.

June 9, 1965

Dear Mrs. Wright:

If I can borrow a good photograph of J. Byron Wright (born 1859) taken in his mature manhood, I would like to have my photographer make a copy and have an etching made for printing in the book "Genesis of Cairo."

There will not be more than 6 or 8 photos in the book and I would like to have his as representative of the Wright family.

If you do not have such a photo perhaps I can impose upon you to find one for me. I assure you it will be carefully guarded and returned in good order.

Sincerely,

W. B. Scarborough

T
Answered Jan 27. 1845

Chloe

Bristol Jan 10. 1845. -

Dear Brother & Sister

Our dear William Henry is dead. -
yes he has gone, my heart bleeds when I write. -
I had a letter from his friend & partner Mr Fleming
who informed me that he "had been for some days
part confined to the house and part of the time
to his bed" and further says "his disease appears
to be of character more alarming than seriously alarming.
His Physicians pronounce it an attack of Bronchitis
(Sore throat) accompanied by a great prostration
of the Nervous System" and adds "apart from his
nervous debility his ~~low~~ system is perfectly healthy.
Being under this impression I cannot but think
a change of scene and an entire removal from
business excitement together with the kind assistance
of his friends will do more to relieve him than a
confinement to his room" this letter was dated on
the 27th & read by me on Sunday the 29th of Dec. I im-
-mediately wrote him on Monday the 30th as follows. -
"I have just heard with great regret that you are
sick, I hope not dangerously. If you can travel
with safety I hope you will come home immediately
you will I think be more comfortable here. If you
dont come right on, which I advise & wish; you must

Example of letter

Wayland May 5 185

Dear Brother Henry

Your letter is very welcome and I am glad to hear of your favorable condition and comfortable health. Old age of course must be attended with some infirmities, but it has its advantages in its increased leisure and greater freedom from cares and its better understanding and deeper feeling of all that is noblest and pleasant in life as well as excellent and blessed in religion. We have all been well the past winter which was very moderate for this northern climate. There was so little snow that our sleighs were.

Yours affectionately
John B. Wright.

Small Claims Court
of Colquitt County
Moultrie, Georgia
June 14, 1965

Mr. John B. Wight, Jr., V. Pres.
Wight Nurseries, Inc.
Cairo, Georgia

Dear Mr. Wight:

I enclose copy of one of my two letters of May 31 addressed to your father. My contact with him had come through Julien B. Roddenbery, Sr. Julien has since informed me of your father's ill health and the necessity of his hospitalization, and he suggested I contact you with reference to family information I had hoped to get from your father.

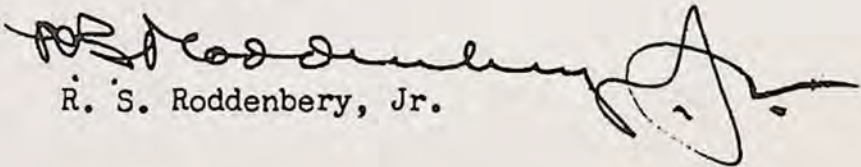
Since my letter of May 31 I have learned that Alvin B. [son of Kedar P. Wight] now manages Wight Hdwe. Co., and that the Wight & Browne drug store still operates under that name, but I do not know present owners or operators of the drug store. I am also informed that it was Will S. Wight who was president of the Citizens Bank and that Thomas Wight was connected with the now liquidated Farmers & Merchants Bank.

I still need to know the birth and death dates of the half-brothers and half-sisters of your grandfather John Byron Wight (born 1859) and the date of his death. And of course I want the information I requested on the children of your grandfather.

There will be very few pictures in my book, not more than 6 or 8 individual photos, but I want to include one as representative of the Wights in the very early days of Cairo and I think the pioneering and accomplishments of your grandfather has meant more for Cairo and for posterity in this area than that of any other single member of the Wight family. For these reasons I have chosen him, and it will be appreciated if I can borrow a photo made of him at any period in his mature life, so I can have my photographer make a copy and then have an etching made for printing in the book. Such photo will be carefully guarded and safely returned.

The book is well along in preparation for printing and I am working as rapidly as I can. I hope and trust your father's health will be rapidly restored but it may take time for him to be as active as he would like, and I hope you can assist me in the meantime.

Sincerely yours,


R. S. Roddenbery, Jr.

Wight NURSERIES, INC.

AREA CODE 412
TELEPHONE 377-3033

WHOLESALE
SINCE 1887

CAIRO, GEORGIA 31728
June 24, 1965

Judge Robert S. Roddenbery, Jr.
Small Claims Court
Moultrie, Georgia.

Dear Judge Roddenbery:

I regret very much the delay in answering your letter of June 14th. My wife has been in Emory University Hospital and I simply haven't had an opportunity to answer your letter.

I am turning the whole letter over to Mrs. J. S. Wight, Sr., wife of J. B. Wights second son.

Aunt Azalee has, I believe, Pops old Bible and other information which will help her in getting some of the information you desire. I'll look forward to reading your book.

Sincerely yours,
WIGHT, NURSERIES, INC.

John B. Wight, Jr.
John B. Wight, Jr.

JBWjr:mc

HOLLY

PECAN TREES

CONTAINER BROAD LEAVED EVERGREENS

ESPALIERED SPECIMENS

AZALEAS

CAMELLIAS



Plant America

Small Claims Court
of Colquitt County
Moultrie, Georgia
July 6, 1965

Mrs. J. Slater Wight, Sr.
P.O. Box 388
Cairo, Georgia

Dear Mrs. Wight:

I received the splendid photograph you sent of J. Byron Wight, born 1859 but date of whose death I do not have. I would judge this photo was made sometime after 1900, but the exact date is immaterial. I will return this original as soon as my photographer has finished the copy.

It is noted that you have recently returned from an extended trip but you will answer my last letter as soon as you have obtained answers to the questions asked. I knew Mr. John Byron Wight (junior in fact, but now called senior) is ill and hospitalized and I understand it may be some time before he is able to assist in these matters. I am enclosing photocopy of his son's letter of June 24 to me stating he has requested you to attend to these things.

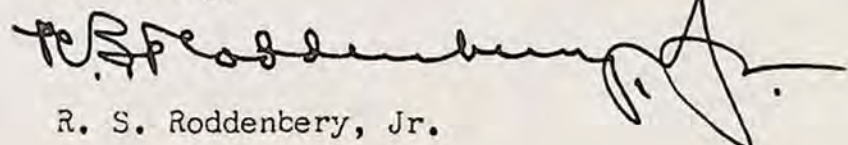
Another question has recently developed, concerning place of burial of Henry Wight (b. 1791, d. 1885). "THE WIGHTS" book you loaned me stated: "Mrs. Wight died at Sofkee, October 6, 1871, and is buried there; her husband died at Cairo, Thomas County, Ga., February 6, 1885". From this statement I had assumed that Mr. Henry Wight was buried in the Cairo cemetery, but he probably was not, and I don't know whether he ever actually lived in Cairo or was just there with some of his relatives when he died—and his body was probably carried back to Sofkee and buried beside his wife.

Julien Roddenbery, Sr., went to Sofkee about a month ago and got someone to point out to him the Wight burial ground, but he wrote me that the area was grown up in weeds and bushes, the monuments were in a deteriorated condition, and he did not try to decipher the inscriptions. So I have no information from that source. And last week my father went to Cairo and he and Julien went to the Cairo city cemetery (which was not started before about 1875) and they found no grave of Mr. Henry Wight there. They did find the tombstone of George Alden Wight (1834-1894), which I myself had previously seen. Therefore, I would like to know definitely that Henry Wight (1791-1885) is buried at Sofkee, and whether an inscribed stone marks his grave.

The Wight family is indeed fortunate in having the record as printed in that 1895 book, and it would be fine if someone would take it up from that time and bring it down to date. The clan has grown tremendously in these 70 years.

While not a genealogy, it is hoped that this work I am doing will be of benefit to descendants of Wights who were born in what is now Grady County. Thanking you for your great assistance, I am

Sincerely,



R. S. Roddenbery, Jr.

July 1, 1974

MEMO: MISS WESSIE

I still search through some papers or maybe I'm reading them again but I found the original of the letter from Mrs. Pearl Wight Clower to Robert Roddenbery, Sr. on March 14, 1960 in which she writes a very nice letter to give the history of the house she was then living in, for I believe she was then living in the Wight House with her sister Carrie Wight.

I don't know whether Uncle Bob ever got by to see her again and talk old times but I remember Miss Pearl told me of his visit one time and how much she enjoyed it. They were boys and girls together and might have been sweethearts to a small extent but that generation, one generation older than I am, was just like I am now in liking to talk about the old times.

I made a picture copy of the envelope to Uncle Bob and on the back of it it shows Mrs. Clower put her name as the return. But the other writing on the back is by Uncle Bob and just his little memorandum. The letter shows the date. This would not be used in any book but it is historic in that it lets us know things that Uncle Bob knew vaguely or within a few years but Miss Pearl has documented it in her letter which is as follows:

"The Wights ^{live} in what is now South Grady County in 1829 and, of course, the Wight book tells that in very good detail. Then Miss Pearl's father, George Alden was born there in 1834 and he's the ~~parent~~ ^{father} of the Cairo Wight's for he lived here and was active though his father, of course, was in the County longer. And this 1834 was two years before my grandfather, Dr. Roddenbery, was born and they passed away, I believe, within two years of each other in the 90's.

Then George Alden Wight moved to Cairo in 1888 but his older son, which was Henry, had come to Cairo in 1886 to help manage their father's business. In the old, old archives book this was listed as Powell and Wight and it was John A. Powell, the crippled man who was half-brother of William Powell and he ran the business ~~some~~ from in the very early 1870's until the young Wight boys could manage it.

But the most important thing, I believe, in this letter for I haven't seen it anywhere

July 1, 1974
MEMO: Miss Wessie

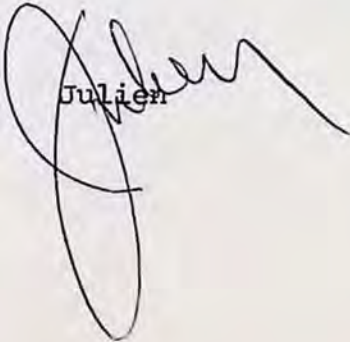
Page - 2-

else except an estimate, is that when Henry Wight came in 1886 the two brick stores, the first brick stores in Cairo, had been built. Uncle Bob had estimated that as 1885 so I think her letter will pinpoint it as 1884 or '85 when they were built for ~~the~~ Henry likely came as the new buildings were ready.

I thought you might like to have this for your files or if not, just destroy it.

Their building those stores in 1884-86 set the North and South lines for the other stores that were built on a straight line Southward. These ~~x~~ two stores were where Wight and Browne and the old hardware store was just a few years ago. This is what brought about the jog in Broad Street. The railroad had built it's station the year or the year after it arriving in 1867. When Dr. Roddenbery built his building on North side he made it in line with the railroad station which was 6 or 8 years before the brick stores were built. Also, at the time Dr. Roddenbery built his store on the West side of North Broad street there was a line of wooden stores directly across the street Eastward. Until those wood stores were torn down and the brick stores put up like the Cairo Pharmacy and the 10¢ store which burned, they didn't make Broad Street wide enough on North ~~Broa~~ side to be in line with the Wight stores on the South side. Of course this would have been entirely too wide and the line on North side had already been set by several stores going Northward. I don't think the jog hurts anything and it's a little unique and slows up traffic anyway.

Julien



July 9, 1974

Mr. Louis A. Powell
217 3rd Avenue S.E.
Cairo, Georgia 31728

Dear Louis:

Thanks for the full information you have given in your letter to me of 8th inst. to tell about when your father's house was built. This is pretty much what Uncle Bob said but when you told me 1885 I was disappointed, so now I am pleased.

It is the second oldest house now standing in 1974 that was here 100 years ago, or will be if the book is written it will be in 1975, that is when published, for it is something you can't rush and I haven't the time and yet am to choose between the couple of people who can do the enormous amount of work of putting everything in order to put it together. Neither you, Miss Wessie nor myself can tax ourself either health, or work-wise to try to do that. If you think of anyone who has a very good style in writing things like this tell me who it is and I will contact them along with the other two that I now have in mind.

I think I will catch you down town sometime and show you the letter from Miss Pearl, who is Miss Pearl Clower, of course, which sets the date of the Wight house pretty well.

I need to talk with you also about what we know as the Tom Wight house and arrive at that date but it will definitely be one of the four, and there won't be but four. The Gladys and Lillian Paulk house was built by either a Powell or a Wight and sold to Joe Paulk and then changed hands. But the picture of that is a rather miserable picture and won't show up well in a book and it's also not standing in 1974 and '75. It was good to know that Martin is getting along alright and I do wish he could come again though I am sure he would find, just as you say, that there's fewer and fewer that can "talk our language", that is the language of the early 1900's.

I'll be talking with you about more things as I get out the drafts by the Bob Roddenbery's. They made two drafts on some things and I can't tell whether the second one they made to improve on the first or whether one wrote one and the other wrote the other. But I'll have that all in business-like form for I know something about filing.

While writing I want to say that the further I get into this, and I don't put many hours a week, is that we are fortunate in having Uncle Bob, particularly, saying several time that he will stop the book at 1910 when he moved from Cairo. It's a bigger job

*Take in
Period 5
1871-1900
+ in
the Blue folder
of B5*

July 9, 1974
Mr. Louis A. Powell

Page - 2 -

than I want to pick up the '20's, '30's, '40's and '70's. Generally a history is something that most people have passed away on and tell them something they didn't know. So we will stop at around 1910, though some may go a year or so further into it and one of them is the dedication of the ~~library~~ for the picture, or rather acknowledging the picture of Henry Grady for that was in 1910 or '11 but that's part of the organization of Grady County.

Thanks for your letter and when you write Martin give him my very best regards and what you have written me is exactly what I want to be followed up with a conversation by you and me however about the Wight houses. The pictures of them are excellent, or is of the George Wight house and I'm not sure I have one of the Tom Wight house but I think I will get it.

I want to find out the marriage date where the sending away party at the depot and you've seen that picture, but George Wight is in it, McGee from Jacksonville and Dehlia Crawford. Do you know somebody you can phone?

And I want the name of John B. Crawford's wife, who was a Powell you know. That's not for the book but for an album I'm getting up for I have a picture of those nine William Powell children and it's a handsome picture. You likely know these two things and can drop me a line sometime. The correct name for John Powell would be the original would it not, or would he be John A. Powell, II. That is the brother of Lem. I know Jessie Powell Walker, and Mrs. Peterson for she's been in my home lots of times and that was Margaret I believe. Then it was Lieutenant Colonel William Powell. Correct me on any of these, if you will, and no rush for I won't finish this for two or three months.

Best regards.

Yours truly,

J. B. Roddenbery

JBR:reo

December 30, 1965

J. B. Roddenbery, Sr.

I hereby return the old photo of the Wight Street (S.E. 1st St.) home of Geo. A. Wight, Sr., into which he moved in 1888 when he came from Sofkee to Cairo, and where he died in 1894. He built this house immediately before he moved to Cairo. Prior to that the mercantile business of Wight & Powell was operated by Mr. Wight's brother-in-law and partner John A. Powell, first, and then by sons of Mr. Wight. During this time Mr. Wight also had a store at Sofkee, in which Powell had no interest.

I am also enclosing a copy made from this original picture, which I believe looks even better than the original, and I also enclose the negative from which present owners may have as many prints made as may be desired. You may give this copy print and negative to the party from whom you secured the original.

This picture will be printed in "Genesis of Cairo".

Your cousin,

January 6, 1966

Dear Julien:

Herewith is photo of Geo. A. Wight, Sr., made in Savannah probably before 1885, or before he moved to Cairo. Note on the back that his address was stated as "Sofkee, Florida". Of course Sofkee is in Georgia, instead of Florida, and he did operate a store there long before he moved to Cairo in 1888.

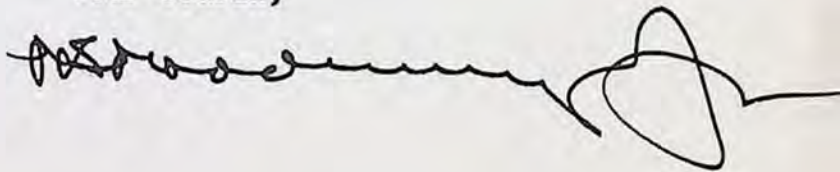
We are not using this picture in "Genesis of Cairo" (but are using the earlier tintype picture) and I thought I had previously returned this to you. Thanks for calling my attention to it. I note on the back that it is to be returned to Mrs. Francis (Nell) Brannon, but you will know from whom you got it and what to do with it.

I am also enclosing proofs made from engraving I got back from Savannah yesterday. These are pictures of B. F. (Dock) Powell's house, and Cairo residence of Geo. A. Wight, Sr., and the Wight Street scene. I think all of these are very good, and I believe we now have engraved cuts for all the pictures we will use in the book, something over 20, and I think they are all good. In fact, I think it is an excellent collection of pictures. If the rest of the book is as good as the pictures, it should be heartily and appreciatively received by the public.

Regarding the Wight Street scene, don't forget that you are to inform me as to identity of the first building seen on the left (west) side. You say the Walker-Rehberg hospital is the second (I presume on the corner). It is not shown in this picture, but the original Wight & Powell store was at the far north end of this street, on the west side and next to railroad right of way. That is something a lot of people don't know.

I am anxious to get the enclosed Wight photo to you, and answers to your other letters and memos will be made later.

Your cousin,



Geo A Wright
Children by Wright
Pamell

Henry Wright

Will "

Kada "

Howard "

Lee Pamela Wright
Pearl "
John " business

Walter Wright

Norm "

John looked

this above list

Left Brown & Geo. W. Wright

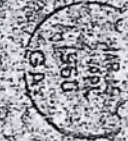
George Benson Denver, Colo

Byron Wright only address
Geo. A Wright Her
Mrs. Wright wife of

605 So. Main St
Portland - S
Maine

M. A. Wright

Pa



March 14, 1960.

Dear Mr. Roddenberg

Your letter was a surprise, but gave me pleasure. As the letter came, my sister Mrs. Walter Hight dropped in and we think the letter wonderful for an man of 92. During these weeks since I haven't been well, I have spent many happy hours living over experiences of the years gone by.

To be sure I give clearly the information you want; It must go back to my grandfather (Henry Hight) who moved his family from Rhode Island to Ga in December 1829, and settled

at Sofkee in Decatur Co.

George A., the youngest of six children, was born there Feb 13 1834. He lived there continuously until July, 1888, when he moved his family to Cairo. My brother Henry had come to Cairo 2 years before to manage Father's mercantile business after the 2 brick stores were built on Broad St.

Call on me if I can be of further service, and I would be glad to talk with you or Bob Jr. when you are in Cairo

Sincerely your friend
Pearl St. Clower

Henry

Small Claims Court
of Colquitt County
Moultrie, Georgia

April 10, 1963

The Wight and Powell Connection.

Following are positive statements made to the writer by Robert S. Roddenbery, Sr., who was born April 5, 1868, who moved to Cairo, Ga., in 1872 and grew to manhood in that town. It is not intended to delineate the genealogy and history of the Wight and Powell families but merely to show the marriage and business connection between those families and to distinguish between certain members of the Powell family of Cairo in the first three generations.

HENRY WIGHT [original settler] moved from Rhode Island to Georgia in 1829 and settled in Decatur County in the hamlet of Sofkee, several miles southwest of the present City of Cairo. His youngest son, George A. Wight, was born at Sofkee in 1834 and lived there continuously until July 1888 when he and his family moved into Cairo. This George A. Wight married Margaret Powell, daughter of KADER POWELL [the original Powell settler in the Cairo vicinity]. No attempt is here made to name the children and grandchildren, but George A. and Margaret (Powell) Wight had a son named Henry Wight [after his grandfather] who moved to Cairo in 1886 and a daughter named Pearl, recently deceased, who married Dr. Eugene Clower.

Margaret

KADER POWELL [original settler] had four sons and several daughters, his daughter having married George A. Wight [son of the first Henry]. Kader Powell's sons were: William [railroad agent and Mayor of Cairo], John A. [partner in firm of Wight & Powell], B. F. [called Doc], and Hugh. Kader's son Hugh Powell never resided in Cairo but was a frequent visitor there.

307-2nd Street, S. E.
Cairo, Georgia.
Jan. 19th, 1964.

Mr. Robert S. Roddenbery, Jr.,
Moultrie, Georgia.

Dear Mr. Roddenbery:

I was quite interested in your plans to publish a short book under the title, GENESIS OF CAIRO, I remember hearing Aunt Pearl (Mrs. C. lower) speak of your father coming over to see her in regard to getting some information concerning the Wights for this same book, I presume.

In reply to the questions you asked in your letter to me- George Alden Wight's first wife was named Julia Florence Herring and John Byron was the only child by that marriage. His second wife was Margaret Louisa (eldest daughter of Kedar and Amanda Melvina (Bell) Powell). Their children were Henry, Kedar Powell, William Samuel (Will), Carrie Bell, Thomas (Tom), Walter Lee, Alice Pearl, George Alden, and Margaret Augusta (Gussie).

John Byron was born Sept. 28th, 1859. His wife was Alice Slater from Bullock County, Ga. Their children were- George Ward, James Slater, Robert Pratt, Laleah Adams, Warren Candler, Edward Allen and John Byron Jr. After completing a two year course in theology at Vanderbilt University, Nashville, in the summer of 1884, he was in 1885 principal of an Academy in Cairo, Ga. In Dec. of 1885 he joined the South Georgia conference of the Methodist Church and in 1887 was stationed at Darien, Ga. However in 1889 he came back to Cairo and became for one year, co-principal of the Cairo High School. He continued to make his home in Cairo until his death; carrying on the Wight Nurseries which he had started earlier. (1887)

This information was taken from the Wight Book-written ~~##~~ ~~###~~, by William Ward Wight, and published in 1890, under the title THE WIGHTS- A Record of Thomas Wight of Dedham and Medfield, Mass., and his descendants-1635-1890. The book states that Geo. A. Wight, son of Henry Wight commenced business in Sofkee in 1863 as a merchant, later being in business in Cairo. It also states that he was owner and proprietor of the White Springs Hotel, at White Springs, Fla. (where the Stephen Foster Memorial is)

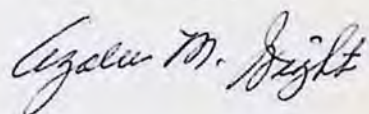
1863 → Sofkee was a small community, where the Wights settled back in 1829. It is about six miles, South West of the present Cairo and about seven or eight miles from the present Calvary. The best I have been able to find out, the Hawthorne Trail at its closest point came within a mile of Sofkee. This was where the Trail ran S. W. of Cairo, rather than where it runs between Camilla and Cairo.

Wm. Hawthorne's home was located about four miles S. W. from the present Cairo and between Cairo and Sofkee. When Wm Hawthorne and his group came down from North Carolina, blazing the Trail they got as far as the creek, just S. W. of the present Cairo and were so tired they stopped there to camp- and ever after it has been known as TiredCreek. Not far from this creek is a smaller creek called Little Tired. It was in this vicinity that Wm Hawthorne came back to and built his home. He was buried in the cemetery of an old Primitive Baptist church near there and the inscription on his tomb stone gives something of his history. This information was given to me by Mrs. Albert Walker, who was a descendent of Wm Hawthorne (I believe she is his great grand daughter.) She says her son, John Wythe Walker, Cairo, has all the written records concerning this. She also said that the monument located just out of Camilla as you approach the Hawthorne Trail coming to Cairo, has some interesting history inscribed on it.

Dr. C. H. Maxwell, Calvary, Georgia has made quite a study, I understand, of the history of that section, if you should need further information.

I will certainly be interested in seeing your book when it does get completed.

Sincerely,



Mrs. Slater Wight, Sr.

March 18, 1965

Mrs. J. Slater Wight, Sr.
307 S. E. 2nd St.
Cairo, Georgia

Dear Mrs. Wight:

Because I have been so busy with my normal duties, besides carrying on a rather extensive correspondence in connection with the "Genesis of Cairo" project, I have unduly delayed a response to your comprehensive letter of Jan. 19 which I appreciate very much and which will prove quite valuable in my work. It brought back to my father vivid memory of the names and personalities of all the children of George Alden Wight (1834-1894) and he was particularly glad to have factual information and dates about J. Byron Wight's connection with the Cairo schools, first in 1884-85 and in 1889-90. In addition to what you wrote, I find that J. B. Wight in 1906 became the first Grady County School Superintendent. I knew that J. Byron Wight and my uncle Walter B. Roddenbery were contemporaries and warm personal friends and worked hand-in-hand for the advancement of education in Cairo and Grady County, as well as for the improvement and enhancement of the agricultural economy of that area. While J. B. Wight was first County School Superintendent, W. B. Roddenbery was first Chairman of the Board of County Commissioners.

It may be worthy of note that the success of the Wights in the mercantile business, from the standpoint of lasting imprint and benefit to the area, is overshadowed by the pioneering work of J. Byron Wight in the nursery business, in propagating papershell pecans, LeConte pears, tung oil trees, etc., etc., as well as in the field of general education.

In the fall of 1884 my father went to a preparatory school in Dalton, Ga., for one year and then entered Mercer University in the fall of 1885 [and is now the oldest living Mercer alumnus, and oldest that ever lived]. It was 10 years prior, about 1875, that Cairo had its first real first-rate public school, with the coming of Robert H. Harris [later Dr. Harris], an erudite young lawyer and son-in-law of Judge Peter E. Love of Thomasville. Not long thereafter he was ordained a Baptist minister [but was not at this period the pastor of the Cairo Baptist Church]. From Cairo, Harris went to Calvary to teach school (the people of that community out-bidding Cairo) and, while teaching, he preached to the people and was instrumental in organizing a Baptist church there, but was not its pastor. His first pastorate was of the First Baptist Church at LaGrange, where he went from Calvary. From LaGrange he went to the First Baptist Church of Columbus and, while there, Mercer conferred upon him the degree of Doctor of Divinity. In later years, about 1906, he returned to Cairo as pastor of the Baptist Church. That is when the brick church was built at its present location.

William Ward Wight, author of the Wight Book, must be the son of George Ward Wight, and I believe he has reached high estate and prominence in Atlanta. My father and I would like to peruse a copy of this book if it can be borrowed without too much inconvenience.

Again thanking you for your fine letter, I am

Sincerely yours,

R. S. Roddenbery, Jr.

June 9, 1965

Dear Julien:

I need some more facts about the Wight mercantile business in Cairo. When did Wight Hardware Company commence? and who are present owners and managers?

Of course much of what I write you here will not be printed in "Genesis of Cairo" but I do want to briefly trace the history of that mercantile business. It had its ups and downs and there have been many changes since John A. Powell started its operation under name of Wight & Powell (between 1868 and 1870). Geo. A. Wight did not move from Sofkee to Cairo until 1888. When John A. Powell moved to White Springs, Fla., Henry Wight assumed management of the store. Then when Henry Wight moved to Sanford, Fla., his brothers Kedar and Will Wight succeeded in the management. These 3 Wight brothers did not make a signal success of the business.

It is Papa's recollection that Geo. A. Wight went through bankruptcy (somewhere around 1890). Along about that time Dr. Roddenbery was in financial straits and he discussed his situation with G. A. Wight and asked his advice on bankruptcy. Wight advised him against it, saying that he would not take that course if he had it to do over again. And Dr. Roddenbery did not resort to bankruptcy.

William J. Powell of Thomasville (letter of June 5) said: "I worked for the Wight Bros. Co. (Will and Kedar) from 1908 thru 1912, and actually handled the closing out of the Wight business to Poulk Bros. in 1913".

From the above it would appear that, following the bankruptcy of Geo. A. Wight, the firm name of Wight & Powell ceased to exist and the business became known as Wight Brothers Company, and this business was closed out in 1913 and taken over by Poulk Brothers. Was that the time, or about the time, Wight Hardware Company was organized and incorporated? If since 1906, the incorporation would be of record in the Charter record books of Grady County.

I think all I need to know now concerning above is (1) when Wight Hdwe. Co. was organized and incorporated, (2) who were the incorporators, and (3) who are present owners and managers?

Yours,

R. S. Roddenbery, Jr.

June 10, 1965

Dear Julien:

Re: Wights of Cairo

Bear in mind that "THE WIGHTS" book was printed in 1890, which was 75 years ago, and it goes back to the 1600s and covers thousands of the names in the United States. It is a monumental work that took years to compile. A very small part of it is devoted to Wights in Georgia. However, the author does state that he was indebted to Henry Wight (b. 1791, d. 1885) for information on the family in Georgia, as well as for financial assistance in publishing the book. So most all printed in that book about Wights in Georgia is from information obtained prior to 1885. It does contain names and dates of births (and deaths) of all children and grandchildren of Henry Wight (1791-1885) down through Margaret Augusta (Gussie) Wight, b. Aug. 22, 1880. So it is easy to understand that very little is said about the 10 grandchildren (children of Geo. A. Wight) except on John Byron Wight, born Sept. 28, 1859, and on him it only mentions his education (graduate of Emory and Vanderbilt), his marriage, and his first son (who later came to fortune in Atlanta). And the book does record marriage of Henry Wight, II, born 1862, and states he and Kedar P. Wight were then in mercantile business in Cairo.

We have the family background, with names and birth dates of the 10 children of Geo. A. Wight, but it is up to us to dig up the facts as to what they did or did not do. And for much of this we must depend on those who are now living, or rather the descendants of those 10 children.

I am glad to learn from your memo. of June 8 (received today) that Will S. Wight (whom Papa says was smartest of those brothers) was president of Citizens Bank, and Thomas Wight was head of the former Farmers & Merchants Bank. I don't know any of those you mention as now living and I wish you would have a personal talk with Mrs. Thomas Wight.

You say Walter Lee Wight was "owner and manager" of Wight & Browne drug store (still in business under that name). What was the full name of Browne? and what was his family connection with the Wights, if any? Papa says the youngest son, Geo. Alden Wight, Jr., born 1878, was connected with the drug store, and that Grandma Roddenbery liked him very much and thought him about the finest young man in Cairo.

Be P
B 7
914

December 4, 1965

MEMO TO RSR, JR.

I have yours of 2nd about the old houses in old Cairo.

Though I may get to talk with you Sunday at the time you are here for Aunt Kate's funeral, it might not be so I will, so I will report now what is done.

I will show you a small picture of the B. F. Powell house that Clara Mauldin gave me, but I'm sure you will tell me to make a better one.

Lillian Paulk hopes to have before Sunday afternoon, a picture she has before their house was made into a duplex apartment. If we don't find that picture, I hardly believe you can use it except to say that's the location of the old Joe E. Poulk house. The appearance won't be anything like it was.

The B. W. Mauldin house has been changed to a real estate office and wouldn't do at all. Ben Mauldin is trying to find one. He thinks he has it. He was born in that house.

I talked to Mrs. Tom Wight, and she lives in the house directly south on the corner from the Poulk house. She says Mr. George Wight didn't build this house. The house he built was across the street and was the old Wight home, and southward across the street. She said it came in to her husband through Mr. Davis. This was the W. A. Davis, who married a Scaife and was kin to us, and I can remember around 1900 to 1902 when they lived here, and did live there for I have visited their children there when I was little. So if Mrs. Wight is right about this, we don't know who built it, and the Davises might have built it. Maybe I can find out more about that from some other people, and I will. It would be a nice house to have a picture of, for it is the old style of a middle class person's house, but not a fine house, even then.

Anyway, we have it that the B. F. Powell house, and we take this Wight house that goes back into the past century anyway, and we hope Ben Mauldin will find one, and likewise Lillian Poulk will, which will give you the four you would like to have and I think that's a good idea.

JBR

Wights in Cairo

HENRY WIGHT, first of the name in southwest Georgia, was born Nov. 5, 1791, in Rhode Island, where he married Abby Wardwell Jan. 23, 1817, and engaged in mercantile and marine pursuits and was once captain of a sailing vessel. He moved from Bristol, R.I., into Georgia in December 1829, establishing his home at Sofkee in Decatur County. That location is about 9 miles southwest from the present city of Cairo. In Georgia he was variously teacher, farmer, and merchant, receiving in every pursuit the universal respect of his neighbors. He was a Presbyterian most of his life, and united with Cairo Presbyterian Church Jan. 17, 1878, almost immediately after it was organized. Late in life he wrote: "It is with a sense of gratitude that I can say that within my knowledge not one of the many who have descended from my father's family has in the least degree cast a blemish upon his good name". He and his said wife had six children, the first four born in Bristol, R.I., and the last two at Sofkee. Mrs. Wight died at Sofkee, Oct. 6, 1871, and is there buried; her husband died at Cairo, Thomas County, Ga., Feb. 6, 1885, and is there buried. Their children were:

1. Wm. Henry Wight, b. Dec. 11, 1817; d. 1845 in R.I.
2. Abby Wight, b. 1819; d. 1820 (an infant).
3. Samuel Bowen Wight, b. 1821; d. 1886 in Albany, Ga.
4. John Bowen Wight, b. 1828; d. 1854 in Savannah, Ga.
5. Byron Diman Wight, b. 1830; d. 1853 in Newton, Ga.
6. George Alden Wight, b. Feb. 13, 1834; d. 1894 in Cairo, Ga.

William Henry Wight, born 1817, was a hardware merchant in New York and never lived in Georgia. The sons Samuel Bowen, John Bowen and Byron Diman Wight made notable records and enviable names for themselves at Albany, Savannah and Newton, Georgia, but the youngest son, George A. Wight, and his descendants are the ones who have so richly contributed to the development of Cairo and Grady County.

GEORGE A. WIGHT, was born Feb. 13, 1834, at Sofkee, and lived there continuously until July 1888 when he and his family moved into Cairo, where he died in 1894. He was Mayor of Cairo from Feb. 25, 1891 to December 1892. Long before moving to Cairo, and as early as 1870, he and his brother-in-law John A. Powell had a store and mercantile business there under the firm name of Wight & Powell, under active management of Powell until he moved to Florida, after which Henry and Kedar P. and Will, sons of George A. Wight, managed the business.

Geo. A. Wight commenced his mercantile business at Sofkee when a very young man and continued that business until the 1880s, except during the latter part of the Civil War when for 18 months he was a soldier in the Confederate States Army. He was a large land owner and his business interests were extensive and varied. He and his brother-in-law John A. Powell owned the White Springs Hotel, in Florida, to which Powell moved and managed and there later died.

Geo. A. Wight was twice married. Nov. 11, 1858, he married Julia Florence Herring, daughter of Hansel W. Herring of Decatur County. She died Sept. 7, 1860, after bearing him one son, John Byron Wight. His second wife was

Margaret Louisa Powell, daughter of Kedar and Amanda (Bell) Powell, and by her there were nine children. All the children were afforded liberal educations, the best available, some graduating from college. The 10 children were as follows:

1. John Byron Wight, b. Sept. 28, 1859; d. Sept. 12, 1936.
2. Henry Wight (II), b. Dec. 25, 1862; d. _____
3. Kedar Powell Wight, b. May 4, 1864; d. _____
4. William Samuel Wight, b. Nov. 16, 1865; d. Sept. 11, 1918.
5. Carrie Bell Wight, b. Nov. 18, 1868; d. _____
6. Thomas Wight, b. Oct. 21, 1870; d. Jan. 11, 1943.
7. Walter Lee Wight, b. Oct. 9, 1872; d. May 21, 1942.
8. Alice Pearl Wight, b. July 16, 1875; d. _____
9. George Alden Wight, Jr., b. Dec. 21, 1878; d. _____
10. Margaret Augusta Wight, b. Aug. 22, 1880; d. _____

(For verification of names, dates, and certain pertinent facts in foregoing genealogy, see "THE WIGHTS" by William Ward Wight, published 1890, Milwaukee, Swain & Tate. Also, see Minutes of town council of Cairo.)

Follow with J. Byron Wight, b. 1859, d. 1936.

NOTE 2ND PARAGRAPH - I think Mrs. Clower was wrong in date G. A. Wight moved to Cairo as 1888, because our Church records show that the session met in Mr. G. A. Wight's home in 1878 when G. A. Wight's father, Henry, was received into the Cairo Presbyterian Church. I have this documented and know that I am right that it was 1878 instead of 1888.

Myrtle C. Allen

Re: Wight family + Sofkee

P 5
98
924

January 15, 1965

Mrs. J. Slater Wight, Sr.
Cairo, Georgia

Dear Mrs. Wight:

In the next few months I expect to publish a short book [less than 100 pages] under the title GENESIS OF CAIRO, written in collaboration with my 97 years old father who is the oldest living resident [or former resident] of Cairo. In this connection, I need assistance to verify information I have concerning the Wight family in relation to Cairo.

In March 1960 Mrs. Pearl (Wight) Clower wrote my father as follows: "My grandfather, Henry Wight, moved his family from Rhode Island to Georgia in December 1829, and settled at Sofkee in Decatur County [now Grady County]. George A. Wight [b. 1834, d. 1894], the youngest of six children, was born there Feb. 13, 1834. He lived there continuously until July 1888, when he moved his family to Cairo. My brother Henry [son of G.A.W.] had come to Cairo 2 years before [1886] to manage Father's mercantile business after the 2 brick stores were built on Broad St." This is all the factual information Mrs. Clower wrote.

I know Geo. A. Wight was twice married, 1st to a Miss Herring [whose first name I do not know], and I think Byron Wight was only child by that marriage. His 2nd wife was Margaret Powell [daughter of the elder Kadar Powell and sister of William and John A. Powell], and their children were sons, Henry, Will, Kadar and Geo. A. Jr., and daughters, Carrie, Pearl and Gussie. I would like to know the full name of 1st wife of G. A. Wight, Sr., the year of birth of Byron Wight, name of his wife and names of their children.

The work I am doing is not intended to record family genealogies but, in recording deeds and accomplishments, I need to distinguish between individuals. I also want to know the year when Byron Wight moved to Cairo.

The town of Cairo was incorporated as a municipality in 1870 and it was about that time that the Wight name became identified with Cairo by establishment of a store under the firm name of Wight & Powell [Geo. A. Wight, Sr., and Jno. A. Powell, brothers-in-law]. The store was operated alone by Powell until 1886 when Henry Wight, II, moved to Cairo, followed in 1888 by his father.

I want to know more about Sofkee, exactly where [with reference to the present Cairo] the first Henry Wight settled in 1829. I know, from records, there was a Sofkee post office there for a few years about that time. How many miles from present Cairo is it to the 1829 homesite of Henry Wight? and about how far was that from the present Calvery? Also, if you know, was Sofkee on or near the Hawthorne Trail [blazed in 1818 by William Hawthorne] which extended from North Carolina to the Gulf coast of Florida? That Trail ran about a mile or so west of present Cairo. From Camilla to Cairo, the present paved highway follows practically the same route of the Hawthorne Trail. The following year, in 1819, Wm. Hawthorne came back over that Trail and settled and built his home south of the present Cairo. Was his home also at Sofkee?

307-2nd St. S.E.
Cairo - Georgia.
March - 30th - 1965 -

Mr. Robert S. Roddenbery, Jr.
Mauldin, Georgia.

Dear Mr. Roddenbery,

Your letter of March 18th with the request for the "Wight Book" received and I am sending it to you under separate cover. This is the only copy I have - (they are almost impossible to find now) so I must ask you to guard it with care - as I am sure you will, and return to me when you and your father have had the opportunity to peruse it. The George Ward Wight of Atlanta that you spoke of in your letter was not the son of William Ward Wight, author of the Wight Book. He was my late husband's oldest brother - of Wight Realty Co. in Atlanta. His son George Ward Wight Jr. - has taken over his father's business since his father's death - he & his father before him quite prominent realtors in Atlanta.

Sincerely,
Cecile M. Wight (Mrs. J. Stuart Wight)

December 30, 1965

Dear Julien:

Am here returning the Wight Street post card and copy print I had made. The copy is equally as good if not better than the original. Please return this copy when you are through with it.

Have just received your memo. of yesterday with Miss Myrtle's sketch on history of Dr. Walker's hospitals (1916 on South Broad and 1927 on S.E. ~~1st~~ St.) and I am delighted to get this.

I think you will find that the last private hospital of Dr. Walker (later operated by Dr. Rehberg) is shown on the left side of this Wight Street picture. The residence shown on the right side is the old Kedar Powell home, now occupied by Lillian and Gladys Poulk. So this picture must have been made soon after the hospital was built, between 1927 and 1930. But do as you suggested and show it to others to get their recollection and confirmation. The automobile shown is a sedan and looks to be about the vintage of 1930-35 years ago.

Papa says the original Wight & Powell store was at the north end of this Wight Street and adjoining the railroad right of way. In later years (after Dr. Roddenbery built his store) Wight & Powell was on Broad Street.

Yours,

P. S.

Who now lives in the G.A. Wight, Sr., house, where Miss Carrie died? I believe you said Mrs. Thomas Wight but am not sure.

The picture just made of the B.F. (Dock) Powell home is fine. Papa says it looks like he first remembers it except for the little upstairs porch in front. This is probably the oldest Cairo residence yet standing, and almost as it was originally. When built some 90 years ago it was probably the largest and finest home in Cairo.

I believe this completes all the pictures we need for the book. I will have engraved cuts of these last three back from Savannah within the next 10 days.

December 13, 1965

Dear Juliens:

Re: Pictures of residences South of Railroad

Papa was disturbed over the question of which house G.A. Wight, Sr., lived in from 1888 (when he moved from Sofkee to Cairo) and 1894 (when he died). So Papa went to Cairo last Friday and had a talk with Alvin Wight and he is now convinced beyond doubt that Alvin's grandfather (G.A.W., Sr.) lived and died in the big house everybody calls the "Miss Carrie Wight house". G.A.W. Sr. built that house early in 1888 and moved into it that year. After death of her parents, Miss Carrie continued to live there and it became her home where she lived until her death just recently. We don't know who lives there now but that is the house we want a picture of, the one where Miss Carrie lived and died, because that was the Cairo residence of George A. Wight, Sr., during the 6 and a fraction years he lived there. All the rest of his life was spent at Sofkee.

The above house and the B.F. (Dock) Powell house (where Miss Clara Mauldin now lives) are the only pictures I think we need, and I hope I can get them in time to get engravings from Savannah before the end of this month.

I will try to make do with the picture we already have of the old Kedar Powell house (where Lillian and Gladys Paulk now live) on Wight St., between Monroe and Ochlocknee. That is where Kedar Powell died in 1879.

Schoolhouse.

I have had a cut made of the picture Mrs. Trulock gave Chamber of Commerce, and it now develops that this building was in southeastern Cairo [and not west of Baptist Church]. This picture was taken in 1903 [maybe built 5 years or so before then] but it is the only picture available of any of the old schoolhouses. What I want is the approximate location of that building. It is my understanding that the white elementary school buildings (now all brick) are located in the area where I went to school in 1909, and that only the high school has been moved out on the road (or street) near the Grady County hospital. Is it sufficient to say that this building (1903 picture) "was located in the area of the present Cairo elementary schools"? If so, what are present names of the streets encompassing the elementary schools at present?, what is name of street on the west side? and on the north side?

Handwritten notes and calculations:

1066
8561
1950

1887
1799
8845

1799
1470

1570
1799
1112

*2. Put your
name out with
Walker
Hospital
for date*



... owned a large yard and it ran northward from the back of his house ... toward the hospital was. Nothing in the picture you have ... of Will Wight, except his garage and chicken house per Mrs. Sheehy

... course, still lives in the Will Wight house, but the land sold for the Doctors' building now, which is very close or may be the exact land the chicken house and garage were on, was built long after 1930. It could be they tore down the chicken house and garage for that Doctors' building to be built. Now the vacant lot, maybe 100 feet directly south of the Walker Hospital was evidently owned by Walker for either he or his daughter Agnes who married Sam Pierce, and I think Sam had the money to build the house and it is a nice brick residence, not many feet from the hospital.

Before I mail this I'm asking Miss Myrtle to phone Lillian Paulk and ask what buildings were in front of her house across the street before the Pearce residence was built and the Doctors' office building was built. I don't think this is going to tie in with what you say about Wight Street, however, other than the two-story building in distance to the left is the hospital, which is on the corner of what was then Wight Street and was then I believe Ochlocknee Street, anyway it's 2nd Ave. now.

The Walker Garage was not a block farther north. There is no street east and west except what is now 2nd Ave. and 3rd Ave., and the Will Wight house faced south on 3rd Ave. and the hospital faces north on 2nd Ave.

JAN 22 1966

JBR

This is exactly what I thought. The 2 story building on the left (west) is part of the Walker (later Rehberg) Hospital. But I didn't know name of streets & avenues, other than Wight St

... the corner of ... except I would like to know about ... as built. That will help to determine the time ... this is how right street ...

NOTE: ...

Small Claims Court
of Colquitt County
Moultrie, Georgia
December 30, 1965

re a photo of Wight Home

J. B. Roddenbery, Sr.

I hereby return the old photo of the Wight Street (S.E. 1st St.) home of Geo. A. Wight, Sr., into which he moved in 1888 when he came from Sofkee to Cairo, and where he died in 1894. He built this house immediately before he moved to Cairo. Prior to that the mercantile business of Wight & Powell was operated by Mr. Wight's brother-in-law and partner John A. Powell, first, and then by sons of Mr. Wight. During this time Mr. Wight also had a store at Sofkee, in which Powell had no interest.

I am also enclosing a copy made from this original picture, which I believe looks even better than the original, and I also enclose the negative from which present owners may have as many prints made as may be desired. You may give this copy print and negative to the party from whom you secured the original.

This picture will be printed in "Genesis of Cairo".

Your cousin,



^{Photocopy}
Am enclosing of this letter so you can give it to the Wights when you return the photo. It shows what we know (and what we will print) about building of this house, and when G.A.W. Sr. came to Cairo, and the earlier ownership and operation of Wight & Powell. It gives them a chance to deny anything said, if they can. But they can't, because these are facts and if the present generation doesn't know it, it is time they learned.

Speco Copy

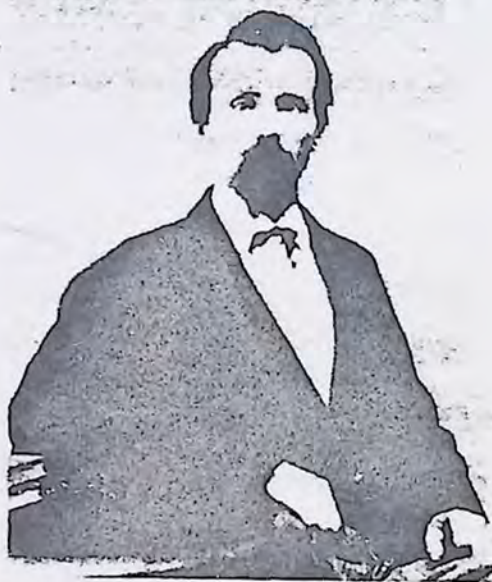
To be printed in
GENESIS OF CAIRO



Residence of Kedar Powell [1810-1879], built before
1870, on Wight St. (now S.E. 1st St.), where he died
in 1879 and his wife Amanda Bell Powell died in 1888,
now the residence of Lillian and Gladys Poulk.
This picture was taken about 1935.

217 First St. S.E., Cairo, Ga.

This picture to be printed
in "GENESIS OF CAIRO"



GEORGE A. WIGHT, SR.
[1834-1894]



STATE BAR OF GEORGIA 1964-1965

813 PERSONS BUILDING, MACON, GEORGIA 31201

WILL ED SMITH, PRESIDENT, EASTMAN • HENRY P. EVE, PRESIDENT-ELECT, AUGUSTA • GEORGE R. JACOB, SECRETARY, TALBOTTON • JEPHTHA C. TANKSLEY, TREASURER, ATLANTA • MRS. GRANT WILLIAMS, EXECUTIVE SECRETARY, MACON

January 18, 1965

To the Members of the State Bar of Georgia:

You should attend this seminar. The program covers subjects which affect every attorney's practice at one time or other.

It includes one very new and increasingly important subject, Sonic Boom Claims.

In addition, you will participate in such bread-and-butter subjects as tort claims, negligence in aircraft crashes, proof of damage, how to get small business loans, contract claim procedures, administration of labor laws, what's coming in the equal opportunity law field, Federal Condemnation procedure, as well as witness a mock trial before the Armed Services Board of Contract Appeals.

You will note that each speaker and person on the program is an expert in his field. The planning, subjects, persons participating, combine to make this seminar the best of its kind anywhere.

The opportunity to meet old acquaintances, make new contacts, and swap experiences is, alone, worth the small fee charged; in addition you can pick the brains of the experts as a bonus.

Sincerely yours,

WILL ED SMITH,
President

GEORGE B. POLATTY,
Chairman, Military Law Section

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Henry Wight - from Rhode Island to Ga. in 1829

his son: George Alden Wight (1834-1894)

m. (1) Julia Florence T. Ferring

m. (2) Margaret Louisa Powell, dau. of
Kabar Powell
& Amanda Melvina Bell.

By 1st wife: John Byron Wight, b. Sept. 28, 1859

m. Alice Slater of Bulloch Co., Ga.

ch.: George Ward Wight (? son: Wm. Ward Wight)

James Slater Wight

Robert Pratt Wight

Lelah Adams Wight

Warren Candler Wight

John Byron Wight. Jr.

By 2nd wife (Powell) -

Henry Wight, II.

Kabar Powell Wight

William (Wile) Samuel Wight

Carrie Wight (spinster)

Thomas (Tom) Wight

Walker Lee Wight

Alice Pearl Wight - m. Clower -

George Alden Wight, Jr.

Margaret Augusta (Gussie) Wight -

Wright

April 10, 1963

The Wight and Powell Connection.

Following are positive statements made to the writer by Robert S. Roddenbery, Sr., who was born April 5, 1868, who moved to Cairo, Ga., in 1872 and grew to manhood in that town. It is not intended to delineate the genealogy and history of the Wight and Powell families but merely to show the marriage and business connection between those families and to distinguish between certain members of the Powell family of Cairo in the first three generations.

HENRY WIGHT [original settler] moved from Rhode Island to Georgia in 1829 and settled in Decatur County in the hamlet of Sofkee, several miles southwest of the present City of Cairo. His youngest son, George A. Wight, was born at Sofkee in 1834 and lived there continuously until July 1888 when he and his family moved into Cairo. This George A. Wight married Margaret Powell, daughter of KADER POWELL [the original Powell settler in the Cairo vicinity]. No attempt is here made to name the children and grandchildren, but George A. and Margaret (Powell) Wight had a son named Henry Wight [after his grandfather] who moved to Cairo in 1886 and a daughter named Pearl, recently deceased, who married Dr. Eugene Clower.

Margaret

KADER POWELL [original settler] had four sons and several daughters, his daughter having married George A. Wight [son of the first Henry]. Kader Powell's sons were: William [railroad agent and Mayor of Cairo], John A. [partner in firm of Wight & Powell], B. F. [called Doc], and Hugh. Kader's son Hugh Powell never resided in Cairo but was a frequent visitor there.

* joined Cairo Presbyterian Church Jan. 17, 1878

Henry Wight, b. Nov. 5, 1791, in Bristol, R.I.; m. 1817, Abby Wardell.

While living in Rhode Island he was engaged in mercantile and marine pursuits and was once captain of a sailing vessel. He moved from Bristol into Georgia in December 1829, living at Sofkee in Deatur County. In Georgia he was variously teacher, farmer, and merchant, receiving in every pursuit the universal respect of his neighbors. For the greater part of his life he was a member of the Presbyterian church.* Late in life he wrote: "It is with a sense of gratitude that I can say that within my knowledge not one of the many who have descended from my father's family has in the least degree cast a blemish upon his good name." His 4 oldest children were born in Bristol, R.I., the remaining 2 in Sofkee. Mrs. Wight died at Sofkee, Oct. 6, 1871; her husband died at Cairo, Thomas Co., Ga., Feb. 6, 1885.

Ch.: William Henry Wight, b. Dec. 11, 1817. (Hove, merchant in NY, d. in R.I. 1845)

Abby Wight, b. 1819; d. in R.I. 1820. (Infant)

Samuel Bowen Wight, b. Apr. 1, 1821. (d. Albany Ga. 1886)

John Bowen Wight, b. Mar. 20, 1828. (d. Savannah 1854)

merchant
Newton, Ga. 1853, Byron Diman Wight, b. Dec. 29, 1830 (in Ga.)

George Alden Wight, b. Feb. 13, 1834 (in Ga.)

Henry Wight (pioneer settler) moved ^{with} his family from Rhode Island to Georgia in December 1829 and settled at Dofkee in Deatur [now Grody] County. Geo. A. Wight, youngest of 6 children, was born there Feb. 13, 1834. He lived there continuously until July 1888 when he moved his family to Cairo.

Better
slanting

Henry Wight [original settler] moved from Rhode Island to Georgia in 1829 and settled at Sofkee in Decatur County, several miles southwest of the present city of Cairo. His youngest son, George A. Wight, was born at Sofkee in 1824 and lived there continuously until July 1888 when he and his family moved to Cairo. This George A. Wight married Margaret Powell, daughter of Kader ~~Lucas~~ Powell [original settler in the Cairo vicinity]. Geo. A. + Margriet (Powell) Wight had a son named Henry [after his grandfather] and a daughter named Pearl, who married Dr. Eugene Coquer. [No attempt has been made to name ^{all children &} grandchildren]

Kader Powell + wife ~~Lucas~~ [original settlers] had 4 sons and several daughters, his daughter Margaret having married George A. Wight [son of the 1st Henry]. Kader Powell's sons were William [n.r. agent & Mayor of Cairo], John A. [partner in firm of Wight & Powell], B. F. [called Doc], and Hugh. Kader's son Hugh Powell never resided in Cairo but was a frequent visitor.

William Powell [oldest son of Kader] was the first railroad agent at Cairo and continued as such for more than 20 years and until his son Lemuel B. Powell became the agent. William Powell was also the 2nd Mayor of the Town of Cairo, elected in 1872. William Powell, the n.r. agent, was never at any time in any manner connected with the mercantile business of Wight & Powell. His brother John A. Powell was the partner and manager of that business. William Powell had 4 sons: Kader [named for his grandfather], Tom [a railroad engineer, who never had any children], Lem [Lemuel B., who succeeded his father as n.r. agent], and John [named for his uncle John A., the partner in firm of Wight & Powell]. William [called Willie] Powell

now living in Thousville, is a son of Robert [the
second] and grandson of William Powell, the r. agent.

March 14, 1960.

Dear Dr. Knoddenberg

Your letter was a surprise, but gave me pleasure. As the letter came, my sister Mrs. Walter Hight dropped in and we think the letter wonderful for an man of 92. During these weeks since I haven't been well, I have spent many happy hours living over experiences of the years gone by.

To be sure I give clearly the information you want; I must go back to my grandfather Henry Hight, who moved his family from Rhode Island to Georgia December 1829, and settled

at Soper in Decatur Co. George A, the youngest of six children, was born there Feb 13 1834. He lived there continuously until July 1888, when he moved his family to Cairo by brother Henry had come to Cairo 2 years before to manage Father's miscellaneous business after the 2 brick stores were built on Broad St.

Call on me if I can be of further service, and I would be glad to talk with you or Bob Jr. when you are in Cairo

Sincerely your friend
Pearl H. Ploner

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B
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in
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5x6

March 14, 1960.

Dear Mr. Roddenbery

Your letter was a surprise, but gave me pleasure. As the letter came, my sister Mrs. Walter Hight dropped in and we think the letter wonderful for an man of 92. During these weeks since I haven't been well, I have spent many happy hours living over experiences of the years gone by.

To be sure I give clearly the information you want; I must go back to my grandfather (Henry Hight) who moved his family from Rhode Island to San in December 1829, and settled

at Sofkee in DeCATUR Co.

George A., the youngest of six children, was born there Feb 13 1834. He lived there continuously until July, 1888, when he moved his family to Cairo by brother Henry had come to Cairo 2 years before to manage Father's miscellaneous business after the 2 brick stores were built on Broad St.

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Sincerely your friend
Pearl W. Plowser

March 14, 1960.

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Call on me if I can be of further service, and I would be glad to talk with you or Bob Jr. when you are in Cairo

Sincerely your friend

Pearl St. Dover

This letter says that Geo. A. Wight continued here in Dover until in 1880; that his brother-in-law Powell went to his home at

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1876-1900
17
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5000 Goldrights
Spencer by Wright
Pineville

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ill "

Kasa "

Madison "

Cassidy Wright
Dead "

Burns "

Travis

W. R. "

W. R. looked

the above list

I of Mount Pleasant

Burgess
Clemens

Myrtle

Stark S. Goldens
W. R. W. R. W. R.

W. R.

HENRY WIGHT (421), b. Nov. 5, 1791, in Bristol, R. I.; m. 1817, Abby Wardwell. While in Rhode Island he was engaged in mercantile and marine pursuits and was once captain of a sailing vessel. He moved from Bristol into Georgia in December 1829, living at Sofkee in Decatur ~~County~~ ⁱⁿ (now Grady) County. In Georgia he was variously teacher, farmer and merchant, receiving in every pursuit the universal respect of his neighbors. For the greater part of his life he was a member of the Presbyterian church ~~in~~ (and he united with Cairo Presbyterian Church Jan. 17, 1878). Late in life he wrote: "It is with a sense of gratitude that I can say that within my knowledge not one of the many who have descended from my father's family has in the least degree cast a blemish upon his good name". His ~~3~~ ^{four} oldest children were born in Bristol, R. I., the remaining two at Sofkee, Ga. Mrs. Wight died at Sofkee, Oct. 6, 1871; her husband died at Cairo, then Thomas County, Ga., Feb. 6, 1885.?

Children: William Henry Wight, b. Dec. 11, 1817
William Henry Wight, b. Dec. 11, 1817; d. 1845 in Rhode Island.
Abby Wight, b. 1819; d. 1920 ~~in~~ (an infant).
Samuel Bowen Wight, b. Apr. 1, 1821; d. 1886 in Albany, Ga.
John Bowen Wight, b. Mar. 20, 1828; d. 1854 in Savannah, Ga.
Byron Diman Wight, b. Dec. 29, 1830; d. 1853 in Newton, Ga.
George Alden Wight, b. Feb. 13, 1834; d.

John Byron Wight (1st son of Geo. A. Wight +
b. Sep. 28, 1859 - graduated Emory College 1881;

2 years theology at Vanderbilt Univ. 1884.

principal of academy at Cairo, Ga. 1885.

minister at Darien + Suwanee, Ga. 1887 + 1888.

In 1889, for 1 year, co-principal of Cairo high school.

M. July 24, 1888, married Alice Slater of Bullock County.

1st ch.: Geo. Ward Wight, b. Apr. 23, 1889. (Atlanta)

Henry Wight (son of Geo. A. Wight +

b. Dec. 25, 1862.

m. Jan. 6, 1886, Susie Bouchelle.

JBR: As a matter of interest about the Henry Wight who was father of George A. Wight, our Presbyterian Church history shows he was one of the earliest members received into the church after the organization, but he was over 90 at the time, and his membership was transferred from a Presbyterian Church at Lake Iamonia.

Mr. George A. Wight gave the land for the Presbyterian Church, probably out of respect to his father who was a member there. None of the other Wights were members of that church.

One point of this is that Mr. Henry Wight was very old when he moved to Cairo.

Myrtle

List of letters on Word Perfect -
 About 10 To go

Contents page of Wight Letters
 May 22, 1995 at 9:09 p.m.

Page 1

SurName	GivenName	DateWrit	CityFrom	Sta	WrittenTo	Place	PAGE
WIGHT	HENRY	11/05/35	Bristol	RI	Henry Wight	Tired Creek, GA	1
WIGHT	CLARISSA LEONARD	05/28/43	Lawrenceville	GA	Abby Wight, Henry's wife	Bainbridge, GA	4
WIGHT	JOHN BURT	09/18/45	Wayland	MA	Henry Wight		7
WIGHT	JOHN BURT	04/21/52	Wayland	MA	Henry Wight		9
WIGHT	JOHN BURT	04/10/57	Wayland	MA	Henry Wight		10
WIGHT	JOHN BURT	05/05/58	Wayland	MA	Henry Wight		12
WIGHT	JOHN BURT	05/08/67	Wayland	MA	Henry Wight		13
WIGHT	JOHN BURT	06/08/70	Wayland	MA	Henry Wight		15
WIGHT	JOHN BURT	08/20/74	Wayland	MA	Henry Wight		17
WIGHT	JOHN BURT	02/16/77	Wayland	MA	Henry Wight		18
WIGHT	JOHN BURT	05/28/80	Wayland	MA	Henry Wight		20
WIGHT	HENRY	03/00/46	Wightsville	GA	Robert Mathis Cleveland	Lawrenceville	21
BOSWORTH	ANNE	05/01/25	Bristol	RI	Abby Wardwell Wight	Mansville, NY	23
BOSWORTH	ANNE	01/17/27	Bristol	RI	Abby Wardwell Wight	Mannsville, Albany NY	27
STORRS	ANNE BOSTWICK	09/10/35	Bristol	RI	Abby Wardwell Wight	Tired Creek, Thomas C	31
STORRS	ANNE BOSTWICK	12/12/36	Bristol	RI	Abby Wardwell Wight	Tired Creek DecaturC	34
SMITH	LYDIA & ALLEN	08/25/50	Cleveland	OH	Henry & Abby?		37
WARDWELL	ALLEN	09/12/32	Bristol	RI	Henry Wight		40
WARDWELL	C.C.	09/22/54	Mannsville	NY	Samuel Bowen		41
WIGHT	WILLIAM HENRY	11/05/42	New York	NY	Henry Wight		42
DIMAN	BYRON (Abig.A.W.husb)	01/10/45	Bristol	RI	Henry & Abby Wardwell Wight	Bainbridge, DecaturCo	43
WIGHT	SAMUEL BOWEN	08/12/48	Boston	MA	Abby Wardwell Wight	Cairo, Decatur Co, GA	45
WIGHT	SAMUEL BOWEN	07/02/60	Albany	GA	Henry Wight		47
WIGHT	SAMUEL BOWEN	06/07/61	Lawrenceville	GA	Parent		49
WIGHT	SAMUEL BOWEN	01/30/63	Lawrenceville	GA	Father		50
WIGHT	SAMUEL BOWEN	04/08/65	Lawrenceville	GA	Henry & Abby Wardwell Wight		52
WIGHT	SAMUEL BOWEN	10/21/65	New York	NY	Parent & Bro George		53
WIGHT	SAMUEL BOWEN	04/19/66	Atlanta	GA	Father	Cairo	54
WIGHT	SAMUEL BOWEN	04/23/66	Atlanta	GA	Father	Cairo	55
WIGHT	SAMUEL BOWEN	06/14/66	Atlanta	GA	Father	Geo.A. Sofkey, Bainb	56
WIGHT	SAMUEL BOWEN	12/10/66	Atlanta	GA	Henry Wight		57
WIGHT	SAMUEL BOWEN	12/29/67	Lawrenceville	GA	Henry Wight		58
WIGHT	SAMUEL BOWEN	10/09/71	Atlanta	GA	Henry Wight		60
WIGHT	SAMUEL BOWEN	07/12/75	Atlanta	GA	Henry Wight		61
WIGHT	SAMUEL BOWEN	03/10/76	Atlanta	GA	Henry Wight		62
WIGHT	SAMUEL BOWEN	04/05/76	Atlanta	GA	Henry Wight		63
WIGHT	SAMUEL BOWEN	01/01/77	New York	NY	Father	Cairo	64
WIGHT	SAMUEL BOWEN	04/26/82	New York??	NY	Henry Wight		66
WIGHT	CLARA SCOLLAY	05/00/49	Cambridgeport	MA	Abby Wardwell Wight	Cairo, Decatur Co GA	67
WIGHT	CLARA SCOLLAY	10/27/53	Newton	GA	Abby Wardwell Wight		70
WIGHT	CLARA SCOLLAY	06/30/62	Lawrenceville	GA	Abby Wardwell Wight		72
WIGHT	CLARA SCOLLAY	12/10/61	Lawrenceville	GA	Abby Wardwell Wight		74
WIGHT	CLARA SCOLLAY	08/18/62	Lawrenceville	GA	Henry & Abby Wardwell Wight		76
WIGHT	CLARA SCOLLAY	07/07/64	Lawrenceville	GA	Henry & Abby Wardwell Wight	Sofkey, Decatur, GA	78
WIGHT	CLARA SCOLLAY	07/28/64	Lawrenceville	GA	Henry & Abby Wardwell Wight		79
WIGHT	CLARA SCOLLAY	10/04/64	Lawrenceville	GA	Henry & Abby Wardwell Wight		81
WIGHT	CLARA SCOLLAY	02/06/65	Lawrenceville	GA	Henry & Abby Wardwell Wight		83
WIGHT	EDWIN LEIGH	11/30/66	Newton	GA	Clara Scalloy Wight		86
WIGHT	EDWIN LEIGH	11/24/74	Albany	GA	Wedding Invitation		88
WIGHT	ABBIE IRENE	03/22/66	West End	GA	Henry Wight	Cairo, Thomas Co	89
WIGHT	ABBIE IRENE	09/29/67	West End	GA	George Alden Wight		90
WIGHT	ABBIE IRENE	01/26/71	West End	GA	Henry Wight		91

WIGHT	ABBIE IRENE	11/14/71 West End	GA	Henry Wight	92
TIFT	ABBIE IRENE WIGHT	05/09/76 Key West	FL	Henry Wight	94
WIGHT	ELLA BYRON	09/22/67 Atlanta	GA	Henry Wight	97

Contents page of Wight Letters
May 22, 1995 at 9:09 p.m.

Page 2

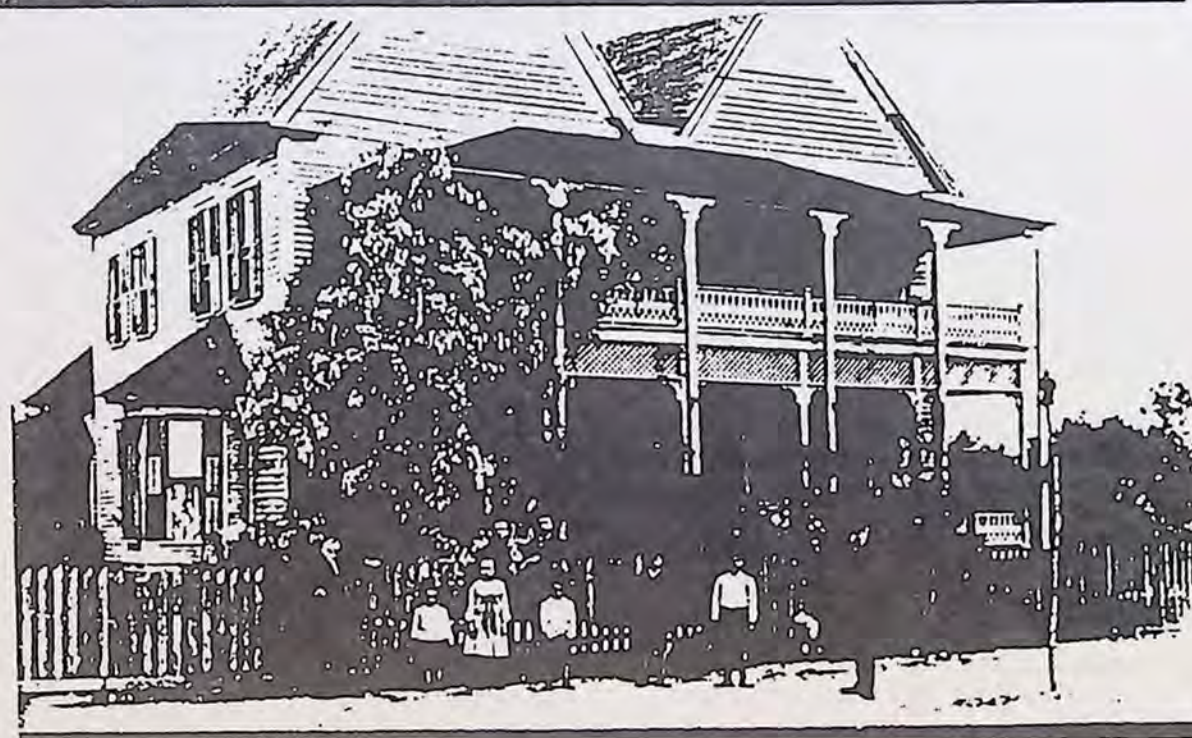
SurName	GivenName	DateWrit	CityFrom	Sta	WrittenTo	Place	PAGE
WIGHT	ELLA BYRON	12/13/75	West End	GA	Henry Wight		98
WIGHT	ELLA BYRON	02/28/76	West End	GA	Henry Wight		100
WIGHT	CLARA ISABELL (Bell)	01/07/70	West End	GA	Henry Wight		102
WIGHT	STELLA VERNON	09/19/69	West End	GA	Henry Wight		103
WIGHT	MARY (Mollie)	02/17/72	Milford	GA	Henry Wight	Cairo, GA	104
DARDEN	MARY WIGHT (Mollie)	02/20/74	Milford	GA	Henry Wight		105
DARDEN	MARY WIGHT (Mollie)	05/01/74	Milford	GA	Henry Wight		106
DARDEN	MARY WIGHT (Mollie)	09/01/75	Newton	GA	Henry Wight		107
DARDEN	MARY WIGHT (Mollie)	09/20/75	Newton	GA	Henry Wight		108
DARDEN	MARY WIGHT (Mollie)	02/27/76	Pine Hill, Baker	GA	Henry Wight		109
DARDEN	MARY WIGHT (Mollie)	04/29/76	Newton	GA	Henry Wight		110
MUNRO	BENNETT	03/17/57	Bristol	RI	Henry Wight		111
MUNRO	BENNETT	06/08/57	Bristol	RI	Henry Wight		113
MUNRO	BENNETT	09/04/59	Bristol	RI	Henry Wight		116
MUNRO	BENNETT	02/22/60	Bristol	RI	Henry Wight		118
USHER	GEORGE F.	03/17/71	Bristol	RI	Henry Wight		120
ALDEN	ALICE BURRINGTON WIGHT	10/10/53	Bristol	RI	Henry & Abby Wight		123
WIGHT	MARTHA GIBBS	02/04/72	Wartrace	TN	Henry Wight		125
ROWLAND	CLARA LEONARD WIGHT	08/02/41	Augusta or Lawre	GA	Henry Wight	Bainbridge, GA	127
ROWLAND	CLARA LEONARD WIGHT	01/00/61	Rockford	IL	Henry Wight		129
ROWLAND	CLARA LEONARD WIGHT	01/09/70	Rockford	IL	Henry Wight		131
ROWLAND	CLARA LEONARD WIGHT	06/04/71	Chicago	IL	Henry Wight		134
ROWLAND	CLARA LEONARD WIGHT	12/14/73	Chicago	IL	Henry Wight		137
ROWLAND	CHARLES ALDEN	07/22/87	Augusta	GA	John B. Wight	Darien, GA	140
ROWLAND	CHARLES ALDEN	08/30/88	Augusta	GA	John B. Wight	Darien, GA	141
ROWLAND	ALICE ALDEN	01/14/24	Rockford	IL	John B. Wight	Cairo, GA	142
ROWLAND	ALICE ALDEN	05/04/24	Rockford	IL	John B. Wight	Cairo, GA	143
ROWLAND	MARY HEWSON	02/18/85	Chicago	IL	John B. Wight	Cairo, GA	144
ROWLAND	MARY HEWSON	06/17/87	Wartrace	TN	John B. Wight	Darian, GA	145
ROWLAND	MARY HEWSON	07/20/88	Laflin	IL	John B. Wight	Eden, GA	147
ROWLAND	CLARA AUGUSTA	12/28/84	Chicago	IL	John B. Wight	Cairo, GA	150
ROWLAND	CLARA AUGUSTA	02/20/85	Chicago	IL	John B. Wight	Cairo, GA	152
ROWLAND	CLARA AUGUSTA	02/16/87	Geneva	NY	John B. Wight		155
CLEVELAND	FANNY LEONARD WIGHT	05/28/43	Lawrenceville	GA	Henry Wight	Bainbridge, GA	157
CLEVELAND	FANNY LEONARD WIGHT	08/10/52	Lawrenceville	GA	Henry Wight		158
CLEVELAND	FANNY LEONARD WIGHT	04/05/61	Lawrenceville	GA	Henry Wight		160
CLEVELAND	FANNY LEONARD WIGHT	05/09/83	Marietta	GA	John Byron Wight	Nashville, TN	162
CLEVELAND	ROBERT MATHIS	02/09/46	Lawrenceville	GA	Henry Wight		163
CLEVELAND	ROBERT MATHIS	10/14/46	Lawrenceville	GA	Henry Wight	Cairo, Decatur Co, GA	165
WIGHT	BYRON DIMAN	04/22/53	Newton	GA	Henry & Abby Wardwell Wight		166
WIGHT	GEORGE ALDEN	10/05/64	Dorchester, Lib.C	GA	Henry and Abby Wight	Thomasville, Sofkey	167
WIGHT	GEORGE ALDEN	01/19/86	Cairo	GA	John Byron Wight	Steam Mill Deca.Co	169
POWELL	MELLIE	02/22/87	Cairo	GA	John Byron Wight	Darian, GA	171
WIGHT	JOHN BYRON	02/22/87	Darien	GA	Mellie Powell	Cairo, GA	171
WIGHT	HENRY	04/09/80	Oxford	GA	Margaret Louisa Powell Wight	Cairo, Georgia	173

TABLE OF CONTENTS

<u>WRITER & WIGHT NO.</u>	<u>DATE & PLACE</u>	<u>TO WHOM & WHERE SENT</u>	<u>PAGE</u>
WIGHT, HENRY 196	11/05/35 Bristol, RI	Henry Wight Tired Creek, GA	1
WIGHT, CLARISSA LEONARD 0	05/28/43 Lawrenceville, GA	Abby Wight, Henry's wife Bainbridge, GA	4
WIGHT, JOHN BURT 420	09/18/45 Wayland, MA	Henry Wight [Sofkee, GA]	7
WIGHT, JOHN BURT 420	04/21/52 Wayland, MA	Henry Wight [Sofkee, GA]	9
WIGHT, JOHN BURT 420	04/10/57 Wayland, MA	Henry Wight [Sofkee, GA]	10
WIGHT, JOHN BURT 420	05/05/58 Wayland, MA	Henry Wight [Sofkee, GA]	12
WIGHT, JOHN BURT 420	05/08/67 Wayland, MA	Henry Wight [Sofkee, GA]	13
WIGHT, JOHN BURT 420	06/08/70 Wayland, MA	Henry Wight [Sofkee, GA]	15
WIGHT, JOHN BURT 420	08/20/74 Wayland, MA	Henry Wight [Sofkee, GA]	17
WIGHT, JOHN BURT 420	02/16/77 Wayland, MA	Henry Wight [Sofkee, GA]	18
WIGHT, JOHN BURT 420	05/28/80 Wayland, MA	Henry Wight [Sofkee, GA]	20
WIGHT, HENRY 421	03/00/46 Wightsville, GA	Robert Mathis Cleveland Lawrenceville, GA	21
BOSWORTH, ANNE 0	05/01/25 Bristol, RI	Abby Wardwell Wight Mansville, NY	23
BOSWORTH, ANNE 0	01/17/27 Bristol, RI	Abby Wardwell Wight Mannsville, Albany NY	27
STORRS, ANNE BOSTWICK 0	09/10/35 Bristol, RI	Abby Wardwell Wight Tired Creek, Thomas C	31
STORRS, ANNE BOSTWICK 0	12/12/36 Bristol, RI	Abby Wardwell Wight Tired Creek, Decatur C	34
SMITH, LYDIA & ALLEN 0	08/25/50 Cleveland, OH	[Henry & Abby] [Sofkee, GA]	37
WARDWELL, ALLEN 0	09/12/32 Bristol, RI	Henry Wight [Sofkee, GA]	40
WARDWELL, C.C. 0	09/22/54 Mannsville, NY	Samuel Bowen [Albany, GA]	41
WIGHT, WILLIAM HENRY 983	11/05/42 New York, NY	Henry Wight [Sofkee, GA]	42
DIMAN, BYRON (Abig.A.W.husb)	01/10/45 Bristol, RI	Henry & Abby Wardwell Wight Bainbridge, Decatur Co	43
WIGHT, SAMUEL BOWEN 985	08/12/48 Boston, MA	Abby Wardwell Wight Cairo, Decatur Co, GA	45
WIGHT, SAMUEL BOWEN 985	07/02/60 Albany, GA	Henry Wight [Sofkee, GA]	47
WIGHT, SAMUEL BOWEN 985	06/07/61 Lawrenceville, GA	Father [Sofkee, GA]	49
WIGHT, SAMUEL BOWEN 985	01/30/63 Lawrenceville, GA	Father [Sofkee, GA]	50
WIGHT, SAMUEL BOWEN 985	04/08/65 Lawrenceville, GA	Henry & Abby Wardwell Wight [Sofkee, GA]	52
WIGHT, SAMUEL BOWEN 985	10/21/65 New York, NY	Parent & Bro George [Sofkee, GA]	53
WIGHT, SAMUEL BOWEN 985	04/19/66 Atlanta, GA	Father Cairo, GA	54
WIGHT, SAMUEL BOWEN 985	04/23/66 Atlanta, GA	Father Cairo, GA	55
WIGHT, SAMUEL BOWEN 985	06/14/66 Atlanta, GA	Father Sofkey, Bainbridge, GA	56
WIGHT, SAMUEL BOWEN 985	12/10/66 Atlanta, GA	Henry Wight [Sofkee, GA]	57
WIGHT, SAMUEL BOWEN 985	12/29/67 Lawrenceville, GA	Henry Wight [Sofkee, GA]	58
WIGHT, SAMUEL BOWEN 985	10/09/71 Atlanta, GA	Henry Wight [Sofkee, GA]	59
WIGHT, SAMUEL BOWEN 985	07/12/75 Atlanta, GA	Henry Wight [Sofkee, GA]	60
WIGHT, SAMUEL BOWEN 985	03/10/76 Atlanta, GA	Henry Wight [Sofkee, GA]	61
WIGHT, SAMUEL BOWEN 985	04/05/76 Atlanta, GA	Henry Wight [Sofkee, GA]	62
WIGHT, SAMUEL BOWEN 985	01/01/77 New York, NY	Father Cairo, GA	63
WIGHT, SAMUEL BOWEN 985	04/26/82 New York, NY	Henry Wight [Sofkee, GA]	65
WIGHT, CLARA SCOLLAY 0	05/00/49 Cambridgeport, MA	Abby Wardwell Wight Cairo, Decatur Co GA	66
WIGHT, CLARA SCOLLAY 0	10/27/53 Newton, GA	Abby Wardwell Wight [Sofkee, GA]	69
WIGHT, CLARA SCOLLAY 0	06/30/62 Lawrenceville, GA	Abby Wardwell Wight [Sofkee, GA]	71
WIGHT, CLARA SCOLLAY 0	12/10/61 Lawrenceville, GA	Abby Wardwell Wight [Sofkee, GA]	74
WIGHT, CLARA SCOLLAY 0	08/18/62 Lawrenceville, GA	Henry & Abby Wardwell Wight [Sofkee, GA]	76
WIGHT, CLARA SCOLLAY 0	07/07/64 Lawrenceville, GA	Henry & Abby Wardwell Wight Sofkey, Decatur, GA	78
WIGHT, CLARA SCOLLAY 0	07/28/64 Lawrenceville, GA	Henry & Abby Wardwell Wight [Sofkee, GA]	79
WIGHT, CLARA SCOLLAY 0	10/04/64 Lawrenceville, GA	Henry & Abby Wardwell Wight [Sofkee, GA]	81
WIGHT, CLARA SCOLLAY 0	02/06/65 Lawrenceville, GA	Henry & Abby Wardwell Wight [Sofkee, GA]	83
WIGHT, EDWIN LEIGH 1885	11/30/66 Newton, GA	Clara Scalloy Wight [Atlanta, GA]	86
WIGHT, EDWIN LEIGH 1885	11/24/74 Albany, GA	Wedding Invitation [Albany, GA]	88
WIGHT, ABBIE IRENE 1886	03/22/66 West End, GA	Henry Wight Cairo, Thomas Co	89

<u>WRITER & WIGHT NO.</u>	<u>DATE & PLACE</u>	<u>TO WHOM & WHERE SENT</u>	<u>PAGE</u>
WIGHT, ABBIE IRENE 1886	09/29/67 West End, GA	George Alden Wight [Sofkee, GA]	90
WIGHT, ABBIE IRENE 1886	01/26/71 West End, GA	Henry Wight [Sofkee, GA]	91
WIGHT, ABBIE IRENE 1886	11/14/71 West End, GA	Henry Wight [Sofkee, GA]	92
TIFT, ABBIE IRENE WIGHT 1886	05/09/76 Key West, FL	Henry Wight [Sofkee, GA]	94
WIGHT ELLA BYRON 1888	09/22/67 Atlanta, GA	Henry Wight [Sofkee, GA]	97
WIGHT, ELLA BYRON 1888	12/13/75 West End, GA	Henry Wight [Sofkee, GA]	98
WIGHT, ELLA BYRON 1888	02/28/76 West End, GA	Henry Wight [Sofkee, GA]	100
WIGHT, CLARA ISABELL (Bell) 1889	01/07/70 West End, GA	Henry Wight [Sofkee, GA]	102
WIGHT, STELLA VERNON 1890	09/19/69 West End, GA	Henry Wight [Sofkee, GA]	103
WIGHT, MARY (Mollie) 1894	02/17/72 Milford, GA	Henry Wight Cairo, GA	104
DARDEN, MARY WIGHT (Mollie) 1894	02/20/74 Milford, GA	Henry Wight [Sofkee, GA]	105
DARDEN, MARY WIGHT (Mollie) 1894	05/01/74 Milford, GA	Henry Wight [Sofkee, GA]	106
DARDEN, MARY WIGHT (Mollie) 1894	09/01/75 Newton, GA	Henry Wight [Sofkee, GA]	107
DARDEN, MARY WIGHT (Mollie) 1894	09/20/75 Newton, GA	Henry Wight [Sofkee, GA]	108
DARDEN, MARY WIGHT (Mollie) 1894	02/27/76 Pine Hill, GA	Henry Wight [Sofkee, GA]	109
DARDEN, MARY WIGHT (Mollie) 1894	04/29/76 Newton, GA	Henry Wight [Sofkee, GA]	110
MUNRO, BENNETT 0	03/17/57 Bristol, RI	Henry Wight [Sofkee, GA]	111
MUNRO, BENNETT 0	06/08/57 Bristol, RI	Henry Wight [Sofkee, GA]	113
MUNRO, BENNETT 0	09/04/59 Bristol, RI	Henry Wight [Sofkee, GA]	116
MUNRO, BENNETT 0	02/22/60 Bristol, RI	Henry Wight [Sofkee, GA]	118
USHER, GEORGE F. 0	03/17/71 Bristol, RI	Henry Wight [Sofkee, GA]	120
ALDEN, ALICE BURRINGTON WIGHT 423	10/10/53 Bristol, RI	Henry & Abby Wight [Sofkee, GA]	123
WIGHT, MARTHA GIBBS 426	02/04/72 Wartrace, TN	Henry Wight [Sofkee, GA]	125
ROWLAND, CLARA LEONARD WIGHT 427	08/02/41 [Augusta], GA	Henry Wight Bainbridge, GA	127
ROWLAND, CLARA LEONARD WIGHT 427	01/00/61 Rockford, IL	Henry Wight [Sofkee, GA]	129
ROWLAND, CLARA LEONARD WIGHT 427	01/09/70 Rockford, IL	Henry Wight [Sofkee, GA]	131
ROWLAND, CLARA LEONARD WIGHT 427	06/04/71 Chicago, IL	Henry Wight [Sofkee, GA]	134
ROWLAND, CLARA LEONARD WIGHT 427	12/14/73 Chicago, IL	Henry Wight [Sofkee, GA]	137
ROWLAND, CHARLES ALDEN 0	07/22/87 Augusta, GA	John B. Wight Darien, GA	140
ROWLAND, CHARLES ALDEN 0	08/30/88 Augusta, GA	John B. Wight Darien, GA	141
ROWLAND, ALICE ALDEN 0	1/14/1924 Rockford IL	John B. Wight Cairo, GA	142
ROWLAND, ALICE ALDEN 0	5/4/1924 Rockford IL	John B. Wight Cairo, GA	143
ROWLAND, MARY HEWSON 0	02/18/85 Chicago, IL	John B. Wight Cairo, GA	144
ROWLAND, MARY HEWSON 0	06/17/87 Wartrace, TN	John B. Wight Darian, GA	145
ROWLAND, MARY HEWSON 0	07/20/88 Laflin, IL	John B. Wight Eden, GA	147
ROWLAND, CLARA AUGUSTA 0	12/28/84 Chicago, IL	John B. Wight Cairo, GA	150
ROWLAND, CLARA AUGUSTA 0	02/20/85 Chicago, IL	John B. Wight Cairo, GA	152
ROWLAND, CLARA AUGUSTA 0	02/16/87 Geneva, NY	John B. Wight [Cairo, GA]	155
CLEVELAND, FANNY LEONARD WIGHT 429	05/28/43 Lawrenceville, GA	Henry Wight Bainbridge, GA	157
CLEVELAND, FANNY LEONARD WIGHT 429	08/10/52 Lawrenceville, GA	Henry Wight [Sofkee, GA]	158
CLEVELAND FANNY LEONARD WIGHT 429	04/05/61 Lawrenceville GA	Henry Wight [Sofkee, GA]	160
CLEVELAND, FANNY LEONARD WIGHT 429	05/09/83 Marietta, GA	John Byron Wight Nashville, TN	162
CLEVELAND, ROBERT MATHIS 0	02/09/46 Lawrenceville, GA	Henry Wight [Cairo, Decatur, C. GA]	163
CLEVELAND, ROBERT MATHIS 0	10/14/46 Lawrenceville, GA	Henry Wight Cairo, Decatur Co, GA	165
WIGHT, BYRON DIMAN 987	04/22/53 Newton, GA	Henry & Abby Wardwell Wight [Sofkee, GA]	166
WIGHT, GEORGE ALDEN 988	10/05/64 Dorchester, Lib. C GA	Henry and Abby Wight Thomasville, SofkeyGA	167
WIGHT, GEORGE ALDEN 988	01/19/86 Cairo, GA	John Byron Wight Steam Mill Deca. CoGA	169
WIGHT, JOHN BYRON 1897	05/06/76 Boston, GA	Henry Wight [Sofkee, GA]	170
POWELL, MELLIE 0	02/22/87 Cairo, GA	John Byron Wight Darian, GA	171
WIGHT, JOHN BYRON 1897	02/22/87 Darien, GA	Mellie Powell Cairo, GA	172
SLATER, ALICE 0	05/15/88 Ivanhoe, GA	John Byron Wight Eden, GA	174
SLATER, ALICE 0	05/31/88 [Ivanhoe], GA	John Byron Wight Eden, GA	175
SLATER, ALICE 0	07/01/88 Ivanhoe, GA	John Byron Wight Eden,	176
SLATER, ALICE 0	07/21/88 Ivanhoe, GA	John Byron Wight Eden, GA	178
WIGHT, ALICE SLATER 0	07/10/89 Ivanhoe, GA	John Byron Wight Ivanhoe, GA	179

<u>WRITER & WIGHT NO.</u>	<u>DATE & PLACE</u>	<u>TO WHOM & WHERE SENT</u>	<u>PAGE</u>
WIGHT, ALICE SLATER 0	12/24/89 Eden, GA	John Byron Wight [Cairo, GA]	181
WIGHT, ALICE SLATER 0	12/25/89 Ivanhoe, GA	John Byron Wight [Cairo, GA]	182
WIGHT, ALICE SLATER 0	08/19/94 Ivanhoe, GA	John Byron Wight Cairo, GA	183
ADAMS, LALEAH 0	03/07/89 Savannah, GA	Alice Slater Wight [Cairo, GA]	184
ADAMS, LALEAH 0	04/07/89 Savannah, GA	Alice Slater Wight [Cairo, GA]	186
CLARK, MRS.P.S. 0	04/20/88 Union Island, GA	John Byron Wight Eden, GA	189
DELORME, MRS.J.E. 0	11/16/87 Macon, GA	John Byron Wight Darien, GA	189
DELORME, MRS.J.E. 0	01/25/88 Macon, GA	John Byron Wight Eden, GA	190
DELORME, MRS.J.E. 0	03/27/88 Macon, GA	John Byron Wight Eden, GA	191
DELORME, MRS.J.E. 0	06/11/88 Ridge, GA	John Byron Wight [Eden, GA]	192
DELORME, MRS.J.E. 0	10/23/88 Darien, GA	John Byron Wight Snow, GA	193
WRIGHT, C.R. 0	01/28/85 Houston, TX	John Byron Wight Cairo, GA	194
DELORME, MRS.J.E. 0	03/11/89 Darien, GA	John Byron Wight Snow, GA	194
None given, WALTER 0	08/03/79 Sherman, TX	John Byron Wight Cairo, GA	195
WIGHT, HENRY 1898	04/09/80 Oxford, GA	Margaret Louisa Powell Wight Cairo, GA	196
WIGHT, KEDAR POWELL 1899	12/11/81 Oxford, GA	John Byron Wight Cairo, GA	198
WIGHT, KEDAR POWELL 1899	10/12/86 Cairo, GA	John Byron Wight [Steam Mill, GA	200
WIGHT, KEDAR POWELL 1899	09/11/88 Cairo, GA	John Byron Wight [Eden, GA]	201
WIGHT, WILLIAM SAMUEL 1900	09/14/86 Cairo, GA	Byron Wight Steam Mill, GA	202
WIGHT, WILLIAM SAMUEL 1900	11/17/86 Cairo, GA	Byron Wight Steam Mill, GA	204
WIGHT, WILLIAM SAMUEL 1900	06/16/88 Cairo, GA	Byron Wight Eden, Georgia	206
WIGHT, CARRIE BELL 1901	07/14/87 Cairo, GA	John Byron Wight [Darien, GA]	208
WIGHT, CARRIE BELL 1901	10/09/87 Wesleyan Coll., GA	John Byron Wight Darien, GA	210
WIGHT, CARRIE BELL 1901	10/26/87 Wesleyan Coll., GA	John Byron Wight Darien, GA	211
WIGHT, CARRIE BELL 1901	01/15/88 Wesleyan Coll., GA	John Byron Wight Eden, GA	213
WIGHT, THOMAS 1902	02/25/86 Cairo, GA	John Byron Wight Steam Mill, GA	214
WIGHT, MARGARET AUGUSTA 1906	04/30/88 [Cairo,] GA	John Byron Wight [Eden, GA]	215



The first home built in Cairo by John Byron Wight no.1897.
 Left to right are Ward, Warren, Laleah, Mother Alice, Father
 Byron, Ed, Slater and Robert. Older man unknown. About 1904.

This index of names, places and events does NOT include those listed in The Table of Contents.

Adams, Laleah, 178
Adams, Samuel, 186.
Albany, GA 47,49,54,55,56,61,62,72,76,84,88,89,93,98,102,107,125
...129,160
Alden, Abby Frances, 84,123,125,134,158,159,161.
Alden, Alice Burrington Wight, no.423, 2,4,12,33,112,117,118,134
...157,159,161,165.
Alden, Alice Wight, 12.
Alden, Charles Henry, 5,21,24,84,123,163,165.
Alden, Georgia Anna, 84,120,123,125,131.
Apalachicola, FL, 104.
Arkansas, State of, 99.
Artist, portrait, 37.
Athens, GA 58.
Atlanta GA 50,52,53,54,55,65,79,81,82,86,90,125,126,132,137,167,
...194,198,201.
Augusta, GA 4,84,128,131,132,134,135,140,159,165.
Bainbridge, GA, 21,22,43,53,204,208.
Baker County, 109.
Balloon, air, 102.
Banks, 5.
Billingslea, Mollie, wife of Edwin Leight Wight no.985 89,90.
Blitch, Gordon, 176.
Bond, Alice Wight, 12.
Bond, Edward Pearson, husband of Sarah Wight no.981, 12,15.
Boston, GA, 170.
Boston, MA 12,13,14,15,18,42.
Bosworth, Ann, [see also Storrs] 111,116,118,124.
Bosworth, Benjamin, 32,34.
Bosworth, Jamme, 112.
Bosworth, Mother, 32.
Bosworth, Mr. and Mrs., 26,27.
Bosworth, Nathaniel, 26,32,117.
Bradford, Govenor, 113, 118.
Bridgeman, Laura, 7,9.
Bristol, RI, 2,4,5,9,40,56,67,111,119,120,121,124,125,127,136.
Brooklyn, NY 118.
Brown, John, 119.
Bullock County, GA, 174,179,182.
Cairo, GA, 89,93,95,153,179,208,209,213.
Canals, 38.
Cancer, 99.
Cemetery, 120,121.
Charleston, SC 114.
Cherokee Lands, 21,163.
Chicago, IL 131,132,135,137,138,139.
Chicanauga, Battle of, 81.
Cholera, 40,49.
Church and church activities, 25,28,29,33,95,112,121,122,126,140
...158,159,170,174,176,184,187,189,190,199,205,213.
Cincinnati, OH 92.
Civil War, 13,14,49,73,74,76,78,79,81,83,84,119,129,160,167,168.
Cleveland, Barnet Franklin, 75,76,162.
Cleveland, Caroline Choice, 126,155,162.
Cleveland, Fanny Leonard Wight no.429, 2,4,12,16,49,55,72,81,84,
...96,99,118,125,126-7,134,152.
Cleveland, Georgia Alden, 12,16,126.
Cleveland, Harriet Dawkins 126,145,158.
Cleveland, John Bonar, husband of Caroline Choice Cleveland, 126
Cleveland, OH 37,38.
Cleveland, Robert Mathis, 126.
Cleveland, Robert Mathis, husband of Fanny Leonard Wight no.4
...49,84,96,99,101,126,160.
Cleveland, Vannoy 74,79,81,126,127,158.
Coles, Andrew Pickens, husband of Stella Vernon Wight no.1890,
...103.
Commencement, 191,196.
Cunningham, Aunt, 3,10.
Darden, Abbie Wight, 105, 110.
Darden, Henry Dorrington, husband of Mary Wight no.1894 104,10
...110.
Darien, GA, 146,172,190,191,209.
Death and grief, 31,32,33,34,25,43,44,60,71,123,125,137,144,15
Decatur County, GA 21,34,43,78.
Decatur, GA 82.
DeLorme, Annie, 191,209,213.
DeLorme, Mrs., 210,211.
Denmark, Brantley A., 186.
Dennis, MA 9.
Detroit, MI 37.
DeWolf, Clara Anna Diman, wife of Algernon Sidney, 112,115,117
...124,125,159.
Diman, Abigail Alden Wight no.424, 2,4,24,28,41,157.
Diman, Byron, 2,5,24,28,32,53,114,124.
Diman, George Byron, 24.
Diman, Lewis, 10,43,123,124,125,159.
Domestics, 39.
Douglas/Breckenridge, 48.
Doxtater, 83.
duPont, 88.
Economic Conditions, 13,17,20,26,40,47,49,50,53,55,57,62,63,
...64,107,116,121,125,132,135-6,138,158,160,163,165,204.
Eden, GA, 183.
Education, 9,132.
Enory College at Oxford, 196,198,199.
Exposition, 198,199,210.
Fall River, MA 10.
Ferry, 70.
Fire, Savannah Presbyterian Church, 187.
Florida, State of, 153,159.
Gainesville, GA, 84.
Galveston, TX 95.
Georgia, State of, 118,129,130,132,133,153,167.
German emigrants, 134,135,137,138.
Gignilliat, Wm.L., 186.
Gladding, Daniel, 34,35,111,115,117,118.
Greenville, SC 127.
Hartford, CT 124.
Herring, Uncle Joe, 209.
Hood, General, 84.
Hudson River NY, 116.
Hurricane, 74.
Illinois, State of, 132,139.
Indian Territory, 195.
Indian Wars, 34.
Institute for the Blind, Boston, MA 7,9.
Jackson, Andrew, 130.
Jefferson County, NY 23,41.
Joe, Cousin, 200.
Joe, Uncle, 50,55,69,92,103,166.

Johnson, General, 79.
 Kennesaw, GA 79.
 Key West, FL 94,98.
 Laboring classes, 81.
 Lachlison, Florence G., 188.
 Lafette, IN 37.
 Lake Champlain, NY 116.
 Lawrenceville, GA 1,22,47,55,81,123,127,157.
 Leary, GA 107,109.
 Legislature, 14,207.
 Libraries, 9,10,14,137.
 Lincoln, President, 48,167.
 Longstreet, General, 81.
 Louisville, KY 92.
 Macon Telegraph Newspaper, 49.
 Macon, GA 89,50.
 Maddin, Thomas. L. 188.
 Maine, State of, 86,114.
 Mansville, Jefferson County, NY 23,41.
 Marietta, GA 145.
 Marshalville, GA 89.
 McCellan, General, 167.
 Medicines, 51,182.
 Michigan, State of, 114,134,137.
 Milford, GA 86,104,105.
 Milwaukee, WI 146.
 Missouri, Cousin, 192,208.
 Mobile, AL 38.
 Money, borrowing, 106,107,109.
 Montezuma, GA, 211.
 Montgomery, Colonel, 167.
 Moody Revival 18.
 Morgan, General, 79.
 Mulberry Methodist Church, Macon, GA, 190,191.
 New Bedford, MA 111,112.
 New Jersey, State of, 134.
 New Orleans, LA, 38, 194.
 New York, NY 35,42,43,83,86,89,91,92,95,97,98,103,113,116,120,
123,135,146,147,154,159.
 Newport RI 40,65,114,159.
 Newton, GA 13,15,47,50,52,69,104,107,108,109.
 Niagara Fall, NY, 92.
 North Carolina, State of, 153.
 North, The, 129,160.
 Ogdensburg NY 111,113,116.
 Oxford, GA, 198,204.
 Parlor Organ, 14.
 Patrotic Revolution, 2.
 Peabody Fund, 132.
 Peace Festival, 135.
 Peckham, 24,84,123,124.
 Pensacola, FL 45,56,64,163.
 Philadelphia, PA 118.
 Photographs, 18,97,175,195.
 Piano lessons, 41,48,186,187,190,191.
 Pine Hill, Baker County, GA 109.
 Plattsburg, IL 111,113,116.
 Political Parties, 48,167.
 Powell, John A., 203,208.
 Powell, Mellie, 155,191,192,193,198,210,211.
 Powell, Tom, 171.
 Preaching, 189.
 Providence College, Providence, RI 126,159.
 Providence, RI 24,28,29,40,112,124,125.
 Railroads, 15,17,38,107,112,113,116,147,170,181,201,203.
 Richmond, VA 84.
 Roads, 128.
 Rockford, IL 131,135,142.
 Rome, Ancient, 129.
 Rome, GA 81.
 Rosecans, General, 81.
 Roswell, GA 78.
 Rowland, Alice Alden, 127,131,132,136.
 Rowland, Charles Alden, 84,118,123,127,131,132,135,137,159.
 Rowland, Clara Augusta, 132,138,144,145,147,209.
 Rowland, Clara Leonard Wight no.427, 2,4,96,144,159,165.
 Rowland, Frances Wight, 127.
 Rowland, Horatio Leonard, 131.
 Rowland, Mary Hewson, 131,136,141,142,143,152.
 Rowland, Robert Cleveland, 131,135,137,138,142.
 Rowland, Wheeler DeForest, 131,136,138,139,153,159.
 Rowland, William Leonard, 127,135,137,159.
 Rowland, William Maltbie, 2,127,130,132,137,140,159,165.
 Rushton, Robert Ellwood, husband of Ella Byron Wight no.1888
102.
 Sallie (horse) 87,164.
 Sandwich Islands 6,9,10,13.
 Saratoga, NY 103.
 Savannah, GA, 84,89,147,182.
 Scarlet Fever, 35,157.
 Schools, 46,58,132,137,138,159.
 Servants, 54.
 Sheffield, Tabetha West, Mother of Mary Wight Darden, 104.
 Sherman, General, 79,167.
 Sherman, Grayson County, TX, 195.
 Silk, 34.
 Slater, Alice, wife of John Byron Wight no.1897, 192,193,194
206.
 Slater, Ida, 177,179,183.
 Slater, John G., father of Alice Slater Wight, 175,182.
 Slater, Louise, 174, 182.
 Slater, Susan Cone, mother of Alice Slater, 175,176,179,181,
185,186,187.
 Slaves, 26,50,54,70,72,85,114,157.
 Smallpox, 50.
 Smith, Lydia, 25.
 Snow, GA, 176.
 Sofkee, GA 15,21,163.
 South Carolina, State of, 79,84,129,160,162.
 South, The, 13,20,130,131,160,167.
 Southern Confederacy, 129.
 Spartenburg, SC 126.
 Steanboats, 113.
 Stenography, 186.
 Stephens, A. H., 129.
 Stone Mountain, GA 86,55,56.
 Street Cars, 89.
 Temperance, 18.
 Tennessee, State of, 55,105,127,160.
 Thomas, Capt., 86.

Tift, Charles Ward, husband of Abbie Irene Wight no.1886 94.
 Tired Creek, GA 2,31,34.
 Tiverton, RI 124.
 Tobacco, 179,194.
 Tom Thumb, 170.
 Town Clerk, 10,19,20.
 Union, The, 129,130,133.
 Valdosta, GA, 180,183.
 Vanderbilt University, TN 145,162.
 Vaughn, General, 79.
 Vermont Centernell Railroad, 117.
 Virginia, State of, 79.
 Wardwell, Benjamin, 121.
 Wardwell, Daniel, 22,23,32,117.
 Wardwell, Henry, 3,22,23.
 Wardwell, Kata, 119.
 Wardwell, Nathaniel, 33,111.
 Wardwell, Samuel, Henry's (no.421) wife's father, 26,117,119.
 Ware County, GA 135.
 Wartrace, TN 134,138.
 Washington, DC 83.
 Washington, George, 129.
 Wayland, MA 15,21.
 Weddings, 88,171,172,176,192,206.
 Wesleyan College, Macon, GA, 53,191,192,208.
 West End, Georgia 89.
 West, The, 45,113,133.
 White Springs, FL, 203,205.
 White Sulphur Springs, AR 99,103.
 Whooping Cough, 58,183.
 Wight, Abbie Irene no.1886, 47,56,58,61,67,70,74,86,98.
 Wight, Abby Wardwell no.984. 92,97.
 Wight, Abby Wardwell, wife of Henry no.421, 13,22,40,54,55,92,97
100,103, 112,114,125.
 Wight, Alice Pearl no.1904,
 Wight, Alice Pearl no.1904, married Eugene Clower, 202,207.
 Wight, Byron Diman no.987, 46,71,123,166.
 Wight, Carrie Bell no.1901, 189,190,191,192,202,214.
 Wight, Charles Henry no.1892, 58,61,97.
 Wight, Clara Isabell no.1889, 47,56,61,86,97,154.
 Wight, Clarissa Leonard, wife of Henry no. 196, 2,5,14,21,49,72,
73,81,134,138,157,160.
 Wight, Edwin Leigh no.1885, 46-7,52-3,55-6,58,61,67,70,79,81,88-
90,92,96-8,100,103-4.
 Wight, Ella Byron no.1888 47,56,58,61,69,73-4,82,86,89,92,101.
 Wight, George Alden no.1905. 214.
 Wight, George Alden no.988, 21,47-8,52-3,55,68,70-3,75,79,81,84,
89,97,101-3,105-6,125-6,132,152,161,163,165,183,198,204,211-4
 Wight, George Ward 2768, 179,181,182.
 Wight, George, adopted son of Henry Wight no.980, 12,15,19,20.
 Wight, Georgia Lena 1891, 49,56,58 61,90,91,97.
 Wight, Henry no.1898, 168,200,208,214.
 Wight, Henry no.196, 1,5,6,9,24,26,28,40,116,121,136,138,157,160
 Wight, Henry no.421, 5,6,25,32,90,91,142,144,152.
 Wight, Henry no.980, 9,10,12,13,15,20,159.
 Wight, James Slater no.2769A, 183.
 Wight, John Bowen no.986, 9,23,26,36,46.
 Wight, John Burt, no.420, 2,6,17,45,124-5.
 Wight, John Byron no.1897, 196.
 Wight, John no.982, 7.
 Wight, Kedar, 171,208,211,214.
 Wight, Margaret Louisa Powell,wife of Henry Wight no.988, 52-
75,79,85,90,97,99,101,105,167,168,206,209,213,215.
 Wight, Martha Gibbs no.426, 2,4,13,24,28,35,49,72-4,79,81,84,
99,157,159,160,162.
 Wight, Martha no.979, 7,9,12,13,17,20.
 Wight, Mary "Mollie" no.1894, 70,99.
 Wight, Robert Pratt no.2769B, 183.
 Wight, Samuel Bowen no.1893, 53,61,86,97,103.
 Wight, Samuel Bowen no.985, 5,7,9,10,12,24,28,36,42,72-5,79,81
84,90,97,99,100,102-3,125-7,137,157,161,165,167.
 Wight, Sarah no.981, 7,9,10,12,15.
 Wight, Stella Vernon no.1890, 49,56,58,61,86,97,154.
 Wight, Thomas no.1902, 201,202,204,207,208,209.
 Wight, Walter Lee no.1903, 202, 204.
 Wight, William Henry no.983, 3,7,24,28,32,35,43,123.
 Wight, William Samuel no.1900, 199,204,208,211,213,215.
 Wight, William Ward no.2302, 144,146,152.
 Wight,Clara Scollay, wife of Samuel Bowen Wight no.985 45,47,4
53-6,58,97,99,100,103,129,157,166,168.
 Wilson, William Silbert, husband of Clara Isabel Wight no.1889
 Wright, Clark, 174.
 Yankees, 97,137.

Wight Street scene.

4-3/8" x 2-3/4"

Wight Street (now S.E. 1st St.) looking north in 1928.

First house on right was the home of Kedar Powell [the elder] built about 1868. The first Wight & Powell store prior to 1870 (not seen in this picture) was on the left at far north end of this street and adjoining the railroad right of way. Location of that store (but not the building) was moved to S. Broad St. sometime after 1870. Also seen in this picture is part of the two story building of Walker Sanitarium of 1928 that faced north on S.E. 2nd Ave. Bottom picture is close-up of the 1868 home of Kedar Powell, Sr., now 217 S.E. 1st St., acquired about 1888 by Joseph E. Poulk, where his daughters Lillian and Gladys were born and where they were yet living in 1966.

Kedar Powell home of 1868

4" x 2-1/2"

DEC 2 - 1965

Pictures of houses south of railroad.

on Wight Drive

The Joe E. Poulk home (where Eillian and Gladys now live) was originally built by Kedar Powell (b. 1810, d. 1879), and that is where he died in 1879, and where his widow (Amanda Bell Powell) died in 1888. Joe E. Poulk (who married Maxie Landingham) bought that house from the Powell estate, soon after 1888. Some alterations have been done, especially on the front, but the general arrangement and outline is like it was originally. We do want a picture of this house.

1800's

The B. F. (Dock) Powell house (where Miss Clara Mauldin now lives) was built at the time he married Emma Martin, which was about 1875 or before [I have the exact date in my files], and it is as old or maybe older than the Powell-Poulk home mentioned above. In general, that house is about like it was originally, except for the filagree work you mentioned. It was a big house when built. You said Miss Clara will furnish a picture. We do want a picture of that house, because that is where he raised his big family, and he was a half-brother of William Powell.

1800's

The Wight house (corner of old Ochlocknee and Wight streets) where Mrs. Tom Wight now lives, was built by G. A. Wight, Sr., and he moved into it when he came from Sofkee to Caire in 1888 and he died there in 1894. We do want a picture of that house.

1800

The B. W. Mauldin house, corner South Broad and Ochlocknee, is a landmark. Papa remembers the building of it when he was a little boy and the house is now more than 85 years old and its outline and general appearance is like it was originally. I don't know who lives in it now but it has been kept painted and good repair through the years. We do want a picture of that house.

1800

That will make four houses south of the railroad in which children of old settlers were raised. All of them are more than 75 years old and there is a lot of history connected with each of them.

*T. Powell
Emma Martin
married Mar. 18, 1872
1873
Location of Row
B. F. Powell
K. Powell - Poulk
Wight
A. B.
Dec 14
Tom Wight*

History of Cairo First United Methodist Church



The Methodist Church in Cairo began as a result of the interest of three women: Mrs. D.H. Wilmost, Miss Lizzie Everett, and Miss Julia Hall, who conducted a Sunday school in their homes. In 1867, the group became a unit of the Bold Springs Circuit. The journal of the conference shows that Rev. T.J. Colquitt was the first pastor. The first house of worship was completed in 1873. It was a white wooden structure built on the southwest corner of the present church lot. A small parsonage was also constructed. There were 20 members. Official records do not list them all, although they included the three above women and the following: Tom W. Brown, Stephen A. Chester, Rev. P.C. Harris, James H. Hayes, William Powell, Benjamin Franklin (Doc) Powell, and Capt. E.A. Vanlandingham.

The Cairo church grew steadily in membership. Mr. Henry Wight built and paid for a steeple addition to the Little White Church because he believed a church was not a church without a steeple. By 1886, members increased to 206, then to 300 by 1897. By 1900 the congregation had outgrown the small building, so plans were made for a larger brick building. The Little White Church was situated toward the southwest corner of the site, but the new brick building was housed in the northeast corner of the site at the intersection of South Broad and 3rd Ave SW. In 1901 the "poorly constructed" brick walls were torn down and rebuilt. The building was dedicated in 1902. The sound of the church bell could be heard all over the town, calling the people to worship. By 1908, the need for a Sunday School annex developed and a wooden Epworth League Hall and Sunday School annex was built to the west of the sanctuary.

These facilities were used for 25 years until expansion was again needed. During the months of construction, Cairo Presbyterian Church graciously lent the use of its sanctuary for worship services. The present sanctuary was completed in 1927 and was dedicated debt-free on Easter Sunday. Membership was 610, with a Sunday school enrollment of 523.

The next project was a new parsonage, which was built in 1953. It was constructed on the present site, across from the sanctuary. Expansion continued with construction of an educational building for the children's ministry. The 1950s also brought extensive remodeling and modernization of the sanctuary itself including air conditioning. By the time of our Centennial celebration in 1967, all church property was valued at \$456,000, free of debt. Membership was 759 and Sunday school enrollment was 540.

The final building on campus to be constructed was the fellowship hall and chapel building. It was dedicated on September 8, 1974. This very useful building provided a kitchen, dining hall, small conference room, classrooms, and a chapel. Continued renovations and refurbishments continued through the 1980s with membership being 791 in 1983. In September of 1997, the Clark family generously donated a building and portion of land commonly called the pool house. The youth were the main benefactors of this new space as they used it for Sunday School and youth fellowship. In May of 2004, the church, along with Clark's Funeral Home, purchased the lot next to the parsonage that was formerly owned by Autrey Petroleum. It was converted into a parking lot for use by the church and Clark's Funeral Home. The opening of First United Methodist Church Preschool, housed in the children's building, was another important event in 2004.

Today, on Heritage Sunday, we remember the hard work and perseverance of those who came before us. While this summary gives us a glimpse into the physical changes of our church, the spiritual growth and renewal cannot be measured. Our current church roll is 752 and we hope to continue to reach for our full potential in Christ. We are challenged to enlarge our faith and fulfill His vision every day. God bless Cairo First United Methodist Church!

May 2010

Wight Grocery Company
Wholesale Grocers

Sanford, Florida

2/1/13

Mr W B Roddenbery
Paines Ga

Dear Sir:

I have your letter of Jan 28th & am sorry that I cannot give you any definite information about the deeds you refer to. Business was done in rather a careless way back in the days when the deeds you refer to were made. G. A. Wight owned all of the Wight & Powell business & the deed to the land which A. B. Baggett made should have been made to G. A. Wight as J. A. Powell had no interest in it. I do not know of any blanket deed from J. A. Powell to G. A. Wight to the Thomas County lands. One might have been made however.

G. A. Wight also owned all the business of G. A. Wight & Sons & all deeds should

Wight Grocery Company

Wholesale Grocers

(27)

Sanford, Florida

have been made to him. Do not
think that there was any deed made
by the G.A. Wrights sons to G.A. Wright but
that might be made now & also
a deed to the 1/2 acres by all the
heirs if necessary. I feel sure that
they will all be willing to sign these
deeds. Sorry that I cannot give
you any more information about
this.

Yours truly
Henry Wight