

# MUSCOGIANA



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**MUSCOGIANA**  
**Journal of the Muscogee Genealogical Society**

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## From the Editor

In this issue of *Muscogiana*, we present three historical articles and a list of gravestone inscriptions for several cemeteries on the Fort Benning military reservation. In our lead article, Mike Bunn, Executive Director of the Historic Chattahoochee Commission, presents Part II of his article on Coweta. This will complete his article on one of the greatest Indian capitols in the southeastern U.S. The second article is about a Russell County slave named Winter Cantey. More than just a description of events of his life, it poses the question about why he received special treatment. The third article is about actress Jane Russell when she lived in Columbus in 1943 and '44. Few people know that this famous Hollywood star lived and worked among the common folk of Columbus. The fourth article contains lists of headstone inscriptions from eight cemeteries in Fort Benning. It was compiled in 1981 by Mrs. Elsie Hight of Fort Benning Department of Public Works. She was helped by several others, especially head forester John C. Metcalf who recorded the headstone information from the cemeteries. It was transcribed to *Muscogiana* format by the editor. For over three decades it has served as Fort Benning's primary document for its historic private cemeteries information.

Edward Howard

On the cover: The sketch is of General Oglethorpe and the Indians in the Savannah area. This scene was repeated numerous times as Oglethorpe sought alliances with Native American tribes throughout Georgia. Such a meeting occurred in the Creek Indian capitol of Coweta, in what is now Russell County, Alabama. The story of Coweta begins on page 1.



## **All Roads Lead to Coweta:**

### **A Center of Colonial Era International Diplomacy on the Chattahoochee**

#### **Part Two**

by Mike Bunn

Continued from Part One, published in the Fall 2012 edition of *Muscogiana*. The Creek capitol of Coweta was the major Indian capitol of the southeastern region of the British colonies and a hub for Indian trading routes extending throughout the southeastern region of the American colonies. It was the place European rivals journeyed to compete for favor among the Creek Indians. This article picks up at this point.

The Spanish responded with their military once again, only this time, they would attempt to supplement their arms simultaneously with a little more diplomacy. No less than the Governor of St. Augustine himself, Diego de Quiroga y Lasada, is believed to have visited Coweta in 1687 to apologize for Matheos' burning of the town two years previous.<sup>1</sup> What all he said to those who greeted him has been lost to history, but he likely urged them to brush aside the less than sanguine start to Creek-Spanish relations and the forming of a closer relationship as mutually beneficial. Shortly after his visit he wrote to the King of Spain urging him to send settlers to the area so that they might form a small but influential core of a pro-Spanish population that could more effectively serve as a bulwark against English advances into the region. While no response is recorded, actions he undertook in 1689 indicate a clear course of action had been plotted locally which officials in Florida hoped would eventually be viewed favorably by the royal court.

The central piece of this plan involved the construction of a fort on the banks of the Chattahoochee just downriver from Coweta.<sup>2</sup> The site chosen was a bluff overlooking a curve in the river near the strategic Hitchiti town of Apalachicola, on the western bank of the river in current Russell County, Alabama. The town served as the political center of one of the most densely populated areas of Creek territory, and the Spanish calculated that by establishing a beachhead there they might finally be able to establish a permanent presence that could exert the kind of influence among the Creeks that they sought. Losada sent a force of soldiers and Apalachee Indians to build the outpost, known as Fort Apalachicola, which they completed in a matter of weeks. They garrisoned the small fort with only twenty Spanish soldiers and a similar number of Apalachee laborers, but it served for a brief period as the center of Spanish colonial authority in a vast region. Despite grandiose plans for the outpost to serve as a

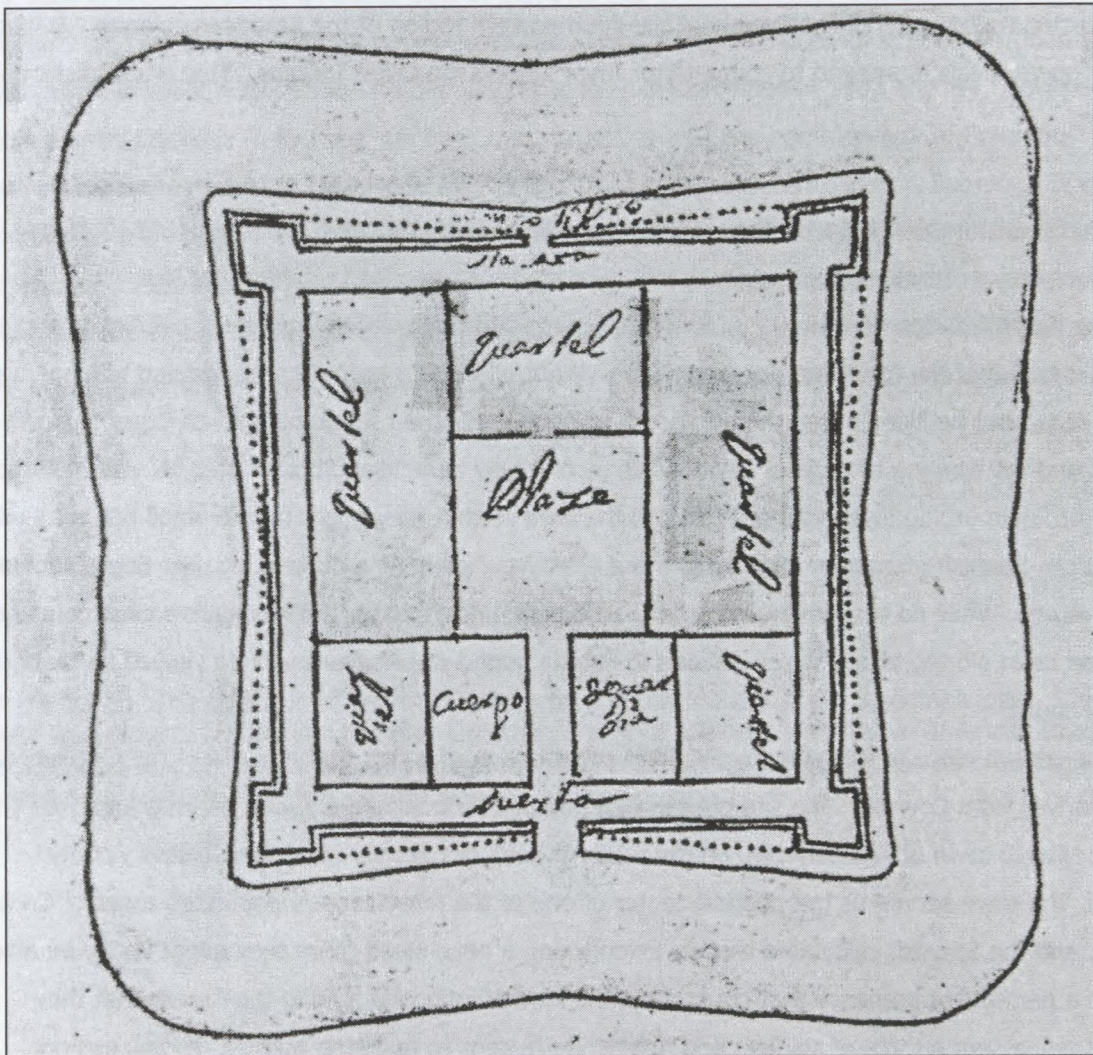
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<sup>1</sup> Lynn Willoughby, *Flowing Through Time: A History of the Lower Chattahoochee River* (Tuscaloosa: University of Alabama Press, 1999), 21.

<sup>2</sup> The most concise summary of the construction of Fort Apalachicola is found in Mark E. Fretwell, "Two Early Letters from Alabama," *Alabama Review* 9 (January 1956): 54ff.



physical reminder of the military and economic agreements they hoped to form with the Creeks, the plan never developed as intended. The Creeks, having observed the consequences of incurring Spanish wrath in the wake of the Woodward imbroglio, had of course agreed to allow the building of the fort more out of a fear of reprisal than sincere commitment to the visitors from St. Augustine and San Luis. When rumors of a possible attack on St. Augustine by the French circulated in the fall of 1691, Spanish authorities in Florida ordered the garrison of remote Fort Apalachicola to destroy the outpost and return.



Plan of Fort Apalachicola. Courtesy of the Archives of the Indies, Seville, Spain

Preferring the relative abundance, variety, and high quality of English trade goods to the meager offerings of the undersupplied Spanish traders and weary of being caught in the crossfire of the mounting international rivalry, many Creeks in the Chattahoochee Valley soon decided to simply leave the area and move closer to the English on the Atlantic coast. We do not know precisely how this "splintering" of



towns played out, but it is believed that for a brief period Coweta was either totally reestablished or there may have been two closely-associated "Coweta" towns—one on the Chattahoochee and one in central Georgia in the Ocmulgee River basin near modern Macon.<sup>3</sup> Such a move sounds drastic to many modern readers, but wholesale migration of towns within the sprawling realm once claimed by the Creeks was not unusual. These migrations, usually spurred by dwindling resources or a polluted landscape following long-term occupation of an area by large groups of people, were an accepted part of Creek culture. Hence, to move to another corner of their ancestral homeland to which they had a longstanding attachment was a perfectly viable solution to the increasingly uncomfortable position in which the lower Chattahoochee Creeks found themselves. Exactly how many towns and what portions of them made the move will perhaps never be known, but most historians of the period agree that some large-level eastward movement occurred around 1690 that would not be reversed for twenty-five years.

As town integrity endured with the move, villages such as Coweta remained prominent actors in Creek life and international diplomacy even if they were temporarily in new locations or scattered between two. Coweta had emerged as clearly among the most influential Creek towns by the time of Queen Anne's War in 1702, when its residents became even more entangled in the murky international rivalry that was quickly coming to shape their lives in profound ways.<sup>4</sup> The North American theater of the War of the Spanish Succession fought in Europe, Queen Anne's War played out in the Southeast primarily as a conflict between a small number of Spanish, English, and French troops and a much larger number of Indian allies.<sup>5</sup> Cowetas would figure prominently in one of the largest battles in this phase of the conflict, waged between allied English and Spanish forces along the Flint River in modern southeastern Georgia. The English, seeking to eliminate the threat of the developing network of Spanish missions in Florida, had decided to launch a preemptive strike. An English army, made up primarily of Indian allies and led by a trader named Anthony Dodsworth, constructed a small fort at Coweta to serve as a base of supply in preparation for the offensive.<sup>6</sup> From here in 1702, a force of a few dozen Englishmen and an estimated 500 Creeks advanced to meet a larger Spanish-Appalachee Indian army having as many as 800

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<sup>3</sup> There remains much we do not understand about this period of Creek town life. For a summary of the towns in this area and what is known of the timelines of their histories, see H. Thomas Foster, II, *Archaeology of the Lower Muskogee Creek Indians: 1715-1836* (Tuscaloosa: University of Alabama Press, 2007) and Robbie Ethridge, *Creek Country: The Creek Indians and Their World* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2003). It is during their sojourn in central Georgia that the Creeks, residing temporarily along Ochese Creek, are believed to have first been referred to collectively by the British as "Creeks," giving an enduring name that these people would adopt as their own and proudly carry even today. Certainly the ancient Coweta remained an important population center, as the Chief Advisor on Indian Affairs in Charleston, John Wright, reportedly traveled to Coweta and Cusseta around 1712. See Verner Crane, *The Southern Frontier, 1670-1732* (Tuscaloosa: The University of Alabama Press, 2004), 150-151.

<sup>4</sup> Thomas J. Pluckhahn and Robbie Ethridge, eds., *Light on the Path: The Anthropology and history of the Southeastern Indians* (Tuscaloosa: University of Alabama Press, 2006), 77.

<sup>5</sup> For a brief overview of the war and its place in America's colonial history, see Alan Taylor, *American Colonies: The Settling of North America* (New York: Penguin Books, 2002), 292-293.

<sup>6</sup> Mark E. Fretwell, *This So Remote Frontier: The Chattahoochee Country of Alabama and Georgia* (Eufaula, AL: Historic Chattahoochee Commission, 1980), 114; Crane, *The Southern Frontier*, 74; Herbert E. Bolton and Mary Ross, *The Debatable Land: A Sketch of the Anglo-Spanish Contest for the Georgia Country* (New York: Russell and Russell, 1968), 58; Walter A. Harris, *Here the Creeks Sat Down* (Macon: J.W. Burke, 1958), 16.



men who were organizing to launch their own campaign of reprisal in the wake of the recent raids on missions by English allies.<sup>7</sup> The armies met in October near the junction of Kinchafoonee Creek and the Flint River, not far from modern-day Albany, Georgia, in what has become known as the "Battle of 1702."<sup>8</sup> More of an ambush than a battle in the traditional sense, the English force took the Spanish force by total surprise, killing or capturing more than half of its number. A resounding defeat for Spanish interests in the region, the conflict marked the first open combat between Spain and England for control of the Chattahoochee Valley and the larger Southeast and was a prelude to more organized actions of Queen Anne's War in Florida. By the time the long conflict finally came to an end in 1713, the Parliaments of England and Scotland had passed Acts of Union formally establishing the Kingdom of Great Britain, and British preeminence in much of modern Georgia was being rapidly solidified.<sup>9</sup>

The upheaval resulting from the Yamasee War in 1715 firmly reestablished the Lower Creeks along the Chattahoochee.<sup>10</sup> A complex conflict involving several tribes in the Southeast, the war had its origins in disputes including trade inequities, British encroachment on Indian lands, and the Indian slave trade. It featured several native groups very loosely allied against the British colony of South Carolina. Brief, bloody, and widespread, it posed a serious challenge to the young colony's survival and its repercussions would be felt for the duration of the colonial era. A complete discussion of this important milestone event is beyond the scope of this essay, but it is appropriate to say here that it set in motion changes within the British colonial system that ultimately would pave the way for the establishment of the colony of Georgia, and perhaps even more importantly, contributed to a fundamental altering of the nature of the relationship of the scattered tribes that ultimately coalesced into what we now know as the Creek Confederacy. In essence, it spawned a closer working relationship among the Creeks for common goals than they had previously known or attempted. Specifically for the Cowetas, it resulted in them relocating back to their ancestral homeland on the Chattahoochee so as to be further removed from the main theater of fighting.

About this time, the French entered the international milieu in which Coweta found itself at the center. The French had attempted to establish themselves on the Gulf Coast beginning in 1699 in what is now Mississippi by creating what they called the colony of Louisiana.<sup>11</sup> Three years later they founded the city of Mobile as its capital. They would soon turn their attention westward in an effort to solidify their claims to the Mississippi River Valley and found New Orleans. Seeking to have allied native groups serve

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<sup>7</sup> Ibid.

<sup>8</sup> Ibid.; J. Norman Heard, *Handbook of the American Frontier: Four Centuries of Indian-White Relationships, Vol. 1, The Southeastern Woodlands*, (Metuchen, NJ: Scarecrow Press, 1987), 116.

<sup>9</sup> The Kingdom of Great Britain was officially established in 1707 through the Acts of Union by Parliaments of England and Scotland.

<sup>10</sup> The preeminent study of this conflict and its impact on Southeastern history is William L. Ramsey, *The Yamasee War: A Study of Culture, Economy, and Conflict in the Colonial South* (Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 2008).

<sup>11</sup> For an overview of French colonial efforts in the region in context, see Alan Taylor, *American Colonies* (New York: Viking, 2001).



as a buffer to British advances in the Southeastern interior, they also began to negotiate with the tribes of the backcountry, especially the Choctaws and Creeks. In 1717 they established a post they named Fort Toulouse at the confluence of the Coosa and the Tallapoosa a short distance from modern Montgomery. Jean Baptiste LeMoyne, Sieur de Bienville, brother of founder of the French colony of Louisiana, sent an envoy from this installation to meet with the leaders of Coweta the next year. The emissaries carried a letter of introduction from Bienville himself and an invitation to assemble in Mobile for a distribution of "gifts" — a haul of prized trade goods meant as an overt bribe for friendship.<sup>12</sup> According to some accounts, he may have also claimed to have transportation to Mobile waiting for them at Fort Toulouse.<sup>13</sup> In his letter Bienville also expressed a desire to meet Coweta's leader, "Emperor Brims," who had already acquired quite a reputation as a man to be reckoned with and would figure prominently in relations between Europeans and Creeks in the coming years. The Cowetas did not take the French leader up on the offer so far as is known, but neither did they explicitly turn them away. Despite their continuing overtures from that point forward, a few years later the Frenchmen noted with disappointment that British influence continued to grow among the Cowetas.<sup>14</sup> Bienville is believed to have investigated the possibility of sending a French agent in disguise to the area to work for French interests. Little is known of this effort, but, based on all we know about the Creek's relatively distant relationship with the French, it yielded few results if implemented.<sup>15</sup>

The French advances only helped the people of Coweta, and the Creeks in general, to better define their concerted effort to reach a "middle ground" in relations with Europeans. Born out of years of experience and an awareness of financial opportunities and diminishing relative military power, the strategy became the guiding principle of Coweta's diplomacy. There is evidence the plan may have had its origins in consultations with other tribes who were in contact with the Creeks from as far away as the Northeast.<sup>16</sup> A British trader known only as Captain Jones visited the Coweta at the behest of the British in the spring of 1717 and reported that the town had entered into an alliance with the Iroquois, whose homeland was in what is today New York.<sup>17</sup> Rather than a bold new tack, though, calculated neutrality is probably best understood as an evolution in approaching a situation in which the Creeks were at an increasing disadvantage.

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<sup>12</sup> Crane, *The Southern Frontier*, 257; Stephen C. Hahn, *Invention of the Creek Nation, 1670-1763* (Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 2004), 110; William L. Ramsey, *The Yamasee War: A Study of Culture, Economy, and Conflict in the Colonial South* (Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 2008), 208-209; Etta Blanchard Worsley, *Columbus on the Chattahoochee* (Columbus: Columbus Office Supply Company, 1951), 8.

<sup>13</sup> Ramsey, 208-209.

<sup>14</sup> David H. Corkran, *The Creek Frontier, 1540-1783* (Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1967), 80.

<sup>15</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>16</sup> Hahn, *Invention of the Creek Nation*, 110; Crane, *The Southern Frontier*, 257.

<sup>17</sup> *Ibid.*



The Coweta chieftain Brims, who held sway at Coweta for a generation, was front and center in this diplomatic strategy. Much about the life of this enigmatic figure remains a mystery.<sup>18</sup> We know he was the brother of noted chieftain Chigelli (and related to Mary Musgrove) and that he assumed a leadership role sometime around 1700, likely through a combination of heredity and charisma and an ability to obtain prized trade goods and money. The latter probability is most strongly evidenced by the fact that he actually received a commission by the British - an increasingly common ploy by Europeans during the era to create allies with which they could negotiate to best advantage.<sup>19</sup> Little else can be said about his life with certainty besides the fact that he rose to a position of unusual power and notoriety that allowed him great influence over not only the diplomatic affairs of his village Coweta, but a large portion of the Creek nation.

Mentions of him in accounts of visits by Europeans to Coweta offer some clue as to the extraordinary respect he commanded and his unusually central position in colonial designs. Instead of being referred to as "chief" or "headman" as was common, he is almost unfailingly alluded to as "king," "grand cacique," or even "emperor." Brims stood as a leader of remarkable sway among the Creeks, and European visitors were quick to take notice and build on that influence. British visitors described the Coweta town council house during his tenure as "the King of Coweta's court" in tacit acknowledgment of its position as the epicenter of European diplomatic efforts with the lower Creeks.<sup>20</sup> It is important to note that Brim's Coweta was not as primitive a place as one might imagine. Rather, it was as thoroughly a cosmopolitan setting and as well-connected a place as one might find on the Southern frontier. Visitors could discuss news of happenings from the Atlantic to the Mississippi and negotiate prices for goods in relation to London markets as they were entertained lavishly and served bountiful feasts on silver plates obtained through the very trade the town's leader worked so assiduously to cultivate and control.<sup>21</sup> No matter how well they were received or how sophisticated the conversation, however, any guests who expected to win over Brims to the exclusion of other suitors were sadly disappointed. Remarkd a Frenchman who toured among the Creeks during the height of Brims' influence in clear explanation of his remarkably simple approach to foreign relations, "No one has ever been able to make him take sides with one of the three European nations who know him, he alleging that he wishes to see every one, to be neutral, and not to espouse any of the quarrels which the French, British, and Spaniards have with one another..."<sup>22</sup>

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<sup>18</sup> Brims is mentioned in dozens of histories of the colonial era, yet the most inclusive and focused biography currently available on Brims is Melissa Stock's short entry in the online *Encyclopedia of Alabama*, "Emperor Brim," [www.encyclopediaofalabama.org/face/Article.jsp?id=h-2025](http://www.encyclopediaofalabama.org/face/Article.jsp?id=h-2025) (accessed October 8, 2013).

<sup>19</sup> Pluckhahn and Ethridge, *Light on the Path*, 77.

<sup>20</sup> Ibid.

<sup>21</sup> John R. Swanton, *Indian Tribes of North America* (Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office, 1952), 225; Theda Perdue, ed., *Sifters: Native American Women's Lives* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2001), 30.

<sup>22</sup> Swanton, *Indian Tribes*, 226.



It was in relationship to the British-Spanish rivalry for influence and trade—the most immediate, important, and enduring international contest to play out in the Chattahoochee Valley during the colonial period—that the strategy of neutrality Brims did so much to craft into a deliberate policy played out most clearly. Representatives of both colonial powers visited Coweta in the relatively peaceful years immediately following the upheaval of the Yamasee War.<sup>23</sup> Diego de Peña, head of the Spanish embassy at St. Augustine, visited Coweta with a small escort in 1716.<sup>24</sup> After the customary welcoming feasts and elaborate reception ceremony, de Peña distributed guns and ammunition to Brims and other headmen, whereupon Brims declared his “friendship” to the Spanish. The next year de Peña returned with a few soldiers and an abundance of gifts, intent on persuading his perceived allies to move further south, closer to Spanish Florida. In a reprisal of Matheos’ frustrated encounters two decades previous, however, and astounded de Peña encountered British traders there. Outraged at what he viewed as a flagrant betrayal, he became involved in a heated exchange and was ultimately forced to leave. Persistent if nothing else, de Peña visited Coweta at least once and perhaps twice more in an effort to pin down the elusive Cowetas into a pro-Spanish alliance. In 1718 he allegedly presented a plan to build another fort along the Chattahoochee to Brims in a continued effort to halt the town from further strengthening of trading relations with the British. The venerable chief proved evasive, however.<sup>25</sup>

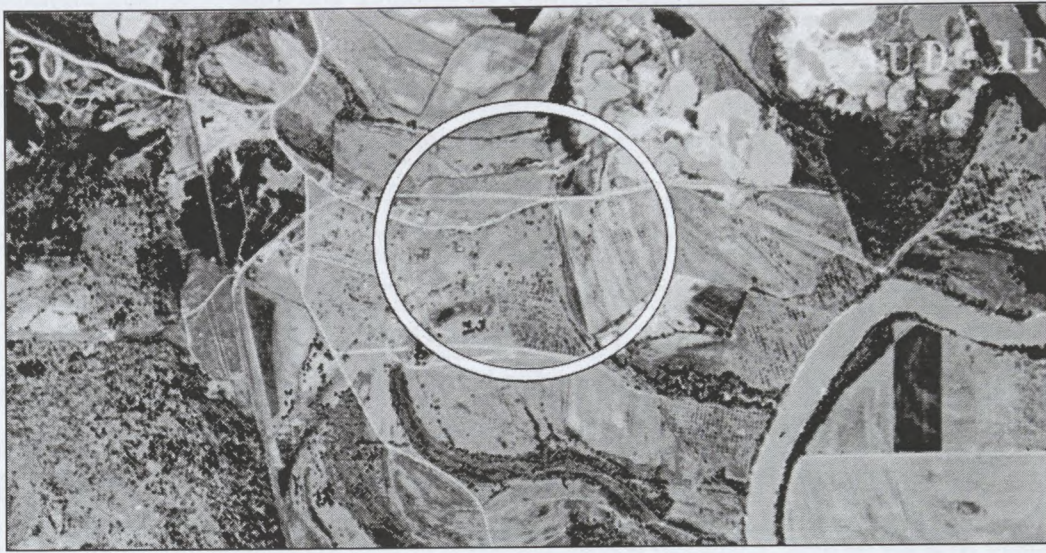
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<sup>23</sup> Heard, *Handbook of the American Frontier*, 116.

<sup>24</sup> Fretwell, *This So Remote Frontier*, 119; Crane, *The Southern Frontier*, 257; Bolton and Ross, *The Debatable Land*, 65; Mark F. Boyd, “Diego de Peña’s Expedition to Apalachee and Apalachicola in 1716,” *Florida Historical Quarterly* 16 (July, 1949): 1-27.

<sup>25</sup> Crane, *The Southern Frontier*, 257; Ramsey, *The Yamasee War*, 208-209; Fretwell, *This So Remote Frontier*, 119; Bolton and Ross, *The Debatable Land*, 65; Mark F. Boyd, “Documents Describing the Second and Third Expeditions of Lieutenant Diego de Peña to Apalachee and Apalachicola in 1717 and 1718,” *Florida Historical Quarterly* 31(1952): 109-139.





General location of former Coweta Tallahassee, as seen in a 1950 aerial photograph. Courtesy of the Environmental Management Division, Fort Benning, Georgia. Photograph #AUD-1F-152, March 2, 1950



General location of former Coweta, as seen in a 1999 aerial photograph. Courtesy of the Environmental Management Division, Fort Benning, Georgia. Photograph set 1999-02-24, photo 2-25



Such sustained and intense pressure may have been what prompted Brims to call a special meeting at Coweta in 1718 to discuss how to deal with the grasping Europeans once and for all. On March 23<sup>rd</sup> of that year in the Coweta square ground the landmark compact that would come to be known as the "Coweta Resolution" was formulated.<sup>26</sup> Exactly who sat in attendance beyond Upper and Lower Creek leaders is unknown, but most accounts indicate representatives of the three imperial powers vying for influence in the region may have been present as well. Recognizing the growing power of the British and desiring to avoid ever becoming beholden to one European colonizer, Brims made official the previously unofficial policy of neutrality the Cowetas had followed for decades. He recommended the continued cultivation of friendship to Europeans for the pecuniary gains international trade promised, but obligation to none.<sup>27</sup> This policy, while specifically pertaining to the stance of one province of the Creek Confederacy, can generally be understood to describe the loosely coordinated diplomacy of the Creeks until the second half of the eighteenth century.

Despite it becoming an open and avowed policy of Coweta, the pressure to maintain this neutrality only intensified in the coming years. Perhaps this derived from the fact that in practice the Creeks were not truly neutral in the strictest sense of the word; they simply sought to maintain the friendship of all for their own gain.<sup>28</sup> The British, Spanish, and French continued to call on the village and court its favor, seemingly undeterred by their relative lack of success in winning its undivided allegiance. In 1727 British agent Charlesworth Glover visited Coweta specifically to counter the efforts of the French, who it appeared were at last making significant inroads.<sup>29</sup> The British-Spanish rivalry continued to be the primary one to play out on Coweta's square ground, though. An incident involving British and Spanish envoys is emblematic of the ongoing pursuit of the Cowetas in the era. British Agent to the Creeks Tobias Fitch, dispatched from Charleston to cultivate their good will, arrived in the Coweta town square in 1725.<sup>30</sup> To his dismay, no sooner had he arrived than Spanish emissaries from Florida strolled into the town. The uncomfortable situation quickly turned confrontational and the frightened Coweta townspeople attempted to avoid getting caught in an altercation. According to Fitch's journal, he crossed the Chattahoochee to enlist the support of some Cusseta warriors to drive off the Spanish emissaries. With the Spaniards was a black man whom Fitch's men captured as a slave over the protest of the Spanish as he summarily ordered them to leave. They appealed to Brims for assistance, but the steadfastly neutral chief declared he would not play favorites in this fight. The British and Spanish officials' impasse played

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<sup>26</sup> Hahn, *Invention of the Creek Nation*, 110; Ramsey, *The Yamasee War*, 208-209.

<sup>27</sup> Michael Green, *The Politics of Indian Removal: Creek Government and Society in Crisis* (Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1982): 22.

<sup>28</sup> Robbie Ethridge and Charles Hudson, editors, *The Transformation of the Southeastern Indians, 1540-1760* (Oxford: University Press of Mississippi, 2002): 105.

<sup>29</sup> Fretwell, *This So Remote Frontier*, 122; Crane, *The Southern Frontier*, 271.

<sup>30</sup> "Captain Fitch's Journal to the Creeks, 1725," in Newton Mereness, *Mereness' Travels in the American Colonies* (New York: Macmillan Company, 1916): 175-214.



out in a series of "talks" presented to the Cowetas in the town square ground. The exchange is revealing of the nature and dynamics of the rivalry and the complicated international negotiations that played out in Coweta. They are among the few such exchanges that have been recorded in such detail and are presented here with original spelling and punctuation:

A Talk to the Spaniards

I am Sent here by the Government of Carolina To See Our Friends, The Creek Indians and to Transact affairs here for Our Said Government, and I am not To Suffer any white Man To Reside in this place without giving me an account of his Business. I therefore Demand of you who Impowered you to Come into This nation and for what purpose are You Come?

The Spaniards Answer:

I have a Commission which I here Lay before you, To Impower me to Come here. Though I should not have Come here had not Old Brimins Sent for me. He did send to My Master the Governor of Augustine to Send a Man, That he Wanted to Here a Talk and That is my Arand here and if I had thought that I should have been Received as I am I should not have Come.

Fitch:

As to Old Brimins sending For You its Not So, For the Old man Himself Denies It...I Do Not Doubt but you Have Some Lying Stories to Tell. But Since I find You have a writeing Which I Believe is From your Governor I shal Excuse you at this Time.

Fitch:

I believe The Spaniards bring a Great many lies among you. But They and us is now Friends and its not our way to profess Friend with Our Mouths and in Our Hearts to be Enemies. Altho I do Not Doubt but if them Spaniards had such ane offer against me, they would Ready except of Itt.

Fitch recorded that the Spanish departed "in a very Submissive manner," but that some of the Cowetas, "Taking notice of the Discourse Between us said '...if You Think it Good they Shal never find the way home."<sup>31</sup>

There is no indication Fitch sought the murder of the Spaniards or approved of the act being carried out. His recording of the alleged offer in his admittedly self-serving journal is nonetheless revealing for its demonstration of the lengths to which the Cowetas might go to avoid angering the increasingly powerful British even as they attempted to avoid committing wholeheartedly to them. Maintaining neutrality did not necessarily mean staying above the fray or not getting your hands dirty.

Perhaps the most celebrated visit by European dignitaries to Coweta took place in the summer of 1739, when James Oglethorpe arrived at the village to obtain the blessings of the Creeks to establish the

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<sup>31</sup> Ibid.



colony of Georgia.<sup>32</sup> Although Oglethorpe had landed on the Georgia coast and founded Savannah in 1733, ongoing bribes by Spanish rivals to the south, who claimed dominion over the area, and persistent attempts at interference by the French threatened the young community's safety. This situation, especially in light of escalating tensions between Great Britain and Spain over their North American colonial empires, led Oglethorpe to seek to obtain the unequivocal support of the Creeks and a promise they would not join rivals as military allies should an altercation occur. He actually hoped further that they might actually be persuaded to join him as outright allies.



The site of Coweta lies on private property and cannot be accessed without permission. Behind the gate at the center of this photograph lies a portion of the site of the town.

Oglethorpe and an entourage of about two dozen soldiers and a guide departed Savannah on July 8<sup>th</sup> for a strenuous overland journey to Coweta, arriving a month later.<sup>33</sup> By all accounts his reception was exceptionally lavish, and by some estimates a throng of as many as seven thousand Creeks from allied

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<sup>32</sup> Worsley, *Columbus on the Chattahoochee*, 12-16; Bolton and Ross, *The Debatable Land*, 84; Green, *The Politics of Indian Removal*, 23-27; Fretwell, *This So Remote Frontier*, 128; Pluckhahn and Ethridge, *Light on the Path*, 77; Willoughby, *Flowing Through Time*, 27.

<sup>33</sup> This account of Oglethorpe's visit is taken from "A Ranger's Report of Travels with General Oglethorpe in Georgia and Florida, 1739-1742," in Mereness, *Mereness' Travels*, 215-238.



Upper and Lower Creek towns assembled on the banks of the Chattahoochee to greet him. His troop company halted about two miles from Coweta on August 8, 1739, where they were met by children from Coweta bearing gifts, an abundance of foodstuffs, and an honor guard carrying a British flag. The next morning Oglethorpe and his escort proceeded into the town where they were greeted by Malatchi, head warrior of Coweta and nephew of Brims, (who had died a few years previously), and a host of other dignitaries.<sup>34</sup> Protracted and elaborate ceremonies ensued, and after the guests drank the *acee*, or "black drink" while lounging on bear-skin-covered logs, they were treated to a feast in the "King's house." Later they were entertained with dancing. Negotiations resulting in a compact affirming Creek approval of the establishment of the colony of Georgia took over two weeks, taking place in both Coweta and Cusseta on the east bank of the Chattahoochee. The agreement was signed on August 21, 1739. The document sealed and regulated favorable terms of trade with the British for the Creeks and provided a promise of no further British encroachment on their lands, and assured the British they would not take up arms against them should a war with Spain erupt. It would be the last time the Creeks at Coweta would treat with Europeans from such position of power.

With the establishment of the colony of Georgia, the British soon asserted themselves unequivocally as the dominant influence in the region. The French, on the wane in the region for years previous, were finally eliminated from the area in 1763 as a result of their defeat in the Seven Years' War. The Spanish gradually retreated before the advance of the more powerful British, and by the late 1700s were clinging precariously to a portion of the vast domain they once claimed from their well-established bases in Florida. By the early 1800s, they would be gone as well. It would be to Great Britain that the Creeks looked to almost exclusively for trading and military alliances henceforward after Oglethorpe's visit. With the field of competitors reduced, the British colonies growing in strength, and the deerskin trade steadily becoming less profitable for the Creeks, they found themselves increasingly on the defensive by the time of the Revolutionary War. In that conflict the weakened Creeks pinned their clearly diminishing hopes with the British, siding with them in a war which they well knew could result in a serious blow to their sovereignty and leave them severely disadvantaged if they had to deal solely with the devastatingly land-hungry Americans. We all know the rest of the story. The Americans achieved their independence and with it effectively cast the die.

There were persistent, steady, and deadly effective efforts to acquire Creek lands over the course of the next several decades. Squatters took Creek land outright and illegally by preemption; fraudulent or unenforced treaties negotiated under duress and with leaders chosen by Americans resulted in the Creeks being deprived of large swaths of territory; Creek country was bought under the veil of legality through a system weighted against Creek interests and wishes, sometimes through blatantly corrupt bargains; Creek culture itself came under assault by government-sponsored efforts to encourage assimilation into

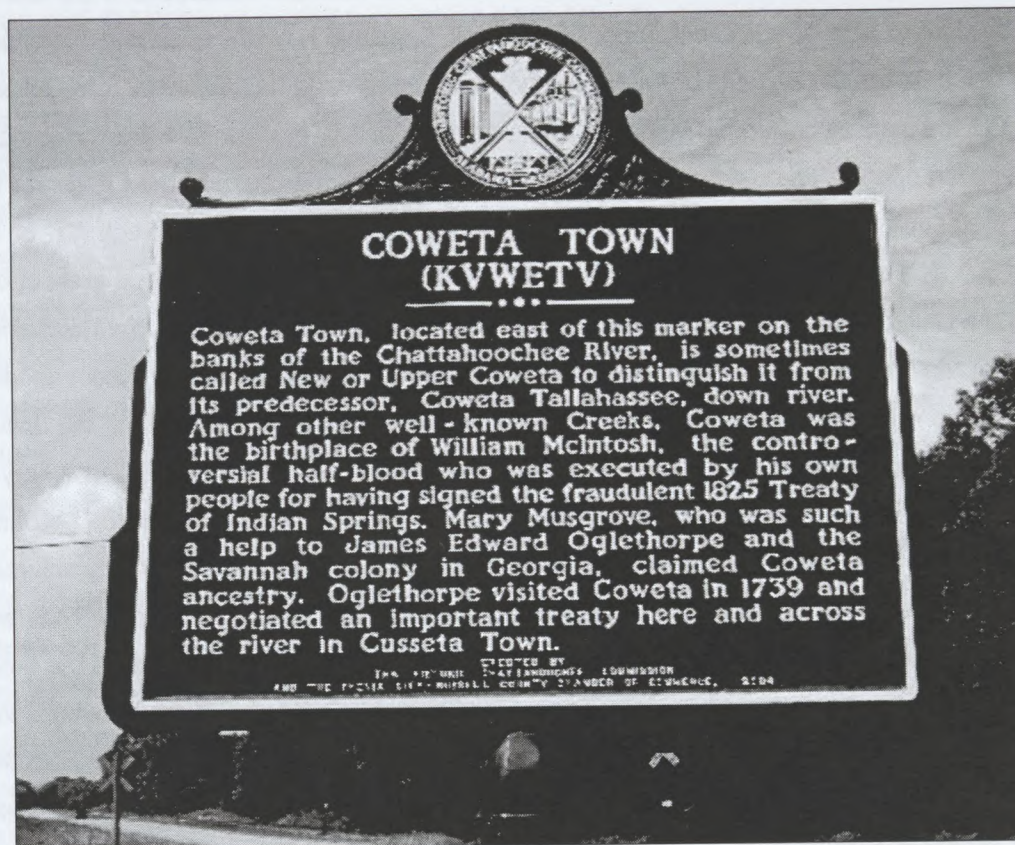
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<sup>34</sup> Pluckhahn and Ethridge, *Light on the Path*, 77.



American society. Very near Coweta would be placed some of the hallmark institutions of the latter form of coercion brought to bear on the Creeks prior to Removal. Benjamin Hawkins established his Agency, designed to demonstrate the benefits of American-style agriculture—and thus persuade the Creeks they did not need vast expanses of hunting lands—in the immediate vicinity of Coweta. A short distance away the Asbury Mission opened, its dual purpose to bring Christianity and education to the Creeks for the salvation of their souls and the easier adoption of an American lifestyle. During the Creek War of 1813-14, which began as a civil war among the Creeks over the future of their way of life and grew into a conflict with the United States that would ultimately serve to decide those questions, the town allied itself with the Americans only to find itself besieged by fellow Creeks who opposed further accommodation. In the years after the war Coweta and its vicinity played host to the negotiations of some of the final compacts with the United States the Creeks would sign. Most poignantly, the town sat at the very heart of the area where the final act on the long road to Removal played out; after defeat in the Second Creek War of 1836, Creeks from Coweta and numerous other ancient towns who had not already voluntarily left the area were rounded up into camps and shipped to a new home west of the Mississippi. Their ancestral birthright lands became the property of American planters and small farmers who became the progenitors of an entirely new culture. As time progressed, Coweta would be one of the many towns whose location would be plowed over, paved under, or dug away after its people were literally obliterated from the landscape and removed west. Only its name—and that obscurely—remains in the heart of the ancestral heartland of the Creeks.





The Historic Chattahoochee Commission's historical marker for Coweta

A short drive down Brickyard Road in south Phenix City, just minutes from the bustle of downtown Columbus, will take one into the vicinity of the fields and forests on which the events of this essay unfolded. Those who venture by should be forewarned: the site lies on private property and it takes quite an imagination to picture the area as it once appeared. The landmark hills, plains, and streams are still there, but little else. No traces of the historic town of Coweta remain, and a great deal of the plant life that the Creeks would have recognized is forever gone, the result of alteration to the land by agricultural and extractive industrial forces on a scale the original inhabitants of these acres could scarcely have imagined. Even the course of the river has changed, albeit slightly, and has over the past several decades played its own part in literally washing the story of Coweta away. The core of the town site lies on private property, inaccessible and dangerously imperiled by the forces of economic development that notoriously contemplate all too little the value of historic site preservation and the indefinable aspects of the importance of place in our shared heritage. At least Coweta and Coweta Tallahassee are memorialized by historic markers, and thank goodness archaeologists have been able to record something of these sites to give us a better understanding of them. We may also be thankful that there are those, despite the odds, who would like to see a portion of these important plots of ground preserved for the education of the public. But no matter what uses the land is subjected to, Coweta will forever remain an indelible, if



undetected, part of the landscape. Its story is an imprint on the land wrought by the generations of people who have called the area home. Over the course of centuries, it was a destination for travelers and a place where decisions that influenced international trade and diplomacy took place. May we remember its importance, reflect on its story, and preserve a portion of its hallowed grounds.



## Legacies: Why is the Cantey Family Story Hiding?

by Stephen Townsend

Adapted from an article published in the March/April 2011 edition of *AAHGS News*, the bi-monthly newsletter of the Afro-American Historical & Genealogical Society. Republished with permissions of the author and the journal.

Researching African-American genealogies and history sometimes brings to the surface troubling issues related to slavery and its aftermath. In some instances, the troubling elements can suppress an otherwise impressive family story. Delving into the family history of Winter Cantey made me curious about why more information about his life and the lives of his descendants had not been published. For the times and circumstances they faced, the Cantey family story is a fairly extraordinary one. Were there painful issues buried underneath the layer of documented facts about the family? Why did the white Cantey family so strongly embrace Winter throughout his life?

Winter Cantey was born in Camden, South Carolina, a slave of John and Emma Susanna Richardson Cantey. He was born in the mid-1830s.<sup>1</sup> Described consistently as a mulatto in census records, Winter may have been the son of James Cantey, who would have been in his late teens when Winter was born.<sup>2</sup> Even though the Cantey family had many slaves on its plantations in Camden and Fort Mitchell, Alabama, Emma Cantey raised Winter herself.<sup>3</sup> Further, as Winter grew older, his bond with James Cantey grew much stronger.

While fighting in the Mexican American War, James Cantey was seriously injured and left for dead.<sup>4</sup> After the war's end, he left the military and took over management of his family's Fort Mitchell plantation.<sup>5</sup> The Fort Mitchell plantation had 22 slaves when the 1850 Federal Census was taken.<sup>6</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> There are many discrepancies regarding the birth date of Winter Cantey. His birth year was most likely around 1836. The 1900 Census for Russell County, Alabama reported Winter's birth month and year as April 1821 (Household of W. Cantey, U.S. Federal Census, 1900, Alabama, Russell County, E.D. 139, 12A, accessed October 8, 2013, [www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com)). His tombstone at Porterdale Cemetery in Columbus, Georgia is inscribed with 1830 as his birth year ("Winter Cantey," posted by Jesse Williams, accessed March 9, 2011, [www.findagrave.com](http://www.findagrave.com)). When James Cantey, the son of Winter's owners, went off to fight in the Mexican-American War in 1846, Winter wanted to accompany him but was too young. Winter's 1913 *Columbus Daily Ledger* newspaper obituary ("Winter Cantey Died Yesterday," *Columbus Daily Enquirer*, October 11, 1913, p.3, accessed October 8, 2013, [www.genealogybank.com](http://www.genealogybank.com)) stated that he was about 10-years old at the time James went to war. That would place Winter's birth year as being around 1836. So it was more likely that Winter was born in the mid-1830s than in the early 1820s.

<sup>2</sup> Household of Winter Cantey, U.S. Federal Census, 1870, Alabama, Fort Mitchell, Russell County, 127A, accessed October 8, 2013, [www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com); Household of Winter Cantey, U.S. Federal Census, 1910, Alabama, Precinct 1, Russell County, E.D. 0182 14A, accessed October 8, 2013, [www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com).

<sup>3</sup> Claude Roberts, "In War and Peace, Through Death-Threat, These Slaves were Faithful," *The Atlanta Constitution*, February 23, 1902, The Sunny South Section, 5, accessed October 8, 2013, [www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com). Claude Roberts was the pseudonym used by Claudia Waddell Roberts, the niece of Martha Benton Cantey.

<sup>4</sup> Ibid.

<sup>5</sup> "Winter Cantey Died Yesterday," *Columbus Daily Enquirer*, October 11, 1913, p.3, accessed October 8, 2013, [www.genealogybank.com](http://www.genealogybank.com).



Winter had remained in Camden while James was off fighting. About 1853, Winter married a slave named Fannie Simmons. Fannie was one of the Cantey's slaves and worked as a seamstress for Emma Cantey.<sup>7</sup> Fannie was born on 10 May 1838, likely in Camden.<sup>8</sup> Soon after marrying, Fannie and Winter started their family, with Fannie delivering their oldest son, William in Camden in 1854.<sup>9</sup> Soon thereafter, Winter relocated his family from Camden to Fort Mitchell after James Cantey had settled there. Winter became a trusted servant to James and frequently traveled back and forth between Camden and Fort Mitchell, ferrying slaves, money and livestock between the family's two plantations. Winter also was an accomplished veterinarian surgeon according to local newspaper reports.<sup>10</sup>

On 14 April 1858, James Cantey married Martha Elizabeth Benton, the daughter of wealthy landowners in Russell County, Alabama.<sup>11</sup> The couple had three children together. The 1860 Federal Census for Russell County, Alabama enumerated James; wife Martha; son John; and overseer, Henry Windley, in his household. James reported that he had real estate valued at \$15,000 and personal property worth about \$17,000.<sup>12</sup> The 1860 Federal Census Slave Schedules enumerated 82 Black people that the Cantey family held in bondage in Russell County, including several in their 90s and a few who later reported that they were born in Africa.<sup>13</sup> Winter and Fannie Cantey and their four young children were included among the Cantey's slaves. At the outbreak of war in 1860, James mustered into service on behalf of the Confederate Army as a colonel in charge of the 15th Alabama regiment. He fought with Stonewall Jackson in Virginia before being transferred to Mobile, Alabama. In Mobile, he organized a brigade consisting of the 17th, 21st and 29th Alabama regiments.<sup>14</sup> Winter originally had accompanied James into the field but was soon sent back home to look after James' family and the plantation.<sup>15</sup> Life was quiet in Fort Mitchell for much of the war.

On 8 January 1863, James was commissioned as a brigadier general. He had been stationed at Mobile, Alabama to protect the shoreline. His brigade was later sent to Atlanta as Union General William Tecumseh Sherman started his infamous "March to the Sea" through Georgia.<sup>16</sup>

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<sup>6</sup> Enumeration of Slaves of James Cantey, U.S. Federal Census – Slave Schedules, 1850, Alabama, Russell County, Image 40, accessed October 8, 2013, [www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com).

<sup>7</sup> Roberts.

<sup>8</sup> Death Certificate of Mrs. Fannie Wilson Cantey (#31668), Georgia Death Certificates, accessed October 8, 2013, [www.georgiaarchives.org](http://www.georgiaarchives.org). On Findagrave, her tombstone is mistakenly marked "Lannie" Cantey ( Jesse Williams, "Lannie Cantey," March 9, 2011, [www.findagrave.com](http://www.findagrave.com)) and the birth date is given as May 12, 1840.

<sup>9</sup> Household of Winter Cantey, U.S. Federal Census, 1870.

<sup>10</sup> Roberts.

<sup>11</sup> Thomas McAdory Owen, "Biography of James Cantey," *History of Alabama and Dictionary of Alabama Biography, Vol. III* (The Chicago: S. J. Clarke Publishing Company, 1921), 296.

<sup>12</sup> Household of James Cantey, U.S. Federal Census, 1860, Alabama, Southern Division, Russell County, 861, accessed October 8, 2013, [www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com).

<sup>13</sup> Enumeration of Slaves of James Cantey, U.S. Federal Census - Slave Schedules, 1860, Alabama, Russell County, Image 5-6, accessed October 8, 2013, [www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com).

<sup>14</sup> Owen.

<sup>15</sup> Roberts.

<sup>16</sup> Owen.



After Confederate General Robert E. Lee surrendered to Union Army General U.S. Grant, war continued to rage in Alabama and Georgia. In fact, the last battle of the Civil War was fought along the Chattahoochee River between Alabama and Georgia. The Canteys' Fort Mitchell plantation was right in the midst of the fighting. In 1865, as Union troops made their way from Montgomery, Alabama toward Columbus, Georgia, they arrived at the Canteys' plantation. As they had been doing throughout the war, the troops began to ransack the Canteys' plantation for horses and supplies. Martha Benton Canteys, the lady of the home, challenged the troops as they took supplies as well as her children's ponies. Quickly, Canteys slaves Dinah, Henry Johnson and Jim Stark took their place by her side. Winter Canteys walked out to the troops and pled with them to leave the family alone. One of the Union soldiers demanded that Winter tell him where the family had hidden its money. A Canteys relative recalled what happened next:

[The soldiers] then used, as a gentle persuasive, the cold touch of a pistol against [Winter's] forehead, which they assured him would go off, as a dead sure thing, at another refusal, but still he would not. Then, as a further trial of his faith, they put a rope around his neck and drew him up to the nearest limb...and still he answered them not a word. For the second and third time, this cruel punishment was repeated without avail.

Eventually, the troops let Winter go and soon started back on their march to Columbus. Winter followed them for several miles, eventually retrieving the children's ponies and bringing them back to the Canteys' plantation.<sup>17</sup>

Winter and Fannie remained with James and Martha Canteys near their Fort Mitchell plantation for many years after the war.<sup>18</sup> Winter and Fannie obtained farm land from the Canteys valued at \$600; they also had personal property, likely in the form of farm equipment, in the amount of \$300.<sup>19</sup> So whereas most newly freed slaves were starting out life with nothing, Winter and Fannie found themselves in an elite position compared to their neighbors. Winter and Fannie also had more children to care for in freedom: William (b. 1854); Emma (b. 1858); Sallie (b. 1859); Amanda (b. 1860); Amelia (b. 1863); Elizabeth (b. 1868); James (b. 1873); Edward (b. 1874); Annie (b. 1880); and Mamie (b. 1881).<sup>20</sup>

General James Canteys died on 30 June 1874 at Fort Mitchell, Alabama and was laid to rest at the Crowell Family Cemetery, the burial plot for Martha's family members.<sup>21</sup> Winter and Fannie remained close to Martha. In fact, when Winter would travel back to Camden, South Carolina to visit family and friends there, he often traveled with members of his former owners' family.<sup>22</sup>

As Reconstruction took hold in the 1870s, Winter found himself in a challenging position. At the end of the Civil War, Alabama State Democratic leaders who still controlled the State legislature imposed

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<sup>17</sup> Roberts.

<sup>18</sup> "Winter Canteys Died Yesterday," *Columbus Daily Enquirer*.

<sup>19</sup> Household of Winter Canteys, U.S. Federal Census, 1870.

<sup>20</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>21</sup> Owen.

<sup>22</sup> Roberts.



harsh "Black codes" to keep the newly freed Blacks in a form of quasi-slavery. However, when the Radical Republicans in the U.S. Congress abolished the State governments in the former Confederate states, federal troops assumed control in those states. They immediately registered Black males over age 21, including Winter Cantey, to vote to approve a new state constitution.<sup>23</sup> The new constitution guaranteed Blacks equal rights under the law and was overwhelmingly approved by the freed slaves.

As support for Reconstruction began to wane across the country and when federal troops were removed from the South in 1878, the Democratic Party regained control in Alabama. Slowly but surely, Blacks found their guaranteed rights being eroded. When a new state constitution was approved in 1901, it instituted the "grandfather clause" for the first time. The new constitution almost completely wiped out the Black voting population, except for the few who Blacks who voted for the Democratic Party. According to one white Cantey relative of that time, Winter was, "a friend to the white people, assists in all their elections, votes with them and has the respect of all of them."<sup>24</sup>



Winter and Fannie Simmons Cantey circa 1900 in Russell County, Alabama. Photo courtesy Alabama Department of Archives and History.

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<sup>23</sup> Entry for Winter Cantey, "Alabama 1867 Voter Registration Database," Russell County, Alabama, Precinct 3, District 17. Alabama, Department of Archives & History, Montgomery, Alabama, accessed October 8, 2013, [www.archives.alabama.gov/voterreg/results.cfm](http://www.archives.alabama.gov/voterreg/results.cfm).

<sup>24</sup> Roberts.



Winter and Fannie remained in Fort Mitchell/Girard until their health began to fail. In the 1910s, they relocated to Columbus, Georgia, Muscogee County, where they lived with their daughter Mamie Cantey Pitts and her husband, Augustus.<sup>25</sup> Winter died at his daughter's home on 10 October 1913.<sup>26</sup> His obituary in the Columbus Enquirer paid him the following final tribute:

A member of the Cantey family, to which Winter, as a slave, belonged, speaking of him to an Enquirer-Sun reporter, declared that he was not only intelligent, but that he was at all time and under all circumstances perfectly honest and absolutely reliable; that many and many a times he had been entrusted to attend to business requiring sound judgment and ability, also involving his honesty and integrity, and that always he proved himself to be worthy of the trust imposed in him.<sup>27</sup>

Winter was buried in Porterdale Cemetery in Columbus, Georgia on Sunday, 12 October.<sup>28</sup> Following his death, his daughter Elizabeth served as executrix for Winter's estate. Winter had filed his will on February 15, 1913 in Muscogee County, Georgia, although much of his property remained across the bridge in Russell County, Alabama. His will was probated in Russell County. He left all of his property to his wife, Fannie. In the listing of all of his heirs, his children and grandchildren had spread out all over the country –Washington, D.C.; Chicago, Illinois; Dallas, Texas; Cripple Creek, Colorado; and Cleveland, Ohio.<sup>29</sup> They, too, would leave their own legacies.

Fannie remained with her daughter Mamie until her death on December 21, 1921 in Columbus, Georgia. She had suffered a stroke on December 16 and died from complications. Her remains were laid to rest on December 22, 1921 in Porterdale Cemetery, next to her husband's grave.<sup>30</sup>

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<sup>25</sup> "Pitts, Augustus," Columbus City Directory 1912, *U.S. City Directories, 1821-1989*, accessed October 8, 2013, [www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com).

<sup>26</sup> "Winter Cantey," [www.findagrave.com](http://www.findagrave.com).

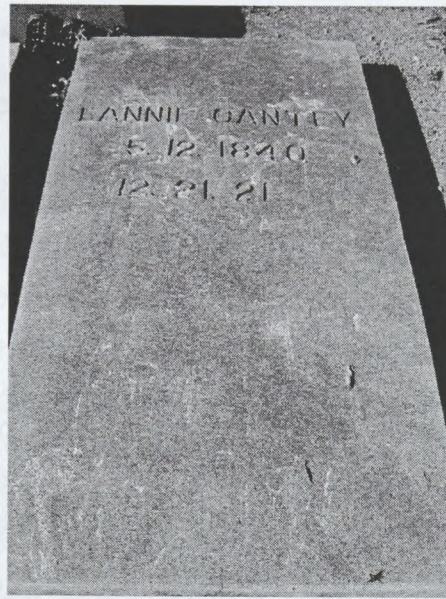
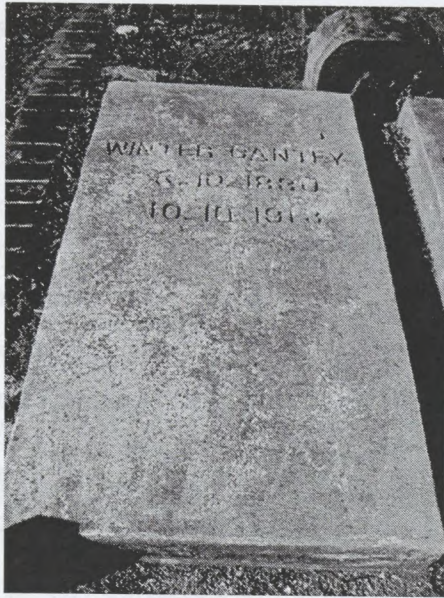
<sup>27</sup> "Winter Cantey Died Yesterday," *Columbus Daily Enquirer*.

<sup>28</sup> Ibid.

<sup>29</sup> Will of Winter Cantey, probated 13 November 1913, Russell County, Alabama Probate Court Minutes, pp. 296-298.

<sup>30</sup> Death Certificate of Mrs. Fannie Wilson Cantey (#31668), Georgia Death Certificates.





Tombstones of Winter and Fannie Cantey, Porterdale Cemetery. Photos courtesy of Jesse Williams, Columbus, Georgia.

The main recollections about Winter and Fannie Cantey came from the white citizens of Russell County, Alabama, with whom they interacted. Those recollections presented one view of the couple's existence in the years of and after slavery. Unfortunately, no recollections from their African-American neighbors or fellow slaves have surfaced to show the perceptions of the couple among people of their own race. Was the couple as well respected and regarded among Blacks as they were among whites? Did their Black neighbors who were restricted from voting resent seeing Winter go to the polls because he "voted with whites" against the interests of African-Americans? Are the answers to these questions troubling enough that they contributed to suppressing the story of the extraordinary lives of Winter and Fannie Simmons Cantey?

It is unlikely these questions will ever be answered fully. At least two generations of those Black families who lived with the Cantey's have passed on. And most of those families did not leave their own histories, let alone pass on details related to the histories of other local African-American families. So, much of the inside story of the Cantey family remains hidden in the shadows of history.



## Jane Russell: Actress, Icon, Columbus Resident

by Edward Howard

Adapted from an article published by the author in the May-June 2008 edition of *Columbus and the Valley* magazine. Rewritten for *Muscogiana* and republished here with permission of Jill Tigner, editor of *Columbus and the Valley*.

Over the years Columbus has served as host to countless nationally recognized professionals. A-list actors, musicians, professional athletes and others have made stops in our town in their performance tours, but few have actually lived here. The few that have lived here have special significance because they interacted with people in ways the others could not. This article is about one such person, whose stay here in 1943 and '44 is all but forgotten today: the actress, Jane Russell.

By the time of Ms. Russell's arrival in Columbus in June of 1943, she was a Hollywood movie star, but in name only. She was recognized only for her sensual images on movie posters and pin up posters. Her path to stardom began in early 1941 when she was a 20 year old model near Los Angeles. She had little acting training and no acting experience. When movie mogul Howard Hughes saw her glamor shots he was smitten. He contacted and auditioned her that same day for the lead female role in his upcoming movie, "The Outlaw", a western movie about Billy the Kid.<sup>1</sup> Her minimal acting skills were passable enough for Hughes, who clearly hired her for her captivating beauty and plentiful curves. Filming began within weeks and was completed late that year. Over objections of the Hays Board, the controversial movie was allowed a very limited opening in February 1942.<sup>2</sup> Although the movie is rated PG today, in 1942 Russell's scantily clad body and suggestive behavior stupefied every male who saw it. "The Outlaw" is not known for cinematic excellence but for being the first movie to seriously challenge the Hays Code. A sort of morals war immediately ensued between Howard Hughes and decency groups across America. Hughes, in his characteristically large-scale style, launched the largest movie publicity campaign in history, pasting "The Outlaw" posters everywhere. Despite his efforts, Hughes lost and the movie was banned. What resulted was serious talk across America about declining moral standards in cinema, with 20-year-old Miss Russell central to that discussion. What also emerged was the creation of one of the

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<sup>1</sup> IMDb, "The Outlaw." Accessed September 29, 2013. <http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0036241/> . The lead character in "The Outlaw" was Billy the Kid. Jane Russell had the role of his love interest.

<sup>2</sup> The Motion Picture Production Code of 1930 (Hays Code). Accessed Sep 29, 2013. <http://www.artsreformation.com/a001/hays-code.html> The movie opened in San Francisco only. The Code abided by three general principles: 1. No picture shall be produced that will lower the moral standards of those who see it. Hence the sympathy of the audience should never be thrown to the side of crime, wrongdoing, evil or sin; 2. Correct standards of life, subject only to the requirements of drama and entertainment, shall be presented; 3. Law, natural or human, shall not be ridiculed, nor shall sympathy be created for its violation. It was replaced by the movie ratings system used today.



most popular pin-up girls of the WWII era: a woman who never even had a movie in general release to her credit. The Columbus Ledger described it as follows:

A terrific publicity campaign was launched and Jane still holds the all-high publicity record in Hollywood. Millions of dollars were spent to place her before the public, and although she has made only one picture, her face and figure are more familiar than many stars who have been at the top for years.<sup>3</sup>

In April 1943 she married her high school sweetheart, Bob Waterfield, who was by then a famous UCLA quarterback. Just three weeks after the wedding, Waterfield was called to active duty along with the rest of his college ROTC class. This would begin with Officer Candidate School (OCS) at Fort Benning, Georgia, followed by commissioning as an officer and deployment to war. They both knew he would not return until the war ended. At first, Jane planned to continue her acting career in California, but three weeks after he left, she missed him so much that she told Howard Hughes to release her from the contract because she was leaving immediately. On about the 30<sup>th</sup> of May, 1943, with canceled contract in hand, she boarded the train for the unsuspecting town of Columbus.<sup>4</sup>

Jane Russell arrived at the Columbus train depot with no preparations, no announcements and no fanfare. She was just another newlywed Army bride with no presumptions of special treatment. While the idea of putting a promising movie career on hold (perhaps permanently) may have been unthinkable to most aspiring stars of her day, to Ms. Russell, marriage vows and her traditional values trumped her career. Regardless of her celebrity status, she believed the husband to be the head of the family, stating,

I don't necessarily believe marriage is a 50-50 proposition. In some situations, the wife wins; in others, the husband. I believe in the husband's being the head of the family. A man has his place - a woman hers, and they can't switch places.<sup>5</sup>

Like all incoming family members Ms. Russell stayed in a Fort Benning guest house, but it limited all guests to a three day stay. She thus began her search for a rental room in Columbus the next day, traveling to town by bus. She was among countless other Army wives doing the same thing, which made for a scarcity of available apartments and rooms, despite the fact that many residents rented out spare rooms in their homes. On her third day of apartment hunting she finally found that elusive rental room at 445 Broad Street, the home of a 46-year-old widow named Ethel Waller Rutledge.

The style of the house at 445 Broad Street was suitable for working class people such as the Rutledge family. It is of a style called Folk Victorian, and is found throughout the Columbus Historic

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<sup>3</sup> Bumpas, Martha. "Jane Russell Forsakes Films to be with Husband." *Columbus Ledger*, June 23, 1943. p12.

<sup>4</sup> Jane Russell, *My Paths and My Detours*, (New York: Franklin Watts, 1985), 77. Mrs. Russell gave Howard Hughes so little time to prepare the cancelled contract that he had it delivered to her at the last minute - literally at the train depot as she was preparing to board.

<sup>5</sup> "Jane Russell, Mate, Form Own Company." *Independent Press-Telegram*, November 22, 1953. Page 136



District. As the name, "folk" implies, it is a folksy or simple style, as compared to the complicated Queen Anne style. James M. Rutledge Sr. had been a bridge foreman for the Georgia Highway Department before his death on the job in 1940. His wife, Ethel was a nurse.<sup>6</sup> Their two sons, James M. Jr. and Jack T. had lived there until they grew up, moved out and joined the Army.<sup>7</sup> At some point before Ms. Russell's arrival, Mrs. Rutledge's sister lived in the second bedroom and the Rutledge sons slept in the enclosed back porch, called a "sleeping porch." The boys probably had the second bedroom before their aunt moved in. The boys had grown and moved out to join the Army a couple years prior to Ms. Russell's arrival, and the sister apparently left shortly after the boys did.<sup>8</sup> One can only imagine how thrilled they must have been to receive a letter from home telling them who moved in their house – and even into their old room! An interesting note is that one of the Rutledge sons, Jack T. Rutledge, would later become the county sheriff. The Jack T. Rutledge Correctional Facility is named in his honor. The house is currently owned by a former minister of the First Baptist Church of Columbus, Dr. G. Othell Hand. It is listed on the National Register of Historic Places for its architectural excellence.<sup>9</sup> Like other historic houses in the Historic District, it is protected by the Columbus Historic Preservation Ordinance.<sup>10</sup>

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<sup>6</sup> City Directory 1941 states Ethel Rutledge's occupation as nurse.

<sup>7</sup> Date of 1926 derived from James M. Rutledge's addresses in City Directories.

<sup>8</sup> Jane Russell, *My Paths and My Detours*, 78. Ms. Russell mentions no others in the house except for Ms. Rutledge.

<sup>9</sup> Design Guidelines – Columbus, GA, Feb. 2010, MACTEC Engineering and Consulting, INC, Atlanta, GA. pp 1-2, A-12

<sup>10</sup> Chapter 9, Article 3 of the Columbus Land Development Code is the Columbus Historic Preservation Ordinance. Found on page A-12, Design Guidelines – Columbus, GA, Feb. 2010. Page 1-2 shows that it is in the boundaries of the Historic District.





445 Broad Street as it appeared in 1986. Courtesy of Historic Columbus Foundation. This 1986 photo shows the house as it appeared in 1943 when Ms. Russell lived there, but with some deterioration.



445 Broad Street appears today much as it did historically. Photo by author, 2007.



The Minnesota-born, California-raised Jane Russell had never visited the Southeast before, so she enjoyed Southern hospitality and house privileges such as playing an occasional tune on the parlor piano; cooking up some grits in the kitchen; and pitching in with the chores.<sup>11</sup> The room Jane Russell rented in the Rutledge home was the second bedroom, located near the back of the house. The front room was the parlor; the second was the master bedroom where Mrs. Rutledge would have stayed; and the remaining bedroom was the third room: the only room Jane could have stayed in. The remaining rooms were in an attached back section: bathroom, kitchen and enclosed porch.<sup>12</sup> After about a week, Jane's cousin, Patricia Henry arrived from California to keep her company. Although the bedroom was somewhat small, they probably shared that room, as no others were suitable for sleeping in.<sup>13</sup>



Jane Russell's room at 445 Broad Street. Conversion to bathroom and addition of wainscoting was recent. Photo by author, December 2007.

<sup>11</sup> "Pin-Up Girl is Typical Benning Wife." *The Bayonet*, June 24, 1943, p1. House privileges described.

<sup>12</sup> Jane Russell, *My Paths and My Detours*, 78. A remote possibility for Ms. Russell's room could have been the "sleeping porch" - the back porch. This was known to have been used as a bedroom for a while by the Rutledge boys prior to Jane's arrival. An acknowledgement of the sleeping porch as a bedroom might be found on page 78 of Ms. Russell's autobiography, "My Paths and Detours" because she described it as a three bedroom house, and this third bedroom was either a mistake or a reference to the sleeping porch. Regardless, the sleeping porch is an unlikely alternative. It would have been unsuitable for a female because it was a thoroughfare to the back door.

<sup>13</sup> Dimensions of the room are 11' 6" x 14'. The measurements were taken by the author during his visit in late 2007.



Ms. Russell, the newlywed wife, took every opportunity to see her husband from the time she arrived until his completion of the 13-week OCS course. He was granted no special privileges, and like others, was allowed only one night per week away from the barracks. OCS was 10 miles from Columbus, in the Harmony Church area of Fort Benning. This was a wooded area with clusters of WWII era wooden barracks off Highway 27. At first she made the evening trips by bus, saying she, ". . . doesn't mind it a bit."<sup>14</sup> Later an old California friend named John Singlaub loaned his car for the occasions - a blue 1937 Oldsmobile convertible he had purchased for \$300.<sup>15</sup> Jane and Bob's meetings consisted of nothing more than sitting on a log at the end of the company street and chatting for about 30 minutes.<sup>16</sup> This was always about 6:30 - 7:00 PM each day, during OCS break time.<sup>17</sup> Meetings like this were short, but were part of the reason Jane put her acting career on hold.

With no income from her movie and no salary from the Hughes studio, Ms. Russell found it hard to make ends meet on her husband's Army salary. About two weeks after her arrival she talked a local beauty shop owner into giving her a job. The name of the beauty shop is not stated in any known source, but the only one found in the 1941 City Directory near the downtown area was Elizabeth's Beauty Shop with Mrs. Lula Austin as proprietor. It was located in the heart of the business district, on the northwest corner of Broad and 12<sup>th</sup> Streets, and was a seven block walk from Jane's house. She did make-ups there, but was fired after about two weeks because her celebrity status attracted too many non-paying customers who interfered with business.

During Jane's first week or so in Columbus, her Hollywood identity was not well known, but a chance meeting downtown with a Hollywood promoter and friend named Kenny Morgan changed that.<sup>18</sup> He contacted the local newspapers about Jane, and days later reporters from the *Columbus Ledger*, the *Columbus Enquirer* and the Fort Benning *Bayonet* interviewed her in her humble Broad Street home. They did so on June 21<sup>st</sup>, which happened to be her 22<sup>nd</sup> birthday, and published articles on the 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>. All three articles portrayed Jane as the happy housewife, which was an accurate depiction. They omitted her address and photos of the front of her house, discretely referring to the location as, ". . . an obscure corner of downtown Columbus. . ." <sup>19</sup> The two Columbus newspapers ran articles identical to each other with a headline that emphasized the amazing fact that the nationally renowned pin-up starlet was now an average housewife putting husband before her own career. The Fort Benning *Bayonet*

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<sup>14</sup> Neu, Carl. "Pin-Up Girl Jane Russell Is Typical Benning Wife." *The Bayonet*, June 24, 1943. p1

<sup>15</sup> Personal Communication Major General (ret) Singlaub to Ed Howard by phone. March 2008. The car and the visits are also described by OCS Candidate J. Domer Zerbe, who attended OCS with Waterfield. Zerbe stated the car was a Packard, but Singlaub stated it was an Oldsmobile. In this conflict, Singlaub should be considered as correct because he was the owner of the car.

<sup>16</sup> Jane Russell, *My Paths and My Detours*, 78.

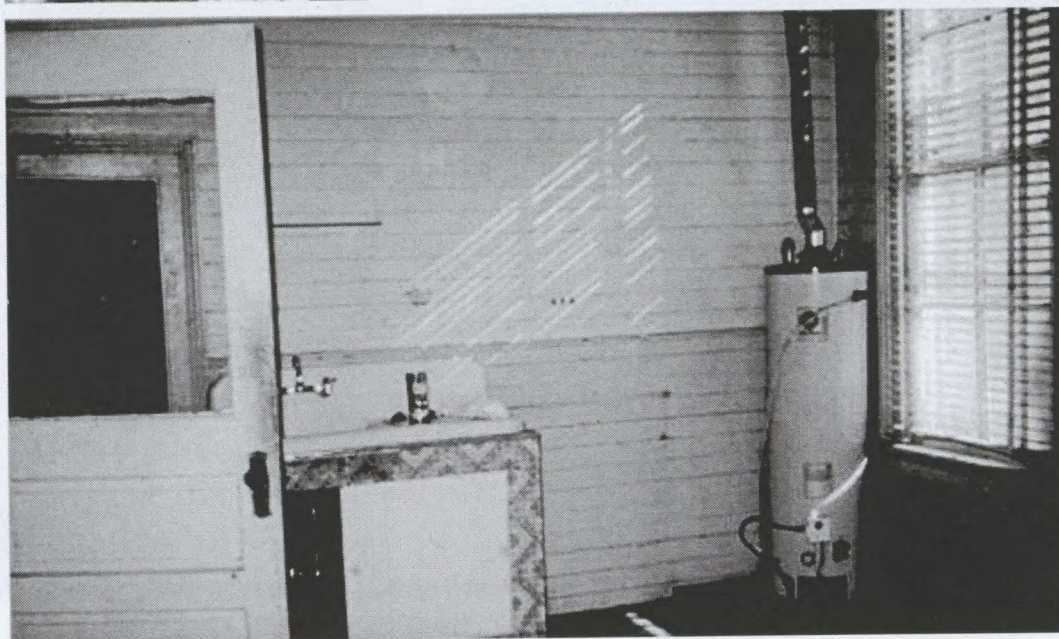
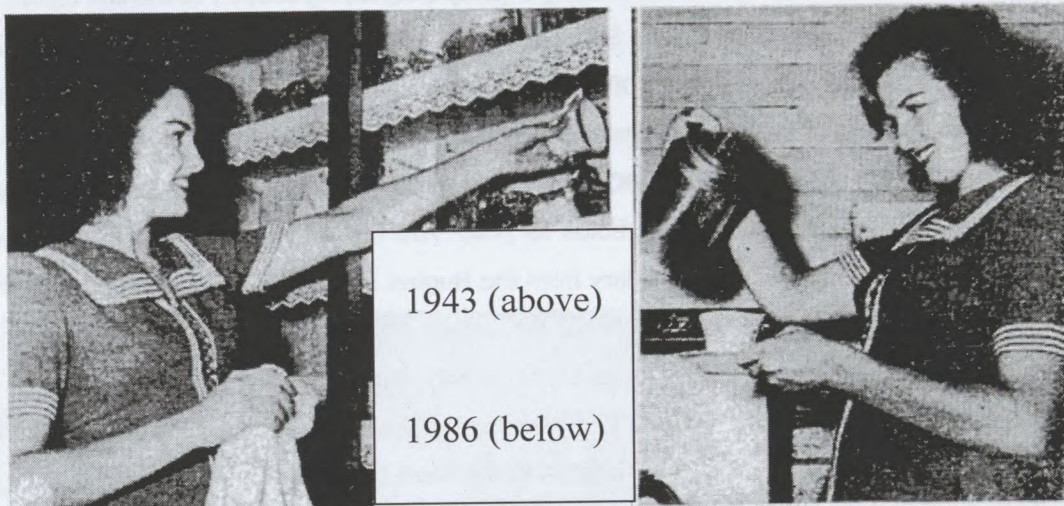
<sup>17</sup> Zerbe, J. Domer. "An Interview With J. Domer Zerbe." November 06, 1994. July 1, 2005. <http://oralhistory.rutgers.edu/interviewees/30-interview-html-text/53-zerbe-j-domer>. Details of this were that the break was between the evening meal and mandatory study hall.

<sup>18</sup> Jane Russell, *My Paths and My Detours*, 78. Kenny Morgan was brought to Columbus because he joined the Army.

<sup>19</sup> Neu, Carl.



caught the GIs' attention with an eye-catching headline, "Pin-Up Girl Jane Russell Is Typical Benning Wife." The article ran on page one and its four photos were of a conservatively dressed Ms. Russell, happily doing wifely chores around the house: sweeping the back porch stairs; putting up the dishes; watering the lawn; and pouring coffee "for Hubby."



The kitchen at 445 Broad Street. June 21<sup>st</sup>, 1943 *Bayonet* (top two photos). Historic Columbus Foundation file photo (bottom)

Jane's nurturing side could be seen when she comforted a crying 5-year-old girl named Sandra Waldrop. While sitting on the porch one afternoon, Ms. Russell noticed three little girls walking down the sidewalk by her house. The three were sisters and lived on 5<sup>th</sup> Street, about half a block away. The youngest one, Sandra, was crying and her sisters were trying unsuccessfully to console her. Ms. Russell stepped off the porch, picked her up and rocked her to sleep as they all sat on the porch steps and



talked. When the girls returned home, they excitedly burst through the door and shouted that they had just met Jane Russell. This was indeed cause for excitement, but not if your mother was a church leader supporting the ban on that notorious Jane Russell movie! Mother was furious. But Dad has howling with knee-slapping glee! The older girls were now in hot water for the visit – and so was Dad for laughing. The whole scene was classic 1943 Columbus.<sup>20</sup>

Catching a glimpse of Broad Street's Hollywood star became something of a local obsession during her stay there. Her presence was not well known at first, but word quickly spread. For a short while, the only people who knew she lived in town were those living nearby. One neighbor, 14-year-old John Jeffries, would find excuses to walk by her house, hoping to see her and maybe say hello. His daily walks to his job at Choppy's Restaurant were among those opportunities, but alas - all he found was an empty porch. According to Mr. Jeffries, many people made similar, discrete attempts to steal a glimpse of her.<sup>21</sup> Sadly, Jane's stay in that house would be brief, as a result of adopting a stray kitten which promptly soiled Mrs. Rutledge's rug.<sup>22</sup> For this, Jane and Patricia would be evicted by week's end.

Jane Russell had a long and tiring search to find her first rental house in early June, but by her eviction in late June, that difficulty would not need repeating. Weeks of exposure and the three newspaper articles had erased her anonymity and brought her friends from all ranks of society, one of which was Columbus industrialist James W. Woodruff. He arranged for her and Bob to rent an almost new, fully furnished, two-bedroom duplex apartment on the fringe of the Weracoba Heights subdivision.<sup>23</sup> Jane was thus spared another sidewalk-pounding apartment search. The address was 1404 Virginia Street. The house was a vernacular structure, doubtlessly built as an inexpensive rental unit with Fort Benning's expanding wartime population in mind. It had been built just two years before, in mid-1941. Having no architectural style, it lacked the Victorian charm of her former house, but the couple preferred it because it was a place of their own. Cousin Patricia moved there along with Jane and occupied the second bedroom.<sup>24</sup> Patricia would live there for only about four months before leaving to join the Women Airforce Service Pilots (WASP) in late October 1943.<sup>25</sup> Jane and Bob stayed there a total of 15 months and it held importance to them for the rest of their lives because it was their first home as a married couple.<sup>26</sup>

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<sup>20</sup> Doolittle, Sandra W. Doolittle, . "Columbus Georgia Online." Accessed December 24, 2007. <http://www.columbusgeorgiaonline.com/>. Mrs. Doolittle related this story on her website and by phone and email to the author. More details of how Mrs. Doolittle helped this researcher can be found in the final section of this article.

<sup>21</sup> John Jeffries, (neighborhood resident living near Jane Russell's Broad Street house in 1943), informal interview by Edward Howard, Telephonic interview 2008.

<sup>22</sup> Jane Russell, *My Paths and My Detours*, 78.

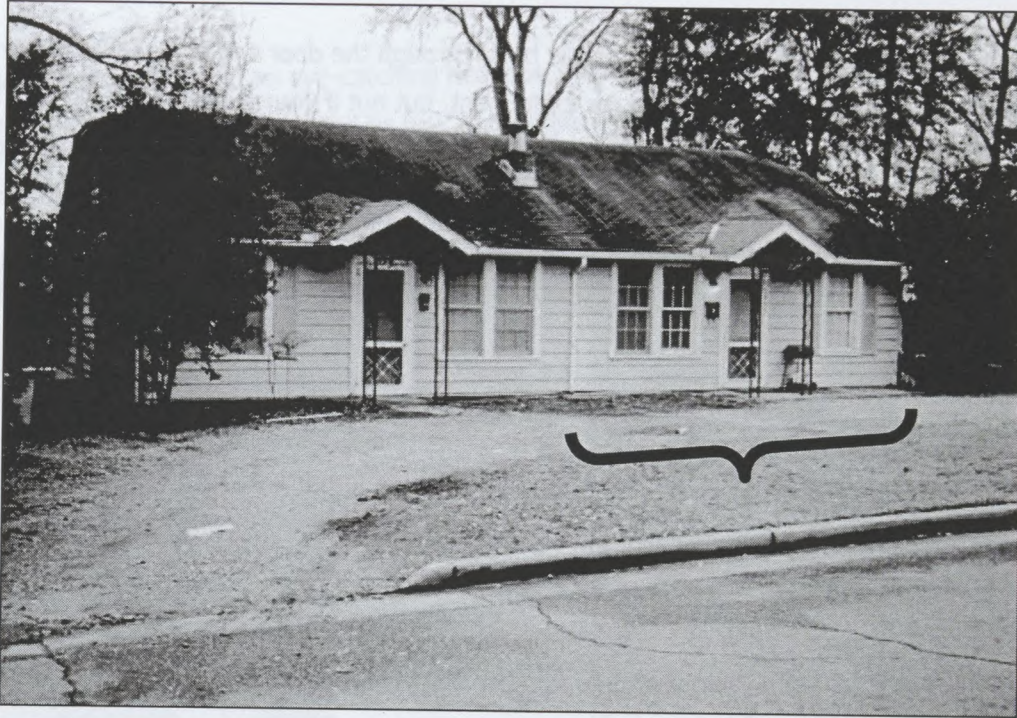
<sup>23</sup> John Singlaub, (Friend of Jane Russell and Bob Waterfield in 1943), informal interview by Edward Howard, Telephonic interview 2008. General Singlaub told the author that it was Columbus industrialist James Woodruff who secured the duplex for Jane Russell and husband.

<sup>24</sup> Ibid. General Singlaub stated that Pat Henry lived in the Virginia Street duplex.

<sup>25</sup> Jane Russell, *My Paths and My Detours*, 82.

<sup>26</sup> Russell, Jane. Email communication to god-daughter, forwarded to author.





1404 Virginia Street. Second Columbus home of Jane Russell and her husband. 1404 is the apartment on the right.

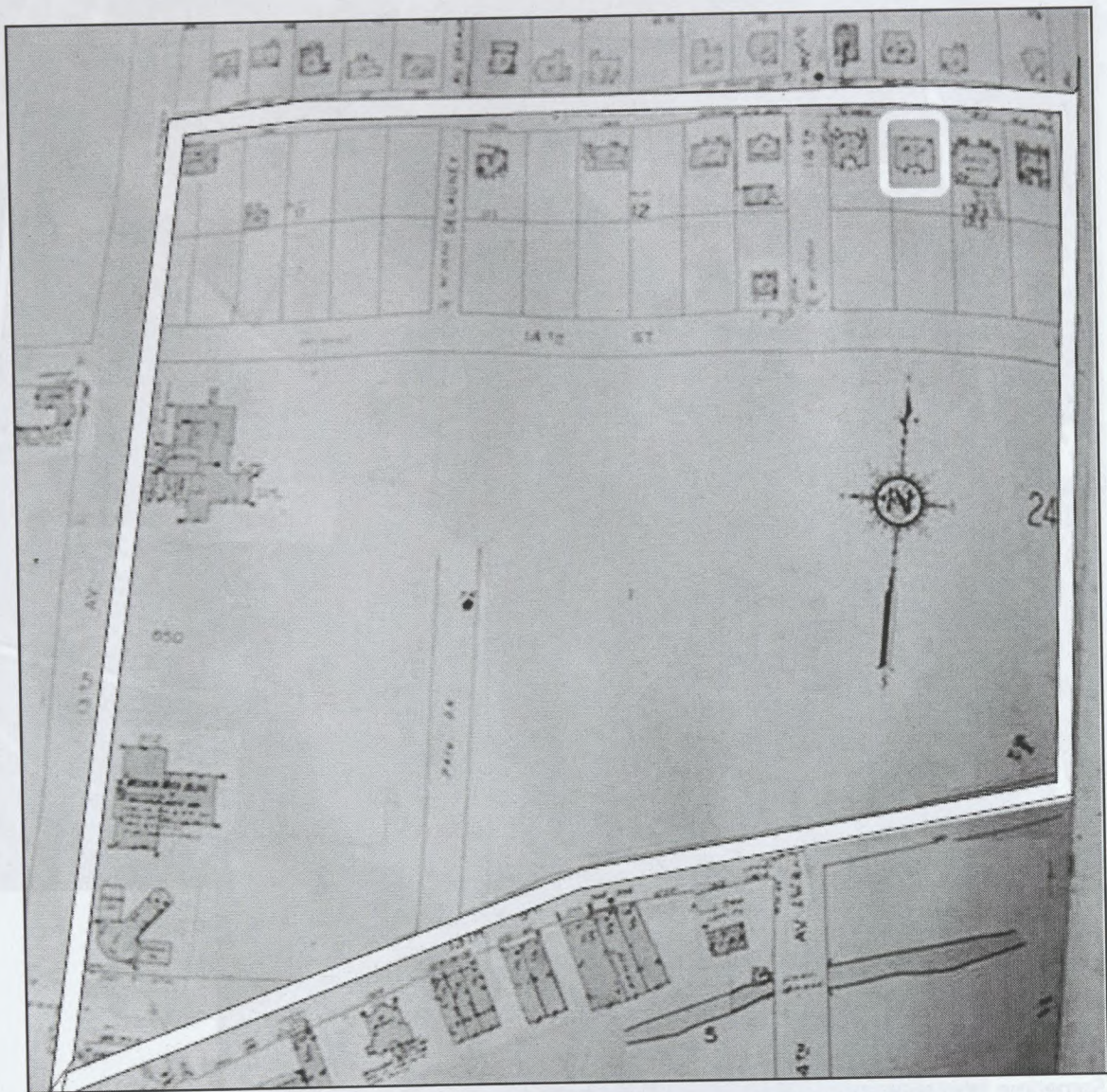
The house was built on one of four lots carved from the north end of a Kinnett Dairy cow field.<sup>27</sup> The seller of the lot was cotton agent and real estate developer, Lloyd G. Bowers. He was one of the leading entrepreneurs in Columbus and had deep roots in Columbus as one can tell by his stately 1844 mansion, "The Elms." The buyer of the lot was Dorothy Cargill Coney, who had the house built and was landlord for Jane and Bob. She was also from a prominent Columbus family which owned many businesses downtown. It was likely that Mr. Woodruff's personal connections with one or both of these families helped secure this ideal place for Ms. Russell and her husband. At that time, the field behind the house stretched from Virginia Street to 13<sup>th</sup> Ave., where the Red Lobster Restaurant is today. Ms. Russell described the field as a ". . . huge green field. . ." in her 1981 book. The effect for Bob and Jane was to give them a nice view across a serene field with 13<sup>th</sup> Street and Weracoba Creek at the bottom of the slope.<sup>28</sup>

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<sup>27</sup> Date of construction was between March 3rd 1941, when the deed was recorded with the County and whenever the house occupants were tallied for the City Directory of that year. This implies that the house was built within a short time span and around mid- year. The property title is recorded in March and the City directory occupants were compiled at some point later that year.

<sup>28</sup> Jane Russell, *My Paths and My Detours*, 79. Mrs. Russell stated that she liked the fact the field allowed for a breeze every now and then.





The relationship of the Virginia Street duplex with the former cow field is best understood in this early 1940s Sanborn Map. Ms. Russell's rented duplex is in upper right outline. The undeveloped field (large outline) was her back yard view. Credit: Sanborn Map collection, Columbus State University Archives.





This 2012 aerial photo compares with the Sanborn map above it to show the present state of the landscape behind Ms. Russell's former Virginia Street home. Credit: Google Maps.

Sometime later that summer and after her move to the Virginia Street house, Ms. Russell's cousin, Pat got a volunteer job selling War Bonds in the "Bond Tank", which was a barrel-shaped building about the size of a small room. This structure was located in the Broad Street median. Jane soon joined her, and the two were among many volunteers who took shifts selling war bonds there. Unfortunately, this did not work out. Money from bond sales disappeared as unaccounted for during Ms. Russell's shift and those in charge fired her. She claimed it was due to innocent accounting errors on her part. She suspected they thought her to have been stealing, although they never accused her.<sup>29</sup>

Ms. Russell made several appearances on Fort Benning. Most were personal visits, such as to visit her husband at OCS, attend his football games or visit the Officer's Club with Cousin Patricia. She is not known by this writer to have made many visits in capacity of her celebrity role, but one of those did occur

<sup>29</sup> Jane Russell, *My Paths and My Detours*, 79.



shortly after her arrival. In the summer of 1943 she was given the VIP tour of a portion of Fort Benning called the "Alabama Area." It was in Russell County, adjacent to the farming community of Oswitchee. She was the honored guest for the day, hosted by the 515<sup>th</sup> Parachute Infantry Regiment.<sup>30</sup>



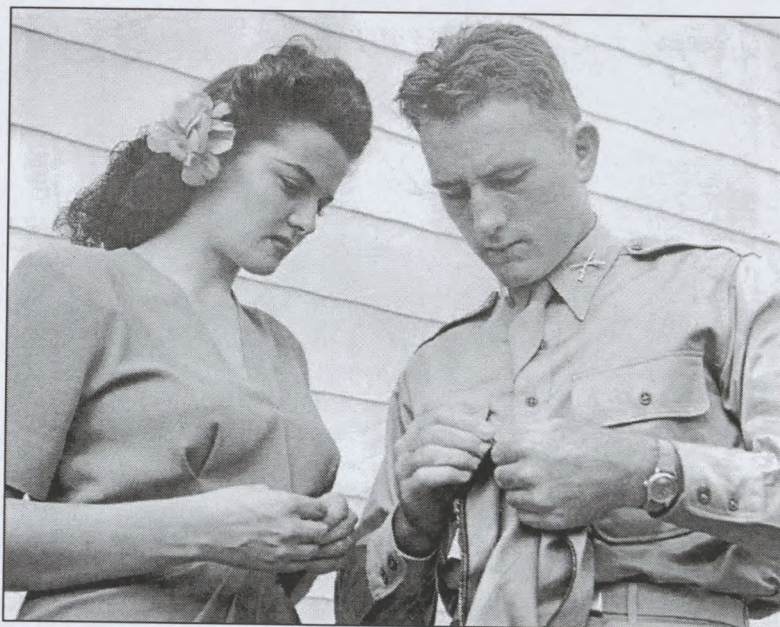
Summer, 1943. Jane Russell being outfitted in a parachute harness at the paratroop advanced training area, "Alabama Area", Fort Benning. Photo credit US Army Signal Corps. Photo provided to author by MG (retired) John Singlaub.

During their stay in Columbus, Jane and Bob met many classmates they knew from California. This was somewhat expected because Fort Benning was a hub of military training. The friendship between the couple and some of these classmates went as far back as Van Nuys High School. Standouts among this group included John K. Singlaub and Lynn D. "Buck" Compton. The Virginia Street house became the ideal weekend hangout for Bob's OCS buddies and remained so even after they graduated OCS and were

<sup>30</sup> US Army Signal Corps, photograph. Notation on back of the photo provides the information on the visit.



assigned to units at Fort Benning.<sup>31</sup> Get-togethers were common events at this house and filled it with camaraderie and lively banter. It was the hub of social activity as old California friends reunited as soldiers and new friends were made. Football discussions often dominated the house, usually held over the dining room table, which doubled as a platform for drawing football plays. Every male present who knew anything about football had a hand in contributing an opinion, as hand-drawn football plays were created, accompanied by impassioned explanations as to why one was better than another. The men were often caught up in this to the exclusion of all else, even the beautiful Ms. Russell who found herself as a football widow at times. She took it all in stride.<sup>32</sup>



September 5, 1943, Graduation Day of Bob Waterfield's OCS Class, 14<sup>th</sup> Company, 3<sup>rd</sup> Student Training Regiment. Harmony Church, Fort Benning. Jane looks on as LT Waterfield pins the lieutenant bar on his uniform headgear after the graduation ceremony.

Many of those who frequented Bob and Jane's apartment on Virginia Street would become important on a national scale in various fields. Lt. "Buck" Compton played football and baseball in UCLA along with teammate Jackie Robinson.<sup>33</sup> His WWII exploits would be immortalized in the book and mini-

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<sup>31</sup> Jane Russell, *My Paths and My Detours*, 79.

<sup>32</sup> Compton, Buck. "Lynn "Buck" Compton." Accessed October 6, 2013. <http://www.tircuit.com/bandofbrothers/messages/135/741> Fellowship at the Virginia Street house was described by Lynn "Buck" Compton on his website, and also in a phone conversation with the author in March 2008.

<sup>33</sup> Compton, Lynn and Marcus Brotherton "Call of Duty: My Life Before, During and After the Band of Brothers". p4 Supports Mr. Compton's statement that he played baseball and football in UCLA, where Jackie Robinson was a teammate in both sports.



series, "Band of Brothers" in which his character was prominently featured. He later became a California State attorney and lead prosecutor in Sirhan Sirhan's trial for the assassination of Robert F. Kennedy.

Lt. Singlaub had a full Army career in covert operations. In WWII he served in the Office of Strategic Services (OSS) and helped the French Resistance in Europe. In the Korean War he became Deputy Chief of the CIA in South Korea. In Vietnam he headed most US covert military operations. Later he was chief of staff of the United Nations Command in South Korea. He retired with the rank of Major General.

Lt. Bob Waterfield became an NFL draft pick in 1944, while living at the Virginia Street house. Like many other War time draft picks, he was a future selectee, meaning it would take effect when his time in service was completed. His position was to be quarterback for the Cleveland Rams, but he was also an excellent punter and kicker. In 1945 he became the first NFL rookie to make MVP. His last three years in the NFL were as coach for the L. A. Rams. He was inducted into the NFL Hall of Fame in 1965.

On September 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1943, Bob graduated OCS and was commissioned, "Second Lieutenant Waterfield". He was assigned to Fort Benning's 176<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment, presumably until deployment overseas. As expected, he assumed the quarterback position of his regiment's football team and led it to victory many times during the season. Although his team won the Fort Benning Conference, they did so without him in the final game because near the end of the season he suffered a knee injury. He would spend almost a year getting his knee treated and its condition evaluated. After lengthy reviews by military medical review boards, he was given a medical discharge. The couple left Columbus to return to California around late September or October, 1944.





Jane Russell poses for front page of the Fort Benning *Bayonet*, published December 23, 1943. This full page photo was captioned, "A Christmas Present To The Boys From Jane Russell." Costume and setting provided by the J. A. Kirven Company. Photo courtesy Fort Benning *Bayonet*.

Bob and Jane spent about 16 months in Columbus with the last 15 months at the Virginia Street duplex. It was a humble dwelling, yet perfect for a world class couple on a blue-collar budget. Most importantly, it was the first home of Jane Russell and Bob Waterfield as a married couple. For Ms. Russell it made for many fond memories that would last her lifetime.<sup>34</sup> Although seven decades have

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<sup>34</sup> Personal communication by email, Jane Russell to her god-daughter, Tracy Mulvaney in 2008. Mrs. Mulvaney forwarded Mrs. Russell's 2008 email to the author. Mrs. Russell said in her email that she lived there 15 months and her time there was wonderful.



passed the duplex still stands in well-maintained, mostly unaltered condition.<sup>35</sup> It is currently owned by Mr. Charlie Mordic of Mordic Construction and Mordic Properties.

Jane Russell's acting career is well known, but the part of her that is not widely known is her values. Despite her pin-up girl reputation, Ms. Russell actually held traditional values and was a critic of immorality in movies. In later years she lead regular Bible study meetings for her fellow actors. She had no children of her own, but she had great compassion for children, adopting three. She founded the World Adoption International Fund (WAIF) in 1955. Ms Russell passed away on February 28, 2011. Her two Columbus homes remain as reminders of her stay here.

#### Researching the Story:

I originally published this article in the May 2008 edition of *Columbus and the Valley* magazine. This publication in *Muscogiana* is completely reworded and includes the following research description that readers of *Muscogiana* may find useful in their own research. This began as a search for a house of a star, but in the course of that search, the material brought out a fuller picture of Ms. Russell than what her pin-up posters would suggest. The research summary is on my main objective: finding the houses. It was only with the help of good neighbors, local historians, archivists, and luck that I was able to find these houses.

I first learned that Jane Russell lived in Columbus by chance when I stumbled across the June 24 1943 article while looking through old editions of the Fort Benning newspaper, *The Bayonet* in 2004.<sup>36</sup> To me, the article begged the question: "Where was her house?" Ultimately, finding the answer to that question would consume several years. I first consulted all the obvious sources: museums, archives, city directories, and local historians. All I found was that everyone was surprised and intrigued; no one (except historian Clason Kyle) knew she even lived here; and no one knew where she lived. I wrote to Ms. Russell herself, doing so as a joint effort with Columbus Museum historian Mike Bunn. This seemed logical because he was researching Columbus's support of the War effort, which dovetailed into my research on Ms. Russell, who also supported the war effort. We drafted and sent a letter but despite the obvious legitimacy of the Columbus Museum letterhead, she did not respond. I checked on the internet periodically as the years passed, picking up tidbits of info along the way, but the subject of my search – her house – eluded me.

Finally, in 2007 a breakthrough came when a neighbor to Ms. Russell, Mrs. Sandra Waldrop Doolittle of Columbus, posted her remembrances of Ms. Russell online. I contacted Mrs. Doolittle and she gladly described the general area Ms. Russell's first house was in. She did not remember the exact house but

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<sup>35</sup> The front porticos on the duplex were added after the house was built but these have only a minimal impact on its street presence. They are known to have been absent in the original because they are not visible in the Sanborn Map.

<sup>36</sup> Neu, Carl.

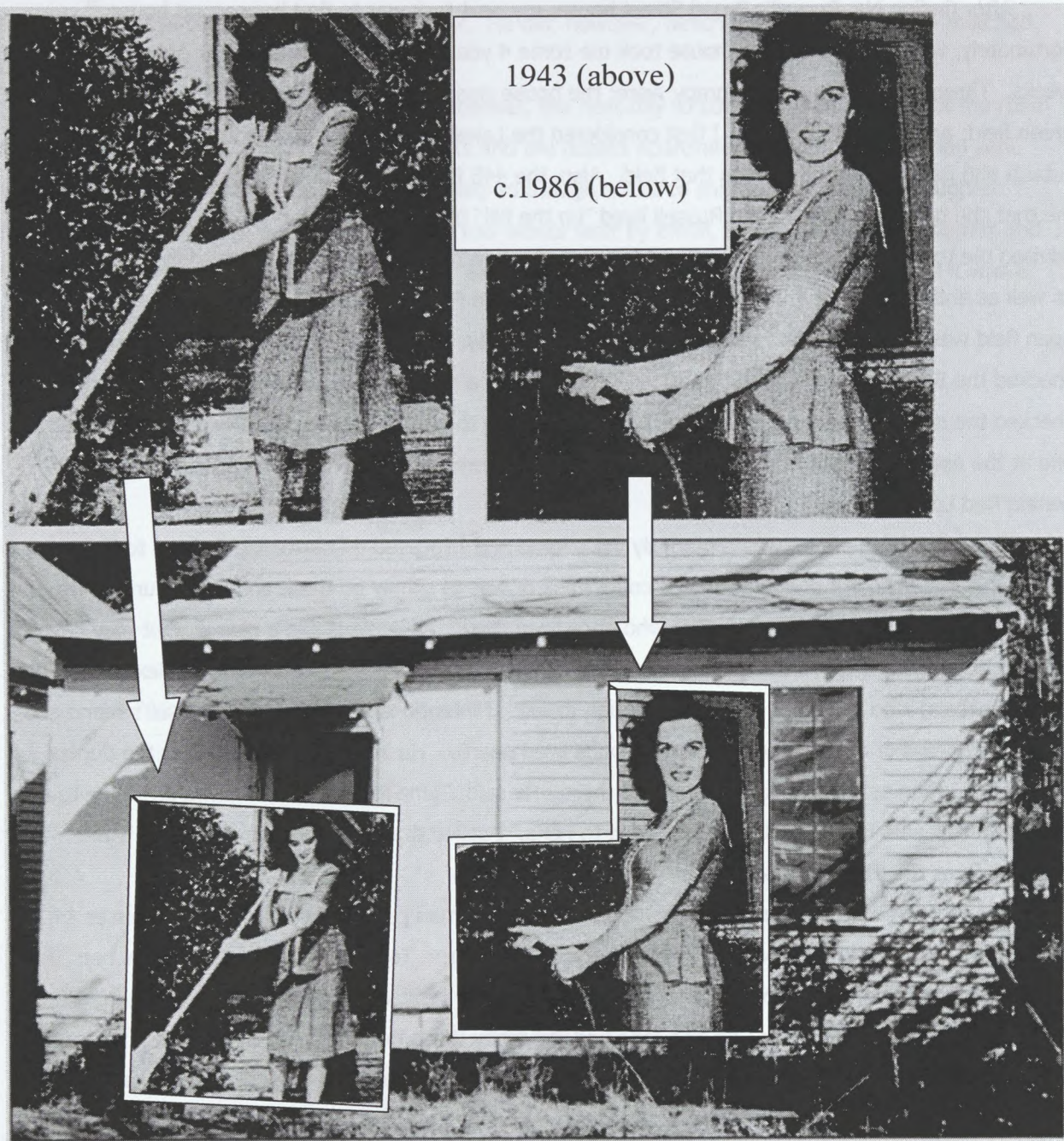


narrowed the search down to the vicinity of Broad Street and 5<sup>th</sup> Ave. I went there and was encouraged when people living in a house nearby volunteered that they heard the house next door (referring to the old Rutledge house) was once occupied by someone famous, but they did not know to whom. I was getting close. Mrs. Doolittle then referred me to her childhood friend and neighbor, John Jeffries, who had since moved to Miami. I called him and as his mind flashed back seven decades, he clearly pinpointed the house - 445 Broad Street - as he related his own story of his star search.<sup>37</sup> With the address in hand, I checked with the Historic Columbus Foundation (HCF) for historical info. Fortunately, they had a file and provided me with 1980s photo scans. Confirmation followed when I compared the 1943 newspaper photos of the back of the house to the HCF photos. (see illustration below)

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<sup>37</sup> This story is the one in the article about trying to see her on his daily walk to his job at Choppy's Restaurant.





1943 (above)

c.1986 (below)

The two photos at top are from the 1943 Fort Benning *Bayonet* article. At bottom they are imposed upon the c.1986 back porch photo of 445 Broad Street. The window, clapboards, doorway, and steps match. In the photo at right Ms. Russell is closer to the camera than the photo on the left.

House photo at bottom courtesy Historic Columbus Foundation.



After finding Ms. Russell's Broad Street house, my next task was to find her second house.<sup>38</sup> Fortunately, while finding the first house took me some 4 years, the second house took only a couple of weeks. Three clues in her autobiography were: the house was away from downtown; it was by a huge green field; and it was a duplex.<sup>39</sup> I first considered the Lakebottom area because it was a nearby suburb and its park may have been that field. Also, the 445 Broad Street house manager mentioned to me that she had always heard Ms. Russell lived "up the hill" behind Red Lobster on 13<sup>th</sup> Street. HCF advised me to call Mr. Richard Coss, a well known expert on that area. Mr. Coss proved to be essential as well as enthusiastic. He immediately rejected Lakebottom Park as a possibility and told me that an open field was located where Red Lobster Restaurant is today. It was a cow field for Kinnett Dairy. I then checked the Sandborn maps at CSU, and indeed there was a large undeveloped field there. I then checked the map for duplexes in the vicinity and amazingly there were three of them, grouped together and at the northern edge of the field. This was exactly where I was told Ms. Russell lived - uphill and behind Red Lobster.

The group of duplexes was tentatively discovered and I focused on narrowing it down to the exact house, but I had run out of sources. All I could think of was to simply go there and ask around to fish for neighborhood stories of Hollywood stars who once lived there. As implausible a plan as that may have seemed, it worked. I drove there and engaged in conversation with a man outside his duplex (one of the three duplexes) who looked to be cordial enough to talk. I intentionally withheld Ms. Russell's name and asked if he heard of any famous people who once lived nearby. He immediately pointed to the duplex next door. I then asked if he knew who lived there. He said, "Jane Russell." He then referred me to an older neighbor who had owned the house next to her's. I called that man and he relayed the same information as the informant did about Ms. Russell's residence.

The search was thus narrowed down to the duplex the man pointed to, which had addresses 1404 for the right side apartment and 1406 for the left side apartment. To find which apartment was hers, I called someone I knew frequented the place: Buck Compton. I called him at his home in Oregon. He enjoyed recalling his old friends Bob and Jane and the many times he spent with them there. He could not remember which side of the duplex their apartment was in, but because the apartments had differing layouts, I knew that if he could describe the interior room layout, I could match it to the right apartment. Mr. Compton described the room layout with ease. I could tell by the door and window configurations that he was talking about the apartment on the right - 1404 Virginia Street. Mr. Compton had a great memory and I had expected no less from the man who put away Sirhan Sirhan!

He advised me to contact another of the OCS gang that met at the duplex: General Singlaub. I did so and he too was glad to recall old times with his friends. Unfortunately he could not remember which

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<sup>38</sup> Jane Russell, *My Paths and My Detours*, 78. Mrs. Russell moved from the first house to another one. No addresses were given.

<sup>39</sup> Ibid



side of the duplex the apartment was in either. He did, however, describe the interior, which matched the apartment on the right.

I called the property owner, Mordik Properties, the next day to confirm my assessment of the room arrangement. They described the room layouts and the duplex apartment was confirmed. I then sent photos of the building to Ms. Jane Russell, doing so though a source she trusted: her god-daughter.<sup>40</sup> Ms. Russell responded to her god-daughter a few weeks later by email, saying this was the duplex and that her apartment was the one on the right. She added that she spent 15 months there and it was a wonderful place.

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<sup>40</sup> I was very fortunate to have been put in contact with Mrs. Russell's god-daughter by the editor of the magazine I was then submitting the article to: Columbus and the Valley Magazine".



## Private Cemetery Record of Fort Benning

compiled by Elsie Hight  
transcribed by Edward Howard

Eight historic private cemeteries from Fort Benning's 1981 report titled, "Private Cemetery Record" are presented here. Many more remain to be transcribed, and several have already appeared in previous editions of *Muscogiana*. This is commonly called "The Hight Report" or the "Hight Cemetery Record."

The cemeteries listed here include information that is updated from the Hight Report: new names for some cemeteries and corrected grid coordinates. Most importantly, many cemeteries are located in remote areas, training areas, or within firing ranges. These cemeteries are identified with a "Yes" in the "Call Fort Benning" column in the following list. To visit one of these cemeteries, one must contact the Fort Benning Properties Office, which will set up an escort to these cemeteries at a date when it is safe to visit.

The Fort Benning Private Cemetery Record was compiled by Mrs. Elsie Hight, who worked in the Fort Benning office responsible for the cemeteries: the Department of Public Works (DPW). Mrs. Hight authored the following introduction to the report:

Concurrent with the land acquisitions in 1918 and again in 1941-42, Fort Benning agreed to maintain the private cemeteries in accordance with governing regulations; i.e., excessive shrubs and trees would be removed; fencing for protection when required would be provided; headstones destroyed or seriously damaged by military activity would be repaired; and grounds would be kept clean and orderly. The Department of the Army acquired the title to all property - to include private cemeteries - within the boundaries of the installation. Private cemeteries are considered burial plots on the reservation which were originally owned by a person or agency other than the United States. The regulation (DA 20-74, Natural Resources - Land, Forest and Wildlife Management) places upkeep of these cemeteries with the Grounds Maintenance Branch, Directorate of Facilities Engineering for accomplishment. This same regulation allows public access when consistent with safety and military activities.

As late as August 1960 there were no records available to assist those tracing ancestry. In 1963, Mr. Thomas J. Brown, Jr. was selected as the Chief of Buildings and Grounds Division and immediately commenced collecting data for establishment of those records. He appointed the secretary of the Division as the project coordinator and furnished names of those he thought would be able to help. When workers were going to outlying areas on regular assignments they were asked to take pencil and paper and record all information on headstones and markers in any cemeteries located, and to plot the location by grid coordinates. For the next eight years information was gathered, double checked, and recorded. In addition, a cross reference file was established; i.e., an alphabetical listing of all names of those buried on the reservation, as well as a listing by cemetery number and location. It had been thought when the project was started that approximately twenty-five cemeteries were on the reservation; however, it was soon apparent that as many as three times that number existed. In February 1977, the final entries were typed, enabling inquiries to be accurately answered for the first time.



New Number	Hight Number	OLD NAME	NEW NAME	Fenced?	MGRS Grid	Call Fort Benning	Muscogiana edition
1	1	Main Post	Fort Benning Cemetery	yes	FA 92608435	No	
2	2	Massey 1	Massey Family Cemetery South	yes	FA 95668315	No	1995 Vol 3/4
3	3	Good Hope	Good Hope Church Cemetery	UNK	FA 98737755	Yes	2013 Vol 1
4	4	Schley	Schley Family Cemetery	yes	FA 99328657	No	2013 Vol 1
5	5	Tomlin	Tomlin Family Cemetery	yes	FA 99889110	No	1995 Vol 3/4
6	6	Willis	Willis Family Cemetery	no	FA 99357557	Yes	2013 Vol 1
7	7	Harmony Church	Harmony Church Cemetery	yes	GA 00478398	No	1995 Vol 3/4
8	8	Godwin	Godwin Family Cemetery	yes	FA 99968908	No	1995 Vol 3/4
9	9	Britt	Britt Family Cemetery	yes	GA 00899141	Yes	1995 Vol 3/4
10	10	Midway Church	Midway Church Cemetery	yes	GA 01009430	Yes	1995 Vol 3/4



New Number	Hight Number	OLD NAME	NEW NAME	Fenced?	MGRS Grid	Call Fort Benning	Muscogiana edition
11	11	Miles Chapel	Miles Chapel Cemetery	yes	GA 01477795	Yes	2013 Vol 1
12	12	Unknown 8	Bush Cemetery (moved)	no	GA 008 905	No	2013 Vol 1
13	13	Massey 2	Massey Family Cemetery North	yes	GA 01539346	Yes	1995 Vol 3/4
14	14	Psalmonds	Psalmonds Family Cemetery	yes	GA 02247939	No	2013 Vol 1
15	15	Duck	Duck Cemetery	yes	GA 02489478	No	2013 Vol 1
16	16	Jamestown	Jamestown Church Cemetery	yes	GA 03627208	Yes	2013 Vol 1
17	17	Reese	Reese Family Cemetery	yes	GA 04558026	No	
18	18	Anthony	Anthony Family Cemetery	yes	GA 04779502	No	1995 Vol 3/4
19	19	Walker	Walker Family Cemetery	no	GA 05518687	No	
20	20	Hewell	Hewell Family Cemetery	yes	GA 07017413	No	
21	21	Orr-Osteen	Orr-Osteen Family Cemetery	no	GA 07657650	No	
22	22	Motley- Johnson	Motley-Johnson Family Cemetery	yes	GA 07219901	No	
23	23	Unknown 2	Range Road Cemetery	yes	GB 07380311	No	
24	24	Emmaus Baptist Church	Emmaus Baptist Church Cemetery	yes	GA 08409276	No	1995 Vol 3/4
25	25	Ginn-Pate	Ginn-Pate Family Cemetery	yes	GA 08599576	No	
26	26	McNorton	McNorton Family Cemetery	yes	GA 08978205	No	
27	27	King	King Family Cemetery	yes	GA 09038304	Yes	
28	28	Thornton	Thornton Family Cemetery	yes	GA 08938417	No	
29	29	Mount Paran 1	Mount Paran Church Cemetery South	yes	GA 09748561	No	



New Number	Hight Number	OLD NAME	NEW NAME	Fenced?	MGRS Grid	Call Fort Benning	Muscogiana edition
30	30	Phillips-Wragg	Phillips-Wragg Family Cemetery	yes	GA 09928837	No	
31	31	Moore Road	Moore Road Cemetery South	yes	GB 09800050	Yes	
32	32	McMurrain-Johnson	McMurrain-Johnson Family Cemetery	yes	GA 10269213	No	
33	33	O'Quinn	O-Quinn Family Cemetery	yes	GA 11708445	No	
34	34	Eelbeck 1	George Family Cemetery	yes	GA 11179156	Yes	
35	35	Eelbeck 2	Schumpert Family Cemetery	yes	GA 11089180	Yes	1995 Vol 3/4
36	36	Moore	Moore Family Cemetery	yes	GA 11659650	Yes	
37	37	Rutland	Rutland Family Cemetery	yes	GA 11279985	No	
38	38	Ritch	Ritch Family Cemetery	yes	GB 11120089	Yes	
39	39	McCook	McCook Family Cemetery	no	GA 12378232	No	
40	40	Prosperity Church	Prosperity Church Cemetery	yes	GA 12358290	Yes	
41	41	Browning	Browning Family Cemetery	yes	GA 12318616	Yes	
42	42	A. M. E. Church	A.M.E. Church Cemetery	yes	GA 13987915	Yes	
43	43	Hickey	Hickey Family Cemetery	no	GA 13828410	Yes	
44	44	Johnson (white)	Johnson Family Cemetery North	yes	GA 13579277	Yes	
44A	n/a	Johnson (black)	Johnson Cemetery South	yes	GA 13639267	Yes	
45	45	Parsons 1	Parsons Family Cemetery South	no	GA 12989941	Yes	
45A	45A	Parsons 2	Parsons Family Cemetery North	no	GB 13150184	Yes	
47	47	Culpepper	Culpepper Family Cemetery	no	GA 14858488	Yes	
48	48	Mount Paran 2	Mount Paran Church Cemetery North	yes	GA 14708948	Yes	
49	49	Hardison	Hardison Family Cemetery	yes	GA 15658031	No	



New Number	Hight Number	OLD NAME	NEW NAME	Fenced?	MGRS Grid	Call Fort Benning	Muscogiana edition
50	50	Sylvester	Daniel Family Cemetery	no	GA 15838572	Yes	
51	51	Parker	Parker Family Cemetery	yes	GB 15760158	Yes	
52	52	Cook	Cook Family Cemetery	yes	GA 16088590	No	
53	53	Farmer	Farmer Family Cemetery	no	GA 17268500	No	
54	54	Mount Zion	Mount Zion Church Cemetery	yes	GA 19309176	Yes	
55	55	Matthews	Matthews Family Cemetery	yes	GA 20247952	No	
56	56	Clark	Clark Family Cemetery	yes	GA 20198092	No	
57	n/a	Mt. Gilead	Mount Gilead Cemetery	yes	GA 11199455	Yes	
58	AL 1	Alabama 1	Waros Family Cemetery	no	FA 92587353	No	
59	AL 2	Alabama 2	Brooks Family Cemetery	no	FA 93407114	No	
60	n/a	Unknown 5	2nd Armored Division Road Cemetery	no	GA 10969157	Yes	
61	n/a	Odom	Odom Family Cemetery	no	GB 08450324	No	
62	n/a	Unknown 6	Toney Drive Cemetery	no	n/a	No	
63	n/a	Unknown 7	Cartledge Road Cemetery	no	GB 15670178	Yes	
64	n/a	Pet	Fort Benning Animal Cemetery	no	FA 90708325	No	
65	n/a	Unknown 11	Buffalo Road Cemetery	no	GA 08878331	Yes	
66	n/a	Unknown 12	Moore Road Cemetery North	no	GB 12980244	No	
67	n/a	Unknown 13	Shack Cemetery	yes	FA 92638103	Yes	
68	n/a		Wildcat Rd Cemetery				



## 7 Selected Fort Benning Cemeteries – Headstone Inscriptions

### Cemetery 3 - Good Hope Cemetery

HEADSTONES: 1 marked, 12 unmarked (13 total)

Apx 100 meters east of the intersection of Keystone Trail and Yankee Road

Marked Headstones	Remarks	Birth	Death
DODSON, Alice	Wife of A. C. Cunningham Married 28 Dec 1882	25 Aug 1865	18 Jun 1914

### Cemetery 4 - Schley Cemetery

HEADSTONES: 3 marked, 2 unmarked (5 total)

Apx 150 meters NE of intersection of Cusseta and Marne Roads

Marked Headstones	Remarks	Birth	Death
TOMMIE	Son of W. K. & A. L. Schley	5 Dec 1880	7 Sep 1882
KIRKLEY, Willie	Son of W. K. & A. L. Schley	4 Nov 1883	12 Nov 1885
SCHLEY, Thomas F.	Son of Thomas S. & Eliza E. Schley	16 Oct 1856	19 Apr 1889

### Cemetery 6 - Willis Cemetery

HEADSTONES: 10 marked, 6 unmarked (16 total)

Just north of Lumpkin Trail 1600 meters south east of Red Mill Creek of the intersection of Keystone Trail and Yankee Road

Marked Headstones	Remarks	Birth	Death
WILLIS, W. B.		No Date	No Date
WILLIS, Loucinda	Wife of W. B. Willis	No Date	No Date
WILLIS, T. D. W.	SON	No Date	No Date
WILLIS, E. M. W.	SON	No Date	No Date
WILLIS, J. W.	SON	No Date	No Date
WILLIS, Anna W.	DAUGHTER	No Date	No Date
THOMAS LEE	Son of T. E. & L. G. Jenkins	21 Oct 1912	30 Apr 1914
WRIGHT, Andrew J.	Co K, 45 GA INF CSA	No Date	No Date
WRIGHT	Wife of Andrew J.	No Date	No Date
PINKSTON, Shade T.	(These 4 names are on one headstone, added on 1 Dec 1975, and probably 4 of the 6 unmarked graves)	1850	1917
PINKSTON, Mary E.		1861	1902
PARKER, Annie P.		1890	1915
MAX		1887	1913



**Cemetery 11 - Miles Chapel  
Cemetery**

HEADSTONES: 8 marked, 0 unmarked (8 total)

East of Goodluck Road near Galloway Range

Name	Remarks	Birth	Death
WALKER, Disey	Age 42	no date	14 Jun 1907
MASON, Katie		12 Feb 1835	1 Jan 1885
BENTON, Homer		31 May 1888	6 Oct 1918
JOHNSON, Ben		13 Jun 1843	4 Feb 1911
JOHNSON, Martha		14 Apr 1845	2 Apr 1911
COLLINS, Charlie		25 Mar 1890	28 Dec 1894
COLLINS, Rosetta	About 55 years	no date	13 Oct 1909
DENNIS, Eugene		19 Jan 1891	3 Feb 1917

**Cemetery 12 - Bush Cemetery (moved)**

HEADSTONES: 4 marked, 0 unmarked (4 total)

300 meters northwest of intersection of Marne and Ivy Roads.

RELOCATED TO: Parkhill Cemetery, Columbus, Georgia, October 1965

Name	Remarks	Birth	Death
BUSH		no date	no date
BUSH, Robert W.		10 Feb 1855	10 Nov 1856
BUSH		no date	no date
BUSH		no date	no date



### Cemetery 14 - Psalmonds Cemetery

HEADSTONES: 19 marked, 4 unmarked (23 total)

Apx 125 meters west of Jamestown Road and south approximately 400 meters due south of intersection of Goodluck and Jamestown Roads.

Name	Remarks	Birth	Death
WRAGG, William J.	Co C 46 GA INF CSA	No Date	No Date
HOUSE, William		22 Apr 1796	6 Sep 1859
HOUSE, Mariah	Aged 57 years, 6 months, 24 days	14 Jun 1802	8 Jan 1860
THOMAS, William W.	Co C 21 GA INF CSA	No Date	No Date
STEPHENS, Joel		20 Feb 1832	23 Feb 1905
STEPHENS, Calvin		8 May 1808	21 Oct 1883
STEPHENS, Martha Mariah	Wife of Calvin Stephens (Born in Washington County, Georgia)	10 Jul 1803	16 May 1893
PARKMAN, Linnie V.	Daughter of H. P. & L. V. Parkman; Age 1 yr, 10 mo. and 17 days	No Date	29 Aug 1871
STEPHENS, G. W.		14 Aug 1845	8 Dec 1898
PSALMONDS, Margaret Ella	Wife of Peter Green Wilkinson	5 Apr 1851	1 Nov 1915
PSALMONDS, William E.	Son of T. L. & Margaret Psalmonds	13 May 1856	10 Apr 1915
PSALMONDS, Margaret Walker	Wife of T. L. Psalmonds	23 Sep 1823	29 May 1902
PSALMONDS, Thomas L.		29 Aug 1813	23 Feb 1885
PSALMONDS, Thomas Lee	Son of Thomas L. & Margaret Psalmonds	25 Mar 1864	9 Jun 1884
FARR, Elizabeth Thomas Psalmonds	Wife of S. F. Farr	29 May 1849	25 Nov 1883
PSALMONDS, Louisa Winiford	Wife of M. L. Phelts	5 Dec 1843	31 Aug 1895
PRECIS, Marion Lumpkin		17 Jun 1838	12 Aug 1908
PHELTS, Eva L.	Daughter of H. H. & A. E. Phelts	10 Mar 1897	22 Jan 1898
JENKINS, Mary F.	Daughter of A. W. & B. L. Jenkins	21 Nov 1915	13 Oct 1918
UNMARKED - 4 graves			

### Cemetery 15 - Duck Cemetery

HEADSTONES: 0 marked, 26 unmarked (26 total)

Name	Remarks	Birth	Death
UNMARKED - 26 graves			



### Cemetery 16 - Jamestown Cemetery

HEADSTONES: 106 marked, 8 unmarked (114 total)

On Jamestown Road.

Name	Remarks	Birth	Death
SYKES, Mary J.	Wife of R. H. Middleton	21 Jun 1852	12 Nov 1903
HEWELL, John W.		10 May 1825	14 Apr 1901
HEWELL, J. A.		2 Dec 1826	24 Nov 1899
ADAMS, Ila F.		2 Sep 1850	26 May 1908
ADAMS, Lula B.	(Daughter of I. F. & D. W.)	8 Dec 1895	31 Oct 1898
MOORE, Mrs. C. M.		No Date	No Date
ADAMS, Martha Anna	Daughter of George Y. & Susan C. Banks; Wife of Thomas M. Adams (Hattie Banks Adams)	3 Jan 1857	26 May 1888
ADAMS, Thomas M.		15 Mar 1848	23 Aug 1898
ADAMS, Infant Twin (Boys)	Sons of T. M. & Woodie Adams	No Date	25 May 1894
ADAMS, Thomas M., Jr.	Son of T. M. & Woodie Adams	29 Sep 1895	12 May 1896
SMITH, Martha Amanda		19 Feb 1844	1 Jan 1919
SMITH, W. M.		26 Feb 1836	1 Aug 1914
SMITH, Lula E.	Wife of M. S. Streetman	28 May 1873	19 Aug 1895
SMITH, E. W.		14 Jul 1870	1 Jan 1902
CREW, Mary A., Jr.		23 Nov 1823	11 Apr 1888
STREETMAN, Isaac M.		16 Aug 1865	15 Nov 1907
WILLIAMS, Lucy		28 Jul 1857	21 Apr 1912
LIGHTNER, Eli		1812	28 Mar 1891
SNEED, Hiram Franklin		6 Sep 1817	1 Jun 1856
SNEED, Susan U.		9 Jul 1856	12 Apr 1857



GUN, Rebecca		1809	1884
COOK, Elijah		13 Jan 1810	10 Feb 1880
HILL, Elizabeth		22 Jul 1845	11 May 1905
FRISBY, Thomas	Father of Surry Moore, 68 years old	no date	16 Oct 1867
WALKER, Lucy	Daughter of Richard & Rebbecca Walker	10 Apr 1869	9 Mar 1886
WALKER, Richard	Son of J. B. & Jannie Walker	29 Mar 1891	26 Dec 1914
MACK, John		1832	17 Sep 1885
BORGUS, Savannah		26 Jun 1858	1 Feb 1890
JACKSON, Martha		Nov 1840	25 Jan 1870
RICE, William C.		12 Jun 1824	7 Jun 1857
TUCKER, Lucinda	Wife of Eli Lightner	15 Feb 1815	5 Aug 1880
COOKSEY, Frank Elma	Infant Son of J. D. & F. E. Cooksey	11 Aug 1887	28 Aug 1888
JOHNSON, Charles E.	Born in Philadelphia	30 Aug 1831	10 Oct 1880
ALLEN, Mrs. Julia E.	Wife of Rufus Allen, Age 33 years	no date	27 Jul 1872
HARRISON, James	Son of J. C. & M. F. Armor	3 Jul 1895	24 May 1908
ARMOR, J. C., Jr.	Son of J. C. & Martha Armor	13 Dec 1898	26 Dec 1898
BYRON, John	Son of R. A. & J. E. Patterson	14 Oct 1892	11 Mar 1886
EVANS, Mollie V. L.	Wife of Josiah Evans, Daughter of Miles & Martha Greene (Miles is correct spelling)	3 Mar 1845	25 Jun 1876
PATTERSON, Nora Masseur	Daughter of R. A. & J. E. Patterson	8 Aug 1872	2 Aug 1874
ASBURY, Henry	Son of Myles & Martha W. Greene (spelled MYLES)	28 Jan 1847	8 Nov 1863
GREENE, Madora S.	Wife of Dr. J. H. Wooldridge	12 Dec 1842	3 Feb 1906
WOOLDRIDGE, Jordan Harrison		21 Jul 1841	16 Oct 1917



GREENE	Infant Daughter of Myles & Margaret A. Greene	No Date	Oct 1861
GREENE, Myles	Infant son of J. H. & M. S. Wooldridge	10 Jan 1872	21 Jan 1872
GREEN, Stephens C.	Son of Myles & Martha W. Green (spelled GREEN)	28 Aug 1832	27 nov 1860
WOOLDRIDGE, Martha F.	Wife of J. C. Armor	23 Mar 1868	1 Dec 1899
GREENE, Sallie Bettie	Married P.A. Greene 8 Feb 1864, Daughter of John & Eliza Whorton of Compton Culpepper County, Virginia	Date Illegible	6 Apr 1868
GREENE, Myles	Born Baldwin County, Died Harris County	25 Aug 1801	30 Mar 1884
GREENE, Margareta	Wife of Myles Greene, Daughter of Wm O. & Hallena Rutege	10 Mar 1829	7 Jun 1878
GREENE, Martha W.	Wife of Myles Greene, Daughter of Drewry & Lucy Jackson	14 Dec 1809	1 Sep 1859
WOOLDRIDGE, Mrs. Lucy A.	Consort of Absolom D. Wooldridge, Daughter of Miles & Martha W. Greene (spelled MILES)	11 Aug 1834	7 Aug 1854
WOOLDRIDGE, Robert E. L.	Son of J. H. & M. S. Wooldridge	19 Feb 1880	13 Jan 1896
WOOLDRIDGE, Mary Love	Daughter of J. H. & M. S. Wooldridge	8 May 1877	11 Jun 1897
DOZIER, Lucy		28 Jan 1782	10 Apr 1859
SAPP, Mary R.	Daughter of M. & Martha A. Sapp	3 Nov 1846	21 Mar 1857
SAPP, Eugenia	Daughter of M. & Martha A. Sapp	7 Sep 1853	3 Apr 1857
SAPP, George A.	Son of M. & Martha A, Sapp	3 Nov 1855	13 Apr 1857
CODY, Ella Fisher		19 Oct 1852	10 Nov 1872
ADAMS, Fannie E.	Wife of J. D. Smith	4 Jul 1835	21 Nov 1901
CODY, Emmett C.	Son of D. C. & M. S. Cody	25 Jul 1852	9 May 1877
CODY, David C.		22 Nov 1831	13 Jun 1880
CODY, Custis C.	Son of D. C. & M. S. Cody	16 Dec 1868	18 Mar 1877



LIGHTNER, J. Marion		3 Dec 1836	14 Dec 1909
LIGHTNER, Catharine A.		16 Dec 1850	14 Jan 1891
LIGHTNER, Charles E.		11 Dec 1878	5 Nov 1909
LIGHTNER, Minnie L.	Daughter of J. M. & C. A. Lightner	14 Sep 1871	16 Jun 1872
LIGHTNER, James E.	Son of J. M. & C. A. Lightner	21 Sep 1874	1 Nov 1879
FISHER, Charles (Reverend)	Born Meecklonburg, N. C., Died Chattahoochee County, Georgia	23 Jul 1787	7 May 1866
WRIGHT, Young F.	(Married 10 Nov 1846)	7 Mar 1827	23 Jun 1898
WRIGHT, Sarah E. Morgan	(Married 10 Nov 1846)	25 Aug 1832	6 May 1897
WRIGHT, Jakie	Daughter of Y. F. & S. E. Wright	25 May 1859	6 Aug 1881
WRIGHT, Little Jack	Infant son of Mr. & Mrs. J. B. Wright	No Date	No Date
CHAMBLISS, Armelia	Wife of C. C. Chambliss, Daughter of Y. F. & S. E. Wright	2 Jan 1857	25 May 1877
WRIGHT, Abdell	Infant son of Mr. & Mrs. W. A. Wright	no date	1869
WRIGHT, Ernest	Infant son of Mr. & Mrs. W. A. Wright	no date	1873
WRIGHT, Marzena	Daughter of Y. F. & S. E. Wright	24 Apr 1851	23 Apr 1853
WRIGHT, Freddie May	Daughter of Y. F. & S. Wright	23 Nov 1871	23 Mar 1873
SAPP, Lucius Needam	Son of Forsyth B., & Julia A. Sapp	18 Oct 1855	21 May 1857
SAPP, Madison Forsyth	Son of Forsyth B. & Julia A. Sapp	10 Aug 1852	17 May 1857
MOOREFIELD, Thomas J.		27 Jun 1821	11 Aug 1884
MOOREFIELD, Francis Fisher		13 Jan 1834	19 Aug 1895
FISHER, Mack		5 Aug 1856	11 Apr 1857
FISHER	Infant of G. W. & Francis Fisher	no date	17 Aug 1855



ADAMS, Malinda Jane	Wife of George Adams, Married 23 Jun 1845, Daughter of Rev Charles & Mary Fisher	7 Jun 1825	12 Mar 1887
ADAMS, George		6 Feb 1817	4 Mar 1853
WILLIAMS, Susan Eliza (Susan correct)	Daughter of Henry B. & Martha S. Williams	15 Jul 1852	27 Mar 1853
WILLIAMS, Mary Francis (correct)	Daughter of Henry B. & Martha S. Williams	15 Jul 1850	Jul 1863
WILLIAMS, Martha S.	Daughter of A. W. Redding	11 Aug 1831	31 Jan 1853
WILDER, Wm. F.		8 Feb 1868	19 Nov 1870
ADAMS, Mollie Eugene		5 Jun 1840	27 Nov 1892
ADAMS, Georgia Ann		31 Aug 1855	3 Aug 1958
MOOREFIELD, Infant of H. T. & Kate		no date	Nov 1906
HEWELL, John W.	Infant son of J. A. & A. A. V.	9 Feb 1853	30 Dec 1854
HEWELL, Joseph A.	Son of J. A. & H. E. Hewell	22 Oct 1850	1851
NEWELL, Harriet E.	Consort of Joseph A. Hewell, Daughter of John & Nancy Covey, 19 years old	no date	1 Nov 1850
RUSSELL, W. P.		29 Oct 1810	5 Jul 1889
RUSSELL, John T. F.		29 Aug 1861	20 Mar 1883
SAUNDERS, Mary E.	Wife of M. T. Saunders, Daughter of O. G. & S. L. Williams	24 Nov 1855	19 Dec 1883
WILDER, Minnie Lee		14 Sep 1884	23 Dec 1884
FISHER, Thurmond	Infant son of G. E. & E. T. Fisher	12 Dec 1888	8 Mar 1889
HELMES, Charles A.	Son of Uriah & Elizabeth Helmes, Age 26 years, 11 months and 16 days	no date	14 Jul 1845
SNEED, Mary Pauline	Eldest Daughter of H. F. & S. J. Sneed	23 Mar 1843	6 Feb 1847
GODFREY, Nellie		Oct 1901	no date



GODFREY, Allen		9 Jul 1902	9 Jul 1902
READ, Sallie Fannie	Only child of R. W. & Sarah Read	16 Apr 1858	20 Apr 1860
REESE, James W.	Son of R & P Reese, Born Chattahoochee County, Georgia, Emory & Henry College, Georgia	12 Apr 1842	23 Feb 1860
REESE, William R.	Son of Rivers & Penelope Reese	11 Nov 1834	12 Oct 1842
REESE	Infant Daughter of Rivers & Penelope Reese	no date	no date
REESE	Infant Daughter of Rivers & Penelope Reese	no date	no date
SLAYTON, Martha		2 Jul 1825	26 Jan 1908
THOMAS, Calvin	Cpl US Army World War II	25 Jan 1917	27 Sep 1976
*GODFREY, Lillian		13 Oct 1899	10 Dec 1899
* SEBY, William		15 Dec 1867	25 Nov 18__

UNMARKED - 8 graves including 1 grave with footmarker reading only F.C.C. and 1 grave with foot marker reading only W.M. and with marker C. A. L.

\*Listed in original records, but no indication that markings were ever there during physical survey in February 1972. Could possibly be one of the unmarked graves.



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