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## **Patrick B. Connelly: A Biography**

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ARMSTRONG STATE COLLEGE

PATRICK B. CONNELLY: A BIOGRAPHY

BY  
DEWEY C. BUTLER

SAVANNAH, GEORGIA  
JULY, 1980

Patrick B. Connelly was born in 1802. From information gathered, it seems that in a few short years he became a prosperous farmer in the Jefferson county area of Georgia. Mr. Connelly was a major slave owner throughout his lifetime.

Through my research, the only record of Mr. Connelly in Chatham county is that he purchased property in Savannah in 1850 and built a house there in 1854. The house is now on the Savannah Historical Register. Immediately following completion of the house, it seems that Patrick B. Connelly died at the age of fifty-two. He most likely died in Jefferson county. The Savannah properties were sold at auction by Connelly administrators.

Beginning with the 1850 census, which is where corresponding ages are first given with names, it seems that Patrick B. Connelly was born in 1802 in Jefferson county, Georgia.<sup>1</sup>

In the year 1823, Mr. Connelly married his first wife, one Julia Ann Horn.<sup>2</sup> He was twenty-one years old at the time.

According to the information contained in the 1830 census, Mr. Connelly's family consisted of his wife and two children. Both children were under age five, one boy and one girl.<sup>3</sup>

I think it safe to say that Mr. Connelly did not come to the Jefferson county area penniless. Throughout my research I constantly find reference to a thriving Irish community in Jefferson county. It seems almost impossible for Mr. Connelly not to have any relations in the area. The reason for this line of thought is that by the time he was twenty-eight years old, he had a prosperous farm which was manned by forty-nine slaves, all listed as his property.<sup>4</sup> In speculating, I think he probably had some help getting started.

By the time Mr. Connelly was thirty-eight years old, the household had grown to two sons and three daughters, a son and a daughter under five years, two girls between five and ten years, and a son between ten and fifteen years.<sup>5</sup> The reader

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<sup>1</sup>United States 1850 Census, Jefferson county, Ga., p. 766.

<sup>2</sup>Alden Associates, Jefferson & Burke counties: Early Records, Albany, Ga. 1965, p. 54.

<sup>3</sup>United States 1830 Census, Jefferson county, Ga., p. 411.

<sup>4</sup>Ibid.

<sup>5</sup>United States 1840 Census, Jefferson county, Ga., p. 112.

can see that farming is proving very profitable for Mr. Connelly because his ownership of slaves has risen to one hundred slaves with fifty in agricultural positions.<sup>6</sup> Mr. Connelly increased his slave holdings by fifty-one in ten years.

By the time the 1850 census arrives, the researcher finds Mr. Connelly forty-eight years old with a wife, three girls, and one boy living in his household. The children are named as follows: Sarah, age 18; Emer, age 12; Julia, age 7; and John, age 6. The wife's name is given as Willy Connelly, age 34.<sup>7</sup> I believe her to be Mr. Connelly's second wife because she is too young at age 34 to be his first wife. Assuming that the youngest daughter, Julia, is the daughter of his first wife, Julia Ann, the researcher places the first Mrs. Connelly's death between 1840 and 1843. All the children listed in the 1850 census were born in Jefferson county. Mrs. Willy Connelly was born in Burke county as was Mr. Connelly's first wife, Julia Ann.<sup>8</sup>

Something dramatic must have happened in the years directly preceding 1850, because according to the 1850 census, the researcher noticed that Mr. Connelly's slave holdings were down from one hundred slaves to forty slaves, a 60 percent cut. The researcher also noticed that Mr. Connelly's

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<sup>6</sup>United States 1840 Census, Jefferson county, Ga., p. 112.

<sup>7</sup>United States 1850 Census, Jefferson county, Ga., p. 766.

<sup>8</sup>Ibid.

estate in Jefferson county had been assessed for \$105,000, which was a small fortune in that time period.<sup>9</sup>

In November of 1850, Mr. Connelly came to Savannah and purchased Lot #58 in Brown's Ward from Mr. John Stoddard for \$3,800. John Stoddard was a successful real estate man during these pertinent years. That Lot #58 is now 6-8 East Liberty Street.

It seems Mr. Connelly had a "double" house built on Lot #58 in 1854. This is evidenced on the basis of a notation in the 1855 tax digest concerning this property which states, "Finished last year".<sup>10</sup> The house was sold at auction by Mr. Connelly's administrators to Mr. Nobel A. Hardee and Mrs. Rebecca Cohen for a total of \$14,540.<sup>11</sup> The house is now protected by the Savannah Historic Foundation.

The researcher would also like to mention that in 1850 Mr. Connelly also purchased Lot #59 in Brown's Ward, which is now 2 East Liberty Street for \$3,800.<sup>12</sup> No improvements were made and it was sold at auction to Charles F. Mills on April 4, 1854 by Connelly administrators.<sup>13</sup>

From the information gathered through examining the relevant property deeds, the reseacher assumes, since Mr. Connelly

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<sup>9</sup>United States 1850 Census, Jefferson county, Ga., p. 766.

<sup>10</sup>Savannah Ward Book, Georgia Historical Society, 1978, p. 9.

<sup>11</sup>Chatham County Superior Court Records, Deeds, 3M327 and 3M326.

<sup>12</sup>Idem, 3M252.

<sup>13</sup>Ibid.

is referred to as the deceased, that Patrick B. Connelly died sometime prior to April 4, 1854 when the deeds were processed.<sup>14</sup>

The only other information obtained is a reference pertaining to Mrs. P. B. Connelly. She was listed on the passenger manifest on August 19, 1853 on a steamship bound for New York City.<sup>15</sup>

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<sup>14</sup>Chatham County Superior Court Records, Deeds, 3M327.

<sup>15</sup>Savannah Newspaper Digest, 1853, (Ref. 070-U), p. 346.

## EPILOGUE

As the reader can see the bulk of Patrick B. Connelly's life is missing. The reason for this is that he lived most of his life, as far as I can ascertain, in Jefferson county, Georgia.

The time frame relevant to this research would be from 1802 to 1854. Unfortunately, fire destroyed the Jefferson county records prior to 1865. The Georgia Archives could give me nothing on Mr. Connelly. I did not correspond with the National Archives in Washington, D.C.

I'm sure this man led a rich and full life. I regret that I could not have reported his life more fully and conclusively, but circumstances as you can see were beyond my control.

The Author



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