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Biography of Madame M. C. Cazier

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BIOGRAPHY
OF
MADAME M. C. CAZIER

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Margaret M. Behr
For Dr. Warlick
History 300/500
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INTRODUCTION

This paper is a biography of Madame M.C. Cazier. Madame Cazier, also known as Maryann C. Cazier, had an important role as citizen of Savannah during the period of the Civil War. Although there is little information on her before this period, it is apparent that she played an important part in society as a "physician" and humanitarian to the soldiers of the Civil War. Madame Cazier, from my research and my opinion, was very well respected and was an intelligent woman to be in the position of Lady Manager at the Bartow Hospital. Because of the information I have gathered in my research, I will focus mainly on her position at the hospital and the appreciation shown towards Madame Cazier and her work efforts.

Maryann C. Cazier was born in Cecil County, Maryland in approximately the year 1828.¹ There were no birth records found on Maryann since she was not born in Georgia. This date has been gathered from her age in the Georgia Census of 1860. Also living in Savannah was her sister Isabella Cazier. Isabella was fifteen years younger than Maryann.² I was unable to find the year in which Maryann and Isabella arrived in Savannah and if any other family members were with them. Most likely there were no other family members in Savannah because there are no other Cazier's found in any Georgia records.

Isabella was married to Thomas Hernandez in 1859.³ Thomas was forty years old when he married Isabella who was only seventeen. Maryann lived with Thomas and Isabella at South Broad Street (now Ogelthorpe St.) between Habersham and Price. There were three children also that apparently had been from a previous marriage of Thomas'. The ages of the children in the census records prove that two of the three could not have been children from the marriage between Thomas and Isabella.

Throughout all the city directories it shows that Maryann lived with her sister and husband for as long as she was in Savannah.⁴

After this period there is little found on Maryann until she advertises for her practice. Maryann soon became known as Madame M. C. Cazier. She had a practice as a Ladies physician, accoucher and homeopathic physician.⁵ There was nothing found on her studies of becoming a physician, but in this period a midwife would be an appropriate term for her profession.

An accoucher is "one that assists during an accouchement. An accouchement is to deliver a child: to be delivered of an child."⁶ This is not such a suprising profession at the time, but a homeopathic physician is not that commonly heard of. Homeopathy is "a system of medical practice that treats a disease by the administration of minute doses of a remedy that would in healthy persons produce symptoms of the disease treated."⁷ These titles of Ladies Homeopathic Physician and Accoucher were the titles Madame Cazier uses in her advertisements in the newspaper and in the city directory.⁸ She had her practice at the Hernandez home on South Broud Street by Price Street.⁹ This was not unusual at the time for a physician to have their practice at their place of residence. These simple ads are the first glimpses of Madame Cazier's work as a physician. The most important days of her career will be seen as organizer, physician and Lady Manager of Bartow Hospital.

The beginning of Madame Cazier as a humanitarian can be seen in this article in the Savannah News Digest, 1861. "A few ladies of Savannah ask a hearing from the true-hearted and patriotic people of Georgia, in reference to the establishment of a well provided hospital for the sick and wounded soldiers of the seacoast. To the ladies we promptly appeal for early donations to be equipment. To the gentlemen we appeal for means of providing food and attendant incidents to the hospital. To the planters we appeal for the few bales of cotton to make mattresses and comforters. Lastly we appeal to our sisters in Savannah to join in this noble work of the ministering wants of

our brave defenders when disabled from service. Remember that the case is one which appeals to the best feelings of the human heart; it is a cause very near to every true patriot. All persons having anything to donate please address Madame Cazier, Vice-President Ladies State Military Association, Broughton Street near Drayton."¹⁰ This letter by Madame Cazier to the people of Georgia and Savannah shows she was a person of leadership and compassion.

This obviously is the beginning efforts of the people to open a hospital to help aid those who were fighting the war for the South. On November 15, 1861, the Bartow Hospital at The Ogelthorpe Medical College in Savannah was opened for the reception of the sick and wounded soldiers with special attention given to the sick by Madame M. C. Cazier.¹¹

After the opening of the Bartow Hospital, many special thanks were given to Madame Cazier for her care of the soldiers. In a letter from F. M. Donaldson and D. C. Lancaster, officers of the Alpha Guards, a special thanks was sent to Madame Cazier, principle Lady Manager of the Bartow Hospital, for her kind ministrations to their departed fellow soldiers who were in her care.¹² Also, The Wright's Legion of Bartow Avengers thank Bartow Hospital of Savannah and Madame Cazier, the matron for their attention to the sick.¹³ In return, Madame Cazier expresses her thanks to the officers and members of the Alpha Guards 29th Georgia Regiment for the military habit which they presented her for kindness shown to their comrades.¹⁴

On December 3, 1861 a report of the Bartow Hospital was made by the resident surgeon, F. Hemming. The report stated F. Hemming as resident surgeon, Madame Cazier Lady Manager, and E. C. Wade treasurer. It also stated the statistics of the hospital since the opening on November 15. Since that date one hundred and forty-six soldiers had been treated, one hundred and twenty had been discharged, twenty-two remained at the hospital and four had died. Contributions made to the hospital were \$226.50.¹⁵

The contributions of \$226.50 to the hospital were not a sufficient amount of money to keep running the hospital. The workers were practically volunteers but remained doing their work because of their own compassion and interest in helping the patriotic soldiers. This was their own way of helping to fight the war in honor of the South. Although the financial situation remained a problem, donations were still asked for. By May of 1862 the news said that Bartow Hospital would continue as a free and independent house for the sick soldiers. Dr. Hugh Blair and B. W. Hardee would retained as surgeons and Madame M.C. Cazier would be retained as Lady Manager.¹⁶

In these few publicized years of her career there was no evidence I could find of Madame Cazier marrying. It seems after her work at the hospital between the years 1860-1862, Madame Cazier disappears. This is not true of course but it was very common in the years of The Civil War that good records were not kept. It was also common that obituaries were not always

written up in the papers at this time because of the war.

Although there has not been an abundant amount of information found on Madame M. C. Cazier, there is certainly enough to recognize and commend her presence as a good Savannah citizen.

NOTES

¹Georgia Federal Census 1860, page 278.

²Ibid.

³Chatham County Probate Court, Department of Marriage Records and Wills. Marriage Index 1851-1920.

⁴Savannah City Directory, 1858-1860.

⁵Savannah News Digest, July 7, 1858, p. 2 col. 7, June 16, 1859, p. 2 col. 7, Jan. 2, 1860, p. 4 col. 3.

⁶Webster's Third New International Dictionary, Copyright 1976, G. & C. Merriam Company.

⁷Ibid.

⁸Savannah News Digest, 1860-1862, Savannah City Directory, 1858-1860.

⁹Ibid.

¹⁰Savannah News Digest, Sept. 26, 1861, p. 1 col. 2.

¹¹Ibid., Nov. 12, 1861, p. 2 col. 5.

¹²Ibid., Dec. 16, 1861, p. 2 col. 3.

¹³Ibid., Jan. 20, 1862, p. 1 col. 2.

¹⁴Ibid., Feb. 3, 1862, p. 2 col. 2.

¹⁵Ibid., Jan. 3, 1862, p. 2 col. 3.

¹⁶Ibid., May 16, 1862, p. 1 col. 2.

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Savannah News Digest, Jan. 3, 1862, p.2 col.3.

Savannah News Digest, May 16, 1862, p.1 col.2.

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NOTE TO THE READER

Because of the time and nature of this project, this paper is just the beginning of the research on Madame M. C. Cazier. The limited amount of time and the limited amount of information found in Savannah makes this paper the tip of the iceberg on the life of Madame Cazier. Good luck to anyone who may pursue this topic!