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**Albert Jackson (1844-1901)**

Mary C. Klotz-Cook

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**Albert Jackson**

**1844-1901**

**Mary C. Klotz-Cook**  
**History 450**  
**18 November 1993**

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## Acknowledgement

I would like to thank the following people and organizations for their assistance during my research into the life of Albert Jackson, the staff of the Georgia Historical Society who patiently aided during my search of their collection. Also, I would like to thank the staff of the Chatham County Superior and Probate Courts.

### Historical Abstract

Albert Jackson was a leader in Savannah's African-American community. He was a native of Savannah, and resided in the city for most of his life. He was active in the business community, and in many organizations that helped the.

Albert Jackson was married twice, first to Jennette Bullock then to Mary Scott. He had four children, three sons and a daughter. He died in 1901 after a prolonged illness, and is buried in Laurel Grove Cemetery.

## Albert Jackson: A Biography

Albert Jackson was born in Savannah, Georgia in September 1844. I was unable to ascertain his position or that of his family. I believe he was born a slave because his name is not found in the Savannah Register of Free People of Color. I was unable locate the names of his parents, although they were born in Georgia.<sup>1</sup> He had one known sister Maria, who was nine years younger.<sup>2</sup>

He spent most all of his life in Savannah Georgia.<sup>3</sup> He was educated locally, and then attended Harvard University. After graduating he went to Liberia for a unspecified period of time.<sup>4</sup>

By the year 1869 Albert Jackson had returned to Savannah Georgia. On the seventh of January 1869 he married Jennette

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<sup>1</sup>1900 Federal Census. Vol. 12, Ed.68, Sheet 2, Line 76.

<sup>2</sup>Will Book R Page 182. Chatham County Court of Ordinary Record Room.

<sup>3</sup>Gathered from City Directories 1872 - 1901, and The Savannah Tribune, 3/2 April 20, 1901.

<sup>4</sup>Ibid.

Bullock,<sup>5</sup> the daughter of Josephine Mirault.<sup>6</sup> She had one brother George, and he worked as a carpenter.<sup>7</sup> She also had a younger sister Eliza.<sup>8</sup> Jenette was born in Georgia,<sup>9</sup> and was most likely a former slave. She, like Albert, was not listed in the Registrar of Free Persons of Color.

Albert Jackson worked as a bookkeeper during his marriage to Jennete.<sup>10</sup> I did not find any record of Jennette being employed during their marriage. They had two children. Their first child, was a son named John.<sup>11</sup> I was unable to locate either a birth or death certificate for him. However, I do not believe he survived to adulthood, as no mention is made of him in any

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<sup>5</sup>Book of Marrages 1866-1872. Chatham County Court of Ordinary Records Room.

<sup>6</sup>The Savannah Morning News. 3/4 September, 1872.

<sup>7</sup>Savannah Register of Free Persons of Color 1861 - 1865. Georgia Historical Society Collections. Josephine Mirault is recorded as his mother. This is a very interesting entry. He was listed as a free person of color in 1865 at the age of 19. Jenette was not listed. In the year 1865 she too would have been 19 years old. Unfortunately I was never able to locate the exact month of birth for either Jenette or George. This entry causes me to wonder if they were twins, or perhaps someone made an incorrect entry.

<sup>8</sup>Ibid. Josephine Mirault is listed as her mother.

<sup>9</sup>1870 Federal Census Page 141 Line 13.

<sup>10</sup>Gathered from city directories, 1869-1873.  
1870 Federal Census Page 141 Line 13.

<sup>11</sup>1870 Federal Census.

further Federal Censuses, and he is not mentioned in the will of his grandmother or father.

Another son Albert Jackson Jr., was born in September of 1872.<sup>12</sup> Regrettably, also in September 1872 he lost his wife Jenette Jackson. I was unable to find her death certificate with the cause of her death. I can only assume that it was child birth related. She was twenty-six years old.<sup>13</sup>

Albert Jackson was married again on 10 June 1874, by the Revered J. Atwell of St. Stephens Church, to Mary Scott.<sup>14</sup> She was the daughter of Thomas Scott<sup>15</sup> and Louisa Vayel.<sup>16</sup> She was

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<sup>12</sup>Document number IJ2 - 1483-1488. Chatham County Court of Ordinary Records Room. This is the will of Josephine Mirault. In this will she left Albert Jackson Jr. the sum of 186.90 dollars. His father had to petition the court on March 16, 1882 for legal guardianship in order for him to receive this. No mention is made of John in this will.

<sup>13</sup>The Savannah Morning News. 3/4 September 26 1872.

<sup>14</sup>Book of Marriages 1873 - 1877. Chatham County Court of Ordinary Records Room pg 131.

<sup>15</sup>Deed Book 4B Folio 63, Superior Court of Chatham County. This is the deed to some property sold to Albert Jackson by Thomas Scott, in Sept. 1869, "in consideration of the great love and affection he bears for his daughter." This property was to be given to her children upon the death of Albert Jackson.

<sup>16</sup>Register of Free Persons of Color 1861 - 1965. Georgia Historical Society, Savannah Ga. In this document Louisa Vayel is listed as her mother.



thirty-one years old, and a native of Georgia.<sup>17</sup> She became a registered Free person in the year 1865. Mary and Albert had three children; Joseph born in January of 1878, Sidney born in February 1881, and May born in May 1886.<sup>18</sup>

He and Mary lived all of their married life in their home on 307 Charlton Street.<sup>19</sup> He bought this house for 1,500 dollars in 1876 from Marmelduke Hamilton.<sup>20</sup> This house was a two story wooden frame house with a stable.<sup>21</sup> Apparently there was a fire at his house in May of 1882. In that month Albert Jackson petitioned City Council for permission to repair the fire damage to his home.<sup>22</sup> The extent of the necessary repairs was not mentioned. This house is no longer standing today.

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<sup>17</sup>1900 Federal Census.

<sup>18</sup>1900 Federal Census. Will Book R Page 182. This is the will of Albert Jackson.

<sup>19</sup>Gathered from various city directories 1874-1901.

<sup>20</sup>Deed Book 4Y Folio 310. Superior Court of Chatham County.

<sup>21</sup>Insurance Map of Savannah. New York, New York: Sanbornet Perris Map Co., 1898.

<sup>22</sup>Savannah City Council Minuets. May 24,1882, Page 94.  
Georgia Historical Society

## Community Service

In April 1874 Albert was elected as vestryman of St. Stephens Episcopal Church, Colored.<sup>23</sup> This was the first mention his lifelong association with this Church. He also was a member of the Forest City Benevolent Society, and one his responsibilities was to care for the sick and destitute.<sup>24</sup> Albert Jackson was also appointed by the City Council as the fourth district freeholder. His responsibilities included managing elections.<sup>25</sup>

Albert Jackson was trusted by many in the community. He named executor in the will of his former Mother-in-law Josephine Mirault in 1882.<sup>26</sup> He faithfully executed this task. He also was given power of attorney by to conduct the affairs of others. In one instance, as attorney for Mary Corker, he collected over one thousand dollars from the Baptist Church Colored of Savannah.<sup>27</sup>

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<sup>23</sup>The Savannah Morning News. 3/3 April 7, 1974.

<sup>24</sup>The Savannah Morning News. 3/2 December 13 1876.

<sup>25</sup>The Savannah Morning News. 4/3 December 28, 1882.

<sup>26</sup>Document number IJ2 - 1483 - 1488. Will of Josephine Mirault.

<sup>27</sup>Deed Book 7U Folio 342. Superior Court, Chatham County.

Another example of his service to others was when he became bondsman for Mr. Toomer. Mr. Toomer was missing 198.00 dollars from his stamp account at the post office.<sup>28</sup> Albert Jackson was a responsible member of the community, and I do not believe that he would have posted Mr. Toomer's bond if had he believed that Mr. Toomer was guilty. The court did not agree, and Mr. Toomer was convicted on April 20, 1884.<sup>29</sup>

Mary also took time out for others. She and Mrs. Annie Killings on one occasion made dinner for the prisoners on Hutchenson Island.<sup>30</sup> He and his wife Mary obviously did not take their good fortune for granted.

#### The Cotton Broker

Albert Jackson formed the firm of Johnson and Jackson in 1872.<sup>31</sup> In January of that year Mr. Deas of the cotton brokerage firm Deas and Johnson died. This firm was dissolved

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<sup>28</sup>The Savannah Morning News. 4/2 May 31, 1883.

<sup>29</sup>The Savannah Morning News. 8/2 April 20, 1884.

<sup>30</sup>The Savannah Morning News. 3/2 July 2 1878.

<sup>31</sup>The Savannah Morning News. 3/3 January 11 1872.

and a new firm, Johnson and Jackson, was formed.<sup>32</sup> This was the beginning of the business which he owned for the rest of his life.

This firm was located at 84 Bay Street,<sup>33</sup> and was a cotton brokerage. The partnership of Albert Jackson and John M. Jackson lasted until the death of Mr. Johnson in 1884. On October 14, 1884 Albert Jackson dissolved the partnership, and the firm continued as Jackson and Sons.<sup>34</sup> Albert Jackson owned this firm until his death.

Although I could not locate information about amount of business Jackson and Sons had, but it obviously was profitable. Albert Jackson was able to accumulate quite a bit of local real estate.<sup>35</sup> This property was located in well established neighborhoods. He was a prudent man and did not participate in real estate speculation. Most of this property provided rental income.<sup>36</sup>

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<sup>32</sup>The Savannah Morning News. 3/3 January, 11 1872.

<sup>33</sup>Gathered from city directories 1872-1902.

<sup>34</sup>The Savannah morning News. 4/5 October 14 1884.

<sup>35</sup>See appendix A.

<sup>36</sup>Will book R Page 131. This is the Will of Albert Jackson.

## The Final Chapter

Albert Jackson died at his home on the Eighteenth of April 1901 at fifty-nine years of age with his wife at his side. He had been confined to his bed for over two years prior to his death<sup>37</sup>. The illness listed on his certificate of death as the cause of his death was Cerebral Apoplexy, and this affected him for the ten days preceding his death. He was survived by his wife, sister Maria, and four children; Albert Jr., Joseph, Sidney, and May.

Albert Jackson's funeral was held at St. Stephens Episcopal church on the Friday the nineteenth of April 1901 at four o'clock.<sup>38</sup> He was interred in Laurel Grove Cemetery.<sup>39</sup>

Albert Jackson had a will in effect at the time of his death. He named his sons Joseph and Sidney, and a Mr. Abraham L.

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<sup>37</sup>The Savannah Tribune, 3/2 20 April 1901.

<sup>38</sup>The Savannah Tribune, 3/2 20 April 1901.

<sup>39</sup>Unfortunately I was unable to locate his final resting place in the Works Progress Administration, Laurel Grove Cemetery Savannah, Georgia, General Index to the Keepers Record Books (Savannah: 1939).

Twoker as the executors of his will.<sup>40</sup> At the time of Albert Jackson's death his youngest son Sidney Jackson, was nineteen years of age and could not serve as an executor of his will. Sidney petitioned the court in September 1902 to be allowed to serve as executor. Letters of testimony by Mary Jackson and the other executors were included with this petition. This was granted by the Chatham County Court of Ordinary.<sup>41</sup>

Always a conscientious citizen, the first mentioned item in his will is the payment of his debts. Once all his debts are properly discharged, all remaining property was bequeathed to his wife and children. The only exceptions being the sum of five hundred dollars to be paid to his sister Maria and a watch that his son Sidney was to receive.<sup>42</sup>

All capital and the precedes from his stocks and other investments were to be placed in an interest earning account at a savings bank to pay taxes and provide for his family. His wife, Mary and daughter May, were to receive the sum of twenty dollars each month from this account. Mary was to receive this for the

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<sup>40</sup>Will Book R Page 182. Will of Albert Jackson

<sup>41</sup>Ibid. These documents were included in the folio containing Mr. Jackson's will.

<sup>42</sup>Ibid.

remainder of her life. May was to receive this sum until she reached the age of twenty-five or married. Also, this account was to be used to pay for the "useful" education of May and Sidney.<sup>43</sup>

Unfortunately the complete estate of Albert Jackson was not listed in his will. He did not make a special bequest for his sons because he desired to provide for his wife and daughter. He included a clause in his will so if his sons had needed any assistance the executors could provide it. In the year 1905 a request for such assistance was made by Joseph Jackson. The executors approved a 3500 dollar mortgage against six pieces of property owned by the former Mr. Jackson.<sup>44</sup> I was unable to ascertain what became of this mortgage, but I do think that Albert Jackson probably "turned over in his grave" to find his hard earned property mortgaged.

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<sup>43</sup>Ibid.

<sup>44</sup>Deed Book 8Z, folio 352. Superior Court Chatham County, Ga. The property mortgaged was as follows: Lot 36 Minas Ward, West 32 feet of lot 25 Minas Ward, 1/4 part lot 1 Turnerville Barton Ward, 1/4 of west part lot 20 Barton Ward, Western 2/3 lot 26 Troup Ward, and Lot 18 Minas Ward.

I was unable to locate a list of the exact property holding of Albert Jackson. I have attempted to construct such a list of property owned in Chatham County in Appendix A.

Albert Jackson was given a full measure of happiness and heartbreak his 59 years. He was a cautious and prudent man, and despite the prejudices of his times, succeeded in making his life and the lives of those around him better.



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**Appendices:**

**Appendix A:** A list of property owned by Albert Jackson in Chatham County.

**Appendix B:** A copy of the obituary of Albert Jackson.

**Appendix A:**

A list of property owned by Albert Jackson at the time of his death in Chatham County. This list was compiled from the various Deed Books of the Superior Court of Chatham County.

Description of Property	Date of Purchase	Superior Court Deed Book
1/4 N.E. Lot 20 Bartow Ward		Book 4G Folio 293
Lot 38 Crawford Ward <sup>45</sup>	Sep. 5 1868	Book 4B Folio 63
W. part of the N. 1/2 of Lot 32 Bartow Ward	May 14 1870	Book 3G Folio 325
W. part of the N. 1/2 of Lot 20 Bartow Ward	May 14 1970	Book 4G Folio 325
Lot 54, 50 X 100 ft. part of lot 6 near Waters Rd	Jun. 23 1874	Book 5U Folio 368
W. 2/3 Lot 26 Troup Ward	Apr. 23, 1880	Book 4Y Folio 310
1/4 Lot 1 Turnersville Barton Ward	Jul. 1 1885	Book 4R Folio 483
Lot 1 Bartow Ward	Dec. 21 1895	Book 5H Folio 171
E. part Lot 32 <sup>46</sup> N. Oglethorp Ward	Jul. 6 1897	Book 7X Folio 240
N. part Lot 32 N. Oglethorp Ward	Jul. 6 1897	Book 7X Folio 240
4 acres S. of Central Rail Road	Jul. 6 1897	Book 7X Folio 240
Lot 18 Minas Ward	Oct. 2 1900	Book 6C Folio 163

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<sup>45</sup>This property was sold to Albert Jackson for five dollars by Thomas Scott. This was sold "in consideration of the great love and affection which he bears toward his daughter Mary Louisa Scott."

<sup>46</sup>These three properties were purchased on the steps of the Chatham County Courthouse.



Lot 37 Minas Ward	Aug. 14 1901	Book 8J Folio 106
Lot 36 Minas Ward	Aug. 14 1901	Book 8J Folio 106
W. 32 ft. Lot 25 Minus Ward	Nov 2. 1902	Book 9T Folio 323

**Appendix B:**

This is the Obituary that Appeared in The Savannah Tribune on 20 April 1901.

### Death of Mr. Jackson.

Mr. Albert Jackson, one of Savannah's best known and highly respected citizens, died at his residence on Charlton street on Thursday morning at 2 o'clock, after a rather short illness which confined him to his bed, though he had been in poor health for over two years. He was born in Savannah about fifty-nine years ago, and after attaining such education as was obtainable here in his boyhood, attended Harvard Institute at Boston, Mass. He then made a trip to Liberia where he stayed a while, and returned home and worked at the locksmith and machinist's business, which he had acquired while at Boston. During the reconstruction period in Georgia, he was one of the registrars for Chatham county, and by his courtesy and conservatism won the respect of the people of Savannah, especially of the white people who were required to take the oath of allegiance to the United States Government.

Subsequently Mr. Jackson engaged in the cotton business with the firm of Deas & Johnson, eventually succeeding the firm as sole member. This business he conducted to the time of his death, in a most prosperous manner, also winning the confidence of this community. The deceased was a man of the strictest integrity and his judgment on all business matters was frequently sought and appreciated by his many friends who knew him, and he will be greatly missed by them.

Mr. Jackson leaves a widow, four children, Albert, Joseph, Sidney and May, and a sister, Miss Maria Jackson to mourn his loss.

The funeral of the deceased took place yesterday afternoon at 4 o'clock from St. Stephen's Episcopal church, of which he had been an officer for years, Rev. R. Bright, officiating, the interment being at Laurel Grove Cemetery.