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## The Life and Times of Edward Fenwick Neufville

Adam Brian Butcher

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ARMSTRONG STATE COLLEGE

**THE  
LIFE AND TIMES  
OF  
EDWARD FENWICK NEUFVILLE**

For  
HISTORICAL METHOD  
DR. ROGER K. WARLICK

By  
Adam Brian Butcher

Savannah, Georgia  
November 17, 1993

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#### ABSTRACT

Edward Fenwick Neufville was born November 28, 1841. He was the son of Reverend Edward and Mary Neufville. Edward attended school at St. Timothy's in Baltimore, Maryland and College at Princeton. He enlisted in the Confederate Army in Georgia and later was commissioned an officer in the Confederate Marines. After the war, he became an Insurance Agent, a Realtor, and also had a law practice.

Edward would marry twice. His first marriage was to Mary Drayton. After her death in 1882, he married Harriet Tattnall, his late wife's sister. This marriage lasted until Edward's death, September 9, 1890. He was 49 years old. Harriet died December 21, 1904.

Edward's surviving daughter of his first marriage, Mary Fenwick Neufville, married William B.J. Adams. They would have three children.

## Chapter 1

Today at the corner of Gaston and Habersham streets stands a three story apartment building. It belongs to Joseph A. Austin.<sup>1</sup> The pink paint is faded and chipping away. The house was built to house the Edward Fenwick Neufville family in 1887.<sup>2</sup> Edward Fenwick Neufville was a lawyer and businessman. His businesses included insurance and realty. He was a hard worker, a prominent person in the community much like his father Rev. Edward Neufville.

Rev. Edward Neufville was an orphan. His true name was Edward Loring.<sup>3</sup> His aunt Emmie Loring took care of him. She and Edward moved from their home in Washington D.C. to Charleston, South Carolina. It was there Emmie Loring married a wealthy merchant.<sup>4</sup> Edward took the last name of his new uncle, Neufville.

Edward Neufville attended Columbia College in New York. He would later study divinity at the General Theological Seminary of the Episcopal Church. At age 21 he received Deacon's orders. His first parish was Prince William of South Carolina. In 1827, he came to Savannah to take the place of the late Reverend Abiel Carter at Christ Church.<sup>5</sup> Edward, who was very frail was devoted to his church and his faith.<sup>6</sup>

Edward married Mary Bellinger Bulloch, June 8, 1828.<sup>7</sup> The marriage lasted only six years, ending in Mary's death, July 5, 1833, of fever. She was 24 years old.<sup>8</sup> They had three children,

William Bulloch Neufville who lived only two months, Edward Loring Neufville who lived only 14 months, and Mary Martha Neufville living the longest, dying October 8, 1852, of Epilepsy.<sup>9</sup>

In 1838, Edward married Mary F. Kollock.<sup>10</sup> She was the daughter of Dr. Lemmuel Kollock. She attended college in Beverly, Massachusetts where her studies include French and History. She enjoyed playing the guitar and piano.<sup>11</sup> A marriage contract was drawn up stating Mary was entitled to all Edward's property including 21 negro slaves.<sup>12</sup>

Edward and Mary had two children, Edward Fenwick and Francis Loring Neufville.

Edward became a force in the Episcopal community of the south. He was in charge of the standing committee and he struggled to build churches.<sup>13</sup> Edward became president of the Diocese until a bishop was selected, that being Stephen B. Elliot. Always a dedicated worker, Edward finally succumbed to his lifelong frailness. In early 1850, he became ill.<sup>14</sup>

In the beginning there was little worry. But suddenly, Edward took a turn for the worse. He entered a delirious state. A trembling Bishop Stephen Elliot, attempted to give Edward last communion. When asked, "Do you understand what I'm doing." Edward answered in a calm and distinct voice, "perfectly."<sup>15</sup> He opened his hand to receive the bread. Reverend Edward Neufville died, January 1, 1851.<sup>16</sup> He was 49 years old. On his death certificate

was written, he died of inflammation of the brain. Bishop Stephen Elliot said of Edward, "Many a tear will be shed for him in every church in this Diocese."<sup>17</sup>At his funeral, the 39th and 90th Psalms were read. The 72nd and 24th Hymns were sung.<sup>18</sup> His body was laid to rest in Laurel Grove Cemetery in the William B. Bulloch vault.<sup>19</sup> His body would later be moved to the Neufville plot in the Evergreen Cemetery.<sup>20</sup> On his tombstone read, "He being dead yet speadeth."<sup>21</sup> Edward left his widow, Mary Fenwick Neufville \$28,811.77 in assets.<sup>22</sup>

## Chapter 2

Edward Fenwick Neufville was born November 28, 1841.<sup>23</sup> His brother, Francis Loring was born in ~~1875~~<sup>1943</sup>. Edward at age 2 had a bout with croup of which he recovered.<sup>24</sup> He was energetic and curious as a young child. Shortly after the death of his father, his mother took he and Francis Loring Neufville north to Maryland where they would attend St. Timothy's near Baltimore.<sup>25</sup> They lived in Cantonsville and later in Woodlands.

At St. Timothy's, Edward studied Greek, Latin, and Philosophy. He was interested in the stage and appeared in plays.<sup>26</sup> He attended college at Princeton.<sup>27</sup>

In 1860, Edward Fenwick Neufville, or Fen as his friends called him, was stirred by politics and the Southern cause. As the nation took sides in the 1860 election between Abraham Lincoln, John Breckenridge and Stephen Douglas. He wore a Breckenridge and Blaine button.<sup>28</sup> In 1861, as war approached, Edward expressed his feelings of the approaching conflict in a letter to his uncle George Kollock:

Here I am again absent from the beloved Republic of Georgia & I feel pretty blue I can tell you. I did not want to leave home a bit, but they all advised it so strongly that I had to knock under & am once more in the United States. If the war commences I shall go home immediately. There is a report here that Fort Sumter will be attacked by so. Ca. on next Wednesday & in that case the ball will soon open & I expect an invitation to it. Won't it be glorious to meet once more in the Republic of Ga. to fight for our "Altars and our fires, God and our native land"!!! Tiger!!! Go it boots.



Hit him again. By Dad that's bully ! ! ! ! Ha boy then we will see hot times & if those infernal Yankees don't get more hot lead than they can digest in a year then i don't know anything about Southern pluck & shooting...<sup>29</sup>

### Chapter 3

Edward enlisted January 2, 1862 as a private in the Chatham Artillery and Joseph C. Claghorn's company in the 1st. Georgia Volunteer Regiment. On October 10, 1862, he was assigned to the Signal Corps as a corporal. He was commissioned as Second Lieutenant in the Marines on February 23, 1863. His appointment was later confirmed by the Confederate Senate. On October 22, 1863, he married Mary Drayton Tattnall, daughter of Confederate Commodore Josiah Tattnall. On January 14, 1864, he was assigned Provost of a Naval General Court Marshall presided over Flag Officer W.W. Hunter. On February 1, 1864, Edward was assigned to command the Marine Guard on board C.S.S. Savannah. On August 1, 1864, he was detached to shore duty.<sup>30</sup>

#### Chapter 4

When the war ended, Edward returned to civilian life. At age 24 he was already a war veteran. Edward, his wife, mother, and brother resided on the corner of Lincoln and President streets.<sup>31</sup> Edward and Francis entered into a co-partnership with Thomas Butler.<sup>32</sup> It was dissolved two years later.<sup>33</sup> In 1870, Edward entered into another co-partnership with Hugh Fraser Grant.<sup>34</sup> The Edward Neufville Company dealt in Real Estate and was a Brokerage Firm.

On June 15, 1871, Commodore and Confederate war hero Josiah Tattnall, Mary Drayton Neufville's father died.<sup>35</sup> His funeral procession was led by the Washington Band and the Police force with the Savannah Fire Companies bringing up the rear.<sup>36</sup> His widow would die two years later.<sup>37</sup>

Francis Loring Neufville died at age 28 on April 8, 1875. He died while on a business trip in Augusta, Georgia.<sup>38</sup> His coffin was escorted by the Light Infantry and Savannah Cadets.<sup>39</sup> He was laid to rest in Evergreen Cemetery. He was survived by his wife Sarah Neufville and his four children, Edward Loring, Josephine Fenwick, Percival, and Francis Loring Neufville.<sup>40</sup>

Edward and his wife had four children. Their first child, Mary Fenwick Neufville was born September 25, 1864.<sup>41</sup> The other three died in infancy. Two died of premature births. Florense Tattnall Neufville would live one year before succumbing to

Atelectasis Pulmonum.<sup>42</sup>

Edward bought stock in the not yet constructed Tybee Island Hotel. The shareholders met on August 20, 1875, to discuss the proposed tramway they planned to build from the wharf to the beach.<sup>43</sup> It was their wish to transform the island into a resort. The shareholders later formed the Tybee Island Improvement Company. On January 15, 1882, they elected directors, one of which was Edward Fenwick Neufville. He was later chosen as secretary in 1885.<sup>44</sup> Edward bought property on Tybee Island from John Screven on April 29, 1886. The size of the property was eighty feet which stretched into the ocean where as the deed specifies, the water depth was two hundred feet.<sup>45</sup> In 1874, Edward, his wife, mother, sister-in-law Harriet, and brother-in-law J.R.F. Tattnall, would move to 70 South Broad (Oglethorpe).<sup>46</sup> In 1878, Edward was in a co-partnership with Octavius Cohen and Richard Woodbridge. Edward was involved in Insurance, Realty, and his law practice. the Neufville company was located at 101 Bay Street.<sup>47</sup> In 1884, Edward represented the Insurance Companies of Imperial of London, Northern of Aberdene, and London and Hartford.<sup>48</sup>

On September 21, 1882, Mary Drayton Neufville, at age 39, died of consumption while in Habersham County.<sup>49</sup> She was buried in Evergreen Cemetery. On her tombstone is etched "At Rest," "Lost to Sight not to Memory Dear."<sup>50</sup> Between 1883 and 1887, Edward married his sister-in-law and long time boarder, Harriet

Tattnall.<sup>51</sup>

Edward's mother, Mary Fenwick Neufville died at age 79, on November 10, 1885.<sup>52</sup> She was buried beside her husband, Reverend Edward Neufville.<sup>53</sup>

## Chapter 5

On March 3, 1887, Harriet Neufville purchased land at 50 East Gaston Street for \$3,500.00. She built a three story, six bedroom house for her husband, her step-daughter, and herself.<sup>54</sup>

In the years of 1889 and 1890, Edward was hard at work. He was in a new co-partnership with Richardson and Barnard. Everything seemed to be going well.

On September 9, 1890, at 2 o'clock in the afternoon, during dinner, Edward Fenwick Neufville died.<sup>55</sup> He was 49 years old. According to his death certificate, death was caused by Apoplexy.<sup>56</sup> The funeral service was conducted at St. John's Episcopal Church at 3:30 on September 28, 1890. His pall bearers were Colonel W.W. Gordon, J.R. Saussey, Captain Thomas Screven, James T. Stewart, Calvin Phillips, and W.T. Schiran. Along with family and friends, the Confederate Veterans Association was present as well as Chatham Artillery.<sup>57</sup> Edward was buried next to his first wife, Mary Drayton.<sup>58</sup> He left his life insurance policy to his daughter and directed the Executor, James Kollock, to divide the rest of the estate between Harriet and Mary Fenwick Neufville. His estate was worth \$3,000.00.<sup>59</sup>

Harriet never remarried. She died December 21, 1904.<sup>60</sup> She was buried in the Neufville family plot, but later her body was moved to the Tattnall family plot.<sup>61</sup>

Mary Fenwick Neufville married William B. J. Adams. They had

three children William Newel Adams, who died May 19, 1977, Richard Bulloch Adams, who died December 18, 1927 and Edward Neufville Adams who is currently still alive.<sup>62</sup> (I have been unable to locate decedents.)

The last home of Edward and Harriet Neufville is now a run down apartment building.

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36. Ibid.
37. Savannah Morning News, January 17, 1873, Page 3 Column 6.

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47. Shole's Savannah City Directory 1878, Shole and Company.
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