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A Biography of
Mrs. Georgianna J. Laroche

by
Thomas Kennedy

History 300
February 26. 1981

Georgianna J. Laroche was born Georgianna J. Roberts to Mr. James Roberts and his wife the former Miss Mary Henley on January 8, 1820. Georgianna attended Chatham Academy. She excelled at history and arithmetic. At the age of 14 Georgianna married Mr. Isaac D. Laroche on December 1, 1834. They had a total of twelve children seven of whom reached maturity. She died giving birth to her last child on September 14, 1860.

A Biography of
Mrs. Georgianna J. Laroche

Mrs. Georgianna J. Laroche, formerly Miss Georgianna J. Roberts,¹ was a native of Savannah, Ga.² Born to James and Mary Roberts³ on January 8, 1820.⁴ Georgianna attended The Chatham Academy, and received honors in arithmetic and history as a member of the first class at the age of eleven in 1831.⁵

Georgianna was married to Mr. Isaac D. Laroche a native of Augusta.⁶ The ceremony took place at Christ Church of Savannah on December 1, 1834, the Rev. E. F. Neufville officiated.⁷ Georgianna and Isaac apparently lived with her family for at least the next six years as no Laroche appears in the 1840 census.

Georgianna's husband Isaac was the grandson of Isaac Laroche. This Isaac Laroche and his brother John, one of the twelve original trustees for the state of Georgia as appointed by King George II, came to Savannah in 1733 to help in "planning and laying out the present city of Savannah.". Isaac settled in Augusta and married Miss Elizabeth Drummond. Their son Isaac married Eliza Oliver, and they had Isaac D. Laroche.⁸ He came to Savannah and married Georgianna. After Georgianna's death Isaac remarried twice. The first time he married Josephine Adams.⁹ He remarried a second time in 1864 to Marie A. Richards.¹⁰

Isaac was a very active businessman as can be witnessed by the

number of transactions recorded in the Superior Court deed books.¹¹ Isaac was a commercial merchant and auctioneer by trade.¹² He was also the leading cotton factor in the state of Georgia.¹³

Isaac was apparently concerned for the well-being of Georgianna and their children.¹⁴ He bought them a separate lot, number (5) five Pulaski Ward, next door to their existing lot.¹⁵ It was bought "for the separate use and behoof of Georgianna J. Laroche, his wife for and during her life."¹⁶ This property along with the "following negro slaves- Claudia, Osborne, Jim, Tricia, Sally and George, Jack and Moses-" were put into the hands of George H. Gordon as substitute Trustee on May 19, 1850.¹⁷ At this time Georgianna and Isaac had three living children; Alice, Ruth, and Elizabeth.¹⁸ They also had three children who died before the 1850 census was taken. Mary who died in 1841,¹⁹ Isaac who died in 1850,²⁰ and James who died in 1849.²¹ By the census of 1860 They had seven living children; Alice, Ruth, Amy, Ellen, Ida, John, and Isaac.²² This Isaac was (1) one at the time of the census.²³ Georgianna and Isaac were apparently hesitant about naming another son after his father. John, listed in the 1860 census with Isaac was two years older than Isaac. Another son had been born to them in the middle of the 1850's. His given name was George.²⁴ Elizabeth who was mentioned in the 1850 census as being one year old, was not listed in the 1860 census.²⁵ I can only guess that she died but there is no reference affirming this. They also had another daughter in the 1850's, Laura who died in 1856.²⁶

Alice Laroche the oldest daughter of Georgianna,²⁷ married Mark Edga Williams on December 17, 1860.²⁸ Amy married Wm. E. Dunwoody on January 3, 1870.²⁹ Ruth married Rudolph R. Richards on April 11, the year is not given.³⁰ Ellen married Felix Lessing on August 11, 1870.³¹ Ida married Theodore Hunt on July 12, 1874.³² Isaac D. married a Miss Ernst, and Robert D. married Miss Mary Celia Olsen.³³

Georgianna died on September 14, 1860 probably from childbirth complications. Her last child, Robert, was born September 2, 1860 only twelve days before Georgianna died.³⁴

Not much information could be found concerning Georgianna. It is logical to assume that she was brought up with the duties of a housewife taught to her. Even if she had not been taught in her younger years how to be a good house the fact that she had twelve children within twenty years would have taught her just as well.

I did not have a chance to research her fathers family.

Notes

- 1 Chatham Co. Ga. Marriages, 1805-1852, no. 1714 .
- 2 Laurel Grove Cemetary record book, volume 2, G-M.
- 3 Chatham Co. Ga. Marriages, 1805-1852, no. 497.
- 4 Laurel Grove Cemetary, lot 627, Inscription on Georgianna J. Roberts' tombstone.
- 5 "At the ~~annual~~ examination of the pupils of Chatham Academy," The Georgian, 17 May 1831, p.2, c.5.
- 6 "Married" The Daily Georgian, 3 December 1831, p.2, c.5.
- 7 Chatham Co. Ga. Marriages, 1805-1852, no. 1714.
- 8 The LaRoche Family History MS, Box 2, Folder 14, In the collection of Lila Margurite Cabaniss.
- 9 Mrs. John Strong, telephone conversation of 23 February 1981.
- 10 St. Johns Parish Register Marriage Records, 1846-1903, pp.3, book B.
- 11 Index To Deeds, Grantor 1785-1910
- 12 Census of Chatham Co. Ga. 1860 The profession of head of house is listed., Microfilm.
- 13 Mrs. John Strong, telephone conversation of 23 February 1981.
- 14 This is conjecture on my part based on the fact that at this time in American life property was put in the husbands name only. And Isaac had this lot put in Georgiannas name.
- 15 Deed Book, 3E, 1846-1847, pp. 16-17 .
- 16 Deed Book, 3E, 1846-1847, pp. 16-17.
- 17 General Index Wills, Estates, Administrations, Etc..., vol II, L-Z, Chatham Co., Ga., File No. 127, LaRoche, Georgianna J., Trustee.
- 18 Census of Chatham Co. Ga. 1850, p. 242 thirteenth district

19 Laurel Grove Cemetary, lot 627, Tombstone located behind Georgiannas to the left.

20 Savannah Newspaper Digest, 1850, Daily Morning News, 26 January 1850, p.3, c.1.

21 Laurel Grove Cemetary, lot 627, Tombstone located behind Georgiannas to the right.

22 Census of Chatham Co., Ga., 1860.

23 Census of Chatham Co., Ga., 1860, Ages given for all members of household.

24 Laurel Grove Cemetary record book, vol. 2, G-M.

25 Census of Chatham Co., Ga., 1850 p. 242 thirteenth district, ages of household members are given, Microfilm.

26 Laurel Grove Cemetary, lot 627,

27 Census of Chatham Co., Ga., 1850, p.242, thirteenth district, microfilm.

28 St. Johns Parish Register Marriage Records, 1846-1903, book B, pp.4

29 St. Johns, book B, pp.4.

30 St. Johns, book B, pp. 3.

31 St. Johns, book B, book B, pp.4.

32 St. Johns, book B, pp.5.

33 Mrs. John Strong, telephone conversation of 23 February 1981.

34 Laurel Grove Cemetary, lot 627.

▲ Selected Bibliography

Census of Chatham Co. Ga. 1850

Census of Chatham Co. Ga. 1860

"Married" The Daily Georgian, 3 December 1834, p.2, c.5.

Deed Book, 3E, 1846-1847, pp.16-17.

General Index to Wills, Estates, Administrations, Etc..., vol II,

L-Z, Chatham Co. Ga. File No. 127, LaRoche, Georgianna J, Trustee.

"At the annual examination of the pupils of Chatham Academy," The

Georgian, 17 May 1831 p.2, c.5.

Index to Deeds, Grantor 1785- 1910

Laurel Grove Cemetary, lot 627

Record book of Laurel Grove Cemetary, volume 2, G-M

St. Johns Parish Register Marriage Records, 1846-1903, book B, pp. 3-5

Savannah Newspaper Digest, 1850

Strong, Mrs. John

Alice La Roche

Mark Williams

MARY La Roche
D: 1841

Ruth La Roche

Rudolph Richards

Ignace La Roche
D: 1850

Elizabeth La Roche
no records

James La Roche
D 1844

Amy La Roche

Wm. Downe

Ellen La Roche

Felix Lessing

Felix La Roche

Theodore Hunt

George La Roche
D 1855

John La Roche
D 1865

Isaac La Roche

Miss Ernst

Robert La Roche

Mary Olson

Miss La Roche

Edward R. Bombs

Ethel Bombs

John Strong

Georgiana Roberts

Isaac D. La Roche