

Historical Document

Title: The Lives of James Harvey Gordon and Caroline McFaddin Gwyn

Sub- Title: Legacy at Gordon Springs

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Author: Gordon Napier Mitchell

General Description: Extensive history of the family and their times at Gordon Springs, just south of Catoosa County.

Author's Comments: THIS IS A WORK IN PROGRESS AND PROBABLY WILL BE UNFINISHED WHEN I DIE. However,

I am pleased to disseminate where hopefully others may someday find it.

Other Notes:

The Lives of
James Harvey Gordon (1800-1874)
and his wife
Caroline McFaddin Gwyn (1800-1880)

both originally from
Wilkes County, NC

and later

Jones County, Georgia

Eatonton, Putnam County, Georgia

Aurora, Lumpkin County, Georgia

Forsyth, Monroe County, Georgia

Gordon Springs, Walker (later Whitfield) County, Georgia

Madison Station &
Huntsville
Madison County, Alabama

Griffin, Spalding County, Georgia

Dalton, Whitfield County, Georgia

With holdings in Habersham County, Georgia
And Marion County, Florida

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By

*Gordon N. Mitchell
a great great grandson
8616 Yorkshire Lane
Chapel Hill, NC 27516*

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Summary

This is intended to be the Life of James Harvey Gordon and his wife, Caroline M. Gwyn. It is not intended to be a history of the Gordons and Gwyns that preceded them, although some information is given to provide their background.

Moreover, because of the apparent closeness of his relationship with his siblings, and their business relationships, it is difficult to write about their lives without including material about all the children of Chapman and Charity Gordon, and to a lesser extent Caroline's family. They all were actually (as Southern Genealogists like to proclaim) prominent people, and probably very interesting people, as I hope the reader will find.

The family was active in Law, Politics, Agricultural, Mercantilism, Railroads, Gold Mining, Copper Mining, Coal Mining, Coke production, a Mountain Summer Resort, Wine Making and anything that might produce a profit and support for their families. They owned slaves, and apparently all supported the Confederacy. They valued their family, religion and education highly. They suffered disease and death. They moved numerable times, but were associated with Gordon Springs and Dalton for the longest portion of their residencies.

Chapman Gordon had married Charity King, and they raised their family on the Yadkin River, across from Wilkesboro, Wilkes County, NC. The eldest daughter of Chapman Gordon, Mary Boswell Gordon, married a John Brown and they moved to Columbia, Tennessee. The rest of the family later moved to Georgia. Sarah Chapman Gordon married Dr. John S. Laws and eventually they moved to Columbia, Tennessee. Perhaps because of these connections George W. Gordon married a lady from Columbia, Tennessee, and later divided his time between Gordon Springs, and Columbia. Rebecca Gordon married Tom Napier from Eatonton and later died there. Charles Pennington Gordon lived in Eatonton and also died there. James Harvey Gordon married Caroline M Gwyn from Wilkes County, NC. Zachariah became a Baptist Minister (and always a man of business) and after Harvey's efforts at gold mining with his Gwyn brother-in-laws, the two moved to Walker County and the area that would become Gordon Springs later became part of Whitfield County. There Zachariah owned, and with George W. operated a resort. James and Caroline lived nearby, and would later move near Huntsville, Alabama which was south of and not far from Columbia, TN but accessible by water or rail to the Gordon Coal Mines, which were near the Tennessee River and a railroad at Shell Mound, TN. The Civil War wreaked havoc on all branches of the family, and James and Caroline fled to Griffin, GA from Huntsville, later moving on to spend their last few years in Dalton, where three of their surviving children lived, with two others close by in Rome.

Transcription of old letters is sometimes difficult. A “?” is used to indicate an undecipherable word. A “?” next to a word means the interpretation of that word is uncertain. Spelling and capitalization and lack of punctuation follow the original letters.

There is an appendix, given the standard lineage and families as taken predominantly from Hodges' GORDONS OF SPOTSYLVANIA COUNTY, VIRGINIA, with my corrections or elaborations.

Acknowledgements

The writer is indebted to a variety of County Courthouses, and local libraries. 2 collections of George Washington Gordon papers are held in the Tennessee State Archives. The papers of Hamilton Brown (brother-in-law of Caroline Gwyn Gordon) are in the Southern Historical Collection at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, as well as the Gordon-Hackett Papers. The Duke Manuscripts Department holds papers of John McIntosh Kell (who married the niece of Thomas Napier who had married Rebecca Gordon), and James Gordon Hackett of Wilkes County, NC. The Virginia State Archives provided details about the children of John George Gordon and Sarah Chapman. A few interesting items were found in the John B. Gordon papers, Ms 1637, in the Hargrett Rare Book and Manuscript Library, University of Georgia, Athens. The late Martha Napier of Catoosa County, Georgia led me to connections with the Napier Historian, Charles Corbin of Atlanta, and the late Diana Stimson Webb of Waunakee, Wisconsin, a great granddaughter of George Washington Gordon. Diana Webb also provided significant information about the George Washington Gordon Quilt held by the Atlanta Historical Society, and other members of the Gordon family. The internet in general, and Google Books, and Ancestry.com led to a variety of miscellaneous information.. As a cautionary note, one should be aware that there is a variety of bad information on the internet and in Ancestry family trees, often copied and repeated erroneously over and over and over.

Charles Gordon (1730-1811) (HickersonEHV) , presumably around the time he was appointed guardian, married the widow, Mrs. Mary Boswell Herndon. In Spotsylvania County, Virginia, he was appointed the guardian of her children "Joseph, Stephen, Philadelphia, Benjamin, Mary Ann, and Sarah Herndon, orphs. of Joseph Herndon," on Oct 1, 1759 (Crozier). Joseph was born in 1748 and Benjamin in 1741 (HickersonEHV).

Subsequently, Charles and Mary had 3 sons; Charles Jr. born 1761, Nathaniel born in 1762, and Chapman born in 1764 (HickersonEHV). Hodges, however, gives the dates of birth as 1757 for Chapman; 1755 for Nathaniel, and no date for Charles Jr. Charles, Jr's tombstone, in the William Lenoir Cemetery at Fort Defiance lists his birthdate as 1762 (Sebastian). Moreover, there are internal inconsistencies in Hodge's work. She states that Joseph Herndon died in 1756, widowing Mary. Therefore, Nathaniel Gordon is unlikely to have been born in 1755. Hickerson's dates seem more consistent with the presumed marriage date. The date of 1764 seems to be late for Chapman, given his extensive Revolutionary War service which is given below. When, in 1780, his two brothers and two half-brothers headed off to Kings Mountain, 16 year old Chapman may have refused to stay behind.

Charity King, Chapman's future wife, was born about 1769. (CGPF)

Charles' youngest brother, George (1743-1800), married Charles' step-daughter, Sarah Herndon (Hodges) in Louisa County, Virginia on 4 Jan, 1775 (Dodd-VA). Charles was living in Louisa at that time, having sold property in Spotsylvania from there on 16 Jan, 1775 (Crozier).

Charles's stepson Stephen had died in Spotsylvania County Va. in 1764 (Will Book D). Later, stepsons, Jos Herndon and Benja Herndon, preceded Charles to Surry County, North Carolina, being listed in the tax rolls in 1774. They could have been there in 1773, since that tax list is missing. In 1775, Charles and George are both listed adjacent to each other, with Joseph and Benja. listed close by. Charles paid 10 polls, for himself, and John T[---torn}ls , and 8 Negroes (probably over age 12) (Johnson). This is consistent with Charles preparing to move to North Carolina by selling three properties in Spotsylvania County, between Mar 1774 and Jan 1775 (Crozier). They resided in Wilkes County which was split off from Surry County in 1778.

Charles Sr, also had two brothers, Nathaniel, and John (d 1766), who had died before the move to North Carolina (Hodges). Nathaniel's exact death date is unknown, but was between 1767 and 1776.

Charles, Sr. was appointed guardian for Nancy, presumably his Brother John's daughter in 1771, in Spotsylvania County (WB D 1171), presumably upon the death of her mother, Sarah. Nancy therefore quite likely moved to North Carolina with Charles, Sr. and his family. She would later marry Charles's son, Nathaniel.

NOTE: Those referenced as coming to Wilkes County, may have actually come to Surry County, before Wilkes County was created from Surry about 1778.

Nathaniel Gordon (son of Charles Sr's brother Nathaniel) also came to Wilkes County, NC where he married Nancy, daughter of Charles Sr's brother, George. Therefore, there would be two couples in Wilkes County with the names Nathaniel and Nancy Gordon, all four being Gordons, all being 1st cousins.

Charles Gordon (formerly of the county of Spottsylvania, province of Virginia, but now of the province of North Carolina and County of Surry) acquired the Mulberry Fields land (where North Wilkesboro is now located) from John Payne (of Goochland County, Virginia) executed on November 27, 1775 (Surry County Book A, p 209). One of the witnesses of John Payne's signature was Charles' stepson, Benjamin Herndon. The land acquired was about 354 acres on the North side of the Yadkin River

Charles Gordon later conveyed the part of Mulberry Fields west of Reddies River to his brother, George Gordon. Wilkes General Hospital is now on this tract and on the site of the old George Gordon home where his grandson, General James B. Gordon was born and reared (Hayes).

Wilkes County was formed in 1777 from Surry County and the District of Washington (present Tennessee), effective Feb 15, 1778. 1777 was the last year Wilkes residents were assessed for taxes as a part of Surry (Hayes).

Charles Gorda(o)n represented Surry County at the Second Provincial Congress in New Bern in April, 1775, and the Third Provincial Congress (The War Congress) convened in Hillsborough on 20 August, 1775, and the Fourth Provincial Congress in Halifax in November and December 1775 (Saunders).

Minutes of the Provincial Congress of North Carolina (Nov 12, 1776 ... Halifax

docsouth.unc.edu › Collections › Colonial and State Records (CSR) Mar 23, 2010 - Minutes of the Provincial **Congress of North Carolina** Mr Robert Lanier, Mr William Hall and Mr **Charles Gordon**, three of the members for for Surry County, appeared.

The **North Carolina General Assembly of 1777** met in two sessions in New Bern, North Carolina, from April 7 to May 9, 1777, and from November 15 to December 24, 1777. This was the first North Carolina legislature elected after the last provincial congress wrote the first North Carolina Constitution. **Surry County**: Charles Gordon: Joseph Winston

THE SENATE JOURNAL---1781.

FROM JUNE 23RD, 1781, TO JULY 14TH, 1781.

[It being the First Session.]

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA,
IN SENATE, 23RD JUNE, 1781.

At a General Assembly, begun and held at Wake Court House, the Twenty-Third Day of June, in the Year of our Lord One Thousand Seven Hundred and Eighty-one, and in the Fifth year of the Independence of the said State, it being the first Session of this Assembly.

The Returning Officers for the several Counties within this State certified that the following persons were duly elected to represent the respective Counties in Senate, viz.:

Anson—
Beaufort—William Brown.
Washington—
Wayne—
Wake—Michael Rogers.
Warren—Nathaniel Macon.
Wilkes—Charles Gordon.

During the American Revolution, according to Zachariah Herndon Gordon "all five of these sons, entered the war at its beginning, 'Whigs' they were then called & went thro the whole of the seven years of desperate struggle" (Tankersley). These would be the 5 sons of Mary Boswell Herndon Gordon. Her 1st husband, Joseph Herndon, was the father of Joseph and Benjamin Herndon, and her 2nd husband was the father of Charles Jr., Chapman, and Nathaniel Gordon. They all served in the Battle of Kings Mountain on Oct. 7, 1780, and Charles Jr.'s name is on the monument at the Kings Mountain Military Park, because he was wounded there.

Chapman Gordon, while residing on the Yadkin River, 30 miles from Morganton, NC apparently volunteered about 1779 or 1780, serving as a private for several tours in the Companies Commanded by Capt. John Cleveland and Nathaniel Gordon in the Battalion or Regiment commanded by Col. Benj. Cleveland in the Militia of NC. (CGPF) If Chapman was born in 1757, he would have been 18 in 1775, but if born in 1764, he would have only been 11. If, as Charity says, he volunteered in 1779 or 1780, he could have been 15 or 16, young but possible.

In the public record of Wilkes County, there are voluminous references to Charles Gordon and other Gordons, as well as Chapman's half-brothers, Benjamin and Joseph Herndon. Charles Gordon was involved in all aspects of Wilkes County life including laying out roads, building a

Griss Mill on Reddies River, and serving as Justice of the Peace (Hayes). According to the 1782 Wilkes Co Tax Lists, Charles owned 2147 acres in the county, and possessed 19 Negroes, 13 mules or horses, and 18 cattle.

Col. Charles Gordon engaged in land speculation and was involved in transactions in and out of Wilkes County. The largest transaction involved a partnership with William Lenoir and Heller Roussau, who entered a claim for 700,000 acres of western North Carolina land on January 2, 1795. While they did succeed in selling 150,000 acres to a group of Philadelphians, it is unclear to me whether the venture was successful over all. Their goal had been to turn a profit by selling this land to Europeans, but this goal was stifled by the wars in Europe. Charles Gordon withdrew as a partner in 1805 (Stuart). Hillair Rousseau (1741-1829) had come "to Wilkes before the Revolution from Virginia and settled on Mulberry Creek, later moving to the south side of the Yadkin below Wilksboro" (HickersonEHV).

NOTE: According to Hodges, Charles's granddaughter, Sarah (daughter of Chapman's brother Nathaniel), married a John Rousseau. An internet search for Heller Rous(s)eau produced no results. However, Hilliare Rousseau's children were all born in Wilkes County, and his son John married Sarah (Rousseau Family Notes). Charles' son, Charles, married his other partner's daughter, Mary Lenoir. William Lenoir's brother, Thomas, was the grandfather of Caroline M. Gwyn who would later marry James H. Gordon (Hickerson EHV).

Charles Gordon represented Wilkes County in the North Carolina Senate in 1781.

In the 1782 Tax Lists, there were 6 Gord(o)(i)(a)ns; Charles(19 slaves), Nathaniel Sr, Mary, George(13 slaves), Alexander (9) and Thomas(1 slave). There were two Herndons; Joseph(11 slaves) and Benjamin(12 slaves). There was also a **Charles King** who owned 15 slaves, 7 Mules or Horses, and 16 Cattle. (1782 Tax List) Was this the father of Charity King? *NOTE: I do not know if or how this Mary (presumably a widow since she is head of household) and Alexander are related.*

Chapman Gordon married Charity King in Newberry District, South Carolina on the 25 of December, 1786. (CGPF) Charity Gordon was described as "**one of the most glorious women...that I ever knew**" by her grandson, General John B. Gordon, in a letter to his daughter. (March 25th, 1887, JBG1637)

Charity's parents were Charles King and Charity Pennington. Charles, "son of the Reverend Jacob King and Keziah Butler was living in South Carolina by **29 June, 1771 when he was pardoned for his involvement in the Regulator movement which sought to restore law and order in the backcountry.** On 5 November, 1775, he received a grant for 50 acres. The recipient of grants for an additional 1,544 acres, he settled in the fork between the Broad and Saluda rivers, later Newberry County. At the beginning of the American Revolution, he represented the District between Broad and Saluda Rivers in the First Provincial Congress (1775) and served on the committee for enforcement of the Non-Importation Association in the fork (1775). King was also a member of the House for the Second General Assembly (1776-78). Elected to the Senate, he served the Lower District between Broad and Saluda Rivers in the

Third General Assembly (1779-1780). Locally he was a justice of the peace (1776). In 1752 in Virginia, he had married Charity Pennington, daughter of Isaac Pennington (d. 1760). They were the parents of eleven children: Jacob, Pennington, Lydia (m. John W. Lindsey), **Mary (m. Jeremiah Starke)** (*note: Another set of the author's ancestors*), Ruth (m. Thomas Starke), **Charity (m. Chapman Gordon)**, Rebecca, Keziah, Rachel, Rhoda, and Issac. His wife predeceased him. Writing his will 21 January 1789, he bequeathed 500 acres and thirty slaves to eight surviving children. Charles King was deceased by 2 March 1789 when his will was proved" (Bailey). Numerous references make the claim that Kings Mountain was named after owner Charles King. I do not know if this is true, and I have not investigated that claim.

In the 1787 North Carolina Census Chapman is a white male between 21-60, with one white female (Charity) and two slaves. His half brothers, Joseph Herndon and Benj. Herndon, and a Nathaniel Gordon (his brother or cousin) are also listed. Charles, Sr. and Charles, Jr. are listed as well as his Uncle George Gordon (1787 Census).

Charity inherited a Negro woman Rhoda & a Negro boy Kent upon her father's death, when the will was proved on 2 March, 1789 (SCMAR). Thus the increase in the number of Chapman's slaves, according to the census records, from 2 in 1787 to 4 in 1790.

The 1790 Census shows Chapman's household with a free white male > 16, and one < 16; and 3 free white females. He owns 4 slaves. The enumeration was as of 1 August, 1790. Charity and their daughter, Mary Boswell Gordon, could account for two of the white females. Charles Pennington Gordon could account for the under 16 white male. The third female could be a child that subsequently died or a visitor.

George, Charles Sr., Charles Jr, and Nathaniel Gordon are also listed. Half Brothers Jos. and Ben., Es Herndon are also listed.

In 1794 Chapman Gordon purchased a 12 year old Negro girl DILLEY from Jesse Robinett. In 1795, he also bought a Negro HANNAH, ca. 23 years old and her child Stephen ca. 6 or 7 mos. (Absher, WB 1).

Wilkesboro and North Wilkesboro.

Wilkes County was established in 1777, with an effective date of 1778. The County seat of Wilkesboro was established on a hill on the south side of the Yadkin River opposite its intersection with Reddies River. Charles Gordon, Sr. lived on the north side of the Yadkin River. His son Chapman and his brother George later had homes on the east and west side of Reddies River. Chapman's home (I presume that this was originally Charles Senior's home) was near the "present" N. Wilkesboro Post Office (not sure whether this is the old or new one, but probably on top of the hill). George's home was on the West Side of Reddies River, at the location of the present hospital. They would have been within "hollering distance" of each other, and probably within sight of each other (about 3/4 of a mile straight line). Chapman's home was a short distance from the place where he was buried, which would later be under the North

Wilkesboro Presbyterian Church. Presumably other family members were buried there as well. The railroad came in 1890 and chose to stay on the North Side of the Yadkin River. This resulted in the creation of the town of N. Wilkesboro. It was first called Gordon, possibly because Col. A. B. Andrews, the vice-president of the railroad had served with Gen. James B. Gordon. On 2006 visit, there existed a walkway from the highway below the Hospital, along the west side of Reddies River to the Yadkin River, and along the river. I believe that part of the Mulberry Fields was similar and possibly the same as the large river bottom flood plain corn field that was there in the fall of 2006. The land on the east side of Reddies River is higher and the site of the older part of and downtown of N. Wilkesboro.

Children of Chapman and Charity King Gordon. The *Names in Italics* of the children and the order given are taken from a list of Sarah Chapman Gordon Law. The other names are as taken from a variety of sources over the years.

I. *Mary* Boswell also *Bassel* (Bawsel, also Basil (CGPF)) born 19 November, 1787 (CGPF) *Died 26 July 1849. Columbia, TN (ROSE). Her name is spelled many different ways. Mary Boswell makes the most sense since that was the name of Chapman's mother.*

She was also known as Polly (ChapGestate)

Married John Brown of Columbia, TN (Hodges), marriage bond dated December 30, 1813, Bondsman Nathaniel Gordon (NC Marriage Bonds).

II. *Wiley Jones* 1788?

He witnessed a deed in 1809, so he must have been at least 21. He died before 1818, see below.

III. *Charles Penington* (With only one "n")(Sarah Law) (CGPF) born the 1st day of May, 1790 (CGPF) Miller in the Bench and Bar of Georgia Article gives his birth year as 1791. His tombstone states his middle name as Pendleton, and therefore it is commonly reported as Pendleton, but that is obviously a mistake made by his family. His mother and sister report his name as Pen(n)ington. However, as executor for Chapman's estate, he made payments to Salem Academy on behalf of Sarah Chapman Gordon, and he was listed in their ledgers as Charles **Pendleton** Gordon (McKnight).

IV. *Zachng Herndon*

Zachariah Herndon Gordon was born 10 March, 1796. (History Bapt. Denom.)

FindaGrave reports his tombstone birth date as 1794. However since, Jesse Robinette was named as his guardian on May 26, 1817, he presumably was not 21, and therefore not born in 1794. This calls into question the 1796 birthdate as well.

V. *James Harvey* (10 May 1800-23 Jul 1874) (Whitfield).

Frequently referred to as Harvey in the Chapman Gordon estate papers and family correspondence, he is also cited as J. H. Gordon, Jas. H. Gordon during his lifetime.

1850 census, he is 50.

1860 census, he is 62.

1870 census, he is 72.

NOTE: There is an obvious problem with the birth date of either James or Rebecca. It would appear that one of the tombstone dates is wrong. If Rebecca's birth date is correct, then the census suggested date of 1798 is more likely for James Harvey.

VI. Rebecca (Mamphradonia (JBG1637)) *Louise* Oct 10, 1800 (FindAGrave, Tombstone)
She married Thomas T. Napier of Eatonton (CGEestate) One of her children was named Manfredonia

VII. Sally Chapman Aug 27, 1805. (Obit)
Sarah Chapman. However, her attendance record at Salem Academy gives her birth year as 1804(McKnight).

VIII. Ca. 1808 George Washington He was 42 in the 1850 Census, and 52 in the 1860 census.

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Chapman's half uncle, Col. Joseph Herndon's estate was inventoried for the Feb. Term 1799. (Absher)

In 1799, Chapman's brother, Charles, who had married Mary, the daughter of General William Lenoir died (Hickerson). He was reburied at William's home, Ft. Defiance (now Caldwell County). (Sebastian) In 2014, Gordon and Madeline, and Thomas and Lynn Mitchell attended a fundraising Oyster Roast at Fort Defiance. We met the executive director of Ft. Defiance and the only paid employee. Becky had worked there for a number of years. She told us that Charles had been moved there from his previous burial site where they were building a new school. Permission from the last Lenoir relatives to live at Ft. Defiance was granted to rebury Charles in the Lenoir Cemetery, as far as possible from the rest of the family because "Bill" (William Lenoir) did not like him. Reportedly there were bad feelings related to Charles' management of a legal still that Lenoir owned. Indeed, Charles' marker is about as far from the rest of the family as possible, and still not fall off the bluff into the creek below.

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1800 Census

Wilkes County, North Carolina

4 August enumeration day

Only the head of the household is named.

Gordon, Chapman

	Probable Persons
4 males under 10	Charles P., Wiley J., Zachariah H., James H..
1 male 26 thru 44	Chapman

1 female 10 thru 15	Mary Boswell
2 female 26 thru 44	Charity, and unknown

Number of Slaves, I see an 8, although questionable, one indexer saw 0. Since he

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owned 4 slaves in 1790, zero seems unlikely.

2 Nathaniel Gordons, Charles Gordon, John Gordon, Sarah Gordon, and Polly Gordon are also listed. The only Herndon in Wilkes is Elizabeth. Col Benj Herndon had moved to Newberry District, SC in 1793 (HickersonEHV).

One Nathaniel could be Chapman's brother. George's son, Nathaniel, was a minor. The other Nathaniel would be the son of Charles Sr's brother, Nathaniel.

This Charles would be Charles Sr., Chapman's father.

This John is probably George's son, (Chapman's 1st Cousin) who married Philadelphia Herndon, his cousin.

Sarah would probably be the widow of George, who had died earlier in the year.

Polly, I don't know who this is, as head of household.

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Chapman's uncle, George Gordon, died in 1800. He was originally buried at his home place where the hospital is now located. He was later moved to the St. Paul's Episcopal Church Cemetery in Wilkesboro, where he is buried in a plot with his wife, Sarah, son Nathaniel, and others. His stone says "*GEORGE GORDON son JOHN GEORGE GORDON & SARAH CHAPMAN GORDON, Born Jan 15, 1743 NEAR FREDERICKSBURG, VA, DIED IN THE 57TH YEAR OF HIS AGE. CAME TO WILKES COUNTY, N. C. IN 1770, SOLDIER OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION. ONE OF LENOIR'S RANGERS.*" George's wife, Sarah (Sally), survived him until 1842.

Chapman's brother Nathaniel, who had married his 1st Cousin, Nancy Gordon, died in 1808 (Hickerson).

Charles Gordon wrote his will on 7 May, 1808 in Wilkes County, NC because he was "*old & lately received an accidental wound which may terminate in my dissolution by death.*" However, his will was not filed until the November term of 1811. In this will, he names his son, Chapman, and his son, Nathaniel, now recently deceased, and heirs of his son Charles (1762-1799) (Sebastian). He reaffirms prior gifts to his sons, Nathaniel and Charles and their heirs, and leaves the rest of his estate to Chapman. (CharlesGEstate) **Charles's wife, Mary Boswell Herndon, survived him until ???.**

Chapman must have been a strong believer in good education, perhaps part of his Scotch-Presbyterian background. He sent at least one and possibly two of his sons to Dickinson College in Pennsylvania. In 1807, Chapman Gordon, William Lenoir and others were trustees of the Grammar School of Wilkesboro. In 1810, the charter was changed to Wilkesboro Academy with Chapman, R. R. Gwyn (James Harvey Gordon's future father-in-law) and others as trustees. (Hayes p 198)

1810 Census

Wilkes County, North Carolina
6 August Enumeration Day
Only head of household named.

Gardon, Chapman

1 Male under 10
2 Males 10 thru 15
1 Male 16 thru 25
1 Male > 45

2 Female under 10
1 Female 16 thru 25
1 Female 26 thru 44

25 Slaves

Probable Persons

George Washington
James Harvey and Zachariah H.
Wiley J. *Charles P is off to College.*
Chapman

Rebecca & Salley
Mary Boswell
Charity

Also listed John Gardon, John W. Gordon, Sarah Gardon, Nancy Gardon, but I did not find Charles Ga(o)rdo(a)(i)n even though he did not die until 1811.

Dickinson College

Dickinson College archivists found only one reference to Charles P. Gordon in an alumni directory compiled in 1905. He had graduated as a member of the class of 1811. There was no record of Wiley Gordon. Their search also appears to have covered those who attended but did not graduate. (Dickinson) Zachariah's biography stated that, at Chapman's death, Wiley and Charles P. "were absent, pursuing a course of study in a Northern college". (History Bap. Denom.)

Wiley Gordon. Hodges states that Wiley "was killed while an officer in the Texas Army during the Mexican War". While commonly cited, this is an error. Sarah Chapman Gordon Law states "my second brother, Wyley J. Gordon, was an officer in the U. S. Army, in the war of 1812" (LAW). In one estate paper obtained from the Hargrett Library (JBG1637), Willie J. Gordon (this is probably Wiley J.) is listed as a buyer at an auction of estate assets on 18 May, 1813. On Jan, 1814, Chapman's estate set aside 9 parts which would have included Wiley. My present theory is that he died after that date. There is no other mention by name of Wiley in the estate papers (ChapGestate). Wiley is also not mentioned in any family correspondence. I theorize that Wiley around the time of the War of 1812, from disease or wounds. The Muster Rolls show, as part of Edmund Jones Regiment Cavalry, the Eight Company detached in 1812 from the Ninth Brigade, containing a number of Wilkes County names, including Wiley G. Gordon, John W. Gordon (1st Cousin), Nathaniel Gordon (1st Cousin once removed), and Thomas A. Gordon (brother of John W). I suspect that Wiley G. is actually Wiley J. Gordon. To date, I have not found any information about War of 1812 Deaths (Muster). Wiley died before 1818 as shown below.

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Wiley was old enough to be a witness to two deeds for land purchased by his father, Chapman dated 7 Sept. 1809 and 7 Sept 1811. (Absher, G-H)

Estate Administration of Chapman Gordon
 Nov term 1812, Inventory
 C P Gordon Administrator
 18 May 1813 estate sale
 C P Gordon Administrator

June 12, 1812 seems a reasonable date for the death of Chapman Gordon. The pension file clearly says June 12, 1813, repeatedly (CGPF). Chapman died intestate, but there are a number of estate papers. However, the estate inventory was taken in November, 1812, and some of the estate was sold off on 26 and 28 Nov, 1812. (ChapEstate) Therefore, my guess is that Charity, 37 years later, had forgotten the exact year. Chapman Gordon was buried near his home. In later years the North Wilkesboro Presbyterian Church (organized in 1893) was built over his grave. Still later, when deeper excavation was necessary to build a full basement, he was reburied still deeper in the same location, where a tablet was erected by some of his descendants, and placed in the basement. (NC Collection Clipping File) [Update this, under steps.](#)

While pure speculation, it would seem that if there was a burying ground where Chapman was buried, then perhaps Charles and Mary Gordon and other family members were also buried there.

On the 6th of May, 1813, Charity Gordon, Chs (signed as C P) Gordon, Nathl Gordon, Rich R. Gwyn and Alex Brown signed bonds for Charity Gordon to be the Guardian to Zachariah, Harvey, Sally, Rebecah?, and Washington Gordon. Charity and the others signed their names. (ChapGestate)

In the August term of 1813, a petition was submitted by the two adult children Mary B. Gordon and Charles P. Gordon to divide the estate, "that their father possessed of a large estate of twenty seven Negroe Slaves & other property & leaving eight children." In Nov 1813, the commissoners were order to lay off 1/9 each of Chapman Gordon's estate to Mary B. Gordon and Charles P. Gordon. This was done on the 26th of January 1814. The nine shares would have been for each of the eight children (including Wiley) and for the widow (ChapGestate).

Confirmation of Wiley's death was found in the probate records of Wilkes County when, on Nov 4, 1818, Charles P. Gordon was appointed to administer the estate of Wiley J. Gordon and was bound in the sum of \$1600 along with Hamilton Brown and Larkin Sheppard.

Mary B. Gordon and John Brown had a marriage bond recorded in Wilkes County, NC on 30 Dec 1813 (NC Marriages).

Sarah Chapman Gordon was sent to the Moravian boarding school known as Salem Academy, at present day Winston-Salem for the year 1816-1817 (McKnight), by her brother and guardian,

Charles P. Gordon. One presumes this was also in consultation with her mother, Charity. At least 9 Gordon and 5 Napier women would follow her there.

Not wasting any time on 29 May, 1816 Widower Jesse Robinett, Senr. obtained a marriage bond for his marriage to Widow Charity Gordon. (NCMarriageBond) Jesse's wife, Elizabeth, had just died at the age of 64, on 29 March, 1816 according to the *Raleigh Star* of April 26, 1816. (NEAL)

Jesse Robinett, on May 26, 1817, was named as guardian with Charity Gordon, by virtue of their marriage, to Zachariah Gordon, Harvey Gordon, Rebecah Gordon, Sarah Gordon, and Washington Gordon. On 7 Aug, 1818, Charles Gordon was named guardian to Brothers George W. Gordon & James H. Gordon. John Brown (m. to Mary Boswell Gordon) was named guardian to Sarah C. Gordon (ChapGestate). This John Brown would have been her brother-in-law.

NOTE: This calls into question the birth date of Zachariah. If born 10 March, 1796, he would have been 21, and there would have been no need for him to have a guardian.

There were two Jesse Robinetts in Wilkes County, Junior and Senior. Jesse Robinett (presumably Senr.) served as a representative in the North Carolina House of Commons, in 1795 thru 1799. Both Jesse Esq. and Jesse Jr. are listed in Wilkes County, North Carolina in the 1810 census, only the younger was found in 1820. There is a Jesse Robinett over 45 living alone in Jasper County, Georgia in 1820. There is also an Allen Robinett in Jasper County, Georgia who has a family, and there had been an Allin Robinett in Wilkes County in 1810.

Tankersly reports (with Zachariah as the source) that Zachariah Gordon came to Jones County, Georgia when he was nineteen, circa 1815 or 1816. However, Jesse Robinett was named as Zachariah's guardian in on 20 May, 1817, Wilkes County, NC. However, these two events are not necessarily mutually exclusive. Two years later, Tankersly reports that Zachariah Gordon moved to Eatonton, Putnam County, where he was joined by Charles P. Gordon who came to set up his law office (Tankersly2) Perhaps, Charles, who had married, and was named guardian of James H. and George Washington, took them to Georgia with him. Perhaps, Zachariah went to Georgia with his mother and Jesse Robinett, Sr.

Rebecca Gordon (daughter of Chapman and Charity) married Thomas Thompson Napier on June 17, 1818, in Eatonton, Ga (Dodd-GA). Therefore there must have been earlier contact, which could be due to Zachariah's arrival in adjacent Jones County earlier.

Apparently they were still going back and forth to Wilkes County, because on 8 August, 1818, Charles P. Gordon of the county of Wilkes, State of North Carolina, paid to John Brown of Maury County, Tennessee, one thousand pounds to buy out Mary B. Gordon Brown's one/seventh interest in the estate of Chapman Gordon, for the benefit of the 6 remaining heirs (Brown).

In April of 1819, Charles P. Gordon settles his account with the Newspaper the Raleigh Star, because he is "about leaving the state of N Carolina" (Brown), perhaps finalizing his move to Eatonton, Georgia. He had been admitted to the Bar in Wilkes County, NC in 1815. He had married Barbara Galbraith of Carlisle, Pennsylvania (home of Dickinson College) in 1817. He was a prominent attorney in Eatonton and member of the Presbyterian Church until his death from bilious fever on 8 October, 1836. Elected to the Legislature a number of times, he was credited with being "mainly instrumental in getting up the first Internal Improvement Convention" in 1831, which was the beginning of an extensive rail road system in Georgia. His brother, George Washington Gordon, of Forsyth County and James H. Starke of Butts County also attended. "He...was among the first to introduce and cultivate successfully the vine in Middle Georgia...making very superior wine from grapes grown by himself." His will, named his brothers, George W. Gordon and James H. Gordon, as guardians of his children, and also as his executors along with his brother-in-law, John Brown of Tennessee. (Miller)

1820 Census

From Images via Ancestry.Com
Listing names only for heads of household

Charles P. Gordin was in Putnam County, Georgia with his wife, and 1 male child <10. 2 Slaves.

Zachariah Gordon, 1 male 16-24 was living with one female >45 in Jones County, Georgia with 14 Slaves, 9 of whom are engaged in agriculture. If the woman was **Charity**, his mother, that would explain why a young man of 24 had 14 slaves; they actually belonged to his mother.

Thomas T. Napier, married to **Rebecca Gordon**, was in Capt. Jesse Bledsoe's District, Putnam County, Georgia.

The household had one male <10, and one 16-25, and one 26-44 (Thomas T. would have been about 28). The 16-25 male could have been James H. Gordon.

One Female 16-25 (Rebecca would have been 19).

They owned 4 slaves.

George W. Gordon would have been about 12. **James H. Gordon** would have been about 20. As single males, they may have been living with other relatives, or boarding somewhere.

John Brown, who married Mary Boswell Gordon, was living in Maury County, Tennessee. The census reports two John Browns there.

Sarah Chapman Gordon was not found. It was unlikely that she would have been the head of a household. Presumably she was living in Columbia TN with John Brown who had been named her guardian and Sister Mary.

Zachariah H. Gordon allegedly moved when he was 19 (1815) to Jones County, GA, where he lived for two years. In his 23rd year (1819) he moved to Eatonton. In his 29th year (1825) he entered the Baptist Ministry, and married Malinda Cox in 1826. Living on the Flint River in Upson County, he served 4 churches in Upson, Talbot, Pike and Houston Counties for 14 years. (History)

Chapman's sister-in-law, Nancy (widow of Brother Nathaniel) and her family also accompanied Chapman's children to Georgia. An abstract of her will, probated in Jones County in 1835, lists sons Nathaniel W., Richmond, and dec'd son, Thomas A. Gordon (Williams). In 1832, Zachariah sold 202 1/2 acres to Nathaniel W. Gordon in Jones County about the time that he moved to Upson County (Jones). The children in the will are the same children of Nancy and Nathaniel C. Gordon of Wilkes County that were listed by Hodges. I had thought that one of her sons was John W. Gordon, who had his name on a slave deed in 1823 in Jones County (Williams). However, this John W. Gordon was another prosperous Gordon, but not closely related to us, if at all. Famous builder, Daniel Pratt built a neo-classical mansion for him on his plantation near Milledgeville in the late 1820s. The author, Nathaniel Banks, of a book about Pratt, later acquired that Gordon house and moved it to Newnan, GA, and restored it.

During this time Charity Gordon Robinette was apparently in Upson County as well. Two slave deeds were recorded in Upson County. August 28, 1821, John Brown of Maury County, Tennessee, "for love and affection and two hundred dollars paid by Zachariah H. Gordon gave to his mother, Mrs. Charity Robinette, a negro girl named Betsy about 14 years old." On August 21, 1832, "Charity Robinett gave to her son Zachariah H. Gordon for love and affection and \$500.00, a negro woman 25 yrs. old and her three children. Deed made in Monroe and witnessed by George W. Gordon, another son of hers." (Adam)

Geo. W. Gordon and Dr. Law were listed as early settlers of Monroe County (County Seat, Forsyth) which was created in 1821-22. Lots were distributed by a land lottery system. Monroe was almost exclusively settled by people from adjacent counties. (Monroe)

Sarah Chapman Gordon married Dr. John S. Law in Eatonton, Georgia, on the 28 of June, 1825. They settled in Forsyth, Ga (presumably the town of Forsyth in Monroe County). A native of Liberty County, Georgia, Dr. Law was a graduate of the University of Pennsylvania. In 1834, they moved to Columbia, Maury County, Tennessee, where Dr. Law was a successful physician until his death in 1844 from black tongue (History of Tennessee). Their oldest daughter had married and lived in Memphis. Mrs. Law moved to Memphis with the younger children where she lived until her death. (Obituary of SCGL)

On May 4, 1822, James H. Gordon of Jones County, Georgia appointed Bartlett Ship as his attorney to institute an action of ejectment in Wilkes County, NC to recover possession of the property known as Mulberry Fields, which had been the land on which Chapman Gordon had died & lived. This land was now in the possession of William P. Waugh, and his son Solomon. James H. Gordon states that he had bought the tract of land (probably in conjunction with his siblings), from James Gwyn, Clerk and Master in Equity of Wilkes, at a Court of Equity decreed

sale of the real estate of said Chapman Gordon. (Brown)

James Harvey Gordon married Caroline M. Gwyn (born 1800(Whitfield)) in Wilkes County, NC. Their marriage bond was dated **4 September, 1823**. James Gwyn, Jr. was bondsman. (North Carolina Marriages) According to the Sept. 16, 1823 *Western Carolinian* newspaper published in Salisbury and the Sept 26, *Raleigh Star*, James H. was from Jones County, Georgia. (Western)(Neal)

Caroline's brother, James Gwyn was married to Miss Jane Dicken(r)son, daughter of Col. Martin Dicken(r)son of Grayson Co., Va.) on the 1st of March, 1822, according to the Raleigh Newspaper (Neal). This seems to be the correct James since we learn at the time of his death below that his wife was named Jane. Grayson County is north of Wilkes, across the Virginia Line.

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THE GWYNS

Caroline's paternal grandmother, Sarah Ransome (17??-1807), and grandfather Richard Gwyn (1738-77) were "both born in old Gloucester Co., VA....Before coming to North Carolina they lived a few years in Pittsylvania Co., Va. Here he entered 3800 acres of land (surveyed in 1774, granted in 1780). At a meeting held there Sept. 27, 1775, he was included among the list of gentlemen nominated as officers for the Pittsylvania County Militia with the rank of Captain...(Hickerson EHV indicates that the preceding militia Captain may be a different man) During the year 1775, the family of Richard Gwyn came to the Yadkin Valley, Wilkes County, N. C., and settled at what was called 'Green Hill.' Shortly afterwards, Capt. Gwyn entered service in the Revolutionary Army under Gen Marion in S. C., where he contracted yellow fever that caused his death." (Hickerson, HV) Their eldest son, Richard Ransome Gwyn (1765-1822) married Martha Lenoir (1768-1829) in 1789, and lived in or near Wilkesboro, NC. Richard Ransome Gwyn had been one of the individuals who bonded Charity Gordon as Guardian of Chapman's children. Martha's mother was the daughter of Thomas Lenoir of Camden, SC, the brother of General William Lenoir of Ft. Defiance, NC. In Martha's will of 1826 (she died in 1829), she named all her children. They were Thomas Peyton; James; Wm Lorenzo; N(athaniel) Gordon and Sarah, his wife; J. H. Gordon and Carolina, his wife (Hickerson EHV, p 17). Richard R. Gwyn died "aged 57, July 8, 1822, at his residence in Wilkesboro, according to the *Western Carolinian* of July 9, 1822 and the *Raleigh Record* of 19 July, 1822. (WESTERN) (NEAL) They are buried in the cemetery behind the old Presbyterian Church in Wilkesboro.

A story is told of Martha Lenoir and her intervention with General Cornwallis. Thomas Lenoir was captured by Cornwallis's forces at the Battle of Camden, SC in 1780. While he was imprisoned, her mother died of smallpox. Prisoners there were underfed and ill-treated. Thomas's eldest daughter, Martha was twelve, and hearing of his misery, went off to the camp accompanied by the faithful slave, Uncle Caesar. She obtained an interview with Cornwallis. Impressed by her courage, Cornwallis set her father free. Thomas Lenoir had a pair of gold earrings made for his daughter, in honor of her courage (McCorkle) (Hickerson HV).

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About 1824, Charles P Gordon purchased a two story house a few blocks just north of downtown Eatonton, at present day 107 Hudson Road. He also acquired about 150 to 160 acres at that time. The home probably consisted of 2 rooms on each floor with a central hallway. Later additions were made on the back but it is uncertain if this was done by Gordon (NRHP).



Photo from Realtor.com 2020.

In Nov and Dec of 1826, the General Assembly authorized a George Washington Gordon of Clark County (Athens is in Clark Co) to "plead and practice and law". (GLA) Our George would have been about 18. There were several George Washington Gordons in Georgia.

Although Sister Rebecca G. Napier had died in 1825, her husband held James H. Gordon in high regard. According to the Macon Telegraph of July 23, 1827, Thomas T. Napier appointed James H. as his "agent, who alone is authorized to make contracts by which I am to be bound until I return home, Thomas T. Napier, Forsyth."

The Macon Messenger, in 1828, reported that Jesse L. Owens applied for letters of administration, in Upson County, for the estate of **Jesse Robinett**, deceased. A request to the Georgia State Archives for probate records produced only a couple of gift deeds. Jesse Robinett, Sr granted Comfort Scott, and her son, for services over the last six years, one cow and calf, food for a year and possibly some other illegible property. In the next property deed, he gives his granddaughter, Elizabeth Bird, a slave woman. There is no mention of Gordons. The transfers are dated the 13th of November, 1827. The State Archives neglected to give a book and page number. There should be other records in Upson County.

In July of 1830 James H. Gordon advertised the sale of a “valuable tract of land ... on the waters of the Yadkin and Reddies Rivers , one mile north of Wilkesboro having the one half of a valuable *mill seat* attached to it and premises formerly belonged to Chapman Gordon”, offered for sale at the courthouse on the first Tuesday in August. (WC). About 2010 the author walked this land which has trails along the rivers, and was beautiful bottom land in corn, presumably all flood plain.

1830 CENSUS

Ancestry.Com Census Images

Enumeration Day, 1 June, 1830.

Only heads of household are listed by name.

James H. Gordon was in (no PO or City reported) Monroe County, Georgia.

There were Males

one 5-9 Richard Oscar,

three 20-29 James H. Gordon, George W. Gordon?, and possibly one of Caroline’s brothers?

Females

two <5 Rebecca and Octavia

one 20-29 Caroline Gwyn Gordon

He owned 3 slaves.

Charles P. Gordon was in Eatonton, Putnam County, Georgia.

He had one male 30-39.

He had females two <5, two 5-9, one 30-39.

He owned 7 slaves.

I cannot find **Zachariah or George W**, under a variety of search possibilities. I also searched for George in TN, but he was probably still in GA since he attended the railroad convention in Eatonton in Sept, 1831, representing Monroe County (Miller). He had not yet married so that he probably was not the head of a household.

John S. B. Law and Sarah Chapman Gordon Law are in Monroe County, Georgia.

The household has males one<5, one 20-29.

Females two <5, two 20-29.

They had 5 slaves.

There were three **John Browns** in Maury County, Tennessee.

James Gwyn was in Jasper County, Georgia as confirmed by the letter dated June 30, 1830 below. Hillsboro was just south of Monticello.

The males were:

1 under 5.

1 20-29, possibly George W. Gordon or James

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1 30-39, possibly James
 The females were:
 1 under 5,
 1 20-29 possibly his wife Jane.
 He owned 21 Slaves.

Thomas T. Napier, whose wife **Rebecca Gordon** died in 1825(Corbin), was living, but the census has two possibilities. There was a Thomas, next to John S. B. Law, in Monroe County, Georgia living with a female 60-69. Thomas's mother was deceased. Charity King Gordon would have been about 61. Perhaps she was helping her son-in-law with her grandchildren. Thomas T. did not remarry until 1834. There was also a Thomas in Columbia Co, GA (which is most likely not the one of interest), as well as Thomas T's father, Thomas, in Bibb County. Most of the children match for the Monroe County Thomas, but according to Corbin there should be two girls and two boys, and the census shows only one girl. Corbin also reports that he lived in Monroe County (Corbin).

RAILROADS

From the earliest times, Gordons were involved with railroads, as will be seen hereafter. "There was a great deal of talk about railroads, as early as 1822 and '3, but in talk it ended. A Railroad Convention was got up at Eatonton in September, 1831, through the exertions of Charles P. Gordon" and others (Sherwood, 1837). Gordon presided as chairman at the meeting and Mark Cooper explained its purpose. (POPE) Other relatives of the author attending this meeting included James H. Stark, and George Washington Gordon. At the next Legislature a charter was granted for a railroad from Augusta to Eatonton, but at the session, in 1832, the charter was so altered as to run direct to Athens, with branches to Eatonton and Madison (Sherwood, 1837). "The next major development came on July 26, 1833 when Cooper and Gordon met with a considerable number of Putnam County Citizens", organizing a new railroad, the Augusta and Eatonton Rail Road Company with Charles P. Gordon as president of the company. Thereafter, Cooper and Gordon were both elected to the Georgia House of Representatives in 1833, representing Putnam County, where they continued to press for Rail Road legislation. A new charter was granted which began the Georgia Rail Road and Banking Company. After Gordon died, Cooper continued to push the rail road until it reached from Augusta to Ross's Landing at the Tennessee River (Pope).

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James Harvey's wife was Caroline Gwyn. Her sister was Sarah Gwyn. Caroline's brothers, William Lenoir, James, and Peyton also went to Georgia. James Harvey's cousin, Major Nathaniel Gordon (1784-1829) (Hickerson), and his wife, Sarah Gwyn, stayed in North Carolina. Nathaniel was the father of General James B. Gordon (1822-1864). After Nathaniel died at about age 45 on Feb 1, 1829 (WESTERN), Sarah married Colonel Hamilton Brown of Wilkesboro, NC. Col. Brown's family and personal business papers were given to the Southern Historical Collection at the University of North Carolina. These papers included a great deal of correspondence with the families between Ga (and subsequent locations) and NC. One of Nathaniel's grandsons was James Gordon Hackett, whose family papers are held in the Special Collections of Duke University Library.

GOLD

Gold was discovered in the Cherokee lands of North Georgia about 1829. The Georgians took over, and immediately began invading the Cherokee land. The final treaty by which the Cherokees relinquished their last legal claim was signed December 29, 1835 and the area was legally opened for mining by the whites (Cain). The Gordons and James Harvey's Gwyn brother-in-laws participated. They centered their activities at AURARIA, in Lumpkin County, south of Dahlonega, and in Habersham County.

This was a GOLD RUSH. The town of AURARIA had a population of at least one thousand 10 months after the first cabin was built in June 1832. There were a hundred dwellings, about 20 stores, at least a dozen law offices, a post office, a newspaper, and 4 or 5 hotels (Cain). The Dawsonville USGS 7.5' x 7.5' Map shows a mine north of Auraria called the "**Gordon Cut**".

The following letters about Gold Mining are from the Hamilton Brown Collection at UNC. Many of the gold mining letters were published in the Collections of the Georgia Historical Society. (Bryan) There is also correspondence about the sale of Gordon lands in NC, and law suits pertaining thereto. Original spelling and grammatical errors have been retained.

From the Habersham County Deed Books, it is seen that Charles P. Gordon did a lot of investing in a number of properties, with partners, in 1830, 1832, and 1834. He had a partial interest in these, with reference to one called the Eatonton Mining Company (with a number of partners). In one of these transactions, Nathaniel W. Gordon, his cousin from Jones County was a partner. James and Thomas Peyton Gwyn were partners in land lot 67, 4th district, referred to as the Collins Mine. James Harvey had interests in 50 acres of Lot 27, 4th District, and in 3/4ths of Lot 60, and in all of Lots 69, & 92 of the 3rd District, which apparently comprised the interests of the Eatonton Mining Company (the investors had paid \$11,000 for these parcels on 17 May, 1830). (Habersham Deeds) Charles had interest in other tracts as well.

James Gwyn to Col. Hamilton Brown, Wilkesboro, N.C.

Hillsboro, GA.

June 12, 1830

Harvey and Charles [Gordon] have been to Habbersham and bought gold mines. They think they have made a good purchase.

C. P. Gordon to Col. Hamilton Brown, Wilkesboro, N. C.

Eatonton, Ga.

Nov 1, 1830

The brothers "think it most prudent to wait a little longer for the result of our case with Waugh

and Finley (Note: about Mulberry Fields land) before they offer the lands again for sale. But they would be all much pleased if you would take the place upon a reasonable lease until the termination of the suit..."

I saw Peyton [Gwyn] & James [Gwyn] ten or 12 days ago. they were all well. Peyton & Harvey have gone to Habersham in search of Gold. We have been dabbling a little in the business but have not made sufficient experiment to know whether it will prove profitable. Our hands have been at work on one mine about four months & have averaged from 1 1/2 to 2 dwt. [pennyweight] per day. Harvey & Peyton have gone up now to try a ridge which we purchased last summer but which had never been tried. The oar is such that we are uncertain as to the extent & we do not wish to incur much expense untill we examine further.

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C. P. Gordon to Col. Hamilton Brown, Wilkesboro, NC

Eatonton
 Nov 6, 1830

I wrote to you by the last mail in which I stated to you that the heirs of my father had rather declined selling the Mulbury fields for the present. Since that I have received a letter from Washington in which he mentioned the receipt of your letter to him & Harvey and a willingness on their part to sell to you provided it can be done without too great a sacrifice...I write...to notify you of the change in the views of the heirs...they thought it would be suffering too great a sacrifice to accept your first offer...We all prefer much your having the land as Waugh & Finley have acted devoid of principles in this contract with us.

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George W. Gordon to Col. Hamilton Brown, Wilkesboro, NC

Forsyth
 Nov 10, 1830

...Harvey has returned from Habersham, and I have had an interview with all the heirs except Charles...The heirs are not willing to take less than four thousand dollars for it...if you are willing to take it at that, you will be so good as to say nothing about it untill we make the title to you. Findley as I understand is now in possession of the land and he may if he knows of you wishing to purchase, use ? means to retard our giving possession immediately...Harvey and family are well.

=====
James Gwyn to Col. Hamilton Brown, Wilkesboro, NC

Hillsboro, GA
 Dec. 13, 1830

Peyton is now in Florida & I expect to leave here by the 1st of January for Habbersham on a gold expedition. We have made a partial of the ridge which I bought a part of last summer & find it rich, and should there be plenty of the rock which will take a great deal of labour to ascertain it must be valuable. I wish you would come to Georgia this Winter or next Spring & let us make some further examination in the Habbersham Hills-for I expect there is many more valuable deposits of the mettle yet to be found. If I am successful you shall here from me if not-not a word. (Note: this mention of **Florida** is the beginning of a long term family interest there.)

James Gwyn to Col. Hamilton Brown, Wilkesboro, N. C.

Hillsboro, GA

June 25, 1831

If Peyton had of been at home we would of have sent you the Deed long ago. he was in Habbersham & we both could not sign the Deed in the presents of Witnessess....I do believe Col. there is Gold & in quantities sufficent to pay well for labour in the Roaring River Hills. At least you & Peyton with Capt. ? Hugh ought to make a trial. Peyton is well versed in the manner and mode of Hunting for the mettal he is lazy--you are the reverse--the Hunting and serching for gold requires patience, knowledge & industry. Combine these together & I must believe you will find it on Roaring River.

NOTE: A GNIS search did not find a Roaring River in Georgia. The only Roaring River in North Carolina is in Wilkes County.

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Sale of Partial Interest in Sodemia

I, for and in consideration of the sum of One Hundred Dollars to me in hand paid by Hamilton Brown release, relinquish and assign to said Hamilton Brown my right and title in ? to said negro Girl Sodemia? - Witness my hand and seal this 16th August, 1832.

J. H. Gordon Witness Wm L. Gwyn (his brother-in-law)

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C. P. Gordon to Col. Hamilton Brown, Wilkesboro, N. C.

Madison, Morgan County, Ga.

4 Sept., 1832

I was informed a few days since that the Supreme Court has made a decision? in the case of Waugh & Finley vs. The Heirs of my father for the Mulberry field tract and that the Court has directed an account of the damages ? to be taken. *He then goes on to give more detail instructions on how to handle the case.*

I saw James Gwyn the other day. He leased for you for a short time one of the lots of land belonging to our Company in Habersham No. 47 in the 4th district, adjoining or near to our ridge.

I expect to go up to Habersham about the 1 of October and would like to see you there at that time.

=====

James Gwyn to Col. Hamilton Brown, Wilkesboro, N. C.

Hillsboro, Ga.

Sept. 25, 1832

Agreeable to your request I have been to Eatonton to see the persons who own No. 47 in the 4th Dist. Habbersham. it is owned by some Doz. of them. Some owning a 4th some 1-16th some 1-20th &c. I found them suspicious & not disposed to sell at any *price*. I next tried to lease. They would not agree to lease for a longer term than 12 months & limit the number of hands to 12. I had a great mind to come home & have nothing to do with them, but finally concluded to lease at all events, for if you can employ your land proffitable for 12 months there will be opportunities offering, that will be a good or better than that place. The Cherokee

Country will be in market in a short time. The Lottery will commence on the 15th next month, and I have no doubt, but there is & will be more got by some person & the person who makes the greatest efforts will be more apt to succeed. If therefore you were in the neighbourhood of the Gold region you would have a better chance to procure something valuable. The gold business has & will improve every year in point of machinery, & the manner & mode of working the mines.

I have given away my Land, and am compelled to go some where. My wish is to settle in the [Cherokee] nation. I tho. had much rather be on the Border for some time & have an opportunity to Look out some place, & should Like to take a part in the Lease with you--that is if it should be worth working, which fact we could ascertain by trial. Should you conclude to accept the Lease, and will meet me in Habbersham, on the 10th or 15th October, I will be there. Any improvements which you may make on the Lot, you have the previlige of using them for 3 years. I hope you will not fail to come, --if a man can make 1 dwt. pr. day pr. Hand it will be a better business than farming. Here follows the Expenses -- Meat for 1 hand, 12 months, say 300 lbs at \$4 pr lb. \$12. Bread for the same \$5. Shoes & Clothing \$12. Blankets & Cot \$4.21. Add for contingency being sick medical attendance, his part of Tools, Blacksmith, ...&c. \$20. Whole expenses \$53. The calculation is based on the supposition that he too belongs to you.

We will now suppose that you could work 250 days in the year, which would give 250 dwts. at 90 cents per dwt. at which price gold is now selling

that would give	\$225
Deduct expense as above.....	53
	\$172 leaves

a Ballance of \$172 I think. Where a man owns the hands he could not do better than employ them in the gold Business if he can make a Dwt. per day. I do hope you will meete me in Habbersham, I should be much better satisfied than I am at the present time here. My god--the cotton all eat up with rust. Jane...says tell Sarah she should like to take a cabbin winter with her in Habbersham. Charley said he would write to you on the subject of the North Carolina land. do not fail to come...will expect an early answer. I have not heard from Habbersham since you left there.

=====

William L. Gwyn to Col. Hamilton Brown, Wilkesboro, N. C.

Forsyth, Ga.
Dec 5, 1832

I expected before this, to have heard of your being in Habersham but have not, though you may have been there; for my friends up in that *Golden Paradise* seem to have forgotten there is such a being in existence as myself; hence I know but very little from them since I left.

You were kind enough to say to me when in Habersham, that if I wished I could receive some assistance from you.

=====

William L. Gwyn to Col. Hamilton Brown, Wilkesboro, N. C.

Forsyth, Ga.
Jan 31, 1833

When I leave here I shall make a tour through the country lying between Flint river and the Chattahoochee--and from thence proceed on to Habersham where I shall hope to meet you about the last of March...They are in glorious hopes, and which in fact have almost settled down

into reality, about their own mine. The *Gold mill* performs very well, and from the last news I have turned out a pound of the precious metal per week, and all the difficulty that presents itself in meeting the vein is sinking the shaft they had commenced when you were there. If they strike the vein \$50,000 Brother James says will not buy it. He further told me that they had pounded about 18 hundred bushes of the [ore] from which they obtained eleven or twelve hundred dwts.

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William L. Gwyn to Col. Hamilton Brown, Wilkesboro, N. C.

Auraria, Ga.

April 23, 1833

We have been looking for you in the Country for some time and I presume from your not coming that the *gold fever*, which you showed strong symptoms of taking when in Habersham, has entirely subsided and good luck for you that it has--for disappointment, vexation, and loss would have been the result of your coming here. Brother Peyton has fairly tested lot 47 which was leased for you. He worked with 8 hands for a week and made about 4 dwts. They have had the misfortune to lose all their machinery in Habersham by washing away. The loss was considerable--there was supposed to be 7 or 800 dwts of Gold in the mills when they went off and 400 lb quick silver. The loss sustained I presume is as least \$2000. The Mill will soon be in operation again. They have not yet struck the vein in the shaft they were sinking, when you was out. They have gone about 70 feet, and are now in the hardest kind of rock. It is not my opinion they will ever hit the vein for I dont believe there is any to hit where they are going down.

Brother James lives here in the heart of the gold region in the village of Auraria--in a log cabin that I can scarcely stand upright in. The most that he employs himself about is in cursing his bad luck--for he can neither draw nor lease a mine; not one of the family has drawn neither, he has succeeded in leasing a lot this morning for 40 days. You can form no idea of the exaggerated accounts there is reported of this country 80 or 100 miles off. Gold they think can be had, to the satisfaction of avarice itself by a little labour. Such reports has drawn a multitude of persons to this country with the full calculation of getting rich. From the number therefore wanting employment it makes lots of value very hard to obtain. I have never before been amongst such a complete sett of lawless beings. I do really believe, that for a man to be thought honest here, would be as a disadvantage to him, or at least he would be set down for a fool and treated accordingly.

There is in this village 20 or 25 stores, 18 or 20 lawyers, 4 or 5 taverns, a printing office, Doctors, Barbers, Billiard Tables, & C.-- and in all making about 1000 inhabitants. A third of which must starve this summer. It is the calculation of knowing men in the mining business, that about Seven out of ten will sink money by the business.

I leave here this week for the western world. It is my intention to travel through the Chikasaw and Choctaw country in search of a place where I think I can make money. I feel but very little doubt of selecting a situation in some part of that country where I can do well, if it has been fairly represented. Brother James will be certain to move, if I should like the country sufficiently well to go there, for it is partly by his influence I take the trip. He would go with me if his business would allow it. **Harvey** speaks of going to see next summer this Country, and if he likes will also move. Brother Peyton says so soon as he can get money enough to buy him land he will go too. So there is a possibility of all of us [in] this part of the world going there. I shall be in N. C. about the middle of July if nothing occurs to prevent. I have seen Tucker again,

but could not see the land. This Cherokee Country has destroyed the sale of land in the adjacent counties. I will see to it, before I leave this country, and if possible dispose of it some way. They have had the Scarlet fever down the country this spring, which has killed almost every person attacked with it. Washington Gordon was very near going, and in fact when I last heard from there he was not entirely out of danger. Mrs Law and her mother[**Charity**] and some of the children were just taking it - some of them will become its victims no doubt. Give my love to the family.

Yours truly Wm L Gwyn

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William L. Gwyn to Col. Hamilton Brown, Wilkesboro, N. C.

Auraria, Ga.

Aug. 2, 1833

It becomes my painful task to announce to you the death of Brother James. He left us on the 29th July at 6 o'clock in the evening, after an illness of 5 or 6 weeks. He was first attacked with the Cholera Morbus, from that he partially recovered so as to be enabled to leave the house. Himself and family went on a visit to **Harvey's**, accompanied by me. There Brother James was again attacked with severe pain in the bowels, but not so bad as to confine him to bed. In this situation I left him and went on business into Monroe County, where I was gone two weeks. On my return I found him on his death bed. He lived two weeks after my return in the most excruciating pain a human being ever bore. His bowels were strictured so that nothing would pass through them without giving the severest medicine and then ? it away? by ? - His stomach also completely lost to him, nothing that he could eat or drink would stay, or if it did after a short time it would throw him into such agony as the human form could not long endure - He had but little medical attention, the nearest physician being twenty four or five miles off.

I have never before, and pray never again to pass through as much fatigue, pain and distress as I have done for the last eight or ten days. On my return from Monroe I found, not only Brother Jas. but all **Harvey's family** sick. **Caroline** has a very severe rising on her leg that all most prevented her moving about. And in addition to this her children and Jane had the most distressing coughf you ever witnessed. **Caroline's youngest child** died on the Saturday before brother James was sick for two weeks before its death with the whooping coughf. Two negro children also of **Harvey's** were taken off with the same disease. So that in the course of three weeks there has been four deaths in the family.

Brother James evinced no fear of death, the only anxiety he professed about living was on account of his wife and children But ...illegible...former manner and tome in ?? religion - He always would give more play and attention to ?? than the Bible allowed These feelings were changed and he humbly cast himself upon the mercy of his God and implored his forgiveness for past offenses and sins, and for which I sincerely hope he was pardoned. He was asked but a few minutes before his death if he felt any apprehensions about his future state; he said he did not, and expired shortly after - He retained his reason perfectly till the breath left him.

I should have been in N. C. ...had it not been for the sickness of Brother James. I think now I shall pay you a visit by the last of September. I have made a tour through the western country and dont like it. I was also in Alabama and Mississippi, dont like any of the country as well as [Georgia]. I think now I shall go back to Monroe. **Harvey** and myself have been speaking something about going into business there together. He has once done a first rate business there and at this time there is no man more popular in the county than he is - However,

Sir when I come in I shall wish to advise with you about this matter, and be governed by your opinion.

Brother James has left me the executor of his will and management of his family - wherever I go Jane? and children will also - Give my love to sister Sarah and children

James' will was listed as Lumpkin County at the top of the page, but it was probated in Upson County, and all the other associated wills say Upson County.

Two of the witnesses were James H. Gordon and Caroline M. Gordon.

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The Superior Court of Lumpkin County opened for the first time on **August 22, 1833**. **James H. Gordon** was called to serve on the first grand jury selected. The first true bill found by the grand jury was against Jesse N. Brown for murdering Robert Lignon, the postmaster of Auraria (Cain).

=====

William L. Gwyn to Col. Hamilton Brown, Wilkesboro, N. C.

Auraria, Ga.

Nov 6, 1833

I am entirely alone, and feel extremely lonesome. Brother Peyton started for the District of Tennessee on last Wednesday with the view of settling there for life. I was very sorry to see him leave us. I am fearfull he will have a great deal of trouble before he reaches his destination. One of his negro women was quite unwell when he left, and expecting every day, when he would have measles amongst his negro children, for several of the family had had them before he left. His horses would not draw without a great deal of whipping, stopped at every hill they came to. Waggon old and tripling. And he sick himself. Upon the whole he started under as gloomy circumstances as would have killed the spirit of most men.

Jane left this morning for Grayison, where she expects to remain till next fall at least...Her children had the measles when she started.

I saw **Harvey's family** a few days since, all were well. He is still at work in the shaft. No sign of the vein yet.

The mining business in this Country is very dull. Every body is getting tired of it. Those who have nothing to do with it are much the best off. It has been quite sickly this season amongst the mining hands. Joseph Coward from Wilkes died in this place not long since.

=====

William L. Gwyn to Col. Hamilton Brown, Wilkesboro, N. C.

Lumpkin County

Dec 23, 1833

I have just returned from Jasper [county], where I have taken the Negroes of the estate of Brother James. I shall stay here but a few days longer when I hope to leave the country forever. I intend abandoning the property here altogether. **Harvey** and Charles will continue to work it; and will no doubt sink money so long as they continue to do so. They are still at work in the shaft, and no more appearance of the vein, than when they commenced. There has been a new deposit discovered at Richardson's old mine--where they make from, five to eighty dwts. per day to the hand.

Harvey and family will leave soon for Monroe and I expect without the least regard. It

has been raining, snowing, and hailing here for the last week alternately. The roads are almost impassable. You know when this country is in its most flourishing condition, is not overly pleasant. On my return from Jasper I came by Fayette and disposed of your land there for \$300 cash. I am fearfull you will not like the sale, as it was for less than you sold it for--but you may depend I done the best I could.

Harvey speaks of going by N. C. on his way to **New York** this winter. If he should come by I will send you your deeds...The prospects for business in Forsyth, I think tolerable good, ...It is the opinion of most of our friends about Forsyth, that if we will keep a good substantial stock of goods, and attend to our business, we will do well. Washington [Gordon] has not returned from Tennessee yet... If Miss should fly the way it will be a killing stroke, for you must know he has made a Jacob of himself, besides his loss of time and money spent. (**NOTE:** Washington Gordon married Elizabeth Bradshaw of Columbia, TN and returned to Georgia. Letter Thomas Brown to Hamilton Brown, Columbia, TN., Jan 20, 1834) (They had married on Jan 14, 1834 according to Maury Co. Marriages.)

Say to Sister Sarah, Caroline will write to her soon as she gets settled in Forsyth - Her family are all well - Direct to me at Forsyth.

=====

Following the Internal Improvement Convention of 1831, The Annual Session of the General Assembly of November and December, 1833 approved an act to incorporate "the Georgia Rail Road Company, with powers to construct a Rail or Turnpike Road from the City of Augusta, with branches extending to the Towns of Eatonton, Madison, in Morgan County and Athens". Josiah Flourney, Henry Branham, C. P. Gordon and Irby Hudson were to handle the stock subscription in Eatonton (GLA).

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William L. Gwyn to Col. Hamilton Brown, Wilkesboro, N. C.

Forsyth, Ga.

Jan 31, 1834

...You advise me...to have the deeds left with David ? Caldwell of Salisbury...if **Harvey Gordon** Esq goes that way; and I will endeavor to influence him to do so- He will start in ten or fourteen days...

Harvey and family have moved to this place, and are all well....Brother Peyton ... La grange, Fayette County, Tennessee, at least there is the place he started to go....I have recevd no letter from him since he left us.

There have been some late changes in the community about Hillsboro (GA.) - Robt C. Beasley was murdered by James McDaniel in December last. The deed was committed across a Farro Table - They were gambling in Hillsboro, and disagreed - McD stabled him with a knife - this was on Saturday and Beasley died on Monday following - McD has not yet been taken, there is a reward of eighteen hundred dollars out for him.

...Geo W. Gordon has not yet returned, neither have we heard from him; his business here is all neglected - I really expect the young lady will fool him at last, if she does not ? ?.

=====

During the gold fever time, George Washington Gordon apparently had business in Forsyth, Monroe County, Georgia. He was commissioned a 3rd Lt. in the Monroe Musketeers on 6 Mar, 1830, a 1st Lt on 1 Jul, 1831, and 23 April 1834. He was also commissioned a Captain on 28

Aug, 1833. This seemingly contradictory information is recorded as it appeared. (HISTORY OF QUITMAN GUARDS AND MONROE MUSKETEERS).

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William L. Gwyn to Col. Hamilton Brown, Wilkesboro, N. C.

Thomaston Upson County GA.

May 5th, 1834

...**Mr. Gordon** did not go through Salisbury on his way to New York. He was compelled to go to Augusta to get his money exchanged - From thence he went by ? and took water to N Y.

We have received most of our goods and are doing a very fair business...You will see that I am in Thomaston twenty five miles south of Forsyth - This may seem to you a want of judgement on our part, in varying our places so sudenly, but we have good reasons This place was scarce of goods and Forsyth overstocked - **Harvey** lives in Forsyth still - I have the management of the business actively - Our prospects are truly flattering at this place; and without some uncontrollable misfortunes we are oblidged to do well. **Harvey** bought 10,000 worth of goods, all of which, we bring to this place He carried on 4000 in money one half of which I furnished - When I see Washington ...I will have a final settlement with him and send you a statement of your money matters in my hands - You have heard, I expect, of G W Gordons marriage before this, He lives in Forsyth at this time; but speaks of finaly setting in Tennessee -

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Wm L Gwyn to Col. Hamilton Brown

Thomaston

July 18th, 1834

...Our prospects in the mercantile business are very fair...sold about 6500 worth of goods since we commenced which was on 22 of April which is rather better than I expected. Our business will and is improving- as we become acquainted with the people...Thos T. Napier has married a few days since to a school mistress - I think he will break? in about two years...I shall be in Wilkes about the 10th August if nothing happens, on my way to New York.

=====

William L. Gwynn to Col. Hamilton Brown, Wilkesboro, N. C.

Forsyth, Ga.

March, 2, 1835

We flatter ourselves we shall do well here, much better than in Thomaston. We thought best to remove all here, and make a permanent settlement.

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This was the last of the letters published in the Collection of the Georgia Historical Society. (see Bryan) Some of the letters have additional material, which I added from the Hamilton Brown Collection. I have also added a couple of letters that were not published.

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Although the others had appeared to give up on Gold, Charles P. Gordon, shortly before his death in 1836, was involved in the incorporation of the Georgia Mining Company in Nov & Dec, 1835. (GLA 1835 Vol1-p128)

J. H. Gordon and others were appointed trustees of the Female Academy at Forsyth on the 24 of

Dec, 1835 (GLA 1835 Vol 1-p5). According to several issues of the Macon Telegraph of 1839, he was also trustee of both the Forsyth Male & Female Academies.

The Gordons were apparently involved in lending money. The Macon Telegraph from 1826-1839 reports a number of sheriff's sales involving Gordons. Fi Fa (fieri facias) was a court order to the Sheriff to seize property of a debtor, and sell it to make good a judgement against borrower. The following fi fa's were reported. Presumably, more loans were made that were repaid.

Walton Co. 1828. At Monroe "Negro Boys, William 5 or 6, and Francis, 3 or 4...fi fas of Adam G. Saffold, and Charles P. Gordon."

Crawford Co. 1828. "One hundred acres...to satisfy seven fi fas...one in favor of C. P. Gordon..."

Monroe Co. 1830. "Land, 6th Dist., ppty of William C. Akin, fi fa of James H. Gordon and others."

Monroe Co. 1830. "Land, 6th Dist., a Negro girl, 14 yrs., ppt. of William E. Akin, fi fas of James H. Gordon and others."

Monroe Co. 1833. "Two Negroes, Clorrinder, girl, ten years. Toney, boy, 8 yrs.,...fi fa of James H. Gordon & Co." and others.

Houston Co. 18 ? . "Two Negro men: Warrick, 45 yrs., and Sam, 35 yrs.,...fi fa Charles P. Gordon" (Macon Telegraph)

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Shortly before his death, Charles P. Gordon wrote George Washington Gordon in Columbia, Tennessee (EGL)

Eatonton 23rd May 1836

Dear Brother

When I wrote to you last I expected ere this to have been in Tennessee. For the last six months, I have been endeavoring to purchase a carriage but have been unable as yet to get one that would please me. I have at length ordered one from New York and it was to have been here by the first of this month but has not yet arrived even in Augusta so far as I know – I set out about ten days ago for Mississippi but was stopped on the border of the Creek Nation by Indian hostility which you have no doubt heard of before this – We have the prospect of a real bloody Indian War. The Florida Indians have been in arms for the last six months; and the Campaign under Scott has just terminated unfavorably—The Volunteers have all returned home and the Indians are spreading death & destruction over the Country.

The Creeks have recently broken out in a most bloody war and have laid waste the whole of the new settlements of South Alabama – Killing woman children & men indiscriminately & plundering the plantations of negro stock and everything else and have killed & driven every body out of the County All intercourse between Georgia & Alabama the usual route is cut off –

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They have ? in large numbers & it will take a sufficient force to subdue them – Wm H Flournoy family of this place was their first victim. They murdered him in a most shocking manner & took off about 50 of his negroes – They have since killed a great many of all ages & sexes – There were eight little children slain by them the other day near Columbus & their head severed from their bodies They have occupied the Federal road leading from Columbus to Montgomery destroyed the bridges & killed a number of stage passengers A few days since they crossed over into Georgia & burnt a little Town called Roanoak & killed 14 of the inhabitants and they have threatened the distruction of Columbus

It is supposed by many that the whole of the Indians bordering on Georgia including the Cherokees will soon be in arms though I can hardly believe the Cherokees will.

I am anxious to go to Tennessee and think I shall be there yet sometimes this summer – but if I should it will be toward the middle or latter part of it.

I expect to take Mary Ann & Julia to Salem (**Note:** Salem Academy in NC) in 10 or 15 days – I expect to go by the Stage & ? not be gone long as soon as I get back I shall determine upon going to Tennessee. I shall leave Georgia & that ere long. I have stayed here almost as long as I can. Where I shall settle is very uncertain. I believe I would prefer Middle Tennessee if I could get into any business by which I could make a living I must go ? – I have some thoughts of a stock Farm. Can young stock such as year old hogs & young mules be purchased annually to supply a farm ? on a large scale – How do you get along in your profession Is anything to be made at it in Tennessee – What sort of a business in money loa? & mechandizing in Columbia or Nashville – What facilities have you of investing in lands in Mississippi & Arkansas - Give me your views upon all these subjects fully

I was at **Harveys** a few days ago his family are all well & he is recovering his health slowly. He & his wife are going to N Carolina in June & he will go on from there to New York.

He says he is disposed to go with me where ever I determine to settle. I think however he would prefer Tennessee if he could believe his prospects of doing well were good = Give our love to all the friends

Yours C. P. Gordon

On the outside of the envelope, he adds

Mr. Napier (**Note:** Thomas Napier who was the widower of Rebecca Gordon, sometime referred to as Manfredonia) intends sending (daughter) Manfredonia to Salem –

James Branham was killed in Florida by the Indians

James Branham son of Doctor Branham of this place



Portrait of Charles P. Gordon of Eatonton (Weinedel)

Charles did take his daughters to Salem before his death in October 1836. Manfredonia Napier also went that year (McKnight).

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Forsyth January 17 1837

Dear Sir (Hamilton Brown)

...We are all well at present and not much sickness in our county - Washington Gordon is here, just from Tennessee, says the Friends there are all well Sister S said something about sending James out in the Spring...

Yours Respectfully
Wm L Gwyn

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Forsyth June 1838

Dear Sir (Hamilton Brown)

...We have considerable sickness too, for the time of year My own family are in tolerable health - Our child's health is much improved for the last six weeks- **Mr. Gordon's family are in good health - We, Mr G, has abandoned his trip to Mississippi entirely, and now turns his attention to Cherokee where I think it very probable, he (and myself also) will move to - Zachariah Gordon, has been to see the country, and is highly pleased, so much so that he intends moving in the fall Zachariah, Harvey and myself intend going to Cherokee soon, some time in this month, if no difficulty occurs with the Indians, now being about the time of their removal, Harvey intends, or thinks of going on to Columbia also ...Give my love to**

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Sister Sarah and family Please write to ? soon
 Yours Respectfully
 Wm L Gwyn

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Forsyth July 23 1840

Dear Sir (Hamilton Brown)

...I should like very much for you to see the Cherokee County before you premanently settle yourself...I do believe if you were to examine the county you would be certain to move to it ...I don't think better land is on the face of the earth there can be easily obtained ? soon. I have just returned from a tour through that county and I do know if a man wants good land, good ? and good water of the very best he can there find them - and the society will be good, and is becoming so very fast.... *I measured walnut trees 15 feet round - Populars from 20 to 23 ft, Buckeyes, Sugar Maples and grape vines of the ? (paper torn) kind - ? ? ? - I do believe that such (torn paper) and so situated will some day command \$30 to \$50 per acre - Good land can be had from \$5 to \$10 per acre - such land as will command treble that amount in a few years... **Harvey** moves there soon, in a week or two - If you should take a notion to meet me there. You will go to Clarksville in Habersham, and them inquire for Medicinal Springs, Walker Co. or ? places in Murray Co about ten miles from **Harveys** ? ? in 2 miles of the above springs.*

My love to Sister Sarah & children we are all well - I have two children a boy & a Girl, and from appearance will soon have the third...

Yours Respectfully
 Wm L Gwyn

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1840 Census

Enumeration Day 1 June

By 1840 Zachariah H. Gordon, and James H. Gordon had moved to Walker County, in north west Georgia. They settled ten miles NW of the county seat of LaFayette.

James H. Gordon is in the 868th District of Walker County, Georgia. He has males, with the following assumed identities.

Under 5	1	Charles Peyton
5-9	1	William Law
15-19	1	Richard Oscar

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30-39 1 James H.

He has females

5-9 1 Mary Lizzie
 10-14 2 Rebecca & Octavia
 30-39 1 Caroline M.

James H. owned about 13 slaves (The numbers are not clear).

Zachariah H. Gordon is in the 868th District of Walker County, Georgia.

He has males one <5, one 5-9, two 10-14, one 15-19, one 40-49. Only one female 30-39.

He owned 18 slaves.

Barbary Gordon was in District 368, Putnam County in Eatonton.

She had one male 20-29, and females, one 10-14, one 15-19, and one 20-29.

She owned 5 slaves.

Thomas T. Napier, about 1836, built a home west of Taylor's Ridge in what was then Walker County, a few miles west of Gordon Springs. However, the census shows that he was still living in Macon. His oldest, son L(eroy) W(iley), is living at the new home. Apparently Rebecca Gordon named this son, in part, for her deceased brother Wiley. Another son of Rebecca's, Thomas Chapman Napier is mentioned in the Walker County Heritage Book, "In his youth Thomas Chapman Napier spent much of his time at the home of his uncle Zachery, and cousin John B. Gordon and in return he, John B. Gordon, visited the Napiers during his childhood". The visits would have been to Gordon Springs, on the east side of Taylor's Ridge.

Geo W. Gordon is in the 8th Civil District, Maury County, Tennessee.

He has males one <5, one 5-9, one 20-29, three 30-39.

He has females two <5, two 5-9, one 15-19, one 20-29.

He owned 26 slaves.

John S Laws (wife **Sarah Chapman Gordon**) is in Columbia, Maury County, Tennessee.

He has males one <5, one 10-14, one 30-39.

He has females one <5, two 5-9, two 10-14, one 30-39.

He owned 9 slaves.

There were four John Browns in Maury County, TN.

Little is known about Mary B. Gordon and her husband John Brown. However, they must have maintained relationships with deceased Rebecca G. Napier's family. The Macon Messenger reported that Sarah C. Napier, daughter of Thomas T. Napier of Macon, married a Mr. J. L. DeLauney of Stewart County, Ga. on the 27th of August, 1841, at the residence of Maj. Brown in Columbia, Tennessee (Rocker).

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Columbia, Tennessee.

Maury County

As mentioned in the 1840 census, both Sarah C. G. Laws and her husband Dr. J. S. Laws were in Columbia. Mary Boswell Gordon had long before married John Brown and they lived in Maury County. George W. had married Elizabeth Bradshaw in 1834, and had a home and family in Columbia. G W would later divide his time between Columbia, and Gordon Springs.

Columbia had a population of 1500 by 1836, and 1700 in 1848. There were a number of educational institutions there such as the Woodward Academy, Spring Hill Female Academy, Jackson College, Union Seminary, Columbia Female Institute, the Atheneum, and the Methodist Columbia Female Conference College. G. W. participated in the execution of a bond for the Maury Courthouse in 1844. He was also a lawyer before the Columbia Bar (Goodspeed). G. W. erected his cedar-log homestead about 1830. His tract of land was originally about 600 acres. (Maury)

Some of James Harvey and Caroline's children received some of their education there. From letters, it is apparent that they would have visited back and forth with their cousins.

One sad example of visits between Georgia and Tennessee concerns a visit of the Late Charles P. Gordon's daughter to the Laws. The Columbia Observer, as repeated in The Guardian (a Family Magazine), reported the death of Julia B. Gordon as a result of a fall from her horse while visiting with Sarah Chapman Gordon Law and Dr. Law, on March 10th, 1841, aged 16 years. Earlier the Guardian had reported that she was referred to as a beloved pupil who boarded with the Laws. On the morning of Tuesday the 2nd, she was thrown from her horse and sustained so violent a concussion as to cause her death on the morning of the 9th.

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Medicinal Springs later had its name changed to Gordon Springs.

Walker Co, Medicinal Springs March 1st 1841 (Brown, Hamilton)

Dear Sister

I have been thinking a great while I would write you, but know how we can put off such things from day to day and scarcely know how time is passing by -- and my aversion to letter writing naturally increases with years; I have however come to the paper at last, and perhaps before I stop will write you a letter, what you cant read you must give the best guess at the meaning you can. Cousin William Lenour spent a day and night with us last week, on his way to Alabama he gave me all the news of Wilkes and of your family, we were very much pleased with him, he is an interesting young man- We are sure enough settled in Cherokee, I suppose you would ask how I am pleased with the country - no one could have any objections to it, the land is rich the water pure blue limestone in fact at present every thing in favour of its being one of the best and richest countries in the state we feel anxious for Col. Brown to come out and look at the country, my husband is so much pleased he says everyone who sees the country would be pleased also, I certainly miss the society I had down the country, we hope to

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have as good here, someday not far off in fact families of the first order are coming in from the low country - some from Virginia have also moved here; in about two years the railroad through the county will be completed, it passes in five miles of us, we are in 25 miles of Chattanooga and in ten miles of Lafayette our county village so you see I have at last got in a pretty retired situation. **Mr. Gordon has a pretty farm and the country around us is beautiful**, if you and all your family were only settled here, I would say of a truth, I would be well satisfied, I wish you to write me immediately and tell me what you think of moving here come from old Wilkes it will be much better for your children. Lorenzo will move here when he can get things arranged - he visited this country last summer his health was very much improved although he stayed but a short time he told me that he rather live here than any where in this world, he has another daughter which makes three children, and **perhaps you have not heard that I have been so smart as to add another to my six, a lovely little black eyed daughter, born 4 Oct last we have named her Cornelia Frances (NOTE: Nellie), the middle name for Lorenzo's wife. I was much in hopes I was done with that trouble as Charles was going on 4 years old.** We intended this year to have sent Rebecca and Octavia off to some College, but have concluded that they are too young to be sent so far from home we will send them this year to Lafayette where there is at present a good school taught by a Presbyterian minister, assisted by his son and daughter, we will send Oscar there also. You wrote me you would send Martha this winter to see me, you have not complied - if Martha had have visited me when I had resided in Forsyth I could have made her visit a very pleasant and interesting one, but I do beg you to send her this spring and let her spend the summer with me, if I am in Cherokee, we will do all we can to make her visit pleasant, we have plenty log cabin rooms and here books to read or piano to practice on and are in ? miles of the mineral springs, that will be visited by a good many, My two girls make a considerable noise on the piano, it is said by judges that they have a good ear for music, I have been learning them to work since I came here, Octavia sings very well, as well as any 12 years old child. ? has more ? for keeping house, she loves to make preserves, cakes, puddings, and pies, ride on horseback, visit and play on the piano. I have written my paper over and have written nothing of much inters. Mr. Gordon sends his respects to you and the family says Col. Brown must come here this spring and bring you and Martha with him. The children all join in love to you and your family.

Your affectionate Sister

Caroline Gordon

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Pike County August 2 1841

Dear Sir: (Hamilton Brown)

....Mr. Jas H and Zachary Gordon were at my house last week, their families were all well, They say they have fine prospects in Cherokee, I should like for you to ? you would meet me there some time nex fall. I do wish you to see that country before you finally settle -- My family are tolerablely well, Amanda sends her best,

Yours respectfully

WmL Gwyn

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Dr. John S. Laws died in Columbia, Tennessee in 1844. He had requested that George W. ask Dr. Jennings of Nashville come and treat him. George wrote William Bradshaw several times including March 1st, and asked him to try to get the Doctor to come to Columbia (ELG). Whether he came or not Dr. Laws died from black tongue (History of Tennessee).

Gordon Springs

Zachariah bought a beautiful tract of land, originally called Mineral Springs, because of the presence of a great variety of mineral waters on the property, which he later renamed Gordon Springs. This was originally in Walker County, 10 miles from LaFayette. It was later transferred into Whitfield County.

"The medicinal springs owned by Rev. Z. Gordon, are among the most celebrated. They are situated at the base of Taylor's Ridge. There are twenty springs within the space of half a mile, possessing different properties, but the main springs are twelve in number, in a space less than a quarter of an acre. Two of them are chalybeate, two sulphur, and two magnesia. The most astonishing cures have been effected by the use of the waters. Among the Indians, the reputation of these springs was very great, and from three to four hundred were annually in the habit of visiting them to partake of their healing virtues." (White)

By 1849, "about one mile from the springs, Mr. Gordon has cut down the trees from a beautiful eminence of Taylor's Ridge, and named it Buena Vista, from which the eye feasts itself with the most magnificent view of mountain scenery. On the east may be seen Lady's Peak, John's Mountain...Cohuttah Mountains, Unicoy on the north, Frog Mountain and Smoky Mountains in North Carolina...Mr. Gordon's establishment bids fair to be among the most fashionable watering places in Georgia." (White)

Over time, at Gordon Springs, a commodious summer resort, or watering place was built. By the time Zachariah offered the Springs for sale, according to advertisements in the *Southern Confederacy* in 1862, the "establishment included "a fine Hotel containing thirty rooms, together with all necessary out-houses, four cottages with four rooms each, and one large one-story building with thirty rooms....A fine Stock Farm attached to the Springs, of between three and four hundred acres, cultivated in grain, of which two hundred acres are creek bottom land. A portion lies on the mountain side (Taylor's Range), suitable for a vineyard, and near the Hotel is an Orchard, with fruit of almost every description. These Springs are on the Western & Atlantic railroad and easy of access, being convenient to those desiring a pleasant or summer residence." The resort was twelve miles from Dalton, the Whitfield County Seat (Tankersley). The 1860 census of Whitfield County, immediately after an entry for W M J Keown in Trickum, lists dwellings 92-99 as "For use of Families attending Gordon Mineral Springs."

Jacob Goodson reportedly sold Gordon Springs to Zachariah Gordon after 1840 (Walker, Goodson # 467). Another source states that he bought his land from Wheeler and Goodson (Mauldin). It appears from subsequent letters below that the land was purchased from different

individuals at different times.

James H. Gordon supposedly bought his land from William H. Huff, which included land Lot No. 264, District 27, Section 3. "He built a red brick house about three miles from Gordon Springs...A marker in front of this house (site), placed there by the Georgia Historical Commission, designates it as the 'Callaway Place.' It was also known as 'The Red Brick' and was probably, at one time, the most outstanding residential building in northwest Georgia."

"This old brick house, as were all brick homes in those days, was built of material close at hand. About 200 yards to the west of the remains of this house, one can find a slight hollow from which clay was dug by slaves, placed in molds, and stacked in fields around cords and cords of wood were placed. Upon the burning of the wood, the clay was hardened to the extent that it became building blocks, or bricks...In 1852 James H. Gordon sold this house to Jesse Callaway and moved to Dalton" (Mauldin) (NOTE: if Mauldin took her information from a book called Dogwood Valley, it may not be credible) NOTE: If James H. moved to Dalton at this time, it would have been only temporary, since they were in Madison County, Alabama in 1856. A search of the land records in Whitfield failed to revealed any purchase or sale of land thereafter in Whitfield until they moved up from Griffin, Georgia about 1873 when they purchased two lots in Dalton.

The courthouse records of Walker County were burned in the fire of 1883. Therefore we cannot identify the exact time of the arrival of the Gordons to Walker County. This area was transferred to Whitfield County in 1853, and their records survive. There are no records in Whitfield of James H. Gordon selling property. This would be consistent with an 1852 sale to Jesse Callaway. However, as subsequent letters show, James and Caroline often lived in Gordon Springs, sometimes for the summer or longer, and in at least one case, in a rental house.

George W. Gordon has been reported as the owner of Gordon Springs resort and he owned slaves here according to the 1850 Census, although he resided in Columbia, in Maury County, TN. He operated the resort for about 8 to 10 years but he did not own it. Their nephew, Andrew G. Gordon, son of deceased brother Charles, also lived nearby.

The Postal History of Gordon Springs is definitely Gordon oriented.

POSTMASTERS, from National Archives		Date of Appointment
Medicinal Springs	Haley S. Tatum	28 Jan 1837
	Zachariah H. Gordon	24 Apr 1841
	Wm Coolidge	15 Jun 1848
Changed to		
Gordon's Springs		
	Wm Coolidge	5 July 1848
	Zachariah H. Gordon	27 Oct 1848
	Andrew G. Gordon	1 May 1851

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Zachariah H. Gordon	16 Dec 1852
George W. Gordon	20 Mar 1854
John B. Gordon	18 May 1858
Discontinued	6 Oct ? Date in book seam on microfilm.

However, the Daily Federal Union (DLG) newspaper of Milledgeville reported on Nov. 17, 1859, the closure of the Gordon Springs Post Office. This was a year after George W. Gordon quit operating the resort.

Robert P. Neal	27 Mar 1877	reactivated to serve 350 people
	31 May 1907	dis. mail to Tunnel Hill, Neal still postmaster.

The children of James Harvey and Caroline M. Gordon.

Since my great-grandmother, Caroline (Carrie) Gordon, was born at Gordon Springs, this seems and appropriate place to review the children of James Harvey and Caroline M. Gordon. The information in italics is from the Echoes of Happy Valley. (Hickerson, EHV)

A. *(1824-1861) Richard Oscar*

1850 Census below would have him about 1822 in SC. Since the parents were married in Sept of 1823, the 1824 dates seems more realistic. Moreover, the 1860 Census says he was 36, born in North Carolina.

He married Harriet Young Price (1828-1904). Was a Capt. in the C. S. A., died suddenly from a heart attack before leaving camp.

B. Sept 1, 1826 (Tombstone) *Rebecca Gordon m. Judge Leander Crook.*

C. CIRCA 1829 Octavia. See letter hereafter dated March 1, 1841. "Octavia sings very well, as well as any 12 years old child". This is the most definitive data for her age. Octavia Gordon m. John Maner. The dates and husband's name Hickerson gave are obviously inconsistent and wrong. Hodges gives the correct name of John. I believe she and her husband both probably died before 1860, leaving one child, Charles Gordon Maner.

D. *(1830-1908) William Law Gordon (1830-1908) (grave marker, Myrtle Hill, Rome, GA) born in Forsyth, Georgia (obit). This is presumably Forsyth, in Monroe County, and not Forsyth County. Capt. in C. S. A. married in 1862 to William Emma Hurt (1835-1912).*

I don't know why Hickerson says William. In the 1860 census, she is listed as Emma W. Hurt. She was the daughter of Caroline Flournoy Hurt Bass, and step-daughter of Nathan Henry Bass. William Law's sister, Caroline, married Emma's half-brother Josiah F. Bass. They moved to Floyd County with the Bases before 1870, and he died in Rome. He was consistently 19 in 1850, 29 in 1860, 39 in 1870, and 49 in 1880.

E. Unknown

1833 July Caroline's youngest child at that time died in Auraria, GA, as did her

brother James Gwyn, at her home. See Letter above dated 2 August, 1833.

F. (1833-1896) ca. 1836 Mary Elizabeth (Lizzie) 14 in 1850 census, 24 in 1860, 30 in 1870, 38 in 1880. She married Henry Augustus Russell (1832-1916) *and was "considered a brilliant and witty woman"*. They had a son Gordon Russell from Texas, who was a judge, and later served in Congress at the same time as his North Carolina cousin, James Gordon Hackett. (Hodges) There is a biography of Henry Russell in Confederate Veterans.

G. (1837-1910) Charles Peyton Feb. 15th 1837 Forsyth County, Ga. (UGA Alumni)
Charles was a graduate of the University of Virginia, and the Physicians' College of New York City.

Charles Peyton married Mary A. Bitting 30 Jan, 1862. Mary died 2 Dec, 1862.

He married Maggie Manly (1846-1925) on 19 July, 1866 (Whitfield). She was the daughter of Dr. J. W. Manly of Vermont, who had moved to Dalton about 1859. (Memoirs of Georgia) They lived and died in Dalton.

H. Cornelia Frances Oct 4, 1840 (Letter March 1, 1841, see above).

Known as *Nellie* died June 3, 1861.

In the 1850 census, Cornelia is listed as being 19 years old.

In the 1860 census, Camelia is listed as being 18 years old. The Camelia is really difficult to read. A change of "a" to "o", and "m" actually being "rn", explains this confusion. The 19 in the 1850 census must be incorrect, and should be a "nine."

I. *Caroline Harvey Gordon (1845-1936)*. Aug 25, 1844-June 8, 1936. (Grave Marker, Myrtle Hill, Rome, Georgia) **The author's great-grandmother**. She was one of those who provided information for Hodges' "Gordons of Spotsylvania County, Virginia."

SCHOOLING

While little is known about the schooling of James Harvey Gordon and his siblings, we do know that brother, Charles P., had graduated from Dickinson college, so the concept of higher education was already established. Sarah Chapman Gordon attended Salem Academy in 1816 and 1817. Caroline Harvey Gordon wrote her sister about her daughters going there but apparently they did not go. There is some detail on the education of John Brown Gordon, Zachariah's son, during the Gordon Spring years. Taken from Tankersley's Biography, it is assumed to be representative of the education James' children may have also received.

"In Walker County young Gordon was sent to a rural school...it was two miles or more from Gordon Springs...Though John had learned to love school, his father felt that he was not making satisfactory progress. Many years later he wrote: 'My father had become dissatisfied with the grade of school upon which my early education depended, and decided to become responsible for the salary of a good teacher and to establish for the neighborhood a school of high order. He encouraged country boys from a distance to attend the school by assigning to them unused

houses on a part of the place where they lived at a nominal cost. The result was a large and flourishing school.' "

In a brief biography of Rev. J. M. Stansbury, after his father moved the family to Whitfield county in 1844, Stansbury "took the usual academic course at Gordon's Springs, Walker county, and after four years in that institution, engaged in teaching" (History Bapt. Denom.)

"Henceforth John's education progress was steady. Now he not only loved school, but he had a genuine respect for his teacher, who, he said, was 'always ready to instruct and encourage all who made earnest effort at improvement.' His course of study included not only the basic subjects--reading, grammar, spelling, arithmetic, geography--but also written composition, declamation, public speaking, and dramatics, in which he took a keen interest."

"Once at the end of the scholastic year John took the leading role in a school play combining the elements of both comedy and tragedy. 'I was assigned,' he wrote, 'the prominent part of suitor for the hand and heart of the heroine. Another boy was assigned the role of my unsuccessful rival. The courtship at the heroine's home, the anxieties of her father and mother, her confidential revelations to her intimate friends, the growth of antagonism between the rivals, culminating in the death of one of them, were all presented upon the stage in a manner, which if not artistic in the highest sense, was at least interesting to the country people. All the scenes were made extremely realistic. The rencontre with my disappointed and infuriated rival, the quick shots from his pistol, the bearing off of my dead body, while the crimson juice of pokeberries steaming from the bottle concealed in my clothes, represented blood gushing from the fatal wound, the screams of the heroine as she rushed from the stage -- were the startling scenes of the last act."

"After finishing this rural school at Gordon Springs, John was sent to LaFayette, where 'one of the best schools in all northwest Georgia' was located. Here he attended the Pleasant Green Academy (*this name is incorrect, see below*), later renamed the John B. Gordon Hall in his honor. He and his brother Chapman boarded in the home of Judge Spencer Marsh, but every Friday the two boys went home to spend the weekend." NOTE: *The Marsh-Warthern House has been purchased by the Walker County Historical Society about 2004, and is sometimes open to the public. It is contiguous to the John B. Gordon Hall.*

"The Pleasant Green Academy had been founded in 1836, nearly five years before the Gordons moved to Walker County. The progressive citizens of Chattooga, as LaFayette was then called, being dissatisfied with their one-room log cabin school, had made plans for a new and 'modern' building. In 1836 the state legislature made the small appropriation of \$815 for the establishment of an academy in Walker County, but the pioneer city fathers were more ambitious for their children. At a town meeting not only did they pledge further financial aid, but Judge Marsh gave several acres of land for a building site."

Walker County Heritage Book reports that there were two academies established in Walker County. The Pleasant Green Academy ended up in Chattooga County when it was spun off. A review of the first Trustees of Pleasant Green Academy in the 1840 Census shows that the 4 that

can be found all resided in Chattooga County. Therefore John B. Gordon must have attended Chattooga Academy, which would have been renamed the Lafayette Academy by the time he attended. Spenser Marsh was one of the trustees of the Chattooga Academy.

"From the beginning the new academy was noted throughout northwestern Georgia 'for its many interesting debates, high ideals, and splendid teachers.' The Reverend Richard Baker, a first honor graduate of Princeton, and his cousin John W. Baker, who served as principal, introduced their 'scholars' to the joys and benefits of a classical education."

"Under such teachers as the Bakers, John Gordon mastered Cicero, Virgil, and the Greek Testament... He probably studied philosophy, as it was a part of the curriculum, and he learned enough mathematics to pass a difficult college entrance examination..."

"By the end of 1850, and perhaps earlier he had completed his course at the ...Academy." Note above, The La Fayette Academy. He would thereafter enter Franklin College in Athens. (Tankersley).

Later Mary Brown Gordon wrote "Missy left for LaFayette, she is going to school there. Mr. Baker has a splendid school. 100 scholars, so may smart boys + he is an excellent teacher." (GWG Papers, letter to Willie dated 21st, 56.)

Attending College was not a new endeavor for a Gordon. Charles Pennington Gordon had attended Dickinson College in Carlisle, Pennsylvania and his son, Andrew, attended Jackson College in Columbia, Tennessee. His tuition for the session beginning Jan 15, 1837 was paid by one of Charles' executors G. W. Gordon. Later In 1849 and 1850 George paid Jackson College tuition for his two sons, W. B. Gordon and J. C. Gordon. In 1850?, George also was paying tuition to some school for daughters, Mary B. and Martha E. Gordon, which included piano lessons. (EBay Images)

John B. Gordon's brother, Washington King, was attending Mercer College in Penfield, Georgia at the time of his death in 1848 (Mercer). He was buried at the Gordon Springs Cemetery, also known as the Friendship Cemetery. His tombstone has dates of 6 May, 1827-18 Jul 1848. Of the three marked graves, he is the only Gordon there (Whitfield County Ga Cem).

Another brother, William Harvey, died in 1857 while attending Union University in Murfreesboro, Tennessee (Hodges).

John B. (born 1832) and Chapman (born ca. 1829) were similar in age to James Harvey's and Caroline's sons, Richard Oscar, William Law and Charles Peyton, who probably had similar educational careers to that of John B and Chapman outlined above. We know that they "intended this year to have sent Rebecca and Octavia off to some College, but have concluded that they are too young to be sent so far from home we will send them this year to Lafayett where there is at present a good school taught by a Presbyterian minister, assisted by his son and daughter, we will send Oscar there also." (Letter above dated 1 March, 1841). This also must have been the Chattooga or Lafayette Academy.

Charles Peyton Gordon had a multi-university academic career. He went to the University of Georgia in Jan, 1855 and left in July 1856. He attended the University of Virginia in 1857, then Jefferson Medical College in Pennsylvania in 1858, before he graduated from University of New York Medical Department in March of 1860. (UGA ALUMNI) He also had attended Emory in 1857 where he was a member of a fraternity known as the Mystical Seven, which later merged with Beta Theta Pi, as was also his future brother-in-law, Josiah F. Bass. (Beta Theta Pi) Mary Lizzie attended the Institute in Columbia, Tennessee (Letter below dated 10 Sept 1851). This is presumably the Columbia Female Institute. Where the other children went to college has not yet been discovered.

Shortly before his death in 1836, Charles Pennington Gordon wrote that he was talking daughters, Mary Ann and Julia to Salem (Academy in NC), and also Thomas Napier intended sending Manfredonia there (ELG). Harvey and Caroline's daughters, Nellie and Carrie, attended school in Huntsville, at the Huntsville Female College (GWG and Obit C G B).

All of Charles daughters attended Salem Academy. Julia and Mary Ann attended 1836-38. Sarah and Virginia attended in 1843-45, being sent there by their mother, Barbara and James H. Gordon as executor for Charles. Later, Charles' son, Andrew, would also send his daughter Mollie who only attended Salem for 2 months in 1866 (McKnight).

Later, Caroline and Harvey considered sending Mary Lizzie to the school at Salem, NC. Sister Sarah Gwyn Gordon Brown's daughter, Caroline L. Gordon, had attended school there at least from 1842 to 1844 (Gordon-Hackett Papers).

Caroline wrote her sister Jan 20, 1850 Oakland, Gordon Springs, Georgia
Sarah Gwyn Gordon Brown

... Mr Gordon wishes me to write James(*B. Gordon*) if he will be so kind as to write to the principal of the Salem School and know of him if we can get Mary Lizzie in school this spring, pleas – tell James to direct the principal of the School, to write to Mr Gordon immediately and to give his (Mr Gordon's) name the directions of the Letter ? if James would come out and we can get Mary (*Lizzie*) in School, Oscar and M L want to return with him, there are a great many said to be good first? Institutions in the South- but an investigation there are serious objections to them, we have finally settle down on Salem taking everything into consideration, being as good as any.--- (Gordon-Hackett Papers)

They apparently did not go there (McKnight).

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The appointment of George W. Gordon of Maury County as Adjutant General of Tennessee was reported in the Republican Banner on November 29, 1847, for a two year term, by the then Governor Neill Smith Brown. Thus he presumably acquired the title of General Gordon.

George Gordon and James Gordon, as executors of their brother, sold the Charles Gordon house and about 150 acres in Eatonton in 1849(NRHP).

In 1848, Charity Gordon, a resident of Walker County, was approved for a pension, based on her husband Chapman's service in the American Revolution, effective March 4th, 1848, in the amount of \$63.88 per annum. When she made her application in 1849, she "made her mark" rather than signing her name, after the document was read to her. This may have been due to arthritis, because earlier estate papers of her husband indicated she could write. Charity (a resident of Whitfield County, GA) also applied in 1855 for Bounty Land (CGPF). Elisha King of Adairsville, Ga wrote Gen. George W. Gordon on 25 Dec, 55, that his mother's land warrant was duly received and sent to the Clerk of Superior Court at Dalton on 19th instant, although it has not been returned (GWP Papers).

In Dec 1858, & Feb 1859, George W. Gordon wrote, requesting that the pension be transferred from the Savannah Office to the Nashville TN office, and that his mother was "very old and feeble". The reason for transfer was her "desire to be with and remain with her grandchildren with whom she has been living for several years & they have moved to Tennessee" (CGPF).

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Coal Mining

Undoubtedly there were many middle class and rich guests who visited Gordon Springs. Mark Anthony Cooper would have known some Gordons as far back as their Eatonton days. Zachariah's interest in mining reportedly grew out of a conversation with his guest Cooper who was one of the leading industrialists in iron and coal and who owned mines in Dade County (UPSON). As early as Dec 1848, Zachariah was writing brother George W. that he had "just returned from visiting my Coal Pitt, and think it a good fortune if I can get the coal out & sell for a big price, please inquire what it is worth in Nashville, and How Soon is the Rail Road expected to be down the Ten(nessee) River or to Raccoon Mtain. (*in Dade County*) In this coal mine I wish to make you also interested and I believe the day is not far distant, so soon as the cars can run to Nickajack, or at least as soon as the Road Meets, it value will be Hard to Tell...For There is million of it. easy obtained, of the best quality, burns like a candle, with respects." (EGL)

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Zachariah H. Gordon to Nathan C. Munroe (Kell)
Gordon Springs, GA
Oct 10 "49

Mr. Monroe Esqr

Dear Sir-

You have probably heard of my improving the Gordon Springs and no doubt you are also aware of the expenses necessarily attached to the improvement of such a place.

From the flattering prospects of the buyings? thus far I have determined to still improve the place as far I'm able and I should like very much to borrow some funds in order to enable me to improve still father.

Knowing that you are a man of means, I take this opportunity of knowing of you what are the prospects of getting the loan of \$500.00 or a \$1000.00 from you for a short time. I should

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like to have it about Christmas and would want it. I suppose about 9 or 12 months. You can have any Surety, or security you wish. I can make you entirely easy with reference to that subject.

I should like to hear from you soon with reference to the matter. If you can let me have it. Please let me know how much you can let me have and how long and when it can be had.

Please answer as soon as convenient.

Mr. Monroe Esqr.
Macon
Ga.

Yours truly
Z. H. Gordon

NOTE: *Zachariah H Gordon's sister, Rebecca, had married Thomas Thompson Napier in Eatonton in 1818 and she died there in 1825. Nathan Campbell Munroe, banker, was married to Thomas Thompson Napier's sister, Tabitha Napier. They were siblings of Leroy Napier.*

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Their "Sister Brown", presumably Mary Boswell Gordon Brown, died before June 7, 1849 (ELG-Letter GWG to Eddy June 7, 1849) and was buried in the Rose Hill Cemetery in Columbia, Tennessee. However on Feb 21, 1850, Sarah G. Law writes and sends her greetings to Mrs. and Major Brown. Rose Cemetery web site gives her death date as 1849. In any case there seems to be a discrepancy as to who "Sister Brown" might be.

Her Husband Major John Brown remarried someone named Sarah. John "Major" Brown died 22 June, 1858 and was buried in the Rose Hill Cemetery next to Mary. (ROSE)

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The archivist had miss labeled the following letter, when I acquired it in Oct, 2013, as being from Miss C L Gordon Wilkesboro, NC

It is signed Caroline M. Gordon
1850

from Oakland, Gordon Springs, Georgia Jan 20,

The envelope is addressed to Mrs Sarah H. Brown, Wilkesborough, N. Carolina

Dearest Sister

The beginning of 1850 reminds me of the duty of commencing a new correspondence with you...our country during the Summer, was full of the Low County people, nearly all the village's and the most of the time two hundred at Gordon Springs and we have no doubt but as many more would have been there, if they could have accommodated them. A company, have bought some spring, 12 miles from here and are now building for the purpose of entertaining company the next Summer, and I presume they will make good improvements they are wealthy men who purchased the place Mr Gordon has a rich tract of Land joining those Springs, as he is in hopes if the springs are resorted too a great deal, it may render his Land more valuable -Our Country may be said to be daily in a state of improvement- the Cares (*Cars refer to RR Cars, and is a*

common way of referring to trains) now run to Chatanooga and they are building the road on to Nashville rappidly I could mention several branches that will intersect this state road, which will be of infinite advantage to this Country—Rome which is 40 miles from us-is improving rappidly a branch of the railroad stops their, and the river is navagable to that place, which goes down throught Alabama I wish James would come out and look at Rome, Mr Gordon thinks he would do well their –do Sarah persuade him to come, Lorenzo is living there he is merchandising with the Mr Johnsons...

I hear from Rebecca often, she is well has a sprightly little Boy- is very delicate has never enjoyed good health Oscar was at home last week, he is very well- talks something of starting out courting, Rebecca has Cornelia with her the rest of the Children are at home, look as rosey as ? - our family have enjoyed good health this year, my health is very good now, I weigh 10 or fifteen pound more than I ever did – my love to the girls I would like to see them all and their family, tell Carra to write me and let me know what she is imploying herself about and if she is going places, be married- what has becom of all my old acquaintances old Uncle Gwyn his children etc – can't you and Col Brown, come to see us this coming summer – I think the Col would be pleased with this country, Mr Gordon joins me in love to Col Brown yourself and children- I promised to have a space for M. Lizzie to write a line to her cousin Carra, but I see that I not done, it C_ must write to M Lizzie – I will expect a letter very soon from you- my respects to all my acquaintances in particular Mrs Finley- Mr Wellborn Mrs Stokes- please ? James not to niglest the request we made of him- Mr Gordon would have written himself if he had known the name of the inspector- may heaven bless you and your family in the sincer prayer of your devoted sister Caroline M Gordon

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In Feb of 1850, Z. H. Gordon was appointed to a "body politic" for each of the newly incorporated; the Dalton Female College, the Southern Central Baptist University of Georgia at Dalton, and the Southern Education Society. (GLA)

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Caroline's brother William moved to Floyd County (see also Census below), where he continued the merchant family tradition.

Rome April 30th 1850

Dear Sir: (Col. Hamilton Brown)

...I bought land here last summer

...My business here is promissing

...My family are not well. My wifes health is quite feeble, and has been so for several years - My own health is tolerable good-

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Yours very truly, Wm L Gwyn

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1850 Census

Chickamauga District, Walker County, Georgia

Enumeration Day 1 June

Dwelling # 2

GORDON, Z. H.	53	M	NC	M. G. Miss. Bapt.	Prop Val of \$30,000.
Malinda	44	F	Geo		
Chapman	21	M	"		
John B.	17	M	"		
Wm H	11	M	"		
A M	9	M	"		
Mary M	7	F	"		
Eugene C	5	M	"		
W S	2	M	"		
TOLL, Patrick	35	M	Ky	Carpenter	
PORTER, Isaac R	23	M	Ten	farmer	

Indexed as L. H. Gordon, he has 19 Slaves (Cox). Examining the census image, it looks like an "L" but also a "Z" and since he is next to Geo. W. Gordon, this is correct.

Dwelling # 31

GORDON, James H.	50	M	NC	farmer	Prop Val of \$20,000
Caraline M	48	F	NC		
Wm L	19	M	Geo		
Mary E	14	F	"		
Charly P	12	M	"		
Cornelia F	19	F	"	<i>Nellie should be 9.</i>	
Carolina H	7	F	"	<i>Author's great-grandmother.</i>	

James H. Gordon owned 25 Slaves (Cox)

In East Armuchy District

Gordon, Andrew G.	30	M	Geo	Attorney	Prop Val of \$6,500
Adalade	27	F	"		
Charles	1	M	"		
RANSOM	23	M	"	farmer	

Andrew G. owned 27 slaves (Cox)

This is the son of Charles P. Gordon who died in Eatonton, in 1836.

In LaFayette

Dwelling 956 with a tavern Keeper and a number of others

GORDON, R O	28	M	SC	Merchant, <i>James H & Caroline's son</i>
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Hariet N 19 F "

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Census Images, Ancestry.com

GEORGIA

Summerville, Chattooga

Dwelling 2

CROOK, L. W.	28	M	SC	Lawyer	\$7,000
Rebecca C	23	F	GA	<i>James H & Caroline's daughter</i>	
Alexander G.	2	M	GA		

TENNESSEE

Maury County, District 9

Dwelling # 502

GORDON, Geo W	42	M	NC	Farmer	No property valuation given
Elizabeth	39	F	TN		
John	15	M	TN		
Mary	13	F	TN		
Martha	12	F	TN		
Wm	11	M	TN		
Margaret	8	F	TN		
George	6	M	TN		
Charles	4	M	TN		
Hugh	2	M	TN		
BRADSHAW, Thos.	32	M	TN	Farmer	

He owned 7 Slaves in Maury County, Tennessee.

Although he is not found in the Walker County Census, Geo.W. Gordon is in the slave census, he owned 25 slaves in Walker County.(Cox)

GEORGIA

Subdivision 30, Floyd County, Georgia

Caroline's brother

GWYN, W. L.	43	M	NC	Merchant	\$2,000
Susan	28	F	GA		
Adalaid	13	F	GA		
Caroline	10	F	GA		
Isabella	7	F	GA		
Daton J	3	M	GA		

TENNESSEE

Memphis Ward 5, Shelby

LAW, Sarah	44	M	NC		\$5,000
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Caroline	19	F	GA	
Augusta	13	M	TN	
John	10	M	TN	
SMITHWICH				
Jas F	26	M	TN	Merchant
Luti	25	F	VA	
WRIGHT				
Wm B	23	M	TN	Merchant
Sally	18	F	GA	<i>a daughter</i>
PURNELL?				
Robt	40	M	NC	Physician
Ann	30	F	PA	
Robt	10	M	PA	
Wm	1	M	PA	
CARR				
Elizabeth	25	F	PA	
Jessie	3	M	LA	
BROOKS				
Uria	24	M	GA	Clerk
Lizzie	22	F	NC	
COCKRELL				
Elizabeth	22	F	KY	
Geo	3	M	TN	
Ann	4/12	F	TN	
CREIGHTON				
Mr. -	50	M	Jnc	Teacher
NUWLEY				
Alfred	22	M	TN	None
WICKFULL				
Frank	24	M	TN	Black Brickmason
???				
Mary M	17	F	Jnc	
SMITHWICK				
Alfred	21	M	NC	Mcht
Mary	24	F	GA	<i>a daughter</i>
Sarah	2	F	TN	
Cleora	2	F	Mis	

Sarah Chapman Gordon Law, a widow, had moved to Memphis after her husband died, and lived there with three minor children. Also two married daughters and their families also lived with her. As head of household, she was running a rooming or boarding house. There are 4 more couples (with 1 child), 1 woman with 2 children, and 1 individual. There were 28 people in her house. Mrs. Law of the same ward, city, and county, with same neighbors, was listed as the owner of 13 slaves.

Having recently left Columbia, in a letter to her sister Lizzie in Columbia, i. e. her sister-in-law Mrs. G. W. Gordon, Sarah writes on Feb 21, 1850 about her new home, "I have a very desirable house, with every convenience about it. 12 rooms, the basement is on, not under the ground, my room is in the basement, large and pleasant, Sallies is also in the basement, near mine, dining room in the basement with a nice long store room attached, then comes kitchen and servants room fine large cistern right at the kitchen door, garden large enough to raise my early vegetables, stables, + on the second floor are 4 rooms, with 2 wings, in t? there 2 bedrooms. the house has a virander or piaza runing all around it it is as plesant as your could possibly wish, I have plenty of furnature, familys all furnish their own rooms. I have 6 rooms occupied and another ingaged to a young man who is to marry the 3 of April. If the house had more rooms, I could have had them filled with familys, I had 3 applications for familys last week, that I could not take for want of rooms" (GWG Papers).

In the above letter Sarah sends greetings back to Columbia to Mrs. and Maj. Brown. This would be Sister Mary Boswell Gordon and John Brown.

In 1850, there are 12 John Browns in Maury, two of whom were born before 1800 in NC.

There is a 65 year old John Brown worth \$32,500 born in NC, living alone in household 651, 21st District. This does not correlate with our Brown's tombstone age.

Gordon Springs History and Summary.

In 1853 and 1859, other portions of Walker were cut off to enrich the County of Whitfield (Sartain). Thus Gordon Springs became part of Whitfield County in 1853.

Activities at Gordon Springs as revealed by letters of GWG.

There are 17 letters covering the period from May 1848 to April 1851 from George Washington Gordon to his wife in the **Erskine-Gordon-Le- Conte Papers** at the Tennessee State Archives, as well as 4 from Zachariah to George, which give us significant information about the Gordon Springs Resort.

George Washington Gordon married Elizabeth Bradshaw of Columbia, Tennessee in 1834, and I think thereafter always considered Columbia as his home and primary residence. Liz died around 1852, and thus the letters to her end, and the last letter available to her was dated Apr 21, 1851. John D. Turgess sent his condolences on General Gordon's wife's death in a letter dated July 30, 1851. (ELG)

Zachariah proposed, in several letters to George in 1849, that George take over the operation of the Gordon Springs Resort. On Jan 15, 1849, he wrote "**particularly Since your Interest is so perfectly Identified in the Suckcess, of Gordon Springs Ga and more So Since Z H V G W Gordon are now the owners of J Goo(d)son land which gives them here in a body over 1300 Acrs.**" They had some discussions during the Summer Season of 1849. Zach wrote Brother on Dec 4, 1849 "According to promise, I now drop you a few lines on the Subject upon which we had a little conversation before you left the Springs, (Viz) that of My renting or leasing to you my part, or interest here from one to five years. **If the arrangement can be made to Suit us**

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both I am willing to take Eight hundred Dollars a year, rent, for my part, Taking the place in its present condition: or I am willing to aid you in extending the improvements in putting up an other House for a Dining Room Such a one as you Spoke of before you left, and a few more Cabins, so as to give about Twenty More additions rooms: to the amount that we already have provided, the above additional improvements Should be made, I would then ask about two hundred Dollars more, which would amount to One Thousand Dollars rent per year for my part: all the Farm Included.” And again he wrote on Dec 27, 1849 to George in Columbia, Tennessee “– I Stated to you that I would take eight hundred Dollars rent per year: for all my interest here, to take the place as it is or I would help Improve it, by putting up the additional dining ?department and other cabbins so as to make out (20) Twenty more Rooms = and then take for my rent per year one thousand Dollars farm & all included = now brother what say you, will give it and if not, you make me a proposition what you will give, or what you will take: as I would much prefer one or the other having the entire control and work as I think, to our mutual happiness & prosperity and to the advancement of the Character of the Place = from the above considerations = If you do not like my proposition= If you will make me a proposition I will either give it or take the same from you.” (EGL)

Presumably they worked out some agreement, because George wrote his wife on 28 Mar, 1850 that “**Brother Zach has made us propositions for keeping company and is not going to do so – will let us take & carry on the whole, under our own management”**. George had already been involved with Gordon Springs since at least 1848 and would continue to be involved until about 1858. This probably accounts for one newspaper article reports that, "in 1852 Zachariah Gordon sold out to Wash Gordon and moved to Alabama"(Mauldin). Zachariah moved to Alabama to focus on the Mines on the Georgia-Alabama line but retained ownership until 1862.

George W. Gordon and his wife apparently operated the Springs Resort until her death before July 1851 (letter of Condolence dated 30 July 1851 EGL Box 7 Fld 2 from), and George continue to do so until after his second marriage to Mary Randolph about 1857. Although George always considered Columbia, Tennessee as his home, he was motivated to work at Gordon Springs as a way of make money to get out of debt. He apparently would spend the winter in Columbia, returning to Gordon Springs in the early spring. He would write home to his wife until she came to the Springs for the season. She would return home to Columbia in the fall, and he would stay as late as November (based on his letters for 1848-1851). (EGL)

George was deeply troubled by debt, which he considered a heavy burden. 21Oct.49 “If fortune will but smile (& I hope I believe she will) till I can get out of debt – I am with my wife & children the ballance of my life.” 27 Oct.49 “having for my “pole star’ the great object of our labour & undertaking in the rather disagreeable business – **to Get our of Debt –and once Free I shall be free indeed – then my wife & children** will have more of the husband & Father about them and with them.” 13 Nov.49 “ **If I sell I must get enough to pay us out of debt & place us over more on terra firma – the property must command a good price some day & that not far distant – so we must make our calculations to return again & be Tavern Keepers a little longer.**” Oct28.50 “**If I was only free from Debt.**” Nov 3.50 “There is no rest for the wicked and less if possible for the poor debt burdened being who sees nothing but sheriffs by day and

the ghosts and hoggoblins... by night.” (EGL)

Water Testing

The Resort was noted for its variety of types of springs. The water was probably tested many times but George wrote his wife on Oct 9, 1848 that **“Doctor Eve from Augusta was here a few days ago... the Doctor was looking at and testing the water at the several watering places in the up Country – he carried several bottles of water to Augusta with him from this place and also from Murry for the purpose of having then analyzed he seem pleased I thought with our water.”**

Railroads

The newly expanding rail system would become very important to the development of Gordon Springs. George writes his wife on Nov 13, 1849 that **“The Tunnel (at Tunnel Hill) is open through they got through some 8 or 10 days since – but theres a great deal of work yet to do before the cars can pass – ... the road is nearly completed above the Tunnel to Chattanooga the Iron is built with in 5 miles of the Town.”** Two days after Christmas Zachariah writes George that **“The Schedule of the R Road has so been altered So as for the Cars to Leave Dalton at 8,oclock in the morning and arrives at half after three in the evening which will enable the Visitors to arrive at the Springs the same day they leave Augusta or Macon = friend Anderson of Augusta writes me that we must make arrangements and preparation for at least 400 persons so they will all again return next Summer.”**

Of course there must be some way to get guests to and from the Rail road. On March 28, 1850 George writes his wife, **“I will probably get Andrew – He talks some thing about going in with me in the hack business – if he does we will probably get an omnibus also if one can be had in these parts upon reasonable terms.”** A year later in April of 1851, George writes his wife that **“Andrew & I have just order from New York a stage Coach... Tell the Squire to be certain to have the omnibus repaired & Harness made by the time I return.”** (EGL)

The railroads would soon link the Gordons to Chattanooga, Nashville, and Columbia, Tennessee. Another route would go down the Tennessee River, to Shell Mound, thus providing the link to the Gordon Mines, and continue on to Huntsville, where Harvey and his family would soon move. Huntsville also would be linked by Rail via Decatur to Columbia, Tn.

FARMING AND GARDENING

They grew most of what they needed, commonly sowing 50 to 60 acres of wheat in the fall, as well as rye, and oats in the spring. Similarly 50 or more acres of corn was sown in the spring and gathered in the fall. They had peach and plum trees, as well as apple orchards. Some years

a late frost would threaten the fruit crops. In the garden they used manure, and “planted Irish potatoes, beded yams – sowed peas – Beets onions - radishes – mustard – lettuce – parsley tomatoes & will sow cabbage” and corn. – George “also planted a good many garden seeds – and shall continue to plant them every week”, which would be used to supply the resort. (EGL)

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THE SOUTHERN CENTRAL AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY AT THE SEVENTH ANNUAL
FAIR held at Macon in October 1852.

Mrs. G. W. Gordon of Gordon Springs received a Horticulture prize of the “best dox. Cabbages.” (DLG, Federal Union, Milledgeville, Nov. 9, 1852) *A little confusion here since above her death in 1851 was reported.*

ANIMALS

One year Katy (a slave?) was raising as many as 100 chickens.

15 Jan 1849, Zachariah reported to George that he “killed over 12000 lbs. of pork it is doing very well I suppose we have 600 lbs. of nice lard.” Other years they discussed bringing sheep, mules and horses from Columbia to Gordon Springs. Another time they “need to fattend hogs for bacon, and bring 10 or 12 good brood sows to G Springs “to produce us roasters”. Ham and Bacon were also a common topic, both as a source of money and supplies for the resort. (EGL)

CONSTRUCTION

They made their own brick. Usually in the fall, but a preliminary drying was necessary before they could be kiln fired. Sometimes the weather would be a problem. In 1848 they had “done a fair business of making brick...some 40,000 or more”. The following year George reported that “we have had an awful time for brick making.” A week later on Oct 27, 1849 he wrote “preparing to burn brick – we have not made as many brick as we desired – but the weather was bad for a week and we had to quit – I think we have about 35,000 – we shall get fire into the kiln next week perhaps Monday .“ (EGL)

There were two (water) mills, a lower one that was used for sawing and another at Zach’s home, where ever that was.

Zachariah reported his plans on Jan 15, 1849 “to put up this Spring a large House in an Ell form three Storey High, 160 feet long 30 wide, but fear we cannot Finish it.” George wrote his wife on March 13, 1849 that “ **we shall be hurried to get our house in readiness for company... it is to be about 90 feet long – with a Basement story as a dining room – it will be about 30 feet wide & will enable us to set 2 tables from 80 to 90 feet – which you know will dine a good many people, we will not attempt the Ell part this Season – the House is to be 2 story & have the dining room – with a piazza 19 feet wide & open above**”. But on April 3, 1850

this must have still been a work in progress, possibly delayed for a lack of lumber. George endeavored **“to have as much done as possible – so as to meet my other arrangements – I shall at least I think put up a new dining room – we will no doubt from all I can learn have a large number of visitors the coming season & I shall try to be as well prepared as possible we have already had some letters making inquiries about board.”** Ever ambitious, George was still planning in April of 1851” to have lumber sawed at Brother Zachs Mill – at enough to build our Ball Room & finish the Piazza – if we get the lumber I will put the Ball Room on the Hill opposite Andrews House” (EGL). This construction of a Ball room seems strange since, as seen below, dancing was not allowed at Gordon Springs.

This was a resort noted for its springs. Bath houses were available, in March of 1851, George had “two men boring logs to convey the spring water to the places I intend putting up a ? bath house at – will have the water conveyance done in a day or two – we have a portion of the lumber sawed for the Piazza”. (EGL)

FAMILY

During the 1848-1851 time period, Charity Gordon lived predominantly with George and his wife Liz. She would go back and forth to Columbia, sometimes being there with Liz and sometimes at Gordon Springs with George, if Liz was still in Columbia. On at Least one occasion she was at Harvey’s, and another time at Zach’s. In April, 1850, George was at the springs, and Liz and Charity were still in Columbia. Charity was so ill that they were planning her funeral expenses, but she recovered to live another 9 years. (EGL)

Sister Sarah C. G. Laws had some land in Murray County, Georgia, that Zachariah sold for her in 1850 and sent the money to pay off a debt Sarah owed. (EGL)

Harvey lived within 2 miles of the Springs in a 2 story brick house that he either built or bought depending on the source of information. He later sold the house to Jesse Callaway reportedly about 1852. Unfortunately these deeds would have been in the Walker County Court House when it burned.



The Callaway/Pangle Home located at the intersection of Highway 201 and Gordon Springs Road.

From the internet site, Whitfield County Photos, an undated picture of the Jesse Callaway place, previously owned by James H. Gordon. Destroyed by a tornado in 1980, the house was leveled and a smaller house was constructed on site from the materials.

About Harvey's family, George wrote:

May 21 1848 "Octavia is here, wants aunt Lizz (*George's wife*) to choose her a sweetheart"

14 Oct.49 "Harvey all well did not see Octi – she being at Doct Reid"

27 Oct.49 "I do down Harvey's once a week – every Sunday"

13 Nov.49 "Octa heard from John to say he is much better and will be up in a few days – if he gets no backset – so I may be at the wedding yet - Crook and Rebecca (NOTE: *Harvey's daughter and her husband*) are over they were here today to dinner – are going tomorrow to the Tunnel"

In January of 1850 Caroline M Gordon wrote her sister Sarah H. Brown about the wedding.

"Octavia was married to Mr Maner of South Carolina this 16 of December, Mr Maner's parents, himself and most of the family have spent the last three summers at Gordon Springs we think – from our acquaintance with them that they are an excellent family, and we have good reason to hope that Octa has married well- tell Carra I have picked out Frank Maner for her, he is a very pleasant intelgent man I wish James and Carra would go to see Octa they live in Beaufort

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District 40 miles from Savannah, near the ? river – they will spend their summers up hear, Oh, you cant think how much I miss my Dear Octavia” (Gordon-Hackett)

Note: Octavia and John S. Maner Jr. of Beaufort District, S. C. were married at Oakland, (presumably the home of Harvey Gordon) Walker County, Georgia on the 16th December, 1849 by the Rev. Z. Gordon” (Holcomb).

28 Mar.50 “alls well here & at Harvey’s”

Apr 3.50 “ Brothers Zach & Harvey gone to Sand Mountain – be at home tomorrow Caroline & family well “

Apr 20.5 “Harveys folks are well”

Apr 21 50 “just returned from Harvey’s all well there – Dick Gordon (Note: Richard Oscar) is to be married some time in May to Miss Price – a very clever fine he says & worth some ? _ all was well a Jno Maner when last heard from”

Oct 28.50 “ I am just from Harvey’s all well there But Octa & she is geting along pretty well She was not so well for a day or two But is much better – Jno Maner left the day after you did”

Nov 3.50 “they are all well at Harveys Octa is doing well – is able to be up & about a little”

Mar 17.51 “ Mother is getting better is still at Harveys Caroline and all well all well here”

Mary G. Brown of Columbia, TN, died in 1849, but George often sent his greetings or made reference to the widower, Major John Brown, who later remarried a woman named Sarah. (ROSE)

ANDREW G., Son of Charles Pennington Gordon, in 1850, was an attorney like his father and had a farm south of Gordon Springs in East Armuchee Valley. (1850 Census above)

George had written:

May 21, 1848, “Saw Andrew on the way to get Married...on 18th Instant.”

Nov 13, 49, “Andrew staid with me last night – **he going to get a lot from us and build him a house at the Springs – his wife would prefer to live at the Spring to living on his farm** – she will come up some time in December – and I have offered him one of our cabins to live in – and I think he will accept the offer – he will build one towards the free stone Spring.”

Apr 3, 50, “Andrew & wife send their love to Aunt Lizz Andrew will commence his house in a short time.”

Apr 20, 51, “Adie sends to you love remember us to all.”

Nov 3, 50, “Andrew & Ady are still here ? will leave in the course of a week or so.”

Mar17, 50, “Andrew & Ada well”.

George made two references to Barbara & Sallie, who would be Andrew’s widowed mother, and his sister. They lived in Alabama, near Columbus, Georgia with one of her married daughters. By Oct 14, 1849 all the company was gone except Barbara and Sallie, who left soon thereafter.

RESORT OPERATIONS

George wrote his wife in the spring of 1850 that he wanted to hire “a pastry cook by all means- I think and I believe that if no mishap befalls us & we get the proper servants we shall make money here.” (EGL) One was found in Savannah. Thomas R. Mills wrote Gen. Gordon on 25 July, 1850 that he had an “excellent pastry cook that will go up to you, provided you will pay \$1⁵⁰ per-day, for herself and an assistant that she will carry, you also to pay her traveling expenses, up and back to Savannah” (ELG).

Most of the time the boarders left in the fall, although sometimes a few might stay over the winter. (EGL)

HUNTING

of Turkey and Deer is mentioned in most of George’s letters.

Oct 27.49, “tis fine time now for hunting the **deer** are very fat – but I cant find time to do but very little – go once in a while on Saturdays – went out today with John and one or two of the School Boys and killed a little **deer** – very small shot it with the Majors gun.”

28 Mar.50, “tell Jack the **turkeys** now not commenced gobbling yet.”

Apr 3.50, “I have not hunted any of consequences have not had time, think I will try a **turkey** before long – they are rather too smart for me though.”

Nov 3.50, “tell Barney? We are going to take that Camp Hunt the last of this week – we expect to kill those **Bucks and feast on fat venison** the balance of the year.”

This is the end of the Letters of GWG to his 1st wife, Elizabeth Bradshaw Gordon (ELG).

His last letter from Gordon Springs to Liz was dated 20 April, 1851. She died in Columbia on 30 April, 1851(WebbThomas).

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Caroline (Gwyn) Gordon to Sarah H. Brown of Wilkesboro, NC (Hackett)

Gordon Springs, Ga.

September 10 - 1851

My own Sister

...Your last letter filled us with such sad disappointment I did not get over it for some time, we all as much believed that you would visit us as if we had seen you arrive, we had told all of our friends that you were coming we had made every preparation to make your visit as pleasant as possable, William and Mary Lizzie had planned many enjoyments and pleasures with Carrie and Tomas going to the Gordon Springs every evening And after a separation of fourteen or fifteen from an only sister I had promised myself great happiness once more to see you - well we will forgive you if you will promise to come next summer, and what dear Sister is to prevent

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you I know you can come if you will make the effort perserverence is the only thing needed - I feel anxious for Col Brown and James and Your sons in Law to come and look at this county in the summer - Mr. Gordon thinks they would be pleased with Dade County near the Tennessee line it a splendid county of land and the railroad runs through to Nashville and the road to Memphis will connect also in that county - I insist on their coming at any rate and look at the county and you come I know you would be delighted to see the cars going like lighting and carrying every thing that you raise to spare directly to market **Brother Za- Gordon has purchased lands there and will move - when he disposes of his lands here**

The Gordon Springs have not been very much crowds this Summer, however the company has been pretty much the same at least the number, never more than two hundred, and with some exceptions the company has been of the first order - tell James there were some splendid young ladies here, I know he would have been pleased with two at least that were here Miss Tombes and **Miss Hurt** handsome rich and so genteel - we had any amount of kin this summer from Tennessee, Memphis and Columbus - tell James Sally Gordon was here this summer as pretty as ever and a great Bell it is said she is to be married this winter to a nephew of Governor Branchy? formerly of NC. The Catosa Spring has been crowded all the season from seven to eight hundred people at a time they are about 12 miles from us a very disipated place. Rebecca spent three weeks with us last month she has a fine health little daughter calls her Caroline Eugenia - we received a letter last week from Octa she and family were very well she has a fine healthy boy called Charles Gordon, she will come up next summer - Rebecca and William ? ? intend visit Octa this winter. Oscar was to see us a short time since he is selling up(us)? his mercantil business and will go to farming this fall, his wife is at her Fathers she will be confined this month, I intend going to see them in a few weeks and to see my Brother also - he lives near Mr. Prices I have not seen my Brother since the Spring - our three youngest children go to school here, William started the first day of this month with Mary Lizie back to the Institute in Columbia, we expect him to return - this week, Mother is here and sends a great deal of love to you Sarah Law and three of her children are still here the kin all seemed very much disappointed you did not come, Washington Gordon has a very sick child - not expected to live my husband has been up there all day - I am entirely alone but expect company this evening - I have a bad pen and have written badly with it, you must excuse it, throw in the fire, you can tell your children the contents, give my love to them all I would like so much to see them - tell Carra please write me remember us affectionately to Col. Brown my respects to my acquaintances - Dear Sister write me on the reception of this I feel so anxious to hear from you. may God bless you and save you and your family in the prayers of your devoted sister

C M G

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This ad was run in the Southern Recorder of Milledgeville (DLG) Sept. 14 to Nov 2, 1852 or more.

Valuable Property for Sale

Wishing to remove to Florida, I offer for sale a valuable

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truck of LAND, adjoining the Gordon Springs. The tract contains between 12 and 14 hundred acres – about 400 of which is cleared land. It lies in a beautiful and fertile valley – is finely watered with never failing Springs, and it is in a high state of cultivation. I will sell a part or the whole to suit purchases. The above land lies Walker county, Georgia. Z. H. Gordon

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FLORIDA LAND

About this time a James H. Gordon was acquiring four Military Land Grants in Marion County, Florida from the Soldiers of the Indian Wars. Apparently the Land Grants were originally made to Uriah Davis, Allen T. Osborn and John Haynes, of the Georgia Volunteers Florida War, and Isaac Brown of the South Carolina Militia, presumably purchased from them, because the land was assigned to James H. Gordon. This grants totaled about 280 acres in Marion County. These tracts were close but not necessarily contiguous. This was finalized on the 1st day of April, 1854. (BLM)

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Copper & Florida

I don't know if Zachariah sold any of the land at that time or not. He made have changed his mind because in Feb and March, 1853 he wrote George 2 letters, about potential copper deposits.

“I have just returned from a visit to the Polk Mines (*Note: Presumably these are referring to the copper mines near Duck Town, Tn.*).... My object in Making this visit was to Make observations, and gain all the Knowledge & information I could... I hired a Man while at the Polk Mines to come down and help us to Sink Shafts, Tunnels & he is an experienced hand having worked in the mines up there about two years. “Later Zachariah writes, “the weather having been so excedingly bad we have not thought of trying to dig any in the pits, and the Man that I hired when up at the copper mines has not yet arrived or come down = but I still expect him to come... the excitement among the people in regards to copper being found here, in the region, is not ? but if any thing on the Increase, even down in the Armuchee Valey, the excitement runs high, ...the Williams has rented out their land, for the purpose of Spending their time in diging and experimenting: they have Sunk one pit about forty feet, and are Still at work” (EGL) I have not found any further references to Copper in the Gordon Springs area.

Florida was still a major interest. Zachariah wrote George on Mar 29, 1853...” we have recently heard from all, our Flor friends, they are all delighted with the country our Bro **Harvey** Says the more he saw of the country, the better he likes it = there has been a great many Visitors ?? country this past winter ? the most ? & ? intelligent all delighted; many of them bought land & will move this ensuing fall from all accounts, it must at least, be one of the most delightful

Winter Climates in the world: with all our bad disagreeable Weather here = the boys writes that through the whole of the winter there they have not lost two hours work on the account of rain or bad weather, that is like a perpetual Spring = Should it be in the Counsels of Heaven I would rejoice, for us all to Stick our Stakes down there together, there is a fine field there to work both in a Temporal & Spiritual way". (EGL)

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RESORT ADVERTISEMENTS

The resort was extensively advertised. Through the Digital Library of Georgia, ads have been found for 1853-57 in the Columbus Enquirer and in the Milledgeville Southern Recorder for 1854, & 55.

In the Columbus Enquirer, the Springs were "opened for the reception of VISITORS on the 20th of June 1853." According to different ones of these ads, the resort was conducted "on strict moral principles. No drinking or gaming saloons...Board \$20 per month, or \$7 per week." In 1855, they had "no Miasma to contaminate either our natural or moral atmosphere...no Drum Drinking or Gambling Saloons kept here." In 1857, "The 'Gordon' is none of the 'Fast' places; but a place to "drive dull care away,' be merry and grow fat; a place for gentlemen, their wives and daughters, widows and widowers, young men and old men, to rejuvenate and renew the lease of life." 9 miles from the railroad at Tunnel Hill, hacks or coaches met the daily train. (DLG)

In the Southern Recorder of Milledgeville, the 1854 ad bluntly stated "We stand on the '**TEMPERANCE PLATFORM**'."

An article in the *Albany Patriot* of Sept 20, 1850 about the new railroad mentioned stops along the way. At the Tunnel Hill Depot, you could leave for "Gordon Springs, about 9 miles distant, a very retired and pleasant place, where 'sperits' and dancing are eschewed, and religious services substituted by 'old uncle Zack.' This amounts to an exclusion of the swift and fast gentlemen and ladies in flashy apparel, who roam from one fashionable point to the other, seeking how 'they may catch somebody.'" (DLG)

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Caroline Louise Gordon to her brother James B. Gordon (Hackett)
Caroline M. Gordon's niece and nephew. CLG was traveling with her Mother, Sarah, and Stepfather, Hamilton Brown.

CLG to My Dear Brother

Cherokee, Ala

May 20th, 1853

My Dear Brother

We have now been at Ann's about a week & I have intended to give you a detail of how we are pleased about the appearance of the country & matters & things in general.

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We left **Aunt Caroline's** the same day I wrote to you or the next- I believe it was - Sister M went out to Tunnel Hill that evening & on Tuesday morning took the cars for Rome at which place we arrived about 3 o'clock in the afternoon & next morning started by time on the Boat down the Coosa. We had some difficulty in finding out- where to land in order to find their habitation in this wild woods but the Capt happened to know the place he had put off some things John bought in Rome & we got off at the same place a landing about a mile from his house & after inquiring around awhile we saw him come driving down in his carriage to meet us. It was a joyful meeting you may imagine. Florence & Gordon with him Ann was so afraid of being disappointed that she would not come. We found their house truly in a wild country where you could see nothing but woods all around but then they a much better fixed than I expected since moving their house they have built a shed for a dining room & run two partitions in it which makes four rooms in all quite a respectable house for this country in fact they are a great deal more comfortable than any of their neighbors that I have seen have an excellent kitchen good stables cribs ?? Ann has a very good garden. The house is not in sight of the farm one objection I think. It is almost a mile off. I have not seen their crop but Mr. Brown says it looks very well & that John has an excellent piece of land extremely rich & right on the bank of a navigable stream. It certainly must be a fine country to make money in but there is very little of his land cleared & the time is so large that it will be almost an endless job to clear it. Mr. Brown seems to like the country tolerably well thinks it has many advantages but does not say a word about buying. I must say I am quite delighted with it all but the society there is little or none that is at all interesting or improving but if I were a man and wanted to make money Wilkes would be the last place I would choose for a residence. I think this country much better than **Walker Cty Ga** far superior in everything except society & you know it is nothing to brag of there. The society here is improving & if a few more such families as John's would move into it & attracts such distinguished relations as Mr. Perkins & he have done 'twould soon be a garden spot. Cousin Polly & Mat arrived a few days before we did I was quite astonished to find them here as I thought their anticipated visit to the cities would consume several weeks but lo & behold they made a clear sweep for Cherokee without so much as stopping a day in Columbia. Missing the Charleston trip seemed to stick Mat considerably she said she had as much shopping to do there they had been to Ann's before we came & a few days after our arrival we all went down & spent the day with them. Ann said she felt as if she was transported to old Wilkes again being with so many of its citizens. Mr. Perkins is quite snugly fixed up. Has a cabin with two very neat rooms white-washed & a green level yard Cousin Polly & Mat are pretty well pleased I never saw any one so much improved as cousin Polly is she went right to work she is lively & cheerful & makes fun of everything Mr Perkins has in his house & really seems as well as I ever saw her. We had a merry day when we were up there - all in a log cabin out here in the wilds of Ala. Mr. Perkins had unfortunately gone to Jackson Ville- that day for his children but came home in the afternoon. He says the Jackson Vill Ladies are coming down to call on Mat soon & she expects to go home with them & stay sometime Mat is as gay as any little filly giggles & laughs & talks half the time about getting married. Mother & Mr. Brown started up to Uncle Lorenza's on last Tuesday I did not care about going as the woods were rough & I was somewhat fatigued travelling We are looking for them back to stay they went in John's Rockaway & Mr. Brown drove. He seems restless & impatient and I think getting pretty anxious to be at home. I have almost concluded to remain with Ann this summer if I was right certain of getting home when I felt like going. John says he will take me up to Gordon Springs when the watering season comes

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on & that Ann may go home with me in the fall & spend the winter as he is anxious to visit **Florida** & will be away a good while. Brother I want you to go with him & take me with you I am so anxious to see the country. Two ladies have called to see me this week. Mrs. Ralls & a young Miss Hale, grandniece of old Mrs. Dickerson in Grayson. Mrs. Ralls is quite pretty but I don't think she is the real ? In fact I think old N Carolina takes the shine with regard to the intelligence & refinement of her society I have seen no ladies in Georgia or Ala that possessed half the elegance of the real aristocracy of our state & as for the gentlemen they are far inferiour to the ladies. I asked **Aunt Caroline** what amusements they engaged in at the Springs **as they do not dance** & she said oh they play guard the bottle & blindfold I laughed & told her they were certainly the greatest crackers in Georgia I ever heard of. Old **Aunt Charity** amuses herself at their expense sometimes. She has been accustomed to fine society in Columbia Ten's. Ann answered a letter from Sis a short-time since. The first intelligence we have had from home since our departure. It was very welcome I can assure you We were glad to hear you were getting on pretty well The poor old house ? somewhat a lonely aspect I reckon. It has been a number of years since it was left so perfectly tenantless but Sis said you had a good deal of company which will prevent your getting lonely over their I hope Mother says she sometimes grows quite uneasy about home & the old house & I think neither she or Mr. Brown have found any place for which they would exchange old **Oakland**. Mr. Brown said Laura Brown said she would like to come home with him but he told her he had no house to take her to He says cousin Mia? & Laura did not like it all all because Mother & myself remained in Georgia & did not accompany him to visit them I have regreted ever since that I did not go not withstanding Mr. Brown seemed as if he prefered my remaining but twould have been a short visit as he only remained two nights & one day at Uncle Hughs & the same length of time in Columbia. I was glad to hear of Allen being pleased but his father says he intends bringing him home when the session is out which will be in July. **Aunt Caroline** says tis reported in Ten' that you are courting Laura. She asked us about it soon after we came & I don't think she would approve of it very much as she dispises the Browns so. I have some idea of writing to Laura to meet me at **Gordon Springs** if I stay but am fearful she will hardly do as old Allen Brown dispises the Gordons. Mr. Brown did not stop to see Mrs. Canon in Nashville I am sorry for it as old Mrs. Wellborn sent so many messages to her. Do you know if Mrs. Crain intends visiting Wilkes this summer? What has become of Miss Cate Stokes? Tell her she had better come out & set her cap for Wash Gordon he is a ? widower & **Aunt Caroline** says anxious to get married again. His daughter just grown is to make her debut at the springs this summer she is said to be exceedingly beautiful I don't think Ann has a very exalted opinion of the kin in Georgia have no doubt but that **Aunt Caroline** is far superior to any of her children in point of sense & style also. They have beauty but that is about the sum of their merits The weather is quite cool now & John is fearful 'twill injure his cotton he is very much interested in his crop but says he know nothing in the world about farming He looks pale and thin but does not complain much Anne looks very well & the children have grown a good deal The negroes were all glad to see us & Wash & Joe say if they could only get back to Wilkes they never would want to leave for any country They all think this is the most doleful place to be found on earth The Pratts? have not called on me yet Ann say they don't associate with the people here scarcely at all Mat say they are looking for Mrs ? ? this summer Jonathan was married a short time since I am fearful 'twill be sickly here this summer as there are some cases of a very fatal desease that prevailed in Georgia last summer something like the cholera. One death from it since we came How is everything progressing at

dear old **Oakland** I was glad to hear that you were making some improvements in the way of Negro houses. Mr. Brown thinks he will start for home about this day week & if so we will be there in two weeks at the farthest I have not positively concluded what I will do about staying it is owing altogether as to how I feel about it when the time comes to leave. I suppose you haven't been to see Miss ? yet Ann says she asked your pardon for saying that about her old daddy but he is a mean man Gordon says tell Uncle Jim to save some candy for him as he intends coming home with us if his pa will let him The children seem as anxious as Ann to get back. I hope we will hear from home soon. If I should conclude to stay you must write to me often. I so anxious to see you all but not particularly so to get back to Wilkes. John & Ann send their love John is busy making a door to his dining room. I haven't written half I would like but ? & will stop I reckon we not write again before leaving Give my love to all relations & friends if I should not come home be certain to write often Good bye your loving sister C L G

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In the Southern Business Directory of 1854, William L. Gordon & Co. is listed as a Merchant with Snow Hill, Walker County as his post office address. (Campbell) A GNIS search reveals that variant names for Chickamauga were Snow Hill and Crawfish Spring(s).

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Mary E. Gordon to presumably Caroline Louisa Gordon
Gordon Springs
Jan 15, 1854

Dearest Cousin

....How did you spend your Christmas, pleasantly of course, for your Mountain country is noted for the enjoyments of "sunny youth". I don't think I ever spent so dull a Christmas in old **Walker** as the past, not a sound was heard to disturb the deep stillness ? with exception of the occasional ? of the Alley Balls,-, we had a deep snow at the time, and **Ma** was busy making preparations to leave for Florida so we always are as you know when our friends are leaving us, especially those that are very dear, **Ma and Pa** (NOTE: Caroline and James Harvey Gordon) left last Wednesday was a week, entended visiting **Sister Octa** in there rout?, I suppose this, they left their for Florida.

I do not remember if I wrote you about the state of **Brother Johney's**(*Brother-in-Law John Maner, I think*) health or not, there is no hopes of his recovery - I received a letter from **Sister Octa** on yesterday, she said his Physician did not think he would last the winter, she is in a great deal of distress about him, **Sister Rebecca** has the whooping-cough in her family her youngest child was dangerously ill when last we heard from her - , I received a letter from **Brother William** last mail, he thinks Florida a perfect Eden the only objection on Earth is chill and fever -

Chap? (Chas?) has given up the idea of his home of flowers for Sand Mountain, going to **dig coal**, his many dreams of hours spent in weaving many a fairy tissue of bright and joyous hopes of floating on a "Orange Laks" in Gondolas with the fair ones by his side are doomed never to be realized - the image of all are erased from his memory by **Miss Haraldson of La Grange** (NOTE: *John B Gordon married Fannie Haralson in 1854*) and painted in faint and feeble letters on the heroism of the past. **Aunt Malinda** (NOTE: *Zachariah's wife*) and family are going to the mountain to reside permantly.

Carrie (NOTE: later married Josiah F Bass) Nellie and I are boarding at the Hotel Cousin Mary Brown and I have two rooms joining - we often have many long conversations about you, and laugh about you dressing Brother's clothes, how comical you looked, We hear from Piggie very often she never forgets to mention Allen. I am at loss to know whether to direct this letter to Miss C Gordon or Mrs. Parks, but as I have not heard of your kneeling at Hymen's Altar I had better attempt the former Cousin Mary sends her best love + says she would write a post-scrip but is suffering from severe head-ache. Cousin I will beg of you not to criticize this as I am famous for mistakes you must look over them as others, it is late and I have not time to correct.

My most affectionate love to my dear Aunt and all my cousins - I will expect an answer very soon.

Believe my your affectionate Cousin
Mary E Gordon

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. Consistent with Zachariah and Malinda "going to the mountain to reside premanly", Z H Gordon writes his brother Wash dated March 24, 1854 (GWG Papers), attempting to get him to forward \$125 that had been left with Wash, to pay a debt to Zachariah. He writes "I am in a great press for money at this time...sitting here at a new place amongst strangers, all my buildings to do, roads to make corn? to buy, all requiring money down...I think I have given up my home, borrowed money and loaned you, which I have had to pay at the sacrifice of the sale of property, but done cheerfully & freely..."

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Whitfield County Deed Book B-142

19 Aug, 1854. Andrew G. Gordon of Marion County, Florida sells to Jesse Calloway of Whitfield County, Georgia for \$6,000 in the 27th District, 3rd Section, Lots 165, 166, 195, and 202 (save 1.5 acres containing Z. H. Gordon's saw & grist mill, and the use of the water race, and dam). Witnesses: James H. Gordon and *illegible* Calloway.

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*Aunt Caroline (Gwyn) Gordon to her niece Caroline Gordon (later Mrs. R. F. Hackett) (Hackett) Gordon Springs, Ga.
 November 4, 1854.*

Dearest Carrie:

"...There have been great may visitors at Gordon Springs this summer, from 80 to 100 nearly all the season, and part of the time quite gay, dancing, etc. The prevalence of yellow fever in the cities caused the inhabitants to flee to the mountains and remain until after frost. The last family left here about 10 days ago. There were some wealthy young ladies here. William has been "flying around" terribly. Tell dear James [who became C.S. A.General Gordon from Wilkesboro], that if he had been here he could have been suited in a wife, and there were about 20 old maids, the fussiest old things you ever saw. Brother Washington was dreadfully smitten with a lady from Augusta...Maj. John Brown and family were here from Columbia,

Tenn...There were several other friends from Columbia, some from New Orleans, and some from Florida--all quite genteel, clever people. John Brown Gordon is married to a Miss Haralson of LaGrange, Ga. Her father has been in Congress for many years. She is pretty and smart and well off too. She was 17 years old the day she married. John B. has settled in Atlanta and is practicing law, and promises to do well....My dear Carrie, I will close my dull epistle to you, wishing to write a few lines to your mother. May the good Lord bless you is the wish of

Your fond aunt,

Caroline Gordon" (Hickerson, HV)

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Letter to Sarah (Gwyn) Brown from her sister Caroline (Gwyn) Gordon (Hackett)

Gordon Springs, Ga.

November 4, 1854.

Dearest Sister:

"How much, my beloved sister, I should like to see you this morning and have a fireside chat with you...

Mr. Gordon and my brother, will, if nothing happens, go to Tenn, this winter to attend to my poor departed brother's property. Mr. Gordon will go over to see my brother this week. They will come to some conclusion. I have declined going to Florida this winter, and will remain where we are. There is so much sickness among our negroes down in Florida, we cannot determine whether we ought to settle there or not; besides, we have a good school here for our little girls. If we should go there, we should have to send them off, and they are yet too young to be away from home. William and Mr. Gordon will start to Florida in two weeks. Mr. Gordon wished to go there June 1st, but he has business here until that time. Mary Lizzie will go with her father as far as Mr. Maner's and spend the winter with Octavia. Mr Maner's health is still bad. Oscar's and Rebecca's families are well. Rebecca left here about 10 days ago. My husband's health is only tolerable---sometimes pretty well and again quite feeble...sorry to hear of Col Hamilton Brown losing his eyesight...Write to me my dear sister. 'May God bless you and save you into His Kingdom' is the prayer of

Your devoted sister,

Caroline Gwyn Gordon" (Hickerson, HV)

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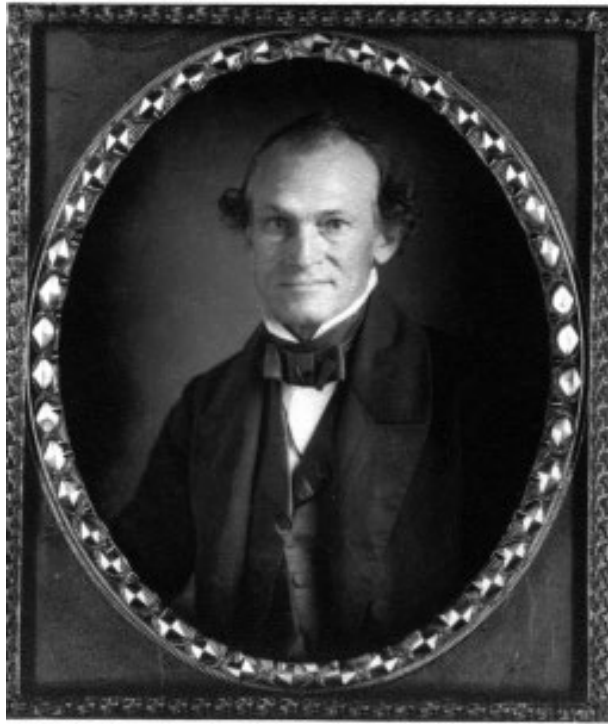
The Gordons and the Bass's apparently knew each other for a long time before their children married.

George W's daughter, Mary Brown Gordon, received a letter from a Macon friend, A F. Ross, dated March 25th, 1855 (GWP Papers), "Misses Matt & Emma Hurt are in Columbus now on a visit- there is a young gentleman here who is very attentive to Emma, your cousin William must look out, or his 'hurt' will be removed". William Law Gordon and Emma would later marry in 1863. The Misses Matt and Emma Hurt were the daughters of Caroline Flournoy Hurt Bass and stepdaughters of Nathan H. Bass.

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The Fillmore Electoral ticket was chosen by the Know Nothing Convention in Macon in July of

1856. George W. Gordon of Whitfield County was chosen to represent the Fifth District, according to *The Empire State* of 16 July, 1856.



George Washington Gordon

(GWGPicture)

GEORGE WASHINGTON GORDON QUILT 1854-1856.

The Atlanta Historical Society has a quilt of 41 sections, called the George Washington Gordon Quilt, signed by 48 people who were at Gordon Springs, Whitfield County, Georgia during 1854-1856.

These names and their residences give some indication of the Gordon Springs clientele. The following names are among those that are on that quilt listed *as they appear on the quilt*.

Charity Gordon (widow of Chapman Gordon) and mother of James H., Zachariah H., Sarah Chapman Gordon Law and George W. Gordon of Gordon Springs.

John B. Gordon wrote that Charity was "**one of the most glorious women...that I ever knew**". Charity lived before the American Revolution and drew a pension based on her husband's service at the Battle of King's Mountain. She died in April, 1859 at the home of her son, George Washington Gordon, in Columbia, Tennessee.

Children of Zachariah H. and Matilda Gordon

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Daughter-in-law **Fanny Haralson Gordon** wife of son John B. Gordon
(later General, Senator, and Governor)

Children of James H. and **Caroline M. Gordon** (also named on the quilt)

Mary E. Gordon of Gordon Springs

Children of George W. Gordon

Mary Brown Gordon of Gordon Springs

Mattie E. Gordon of Gordon Springs

Children of **Sarah C. Law** (also named on the quilt) Memphis, Tennessee

Miss **Julia Gordon Law** of Memphis, Tennessee

Augusta A. Law of Memphis, Tennessee

Mrs. A. A. Smithwick, Memphis, Tennessee, a daughter

Sallie E. Smithwick, Memphis, Tenn. a granddaughter.

Children and Grand Children of Charles P. Gordon (1790-1836) and his widow

Barbara Galbraith Gordon (named on the quilt as **B. Gordon**)

Daughter Mary married John M. Flournoy from near Columbus.

Mrs. **Mary A. Flournoy** daughter

Miss Mary Flournoy

M. D. Flournoy

Daughter Virginia married Dr. Charles Abercrombie of Alabama

Mrs. **Virginia Abercrombie**

Miss **Julia S. Abercrombie**

Miss **Mary F. Abercrombie**

Daughter Sarah (Sallie) married Col. Joseph C. Wilkins, from Liberty
County, Ga

Mrs. **Joseph C. Wilkins**

Little Sallie is also from Liberty County

Son Andrew G. Gordon married **Addie E. Gordon** Trees Willow, Fla

Contiguous on Row 4, **Rebecca Hurt, Julia Hurt & Miss Hurt** (1855) of
Columbus, Georgia were probably the daughters of Joel E. Hurt and Francis Flournoy (sister of
John M. Flournoy above).

There is also a **Mrs. C. E. Hurt** of Villa Buena, Columbus, GA. and
another **Julia Hurt** of Villa Buena, Geo who must be related.

The Julia Hurt, daughter of Joel E. Hurt was a great beauty. Her first
husband was killed at Chickamauga. Mrs. Joel E. Hurt and Julia went to live in Paris after the
Civil War where Julia was reportedly courted by the great nephew of Emperor Napoleon III.

According to the reference newspaper article below,

Sara Eve was the second wife of Dr. Paul F. Eve, a very prominent Professor of Surgery,
who had tested the water in 1848.

Sarah Eve Nashville, TN

Mary Wilson Eve, Nashville, TN

Anna Louise Eve Nashville, TN

Susan Dibble Macon, GA

Mrs. S.W. Dickinson Macon, GA

are Gordon kin, but the connection is not known.

Eugenia Twiggs of Silwood, S. Ca. Dr. Paul F. Eve's 1st wife was a Twiggs from Richmond County (Augusta), Georgia. The connection is speculation.

Many of the Alabama folks were from Russell County Alabama, across the river from Columbus. For example, Mrs. B. Gordon listed her square as Columbus, but she actually lived in Russell County with daughter, Virginia Abercrombie, in 1850 and daughter Mary Flournoy in 1860.

Thus a minimum of 32 of the 48 signatures are family, and probably some of the others as well.

Mrs. E. A. Charlton, Savannah 1855

1860 Savannah Census, Emily A. Charlton, 30, same household as John D. Charlton, Marshall of Savannah.

Mrs. Eugene C. Wambersie, Charleston<

John Edward Wambersie, Charleston<

From Charleston 1848-49 attended St. Mary's College in Baltimore MD

Mary A. Murchison, Savannah, Dec 1854

Mary E. Murchison, Savannah, Dec 1854

John Murchison, Savannah, 1854

1860 Savannah Census, John Muchison Merchant 68, wife Maryann, 50 and Mary E. Ragers 23 and husband and child. In 1850 Mary E. Muchison is 13.

Miss Eva Toombs, Columbus, Georgia 1855

Daughter of Lawrence Catlett Toombs of Columbus, she married Col. John J. Jones of Burke County on December 12, 1855 (Bio. Ga. Fl.).

Sarah Holmes Maxwell, Athens, Georgia, 1856

1850 Census husband J E Maxwell 48, Sarah H Maxwell 40 Athens, Clarke, GA and family

1860 Census, no husband Sarah H. Maxwell 50 Athens, Clarke, GA and family

She and her husband were married in Liberty Co., GA

Mrs. Sarah J. Jones, Walthough Ville, Liberty Co. Georgia

Miss Lilla Saussy, Savannah, 1855

There is a Camilla Saussy, 21, in the 1860 Census in Savannah. Perhaps she came with some of the other Savannah folk.

Mrs. E. G. Thornton, Columbus

A large number of Thorntons in the Columbus area

Those currently unidentified
 F. S. Thomas, Savannah, Ga.
 Mrs. C. S. Banks, Forsyth, Ga
 M.S.Cartee, Florida
 Mrs. S. E. Williams, LaFayette, Ala

There were probably other of these quilts made at Gordon Springs. There is an undated article from the Chattanooga Times about what is probably this same quilt, before it was given to the Atlanta Historical Society, inscribed with the name of the recipient "General G. W. Gordon, Gordon Springs, Ga. September 1856." According to this article, additional Gordon kin who signed were Mary Wilson, Sarah and Anna Louise Eve of Nashville; A. A. and Sallie Smithwick of Memphis; Susan Dibble and Mrs. S. W. Dickinson of Macon, Ga. This article, apparently based on information from descendants of G W Gordon, who still possessed the quilt at that time, stated "The gathering place (Gordon Springs) was run by George Washington Gordon and his brother, the Rev. Zachariah Gordon, for the enjoyment of all who came there...Gordon eventually moved to Columbia, Tenn., where the family remained after the Civil War. The quilt was packed away in the attic and discovered when the Gordon family home was sold in the 1940's."

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Gordon Springs Life

Hunting must have been a common past time. "Jack, Pa and Uncle Tom go turkey hunting a great deal. Jack killed a tremendous one the other day. After he was picked and ready for cooking, was 20 pounds." (GWG papers, letter dated 21st, 56, Mary Brown Gordon to her brother Willie). "Pa and Jack killed a deer not long since but I was not here to enjoy it". (GWG papers, letter dated Nov 18th, 1856, Mary Brown Gordon to her brother Willie) Cousin John S. Law wrote Will "I am having fine fun gathering chestnuts...Cousin Mattie, Jack and myself went out chestnut hunting this morning and had a tree thrashed and gathered 840". (GWG papers, letter dated Oct 22/57).

John B. Gordon's daughter, Caroline, in a short biography of her grandmother, Malinda Cox Gordon, wrote that their home in Walker County, later Whitfield County "was on the highway between LaFayette, in Walker County, and Dalton, in Whitfield. Both of these towns were county sites; and the lawyers of the day, travelling back and forth in private conveyance, were all entertained at her hospitable board. Judge Underwood, who was the most noted wit of his day; Hon. William Henry Stiles, who was afterward United States Minister to Russia; Hon. Mark A. Cooper and Judge Augustus R. Wright, afterward a member of the Confederate Congress, were among her friends; and Alexander H. Stephens, the Vice-President of the Confederacy, when conducting his memorable political campaigns, was also a frequent guest in her house." (Butts)

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Gordon Spring Tourists

In the fall of 1851, Cornelia Jones Pond and her brother and sister-in-law, Mary, visited North

Georgia. After going to Lookout Mountain, and Catoosa Springs they "came further down to Gordon Springs." Miss Pond wrote "We got off at a station and had to ride several miles in the country to the Springs which were kept by Governor Gordon's father. This was a large plain wooden building. The partitions between the rooms only extended to the rafters of the unceiled roof, leaving an open space where one could crawl from one room to another. I was very timid, but Bother was in the adjoining room on one side, but I did not know who was in the room on the other side...The season was about over. There were a few people still there. One day while we were there, Mr. John B. Gordon, afterward a Governor of Georgia, got up a picnic at Silver Springs, fifteen miles distant. A party of young ladies and gentlemen, I among them, went on horseback, and in a buggy. The country through which we rode was wild-looking, high hills, and deep ravines. The Spring was fifteen feet deep, the water so clear that you could drop a pebble in it and see it at the bottom. We enjoyed the day very much, and did not arrive at the Gordon Springs until eleven o'clock that night. As we travelled through that wild country, the road winding along the edge of a high precipice at one place, I was alarmed. I came back with Mr. Gordon as it was dangerous to ride horseback in the dark...An old lady was heard complaining at 'the noise those thoughtless young people had made, returning so late and disturbing people's rest.' Those fashionable Springs are never heard of now though they were very popular fifty years ago."(POND)

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To Willie from Sister Mary B

Gordon Springs, 21st, 56

My Dear Willie,

Missy left yesterday for LaFayette, she is going to school there. Mr. Baker has a splendid school. 100 scholars, so many smart boys + he is an excellent teacher, I wish you were there instead of Columbia, would benefit you much more. Charley is at Oxford, Pa has returned, delighted with his trip, which benefited him greatly. looks much better, I saw Julia she is as pretty + smart as ever, but will not have you unless you make an intelligent man...Mrs. Dickinson's health is miserable she was very ill while Pa was in Macon...Col. Crook has bought a house in Dalton, will move there next week, going to practice there, he will someday be a great man...

Your devoted sister, M B G

Gordon Springs Wedding
Mary Elizabeth Gordon weds Henry Russell

Gordon Springs

Nov 18th, 1856

My Darling Brother (Willie Gordon, son of GWG),

...We have all been busy as bees for the last four weeks getting ready for Mary Lizzie's

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wedding. She was married on thursday night had a nice wedding she had six attendants. I was the first (*sister Mattie was another*). she really looked beautiful...Several of his friends came up. Mr. Hull of Sav. one of the finest looking men I ever saw was there. Mary L. had several very elegant bridal presents. Miss Way presented an elegant silver basket the most beautiful one I ever saw. Henry's sister gave a set of silver spoons which are beautiful then several friends from Sav. sent presents of silver gravy spoons, sugar spoons, butter knives, she had four given by different persons. an elegant silver butter stand. a beautiful china vase + several others. My gift was an elegant gold thimble carved in flowers most beautifully with hers + my name carved on one side.... Mattie's was perfectly lovely a little silver card basket, the prettiest little thing I ever saw...four of the gentlemen sent for presents to Philadelphia & they did not get here in time consequently I have not seen them Dr. Lawrence brought her a pair of silver napkin rings. Mrs. Russell gave a large dancing party last night we had a gloriness time. She is one of the most refined intelligent ladies I ever saw. most stylish. her house is furnished beautifully. The next day several persons called. also last night we were invited to tea at Mrs. Russells as the persons from down the country were to leave this morning. all the girls + young gentlemen were there and oh! how we did enjoy it, ever since the wedding it has been one ? of enjoyment first at one place + then another till I am perfectly tired out Mat + I returned late this evening though the gentleman offered every inducement for us to stay.as there were something else on hand tonight ? Mat + I are going to Columbus in a week or so...what must I tell Julia for you! I had a long letter from Charley the other day he is at the University of Va. is very much pleased. I just received a letter from Jennie Sneed. She + Dr. will be here Saturday on their way to Savannah to live...Much Love your own sister Mary Brown

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Daughter Rebecca and her husband Leander Crook moved to Dalton in 1856, according to Mary Brown Gordon. She wrote "Col. Crook has bought a house in Dalton, will move there next week, going to practice there, he will some day be a great man." (GWG papers, letter dated 21st, 56, to her brother Willie).

According to John S. Law in a letter to Will, "Charley Gordon has gone to Dalton to read medicine with Dr. Gordon". (GWG papers, letter dated Oct 22/57). Gordon Street in Dalton was named after Dr. Winston Gordon who lived there when Whitfield County was founded in 1851. (OHW)

In November of 1855, the Tennessee General Assembly approved the incorporation of the Nicojack Railroad and Mining Company, for the construction of a railroad from Shell Mound or Nicojack Depot, on the Nashville and Chattanooga Railroad, to the State Line of Tennessee and Georgia to "the coal beds or mines of Z. H. Gordon and Co., and James H. Gordon and Andrew G. Gordon & Co., on the Raccoon Mountain, in the County of Dade, in the State of Georgia". Zachariah H. Gordon, John M. Flournoy (NOTE: brother-in-law of Andrew G. Gordon), James H. Gordon, Andrew G. Gordon, and William L. Gordon were appointed a Board of Commissioners (Acts Tennessee, 1855-56).

In Feb, 1856, the Georgia General Assembly approved the incorporation of the "Nicojack Rail-

road and Mining Company" for the "construction of a Rail-road from the Coal Beds of Z. H. Gordon, James H. Gordon, Andrew G. Gordon, William L. Gordon and John Flernoy (*Flournoy, he was married to Andrew's sister, Mary Ann (Hodges)*) on the Raccoon Mountain in the county of Dade, in the State of Georgia, to the State Line of Tennessee, in the direction of Shell Mound Depot on the Nashville and Chattanooga Rail-road" with a capital stock of \$100,000 and the option of increasing it to \$200,000. The Board of Commissioners appointed was the aforesaid named individuals. (GLA, 1855 Vol. 1 -- p 177)

According to the State of Georgia as published in 1876, the summit of Raccoon Mountain (Sand Mountain) is composed of sandstone. "Below this lies the coal four or five feet thick;" near Shell Mound, TN, "we find the bed of a creek, dry in summer and covered with large boulders of sandstone and limestone; and following this up to its source, we come to the brow of the mountain, where the Dade Company's Coal-mine has been opened in one gulf, as it is called, and the Castle Rock Mine in another". (Janes) It is the author's unsubstantiated opinion that John B. Gordon lived on top of Raccoon Mountain Alabama, above the Castle Rock Mines of Dade County, Georgia, and that his Post Office would have been Shell Mound, Tennessee, on the railroad and Tennessee River.

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Whitfield County, Georgia Deed Book C 270

26 Aug, 1856. Zachariah H. Gordon (of Dade County), & George W. Gordon (of Whitfield County) sold to Virginia Law Snead (of Wilkes Co, Georgia), for love and affection and \$5.00 five acres of lot 245, 27D, 3rd Sec, part of "The Gordon Springs Lot...tract about 250 to 260 yards from the main used Mineral Springs...East of the Hotel & Garden, and south of the Plum Orchard".

Witnesses:

A. M. Gordon (probably A G)

E. C. Gordon (probably Eugene Cornelius, Zachariah's son)

NOTE: Virginia Law Snead is Sarah Chapman Gordon Law's daughter (OBIT)

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The mine above in Dade County was apparently in operation and the rail-road apparently was quickly constructed, along with coke ovens, because they were soon manufacturing Coke, or at least one car load.

Moffett & Shields of Knoxville to Mr. James H. Gordon

Unknown location

Nov 1, 1856

We understand that you are manufacturing Coke. We would like to try a Car Load of it and if it suits us we would like to make an arrangement with you to supply us with it.

Apparently Moffett & Shields did not pay for this load of coke, and on June 1, 1858, James H. is writing O. P. Temple from Huntsville, AL seeking help in collecting this debt. Further correspondence is dated March 28, 1860, Huntsville, AL; and June 8, 1860, Huntsville, AL when payment was finally acknowledged. (Temple, O. P. Papers)

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Writing about Dade County, Sherwood reports that "Cooper and Gordon's coal mines are in this county." (Sherwood, 1860)

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Judge Gordon

Gordon Russell of Tyler, Texas was a member of the House of Representatives from the 3rd Texas District. His official biography states that he was the eldest son of Henry A. and Mary Gordon Russell, and that he was born (1 yr old in 1860 Census, 12 in 1870) in Huntsville at the home of his maternal grandfather, Judge James H. Gordon. (Official Congressional Directory) Henry A. Russell, in a letter to Cousin Mary dated April 16, 1863 writes "Judge & Mrs. Gordon were on the mountain last week." (GWG Papers) Captain Milton Russell (*Henry's brother*) writes on Dec 15, 1864 that " Judge G--and family were in Griffin when last I heard." (GWG Papers) In his death announcement that was presumably published in the Dalton Newspaper, he is referred to as Judge James H. Gordon. I have no further information on the type of Judge he might have been. I have no information that he was ever an attorney.

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At Gordon Springs, Mary Brown Gordon, who seems to be the female head of George's family after her mother had died in 1851, writes "My heart and mind has been so occupied with dear Grandma (*Charity*) for three weeks past...she took cold...and has been very ill till now. She is a little better, for nearly three weeks I sat by her night + day expecting every hour would be her last...She thought she was dying + told us all how to bury her and everything she wanted done...I've been in such a state of anxiety not only about GrandMa but every member of the family white + black except Brother + me have been sick." (GWG papers, later dated Oct 7th, 1857, to her brother Willie).

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Widower George W. Gordon of Whitfield County married Mrs. Mary Randolph of Washington, Wilkes County at that place on 15 November, 1857 (Rocker). Thus the subsequent letters from Washington, GA.

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GWG was planning on giving up Gordon Springs, he wrote his son in Columbia, TN.

Washington Jany 2nd, 1858

"My Dear Son,

...Money is very scarce - **and our last years business at the Springs did not pay much more than expensesShould I not keep up the springs the present year - we cant leave there until your Grand Mother is able to travel** - Therefore some of must remain there with her even though we should not keep the Springs - ...

Your Father w love

George WGordon

Washington Jany 21 1858

"My Dear Son

...I must send a good portion of my negroes to Maury this spring - I do not expect to keep the Springs any longer, Chass & John & Brother Zach are going to keep them - I must go up there

soon so as to get my negroes off as soon as I can....I heard from the Springs the other day - all were well...

Your Father

GeoWGordon

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Gordon Springs Jan 26th 1858

Ever Dearest Sister

Think it not strange that I have at last taken my pen to write you for the last for or five days you have been constantly on my mind and in that time I have held you up in a most particular manner than usual in my prayers to a blessed and merciful God, and I have felt a great concern fearing you were very ill and I should never see you again, but be this as it may I feel confident and hope when the blessed Jesus calls you you will be ready and leave this world rejoicing and find a home in heaven where parting will be no more and where "all teares will be wiped from all eyes, and god will be all ? "

O my sister how rejoiced I would be once more to see you - we are growing old and ere long will be past traveling if permitted to remain on the earth can't you come this coming summer to see us, you have now a strong ?. Dear Ann's family is in sixty or seventy miles of us we are directly on the way. come do come to Gordon Springs and spend some time with us, and then we will if possible go with you to see Dear Anne and then Rebecca, Oscar, and my Brother Lorenzo will be directly on our way I think Col Brown would enjoy the trip and we all would be rejoiced to see you, write me on the reception of this and say you will come. Ann and Cousin John on their way, did not stay many days with us we were living in a little house we had rented to summer it in and could not make them as comfortable as we wished, but Cousin John seed anxious to keep with the waggons, Ann's kin here were very much pleased with him, all were anxious for them to remain in this part of the country, my husband was very anxious for him to rent a place here and place his negroes on it and then go with him and look at Florida but nothing would do Cousin John but go to ? in Ala ? he promised if he could to go this winter with Mr Gordon to Florida but ? declined - Ann wrote me that he was pleased with the country and had purchased lands.

I have now moved in a comfortable house a short distance from the Hotel at the Springs where I expect to remain until Fall and then if god willing will wing my way to the land of Flowers - our son William started to Florida about the 15th december with our negroes except three women and their little children that Mr. Gordon did not wish to take until he had a crop and some preparation - Brother Zac Gordons boyes also went on with their negroes, they have arrived safely there and all well pleased, a young gentleman from Columbus went on with them he is so pleased with the country, that he wrote 18 pages back to his mother describing the country and begging her to sell out, and get ready to move, his mother is a widow and wealthy, well we can't tell how it may turn out. My husband is determined to give it a trial at any rate, has purchased as is generally thought, a valuable farm, he gave eight thousand dollars for it - My husband left me on the the 17th of this month for Florida expects not to return before April or May it will a hard trail for me to give him up to be absent so long but - I feel determined to be as happy and cheerful as possible and hope in the protection of a merciful redeemer that all will turn out well - I have not one living white person with me but my Dear little **Carrie**, my children

are scattered to the four winds, dear William in Florida, Charles at Cave Springs going to school Mary Lizie in Beaufort S C with Octa and Cornelia in Summerville with Rebecca ? Rebecca has a little daughter six weeks ago, she has two daughters now Caroline Eugenia and Sarah Octaiva. Oscar lost his little daughter and as yet no prospects of more Octa has fine healthy Boy now going on three years old, and it seems as if she is going to quit, but I expect they will all be blessed with plenty yet, Octa's health is very good, she spent last summer with us, she is healthier than I ever knew her Mr. Maner's health was not good he brought her here and then went on to Saratoga. He could not persuade her to go with him, said she much rather stay with us. M Lizie will remain with Octa until Mr. Gordon returns from Florida he will come by to see them and bring her home he can come from our place in Florida here in four dayes.

Washington Gordon started on yesterday to Tennessee after his children and intends keeping them here Mother is living with him you would be astonished to see how she did 10 years ago she frequently speaks of you ? she would like so much to see you sends her love at this time she is sick from cold but her general health is astonishingly good for one of her age.

Andrew Gordon is also gone to Florida with his negroes, his family will spend the winter in Eatonton with his wifes relations, she not being in a situation to move at this time, they have two children and nearly another.

I expect in a few weeks to go over to Chattooga and spend some time with my children and Brother and while there, I intend if possible to go to see Ann - she lieve about 30 miles from my Brother, how are all of your dear children write me all about them, tell Carrie to write me give my affectionate love to all of them O how I would like to see dear Martha and her children do you dear sister remember how I used to love Martha - O my poor mother and I thought she was perfection - O the days that are past and gone never to return when I think of all these things, it make me so sad; well dear sist I shall expect very soon to hear from you remember me affectionately to dear James tell him he must come to see us next summer and Carrie too - give my kindest ? to Col Brown my little Carrie sends her love to Cousin James and Cousin Carrie too she says I remember Cousin Carrie very well.

May heaven bless you and your dear family ? the prayer of your affectionate sister.

Caroline M. Gordon

give my respects to Mrs Martin, Mrs Stokes, Mr. Wellborn ? if they have not forgotten me

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Zachariah and George W.'s relationship apparently suffered when an attempt was made to settle up affairs at Gordon Springs.

A letter from Zachariah H. Gordon to his brother George W. Gordon
Gordon Springs Ga May 4th 1858
(no salutation)

I left home with a hope, founded in you solemn promise in your letter to me that you would do all that was in your power as a brother to have a just & amicable settlement but from the account presented by you, every particular of hope of that character, has now been eclipsed from my mind. your account not only runs back + brings up things which the books show has been settle under your own hand writing, but you have actually charge me for the sale of my own property for when did you ever pay the first cent for Gordon Springs property or any land connected with it, with the exception of the land bought of **Goodson**, + the \$5.00 (NOTE: or \$500) for the

buena? Vista lot, yet strange to think that I find \$1150. charged to me for land lots as though the land has ritely belonged to you seeming to have forgotton at the same time that you had agreed to cancell + that in writing also, of our original trades in regard to the Springs property which I agreed to knowing if I proposed a collection of the debts, it would come very nigh if not entirely ruining both you + your family which I had no disposition to do, nor n?r do I wish it now yea, not a hair of your head Especially in an unjust way and my acts toward you speaks louder than promises or words, you have been permitted to keep in possession + enjoy all its benefits for many years, even the houses & springs has thrown into your hand over \$20,000 which the books show, during your stay here, all of which I rejoice to know, has been of no little service to you + your family, + yet you refuse even to afford me the consolation of lifting a bond which you had promised to deliver, which I should give your up your note = now my dear bro is this the way to settle things amicalbly. I contend that the bond is mine in Justice, Law & Equity, + I should have it + should you under all the circumstances refuse to deliver it to me, it will leave a wound in my feelings, that the judgement ? will only cure, + to which I appeal, and ? the case in the hands of God= I shall now drop the subject + shall make no farther attempts for a settlement, for I know that he will do right + although I may suffer great loss in failing to have all things justly + equitably + amicalbly settled, I will endeavor to the loss of what I conceive to be my just rights, hoping and believing that there will be a way for us to live without it.

So Good by
your Bro Z H Gordon

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Apparently after the above letters, George left and went permanently back to Tennessee. There is an advertisement in the Atlanta Weekly Intelligencer of Oct 14, 1858 p4 (DLG) about

GORDON SPRINGS

“This place has changed hands and since the last season, has been renovatd and very much improved. For the approaching Summer the services of an efficient Landlord and Lady will be secured, whose sole duty it will be to contribute to the comfort and enjoyment of visitors. A competent Band of Music is already secured, and while innocent amusement will be afforded for the promotion of sociability, all dissipation will be strictly prohibited. In short, this shall be a place where the moral and religious public may sojourn without being offended. Cold and Warm Baths will furnished. The curative properties of the waters are probably unsurpassed in the South. Magnesia very strong, Chylebiate in various combinations. Number of Springs, ten or twelve.

Mr. Dunn will run daily Coaches, Hacks &c., from Tunnel Hill to the Springs.

J. B. GORDON

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In the GWG Papers, there are a number of letters from Nellie Gordon of Huntsville, Alabama to her cousin Lou Gordon of Columbia, Tennessee. Nellie was the daughter of James H. Gordon, and Lou, the daughter of his Brother, George W. Gordon. Some are undated, and others are in the range of 1858 to 1860. These are the letters of a teenage girl or young woman, concerned to a great extent with social life, boys, school, and other such matters; but also death and some serious subjects. Nellie has a tendency to melodrama, not unusual in teenagers.

Since widower George W. Gordon married Mrs. Mary Randolph of Washington, Wilkes County on 15 November, 1857 (Rocker), the following letter must be late 1857 or early 1858.

undated, no town.

My dear darling Missie,

"Sis Bel has just returned from LaFayette she met your Father and Mother (*NOTE: new step-mother*) and all of them going home. I heard you were not willing to have your father marry- but dear if it will add to his happiness, I am sure you ought to be willing. Besides you have a dear sweet Mother one I think will be kind and affectionate to you...You must not Missie ever treat her coldly- when you write home always send your love to her... I must close, so do write as soon as you get it, yours Nellie"

=====
Undated, from Nellie to Missie date is between the time Mary G married LeConte and grandmother Gordon's death

Bless your sweet soul, I am almost crazy to see you...what do you do every day do you practice on the piano three times and so - Mattie is "Miss Gordon", her time next tell her I hope when she marries she wont forget that she promised me that I might be "brides maid"....

oh Love you don't know how hard I have to study, the commencement (to long word indeed) day is 10th of June I am so scared & such a dunce but I can't help it can I dear if I could I would Missie have you forgotten the time we all went to the court house in Dalton to hear the band play and took on so with the boys oh me I nearly die every time I think of it. we were grand I declare...

Did Willie Lacont come up when Cousin Mary was married?...you must tell me all about Cousin Mary weding."

"Will Cousin Mary LeCount live in Rome or not if so write me all about it I wish Pa had have gone there...oh Miss I can see each day that my gentle Mother is passing away, oh I fear ere long, I will be without a mother and what is home without a mother tis a desert spot on Earth. Mary & Carrie send love to you. how is dear old grandmother give my best love to her, I wish so much that I could see her--...do you ever see Lizzie Calloway...good by, angels smile on thee Nellie"

=====
no date, no city, from Nellie to Missie, grandmother is still alive,

My one darling one,

"...I told mother that you wished us to go and see you she says surely Nellie you shall go to Tenn coming one of these days and not very long ? before I come, do you want to see me...Mary and Carrie are primping to go to church Mary could not find her "draws" and Carrie says why Mary I did not think you wore "draws" I thought you always tied your pantlets (don't know how to spell that) around your legs with strings the old Lady got a little mad I think Carrie is so bad she is enough to make any one mad ...Missie, I heard Joe was suspended from school for drinking do you recon it was true... Charley told me he was at cousin Ma? wedding

said she looked beautiful how did Willie L look...Missie I know you can't read one word of this...well my dear that hateful examination is over, and what do you think I was examined in all of my studies from the first to the end- and did not miss one single word, I have been up for the last week every night - until after 1 o'clock - have been attending concerts or something of the kind every night," about suitors, "Missie Ma has a little present for grand Mother which old Mrs Maner sent to her...Ma sends a great deal of love to all or you love to grandmother your own Nellie."

=====

Huntsville Nov 28th 1858
My own Darling Missie,

..."Sis May and brother Henry are here (*NOTE: Mary Lizzie and her husband Henry Russell*). Sis Mary is quite lively, she and brother Henry are going to Dalton to live next year...I am going to spend next winter with Mollie Hull Sis May and myself are going. I expect we will have a gay time, when did you hear from cousin Mary Flournoy and how was cousin John. I am in hopes he will get well. while she was in Murphesboro a young lady of Huntsville - Miss Johnston? was there - I saw her at the wedding she was speaking of cousin Mary said she was one of the sweetest Ladys ever knew, well she is a sweet creature Do you correspond with May, She says her conscience hurts her for ever leaving that splendid school Winchester and coming to Huntsville I am surely glad she did not come back here... "
signed Nellie.

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This is a challenging letter, it is 7 single pages, written normally, and then each page is rotated 90 degrees, and written for a second 7 pages. Consequently it is quite difficult to read. The city and the date are quite clear.

Huntsville March 19, 1859

Darling Missie

"...I am sitting up with my Dear Mother who ? ? ? ill with Pneumonia ? ? have no earthly hope of her recovery and think every breath will be her last She is truly an object of pity. oh so thin a perfect shadow and as pale as a lily We have ? ? the most eminent physician in the City attending her Doctor Newman? and Dr ? They both say her recovery is doubtful though they think she is a fraction better to day than she was yesterday she says the pain in her side is not so intense... Oh it breaks my heart to look at her. she cannot raise herself in bed this is two spells of Pneumonia she has had this winter She cannot last long at this rate ? and Pa is almost as frail as herself...has been right sick all day himself. oh I wish you were here with me Missie ...I am engaged to a young fellow here but I never? expect to marry him his father's family is one of the first in Huntsville...he was just 21 years of age yesterday but if my life depended upon it I could not love him I have no more love for him than I have for a cow, I have a ring of his the most splendid diamond you ever beheld perfectly exquisite, it has six large diamonds thrice as large as a pinhead I never saw such a beautiful ring in my life but oh the love is the thing, I wish I could love him if I could I would marry him, but in spite of the

? I will ?? little stuck up fool if not Shelly this time. that was to see me last friday night Mr Echols is his name he is very smart, but so bigoted my goodness he addressed me. I told him I loved him and the ? knows what all. I would not help it I did love having them but I don't know ? was so handsome I could not help it and looked so sweet I am practically engaged to him, that little fool I don't intend to have him or the other one either Mr Echols talked to me so long tonight and then had the impudence to take my hand - I tell you what I ? him ? without that I have and a few days ago I went to the courthouse ? that do you allow it he says to me why Miss Nellie why do you object to ?? there is no harm in it I told him he ? I differed he says why dont you know I would not harm you for the world told him I hoped he would not but still I could not permit such a thing oh he begged me a long time I told him his words were of no avail that his ? show such foolishness he said that it was false modesty in a young lady to object I told him twas no such thing, he then said if I love him as I said I did not have any confidence him I would permit him to do as so. I told ? no that was no reason, that I did love him well I did then but were I to allow that he would never again respect me he said yes I will respect and love you more.. the time swiftly passes away twas after twelve still he would not ? and ? himself there were too other boys who came with him...and just after he started he says, Ms. Nellie let me take your hand if you accept me you will let it remain in mine if not take it away oh he looked so sweet I could not hardly resist the temptation and looked so innocent but still I was firm and did not. he? ? grieved but I did not + could not help it I said Shelley a few days since he has been in Nashville for sometime has just returned poor little fool - I can't bear him in my sight and he loves me devotedly I went to ride with him before Ma was taken sick but I did not enjoy myself at all for the single reason that I don't like Shelly he drinks too much brandy to suit me ? and promises me he will be good and never intends to touch brandy again but his promises are forgotten as soon as made for he goes straight uptown and gets dead drunk so I ??? he wrote to me while he was gone but I did not respond I know he would get drunk and perhaps show the letters he staid in Nashville about one month or three weeks and spent nearly a hundred dollars had to write to his grand father for money to come home ? now what in the nation did he do with it. he dresses beautifully and looks so handsome when he is dressed but such a vagabond, such a vagabond, for drinking I have often seen him at party so drunk on champagne he could not walk straight to save his life but I don't care if he drinks himself to death ...

I have just fed Ma with some light food and sweet milk she is better tonight and I feel so happy I don't know what to do Lizzie? Russell is here staying with some of his friends, ...the first time I saw her was at the opera I ? her full in the face only just to let her know I was not afraid to look at her then did not ? her any more, I was with Mimm Matt Robeson...we had heap of fun that evening with the boys. I ? Liz will tell a lies on me? her name just easily her sure don't it I tell you what her dressing looks nasty beside the Huntsville girls...

here the writing rotates 90 degrees on top of the first 7 pages.

... Lou Dwight you Carrie and myself were always called the worse girls in Dalton, I declare used to be shamefully bad remember how we used to laugh at old "Dsead?" poor old thing...I heard from Mary Gordon not long since she was as usual studying ? to kitl ?? Winchester this model school in the South. ha I don't think so do you...what is Mattie ? at these times I heard she was quite a Belle in Columbia was very much admired indeed who is she in love with...**the doctors have just left they both think Ma better of I hope she will soon be well she sends her love to you...**Sis Bel or brother Lea I mean has sold his place in Dalton is going to build on

the hill back of where he now lives oh we have ? fun in that old house ? you remember how we use to set in the porch up stairs and sing sunday night we we did not go to church and would to stand in the porch and wave handkerchiefs to the boys at the academy...I have not been to school this week have been staying with Ma she being so sick I did not want to go to school or any where else...Your own Nellie

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This is another one of those letters written, and turn 90 degrees and written over.

Memphis Jan 7 1859

My dear Will

Sis Jule has left school and is now with us at home. Sis Carrie also came to Memphis some time since and is now with us. I heard a day or so ago that your Father and Mother had gone to Columbia. How is dear old grand mother is her health good, Sis Gus expects to leave for Savannah sometime...

Your affect cousin

Jno Law

=====

Charity King Gordon's Death

Here are two letters from Mattie to her sister, Minnie (Mary) concerning the death of their grandmother, Charity Gordon.

Columbia April 17th, 1859

Sunday Morning

My Dear Sister:

As Grand Mother is too sick for me to go to church I concluded to write...She is much worse ...and I fear will only last a few days...you can scarcely understand what she says, and is cold to her knees, but you know she suffers a good deal with cold feet and perhaps it is only that. I am very sorry that I can not celebrate your anniversary...I will certainly think of you how beautiful you were the night of your marriage, It may be a sadder day than was the 22nd of last April but I hope not...Write soon to your Mattie.

=====

Columbia April 21st 1859

With a sad heart sweet sister I come to write you this morning and prepare dear one for sad news Our angel Grand Mother is no more. Yes Minnie death has entered our happy home and snatched from our fond embrace the aged one. Oh Minnie our room looks so desolate, I cannot bear to enter it. The bed so long occupied by her feeble form is now a sad sight to me it speaks louder than anything else that she is no more. You can never imagine how much I miss her. for a day or two before her death she had almost lost her mind, she scarcely knew any one but Chany and me. Fearing she did not know me once while giving her something I asked her, her reply was to be sure I know my sweet Mattie. Oh Minnie those words sounded so sweet coming from

her dear lips. When I would ? your letters expressing a desire to see her, she would say, "I would give anything to see Mary and the Dr. but never in this world will I have that pleasure....Oh, Minnie, it was so hard to give her up. Yet I would not have her back. she suffered so much and prayed so fervently to sleep in her Savior's bosom. I feel that she was fully prepared and if ever there was a true Christian she was one. Your own Mattie

Charity was about 90 at her death.

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NOTE: In the letters, I am inclined to think that Missie and Minnie are the same person, and the difficulty is the interpretation of the handwriting of the individual letter writer, but I am not certain of that.

Huntsville May 31, 1859

Darling Missie,

"...to hear our Dear Grandmother is gone how sad to think she has passed away yet she blooms in glory -- oh she was one of Earths angels - so gentle and kind to all oh we miss her sadly miss her now she is gone - oh! I cannot realize it. oh I yet cherish the soft ringlet of hair from her dear head

Mother is some better but yet very feeble but - oh Missie if you could have seen her while so ill you never would have thought of her recovery oh she was so ill...

Oh Darling our commencement is so near- oh you can't tell how frightened I am...Huntsville is now very gay indeed we have some two or three parties every week and picnics in abundance I have to study so hard now I do not have time to think of the boys they come often very often to see us. we do not have time to eat hardly. we do not have school in the evening I am glad for I get so sleepy in the long hot evenings..."

There is more about local friends and boys.

"Sis Mary is on the old Sand Mountain with her boy (*NOTE: she had a new baby*)... when did you hear from Cousin Mary is Willie Lacount on the mountain now or not I ? Mary will fall in love with him when she goes from Winchester- so accomplished and beautiful - don't you. **Carrie** is trying on her new dress she says how do you think it fits. Charley Maner says he wonders if you ever think of him these days he is bad as ever I do not see any improvement whatever - he is the smartest child I ever saw - he goes to school and gets about six whippings on an average every day - says he will be hanged if he is going to stand it much longer says if that old lady keeps on at that ? he will not have much hide by christmas, ...Missie I am not engaged now - I kicked the boy - I would not have him to save my life I tried so hard too - twas a pity - oh we have so many nice boys here - Missie come on the mountain this summer - we are going to see all our kin up "thar" ...what is Mattie doing kiss her for me + tell her to ask me to her wedding I am anxious to see how she looks. I heard she was quite - a Belle in Columbia,

I have six songs to sing at our concert oh the thought kills me - **Carrie** and myself have some beautiful duetts to sing - but we laugh just about as much as we used to sometimes Miss

3/7/2023

Simmons our teacher sends us downstairs for laughing but I cannot help it I am such a little goose....

Love to all - your own Nellie" (GWG Papers)

George W. Gordon's daughter, **Mattie E.** married Mr. Hiram B. Titcomb on the 29th of May, 1860 according to the Columbia newspaper, the Maury Press of May 30, 1860.

Huntsville June 6th, 1860

Darling Cousin

"...Missie why don't you come and see me...**Carrie** is gone to school poor child she is almost frightened to walk, Commencement is next week and as she is a Senior a great deal will be expected of her, she has been studying diligently - however and I think she will do well. I think Carrie is too young to graduate this Summer but she contends she is not, she is the youngest girl in her class - I suppose ere this **Mattie** has arrived home from Nicajack I think...I suppose you have heard that Joe Russell and Gus Gordon with several other boys were expelled from LaGrange College...My Mississippi sweetheart is here now I assure you I wish he would go home for I dislike to talk love don't you?...I heard that Cousin Willie was the handsomest Gordon yet. What is Jack doing these days...how does Eddie look..."Queen Mary" is at Winchester she is motivated I heard she was going North this summer...**Carrie** sends her love...your own Nellie." (GWG Papers)

Carrie and presumably Nellie attended the Huntsville Female College (OBIT CGB). The College was chartered in 1851, and had a large 4 story brick building, which was destroyed by fire in 1895. It was operated under the guidance of the Methodist Church.

Sadly, the Maury Press of Columbia, Tennessee reported the death of newlywed **Mattie E.** Titcomb on the 17th of October, 1860, at the home of her father, Gen. G. W. Gordon.

Huntsville, Nov 1st, 1860

No salutation, but there is an envelope addressed to Mattie's sister, Lou Gordon, of Columbia Tennessee, and a Huntsville Postmark.

"Oh! can it be the young, fair and loved **Mattie** is gone? Oh! tell me do the shadows of the tomb obscure the sweet smile of former years? Oh! say she is not dead...I ever loved sweet Mattie with a deep wild affection and when I hear them speak of her death shadows deep & dark steal over my heart - yet I know she dwells in heaven....

My own health is exceedingly delicate and has been for some months past. In the long hours of summer I lingered from some time on the verge of eternity but the great God spared me, my recovery is slow I scarce think you would know me, I have changed much,...

Charley left us a week since for Arkansas though he is now in Memphis, I received a letter this morning from him saying Gussie (NOTE: *Augusta White, F 22 was living with her*

mother Sarah C G Law in 1860) was ill with fever...

Sis Bel has a babe has named it Nellie Gordon. I suppose Cousin Mary & Jimmy? (*Note: LeConte's lived at Shell Mound on the Tennessee River*) have not get returned to their "Cottage by the river side"...Darling is your father at his home now? Pa wishes to know as he can write him....My Mother sends her love to all the family and begs that you will write us as she is so anxious to hear from you You know my sweet cousin she always loved you all with a motherly affection and she is much grieved at the family affliction...**Carrie** sends a thousand kisses...May God bless thee is the wish of your own Nellie" (GWG Papers)

Less than a year later Nellie was also dead.

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1860 Census

Census Images via Ancestry.com

Southwestern Division. Madison Co., Alabama

Post Office Madison Station *which is quite close to Huntsville*

Gordon, James H.	62	M	miner	\$6,000 Real Estate	\$55,000 Pers.Prop.
Caroline	60	F			
William Law	29	M	miner		
Camelia (?)	18	F			or Cornelia - Nellie
Charles E (?)	22	M	laborer		
Caroline H	16	F			Author's great-grandmother
Maner, Charles G.	9	M			

James H. owns 9 slaves = to or >8 year old and 4 <8 in Madison Co., Alabama.
He owns 11 slaves > 9 years old and 5 slaves < 8 years old in Dade County, Georgia.
Presumably, these slaves were working in the coal mines.

Chattooga County, Georgia

Chattooga Valley, PO not specified

Gordon, R. O.	36	M	farmer	Real Prop \$6,500	Pers Prop \$10,200
Harriet	32	F			
Eliza O	6	F			
Emma G	4	F			

He owned 3 slaves.

Dade County, Georgia

873 District, Salola Farms PO,

Russell, Henry A.	28	M	Gentleman	Real Prop \$ 0	Pers Prop \$8,850
Mary E	24	F			
James G	1	M			

Henry A. Russell was listed as owning 11 slaves in Dade County, Georgia. 6 were over 12 years old, and 5 were under 7 years old. Henry A. Russell was the husband of Mary E. Gordon

Whitfield County, Georgia
Dalton

Crook, L. W.	39	M	Lawyer & Pres Dr GRR Real Prop \$26,660 Pers Prop \$11,500
Rebecca	33	F	
Jennie	10	F	
Leander W	2	M	

Leander Crook, a town dweller, owned 6 slaves in Dalton.

Division 1, Jackson County, Alabama
Post Office Long Island

Gordon, Zachariah	66	M	Farmer Real Prop \$50,000 Pers Prop \$31,200
Malinda	52	F	
Zachariah	31	M	Miner
Augustus M	19	M	Student
Mary	17	F	
Eugene	15	M	Laborer
Walter	13	M	

Zach has 4 slaves 9 or older in Jackson County. In Dade County, Georgia, there are 16 slaves between age 50 and 10, two 80 year old males, and 14 slaves younger than 10. Presumably, these slaves worked in the coal mines.

Agriculture Census
Dade County, GA
No P O or District Listed

Z H Gordon had a farm with 45 acres of improved land valued at \$750. He had 2 horses and no other livestock. He produced 10 bushels of wheat, 100 bushels of indian corn, 100 bushels of Irish potatoes and 400 bushels of sweet potatoes.

In the next household over from Z H Gordon in Jackson County AL

Gordon, John B	28	M	Miner Real Prop \$9,500 Pers Prop \$16,200
Francis	22	F	
Hugh H	5	M	
Franklin	3	M	

John B owned one 16 year old female slave.

District 9, Maury County, Tennessee
Post Office Columbia

Gordon, G. W	52	M	Farmer Real Prop \$21,000 Pers Prop \$36,800
M. A.	35	F	

J. C.	25	M	Lawyer
W. B.	21	M	Lawyer
G. W.	16	M	
C. L.	14	M	
H. T.	12	M	
E. T.	10	M	
M. L.	17	F	
Randolph, R H	10	M	George's stepchildren by his 2 nd wife.
W. C.	8	M	
Bradshaw, Thos	52	M	Overseer

George owned 23 slaves in 6 slave houses in District 9, Maury County, Tennessee.

Memphis, Ward 4, Shelby County, Tennessee

Law, S. C.	54	F	Real Prop \$10,000	Pers Prop \$5,000
John B	21	M		
White, Augusta	22	F		
Sund, N. M.	30	M	Dentist	(NOTE: this should be Sneed)
Virginia	25	F		
Arche	2	M		
Smithwick, A. A.	37	M	Merchant	
Sarah E.	12	F		
Alfred	8	M		
John L.	5	M		
Mary L.	2	F		

S. C. Laws (misindexed as Lucy in Ancestry.com) owned 11 slaves.

Andrew G. Gordon is in Marion County, Florida. **Note:** his Post Office is Ocala. A. G. Gordon of Marion County, Florida owned 47 slaves in 9 slave houses.

Partly because Charles Maner, age 9, is living with his grandparents in 1859 and 1860, as well as earlier references to Charles Maner, Sr's poor health, I believe Octavia and Charles Maner have probably already died, although this is not proven.

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Jnry 8, 1860 Dalton

Son-in-law of James H. and Caroline, Leander W. Crook, to Genl G W Gordon

..."I heard from Mr. Gordons family first inst Mr Gordon & little Charlie (*Note: ? Charlie Maner, grandson?*) are in S C Bob in Florida the rest in Huntsville they will remain there this year-have sold out in Florida I do not know where they will finally settle I think in Huntsville...

Our Railroad to Jacksonville is now going forward with great success the C? and Dalton ? be but little?" (GWG Papers)

NOTE: In the 1860 Census Leander Crook is listed as "Lawyer & Pres Dr GRR"

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The Hon. L. W. Crook is listed as the President of the Dalton and Jacksonville Railroad Company with the office in Dalton. (De Bow's Review of 1860)

Undated circa 1860-61 Huntsville

From Cousin Carrie to Cousin *Note: Carrie would be Caroline Gordon who later married Josiah F. Bass. Her marriage license lists her as Carrie.*

..."I had a gay time last night, two of my "Lounge bugs" (sweet hearts) one of them is a duck the sweetest darling you ever saw, tell Miss she had better come down this way next "Leap year", I let it all pass by and didn't take advantage, but you know I'm young yet and have to think more of my looks than of boys, in imagination I hear you say. well you dont do it.

I received a letter from "Sis may(?)" this morning, she said ?illie Le Conte was with her, cousin J? & Mary have gone to Liberty Co, has cousin Jim's health improved any; **Nellie's health** is very delicate, she has been sick almost a year, she had a chill to day and is quite sick to night, and says if she is ever able she will have her ambrotype taken for you, as for me I am so "ugly" you would not have mine, but you and Lou send yours to us, in the summer I will send you my beauty...tell Lou she will know when Carrie Gordon writes to her again..."

Cousin Carrie (GWG Papers)

Before she died, she gave a Bible to her Brother, William Law Gordon, when joined the C. S. A. as a Captain of the "Raccoon Roughs."

Dear brother:

Will you accept this my Bible, as a parting gift from your sister Nellie; but ere your hands unfold its leaflets, mine will be folded by kind friends, and I shall be sleeping that sleep that knows no waking save in a brighter world than this.

Oh, could I but know that you would peruse its holy word, and find that consolation which is so sweet to my fading spirit, what a comfort it would be.

Dear brother, may it be a lamp to guide thy feet thru the wandering mazes of this world of thorns and flowers. May you find a sweet consolation in its holy pages when the clouds of sorrow o'ershadow thee, and may it be thy staff and thy guide thru the dark shadows of the valley of death – is the wish of thy sister.

Nellie

From HAPPY VALLEY compiled by Thomas Felix Hickerson

Nellie (Cornelia Frances) Gordon died on June 3, 1861, as reported in a brief announcement on June 12 in The Southern Advocate of Huntsville, Alabama.

Nellie and Carrie's Portraits

They both had their portraits painted, presumably in Huntsville, Alabama. Upon the death of their mother in 1880, my theory is that Carrie insisted on having the picture of her beloved sister

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(she named her first child Nellie) and Carrie's portrait ended up with William Law Gordon. Subsequently they were passed down through their respective family lines.

The portrait of Nellie Gordon picture hung in Rome in the Home of Nellie Gordon Bass Burney. It probably came there when her sister Caroline Gordon Bass moved into her daughter's home. Anne Burney Berry McMorrow inherited that portrait, and it passed to her daughter Anne Berry Pohl Harvey who lives in Fayetteville, NC and possesses the portrait as of July, 2012. Carrie's Portrait passed through the descendents of William Law Gordon to Maybelle Gordon Whitener of Dalton. Subsequently on to Martha Thomason, and then to her brother, Charles Whitener, Jr. as of 2020.

CIVIL WAR

"Half the people that we know in the world are under the enemy's guns. A telegram reaches you, and you leave it on your lap. You are pale with fright. You handle it, or you dread to touch it, as you would a rattlesnake: worse, worse, a snake could only strike you..."

When you meet people, sad and sorrowful is the greeting; they press your hand; tears stand in their eyes or roll down their cheeks...They have brother, father, or sons...may be in battle. And now this thing seems never to stop....Grief and constant anxiety kill nearly as many women at home as men are killed on the battlefield." (Chestnut)

The members of the Gordon Family were deeply affected by the War.

In Zachariah's family,

Lt Colonel Augustus Gordon was killed at the age of 21, while leading a charge at Chancellorsville. (Law) (Gordon)

Zachariah Chapman Gordon served as a Lieutenant, C. S. A. (Hodges)

John B. Gordon rose to the rank of Major General and was nominated as a Lt General near the end of the war. He was the highest ranking officer without prior military training. (Tankersly)

Eugene Cornelius Gordon entered the Confederate Army at the age of 16 and was an aide to his brother, Major General John B. Gordon, rising to the rank of Calvary Lieutenant. (Hodges)

SELLING GORDON SPRINGS

During The War, Zachariah sold Gordon Springs, which was probably a shrewd business move.

He had advertised the property extensively in the **Southern Confederacy** (DLG), with 20 discovered ads from April 10, 1862 to May 9, 1862.

GORDON SPRINGS
Near Tunnel Hill Station, Georgia
FOR SALE
FOR CONFEDERATE NOTES OR EX-
CHANGE FOR NEGROES.

This fashionable and popular Watering Place, is accessible by railroad from any direction, and twelve miles from Dalton, in Whitfield county, Georgia, and twenty-five miles from Chattanooga. It has a fine Hotel, containing thirty rooms, together with the necessary out-houses, four cottages with four rooms each, and one large one-story building, with thirty rooms. There are thirteen Springs of Chalybeate, Sulphur, Magnesia, Soda and Freestone waters. A fine Stock Farm is attached to the Springs, of between three and four hundred acres, cultivated in grain of which two hundred acres are creek bottom land. A portion lies on the mountain side (Taylor's Ridge) suitable for a vineyard, and near the Hotel is an Orchard, with fruit of almost every description. These Springs are on the Western & Atlantic railroad, and easy of access, being convenient to those desiring a pleasant or summer residence.

Title guaranteed. Apply to
PASSMORE, LIDE & MARSHALL,
Memphis, Tenn.,

Or to Z. H. Gordon,
Aprio-im Shell Mound, Tenn.

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Apparently Zachariah was successful and some or all of the property was sold.

Whitfield County, Deed Book D-740

17 Sept, 1862. Zachariah H. Gordon of Jackson Co., Alabama sold to Nathaniel M. Crawford of Green Co., Georgia, for \$7,500 in hand paid, Lots 244, 261 (except corner sold to Huff), 281, and SE half of lots 260 & 282, 27D, 3rd Sec

Witnesses: Jesse Calloway
Andrew G. Gordon
illegible Underwood

Whitfield County, Deed Book E-218

12 Dec, 1862 Zachariah H. Gordon of Jackson Co, Al to L.J Dupree & J. S. Simmons of Oglethorpe Co, Georgia, for \$9,950 "all that part of the Gordon Springs Tract of Land " Lots 245, 246, 259, NW half of 282, part of 258 lying East of the top of Taylor's Ridge, all 27th D, 3rd Sec, exempts 2 acres sold to H & S Tatum, and 5 acres to Mrs. Jenny or Virginia Sneed.

Witnesses: one was N M Crawford.

There were no other records of land sales in the Gordon Springs area by Gordons, after 1862.

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Continuing the Civil War in the Gordon family,

George Washington Gordon's Family

George W. Gordon was listed as an Adjutant General, (*the highest ranking military officer in the State of Tennessee, a term still used in the National Guard*) for 1847-1849. (Adjutant) (*NOTE: There was another General George Washington Gordon who survived the Civil War and later served in Congress*). His appointment from Maury County as Adjutant General of Tennessee was reported in the Republican Banner on November 29, 1847, by the then Governor Neil Smith Brown. He entered active CSA service as a Captain. After the Battle of Belmont in November of 1861, he was held a prisoner on Johnson Island, Ohio in Lake Erie. He died in route to Vicksburg as part of a prisoner exchange. He also had 3 sons who fought in the War. (Law)

His 2nd son, William Bradshaw Gordon served in the Confederate Calvary, and was wounded, captured, June 4, 1863, and was paroled three months later, so badly disabled that he could no longer serve. (Goodspeed)

George Washington Gordon's death.

This letter is from Sarah Chapman Gordon Law to her niece, Mary, telling of the death of her Brother and Mary's Father. (GWG Papers)

Nesbets Mills, Miss Sept 22, 1862

"My Darling Mary

My precious child prepare yourself for the sadest news of your life --God in his wisdom has seen fit to call your beloved Father to Himself Yes my child he has gone to his father and

God to that rest that God has prepared for those who love Him--- I have this moment learned the sad and heartrending intelligence that my beloved brother is no more. I my dear have had the blessed privilege of being with him a night and part of a day one week ago- our prisoners from the west arrived on their way at Memphis down to Vicksburg --among that number was your beloved Father I heard he was on the boat Dilligent and immediately went to work to get permits to go to him- I was from nine in the morning until 5 ? before I could get a permit to go to him- when I got on the boat, I found him very ill- with disentary or bowel disease- He was delighted to see me- I found him so debilitated he was not able to sit up a moment - looked retchedly and his voice weak and feeble I stayed with him all night and until about nine next morning then I left to get him such things as I thought would add to his comfort I had gone to the **Gen Sherman** in command at Memphis and to the Col who had the prisoners in charge- to beg and implore them to let me take my brother to my house and keep him until he would be able to travel to Vicksburg- told them I could make and give them any kind of bond to deliever him safe to them- as soon as he was well enough but they would not listen to my proposition to take him from the boat for a moment- so I had to submit he was very anxious to go to my home when I found I could not get him I went into the city- got some chickens for chicken water some bottles of port wine- lemons and all. The medicines he needed got - such clothin as he needed and gave him what money he wanted - O Mary dear - it is a comfort and some consolation to know that in the few last days of his life I was able to add to his comfort such little delicacys as he could not get on a boat I then told him I had a friend in Mississippi at whose house he would be as welcome as a brother and I could take the liberty to take him there from Vicksburg so I started the day after the boat left Memphis I came on here to meet him to stay and nurse him and sent Mr. Smithwick (*her son-in-law*) on to Vicksburg to bring him up when alas - alas he got to Jackson We there heard he was dead --

Oh my God-- thy ways are great and past finding out

Your beloved Father died at Vicksburg on the 18 inst-- Obituary

'Died at Vicksburg at 5 PM on the 18th ? G. W. Gordon of Columbia Tenn--Captain in 48 Regiment Tenn Volunteers-- Captain Gordon was one of the exchanged officers lately imprisoned at Johnson's Island, Ohio and while there endeared himself to all by the strong moral and religious influence he exercised and by his unremitting attention to the sick -- being a constant visitor and assistant at the Hospital -- and in truth a unanimously elected leader in all cases where good counsel was required. The inhumane treatment of the Federal Government in placing prisoners upon boats in such crowded condition that sickness to many was inevitable indubitably caused the death of this good man almost ere he was released from prison where as elsewhere. he was distinguished for Christian virtues-- Heaven thought fit to release him from all earthly cares'

'Be still and know that I am God'

This dear Mary is the Obituary I copied from a Vicksburg paper it will be a comfort to you to know your dear father had every attention that kind friends could give him I witnessed that attention myself and he told me that he could not possibly have had better or kinder attention that he received from those with him. Young Love (*Note: Name of a fellow officer*) from near Columbia slept in his state room with him and gave him every attention that a son could have given -- the affliction to me my dear child is severe - He was my youngest brother- the playmate of my childhood and only God can know how the blow falls upon my wounded heart but the giver of all good has seen fit to take him from us and we must submit-- may our blesse

savior fill in your heart the place made void by that of your father.

God bless and keep you is the prayer of your deeply afflicted Auntie
S C Law

In Sarah Chapman Gordon Law's family

"My only son, John Gordon Law, I gave freely to his county, and regretted I did not have more sons to fill the ranks of the glorious but lost cause"(Laws); however, he did survive the war to become a minister (Obituary Law).

Sarah was a remarkable woman. She wrote a short 17 page "Reminiscences of the War of The Sixties", which details her aid work to the Southern Soldiers, which earned her the title of "Mother of the Confederacy". On her death in Memphis, her obituary ran in The Memphis Commercial on June 29, 1894 with more than 40 column inches.

Mrs. S. C. Laws name is also first on a list of about 93 names on a "*Letter from THE LADIES OF THE SOUTH, TO THE SOLDIERS OF THE CONFEDERATE ARMY*", which urges the soldiers to fight for their county. (Confederate Broadside) An examination of the names on this list is interesting when compared to the names on the above described quilt made at Gordon Springs. At least 3 of the signatures on the quilt are also the same as those on the Letter, but a greater number of the last names are the same. Probably many of the Misses of 1856 are now the Mrs. on the Broadside, and some of the Misses on the Broadside are probably the daughters of the Mrs. of 1856.

In Sarah Gwyn Gordon Brown's family (Caroline M. Gordon's sister)

Her son Gen James B. Gordon of NC was killed at Brandy Station, near Richmond.
(Laws)

Of her children by her second marriage:

Capt. Hugh Thomas Brown, C. S. A, was killed in action at Oak Hill, Mo., in 1861. (Hickerson, EHV)

Her other son by this marriage, Col. Hamilton Allen Brown, C. S. A. survived, and lived in Columbia, TN. (Hickerson, EHV)

The children of James H. and Caroline participated directly and indirectly in the war.

Richard Oscar was a Captain in the C. S. A., but he died suddenly from a heart attack before leaving camp. (Hickerson, EHV)

Mary Lizzie's husband, Henry A. Russell, served in the cavalry under General Joe Wheeler. His brother, Milton, lost his right arm, and Brother Joe was badly wounded in his left leg. His mother's brother was Confederate General William J. Hardee. (CVM1916).

William Law joined the C. S. A. as a Captain of the "Raccoon Roughs". When he joined, his sister Nellie presented him with her Bible, with a parting note: "*Will you accept this my Bible, as a parting gift from your sister Nellie; but ere your hands unfold its leaflets, mine will be folded by kind friends, and I shall be sleeping that sleep that knows no waking save in a brighter world*"

than this." (Hickerson, HV) Later in the war he was a member of General John B. Gordon's staff (Obit). During the war, he married Emma Hurt in 1862. She was the half-sister of Josiah Flournoy Bass who would later marry William's sister Caroline. (Hickerson, EHV, p212)

Rebecca Gordon's husband, Judge Leander Crook was a Major in the 39th Ga. Reg. He was one of two prosecutors at the Chattanooga trial of Andrews Raiders, those Yankees who were captured after they stole the rail road engine, The General, initiating The Great Locomotive Chase (Conway). He died at home in Dalton Nov 29, 1862. (Tombstone) He also reportedly died from wounds during Sherman's invasion of Georgia in 1864 (Hickerson, EHV).

Daughter Nellie Gordon mentioned above died in 1861.

Charles Peyton Gordon enlisted in Dade, which was the location of the coal mines. The Dade County Gen Webb site gave the following, as part of the Roster of Field, Staff, and Band of the 34th Regiment, Georgia Volunteer Infantry, Cummings Brigade, Stephenson's Division of The Army of Tennessee, C.S.A.

Gordon, Charles P. Enlisted as a private in Co. A, 39 th Regt. Ga. Inf. Mar. 10, 1862. On July 21, 1862, he was reported "Absent detailed Asst. Surgeon, Dalton, Ga." Appointed Asst. Surgeon of the 34th Regt. Ga. Inf. (to rank from Oct. 8, 1862,) July 10, 1863. Absent, sick, May 18-June 10, 1864. Transferred to Hospital Dept. Dec. 1864. No later record.

As obtained from the Dade County Gen Web Site, March 13, 2005.

When he was reporting Alumni News to the University of Georgia, he was the Surgeon for the 34th Georgia Regiment from 1862 to 1865 (UGA ALUMNI).

Charles P. Gordon married a Mary A. Bitting on 30 Jan 1862, in Whitfield Co. (Whitfield County Historical Society). Mary died on Dec 2, 1862 and was buried in West Hill Cemetery in Dalton (Cemetery Records provided by Cousin Carol Howel Gomez).

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On April 11, 1862, Federal troops took Huntsville, Alabama, to sever the rail lines. Forced to retreat, some months later, they returned in the fall of 1863 and used the city as a base for the remainder of the war. Huntsville was spared because it housed the occupying Union Army. Many of Huntsville's most prominent citizens were made prisoners and taken north where they were confined as sort of hostages (BETTS)

The Yankees left Huntsville on August 31, 1862, after 5 months of occupation in Madison County. They returned briefly in July of 1863 and came back to stay in October of 1863.

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Castle Rock Coal Company of Georgia

Optimistically, Zachariah Gordon and others incorporated the Castle Rock Coal Company of Georgia as approved by the Georgia Legislature and signed by Governor John E. Brown on 17 December, 1862. Governor Brown would later own the Castle Rock Coal Company. The coal lands formerly owned by the Rev. Z. H. Gordon...situated in Dade County, Georgia were purchased by the Castle Rock Coal Company. "The property purchased embraces over three thousand acres, together with all the improvements thereon for mining operations, consisting of side tracks, a new and substantial Incline Plane, together with one half of the Nickajack Railroad, connecting the Coal Mines with the Nashville and Chattanooga Road and Tennessee River at Shell Mound Depot, which is about 20 miles west of Chattooga...The Company ...could... deliver at the foot of the mountain 150 to 200 tons of coal per day."

There were three different veins of coal.

The Upper Vein "has been well exposed upon Section 43, a little to the east of **Rev. Z. H. Gordon's** dwelling house...seen at this outcrop for a distance of sixty yards or more, and has been penetrated at one point one hundred and fifty feet." It has a uniform thickness of 3 feet 6 inches.

The Middle Vein, "which is 35 feet lower down the mountain, is known as the **Harvey Gordon** or Sewanee vein."

The Lower Cola Seam is "at a distance of not far from seventy feet below the position of the upper coal". It will have an average width of 6 inches to 6 feet.(BYLAWS)

These mines and their equipment would be destroyed by the Union Army before the Battle of Chickamauga in September, 1863. Later they would be reactivated.

April 13th, 1863

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Nicojack Coal Mines (GWG Papers)

My dear Louly(?),

Wants her to send her some calico dresses, the most interesting thing about this letter is the fact that it was written from the Coal Mines. References to relatives but no specific information

Ever yours affectionately,

M E Russell *Note: Mary Elizabeth (Lizzie) Gordon Russell*

Her husband Henry worked at the mines before and after the war, probably as an accountant.

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undated no place must be the spring of 1863 based on the above request of Louly for calico(GWG Papers)

My Dear Cousin *Uncertain who this is.*

Henry carried your letter to be mailed, when Mr. Love told him you had passed

up on your way to Columbia. I thought you were going to stop & see me in the spring. now you have disappointed me & I wont believe you again "Mary Brown" has a nice flock of chickens nearly large enough for you to eat & I kept feeding them for 'My Dear' & now she has gone. I wish Darling you had stoped... We will leave the mountain in the Fall half of the coal mines has been sold to Mr. Markham of Atlanta for \$75,000 (*This was probably a fortunate sale for the Gordons, since these mines and equipment would soon be destroyed. Probably when the Yankees came to this area for the Battle of Lookout Mountain and the Battle of Chickamauga*) I expect we will live in Chattanooga & when you pass throu there I will waylay you - we will keep house if we can get furniture, but I doubt if we can now, by the by, if you dispose of yours; on the mountain please give us the refusal of it. I wrote Louly a little note the other day asking her to price the calico & gingham in Columbia for me...

Very affectionately your cousin, M E R

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Huntsville, Ala. April 19, 1863

Cousin **Carrie (Caroline Gordon)** to her cousin Miss Lou Gordon (GWG Papers)

Cousin Mary has left and **Carrie** is excited about Lou coming to visit. Much of this letter sounds like teenage girl talk. "My sweetheart has been transferred to Charleston S Ca. so I don't expect to see him soon = This is my new sweetheart = & he is so handsome = I wish you could see him. I'll tell you all about him Darling when you come... oh you must come. Did you get the letter I wrote to Miss Pillow. I enclosed you \$22.00 I did not remember exactly what you said was the cost of the dress you brought for you...Brother (*William Law Gordon*) & his lady bride (*Emma Hurt*) will be here 9th of May...I must close as I wish to write ? a note as Pa leaves for Nicojack in the morning- write soon to me your devote cousin

Carrie"

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Apparently James and Caroline were still in Huntsville when the above letter was written in April, 1863. The Yankees retook Huntsville in the fall of 1863.

In late August and early September, outflanking General Bragg in Chattanooga, General Rosecran's Army crossed the Tennessee River near Bridgeport and Shellmond, TN on pontoons, by pirogues, and at length by a hastily constructed trestle bridge. Only 25 air miles west of Chattanooga and General Bragg's Army, they were concealed by the intervening mountains and the winding river. The short line railroad left Shellmond for the Gordon Coal mines. This would have been the time when all the rails, locomotives and mine equipment would have been destroyed. Shellmond was the former Post Office for John B. Gordon and other family. The Battle of Chickamauga, the bloodiest two days of the war, occurred on September 18-20, 1863.

Around this time, Caroline and James Harvey Gordon had to flee Huntsville, Alabama. Caroline describes some of their troubles in a letter below.

MILITARY HOSPITALS

Hospitals from Catoosa Springs, Calhoun and Adairsville were moved to Griffin in Sept

of 1863 "where Surgeon R. C. Foster was supposed to prepare for a capacity of 1,000 beds."

Griffin had hospitals by Oct 5, 1863 And still had them in July 1864 (Confederate Hospitals. And Jan-March 1865.(Cumming)

On December 22, 1863, in Griffin, Georgia, Caroline M. Gordon purchased city lots 5 and 6, which were one acre each and next to the Christian Church, for \$10,000 (Spalding County Deed Book C, page 676). Caroline and James H. Gordon had moved to Griffin from the Huntsville, Alabama area because they had "lost everything on earth we had, but the home we now occupy" (HICKERSON p 109). See below letter of March 14, 1866 for more details.

According to the church history of the First Presbyterian Church of Griffin, during the Civil War, "there were a number of refugees that became members of the church. One instance from the church records: '**Mr. Jas. H. Gordon and Mrs. Caroline M. Gordon**, members of the Chickamauga Church (*NOTE: this was actually the Old Stone Church in Ringgold, not present day Chickamauga*), presented themselves for membership in this church, but without regular letters of dismission, having been compelled to flee from the face of the enemy and leave their homes and their sanctuaries in haste, their pastors having been driven from their flocks and the flocks scattered – perhaps never to be gather again on earth. It has been found impractical to obtain letters, the session having received satisfactory evidence of their regular church standing – received them as members in full fellowship in this church.'" (Griffin 1st Pres.)

In Griffin, Spalding County, GA, on Feb 2nd, 1864, Jas. H. Gordon wrote his will, which has several interesting points. He left their unmarried daughter, Caroline H. Gordon, his Negro women, Laura and Sarah, and his Negro man, Aleck. This was an optimistic legacy since Lincoln had already issued the Emancipation Proclamation, and the war was not going well for the South. He also left his daughter, Caroline H. Gordon (*Bass*), 30 shares in the Castle Rock Coal Mining Company. He left his grandchildren, Caroline Eugenia Crook, Leander W. Crook, and Nellie Gordon Crook, "to be divided equally between them one note on Leander W. Crook amounting to the sum of Five Thousand two hundred dollars". Everything else he left to his wife provided she did not remarry, including 15 Negroes by name. Interestingly some of their names are the same as family members, such as Wiley, Wash, and Gus. This also included "one tract of land three miles south of Ocala East Florida containing four hundred and fifteen acres; also one hundred and sixty-five shares in the Castle Rock Coal Mining Company; and notes to the amount of Ten Thousand dollars; and all the rest and residue of my estate". This will was later probated in Whitfield County, GA after his death in 1874. His son, Charles P. Gordon, was appointed executor. (Will of J. H. Gordon as recorded in Whitfield County).

The Atlanta campaign began at the end of April, beginning of May 1864. After a flanking movement by Sherman and the subsequent Battle of Jonesborough (near Griffin), Atlanta surrendered on September 2, 1864.

Josiah F. Bass served in Wheeler's Cavalry which was in the area in time for a quick marriage. On Nov 9th, 1864 a marriage license was issued for Lieut. J. F. Bass (Josiah Flournoy Bass, son of Nathan Henry and Caroline Bass of Macon) and Carrie Gordon in Spaulding County (Marriage Book A, p 167). They were married on November 10th (KINNEY). The honeymoon

was probably short. On November 15, Sherman would begin his "march to the sea", presenting President Lincoln with the city of Savannah as a Christmas present on December 22nd. 1864.

Mary Anne Cargile Stark (widow of Judge James H. Stark) also lived in Griffin. Her grandson, Stark Jefferson Burney, would marry James and Caroline's granddaughter, Nellie Gordon Bass in 1885.

On March 27, 1865, Josiah was on a register for Floyd House and Ocmulgee Hospitals, Macon, Ga., with a gunshot wound to the left jaw. If he had not been wounded, he probably would have been with his unit when it surrendered in Hillsboro, NC. (PENSION FILE) His granddaughter, Katherine Gordon Burney Mitchell, said he always had a bullet in his cheek. Possibly his wife, Carrie, stayed with the Besses in Macon, while he was in the hospital.

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Caroline M. Gordon wrote her sister Mrs. Hamilton (Sarah) Brown
Griffin, Ga. March 14, 1866.

"My own beloved Sister;

More than one long year has elapsed since I heard one word from you. I hope er'e this, the mails are established and this may reach you. It would be in vain for me to attempt a relation to you of our sufferings and trials since I last wrote you, driven from home twice, lying out in the woods in the night air with an afflicted husband scarcely able to walk, and not even one blanket to shield our old and feeble frames from the cold. And finally have lost every thing on earth we had, but the home we now occupy, and our Coal Stock; and the Yanks almost ruined that, tearing up the railroad, destroying engine and injuring the mines so much that it will take a great sum of money to put them in working operation. And our thirty negroes, all except one, young and likely, walking off from us as free as we are, and Mr Gordon bonded a considerable amount of money all went up. Rebecca and three children are living with us, her husband died in the Service--and she has lost everything even to her husband's law library.

I know my dear sister you will say how on earth do they get anything to eat or wear, I would answer, it is a hard case, my husband has debts owing him that would support us, but he cannot collect one dime; and if it were not for our two noble sons, we would suffer; and they came out of four years of hard service--Lost all they had, worn down with injured health. Charles is practicing medicine in Northern Georgia and William has a drug store in Macon. Charles lost all of his medical books and medicines. But my dear sister, after all of this soar, soar affliction, I feel that I have much to be thankful. We have what many in this country have not--a home to shelter our heads from the pelting storm--and I have faith to believe that God will not let us suffer for bread in our old age, and that He will protect the widow and orphan.

Carrie is living in Macon. She has no increase as yet, her husband is a lawyer and is trying to do all he can, he is now acting as Solicitor General, and is making some money. His father [Nathan Henry Bass] was a wealthy man, paid taxes before the War for over a half million dollars. Mary is living in Hamilton, she has lately had another little Boy seven? years between her children - My husband's health is a little better now, and mine is pretty good.- has John Finly returned to Alabamma, O my dear sister I cannot express how much I desire to see you and your dear children, You have been deeply afflicted in the loss of your dear sons; and I, while the war

was pending, lost a dear son[Richard Oscar], a lovely daughter[Nellie], son-in-law [Leander W. Crook] and daughter-in-law [Charles P's 1st wife]. They were so trials but we must submit. Can't you my dear sister, come to see me next summer, Oh do come. Charles Maner is in S. Carolina, he is coming home this summer. lost all he had except his lands. I have Heleg and one Boy on the lot. I pay them high wages - Heleg begs you to ask her brothers to write to her and if Jack is there tell him his daughter is dead -- I lost all of my Beds Bed Clothes Furniture -- and everything I had in Huntsville. The cars stoped runing before we left we had to run through the country and could bring nothin but our clothes, O It is a sad affair, our country is ruined forever, you cannot imagine the desolation, churches and graveyards utterly destroyed.

Remember us all affectionately to Col. Brown and all the dear children sons-in-laws and grandchildren. write very soon and my dear sister May God bless you is the prayer of your devoted and affectionate sister.

Caroline M. Gordon"

(Hickerson, EHV p 109 quotes part of this letter; Hamilton Brown Collection)

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Charles P. Gordon married for the second time on 19 July, 1866 Maggie Manly (Whitfield County Historical Society) who was the daughter of Dr. W. J. Manly of Dalton(Memoirs of Georgia).

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Caroline M. Gordon wrote her sister Mrs. Hamilton (Sarah) Brown

Griffin July 29, 1867.

"My own dear Sister;

It has been a Long Long time since I have taken my pen to write my sister one line, not because we have not thought of you, for your life happiness and preservation are in our daily prayers, I have so often thought of writing, but procrastination in this line seemed to be my bestling? sin - I have not heard a word from you in many months, it is strange in deed that we so seldom write when we reflect too, that our dayes on this earth will soon be brought to an end - O my beloved and only sister, I fear we will never meet again on earth, I beg you to pray for us that we and our children may meet you all in Heaven to live forever with you and the dear Lovely Saviour

Carrie came home last week, she had a beautiful sweet babe a year old Nellie Gordon [Bass], but she is a delicate child(the author's Grandmother) Mary has been with us all this year, her husband is in Alabamma teaching school there is now a prospect of starting the coal mines, if they succeed they will go there this fall. they have two smart children one eight years old, the youngest sixteen months. Rebecca and her three children are with us so you see we have quite a family to work for in our old age - Rebecca has recently taken a school she has 45 or 50 pupils but house rent and assistant teacher and lots of debt will not leave her a great deal but something is better than nothing I hope and trust that God will provide for us in our old age and enable as he has done to support the widow the orphan children, and the destitute William has a pleasant home here, he has only one child pretty sweet little girl he has a Shoe store, Charles is practicing medicine in Dalton doing very well Charlie Maner is gone back to his Uncle in S. Carolina going to school. --

Mr. Gordon's health is quite feeble otin sick when able to go weeks all the time has a

splendid garden a great many mellons, fruit, ? -- but dear sister the time are awful here, the yankees, negroes and Radicals will I think take this Country. O, it is humiliating and disturbing in the extreme, they are now putting the Negroes in office, I think very soon we will have in this place a Negro Mayor --- I sincerely wish I could go where I never could see another Negro on earth -- Business is so dull, William speaks of leaving and going to the coal mines, we have a pleasant home here and will remain Can't you and some of your dear Children come to see us - O to see you once more would fill my heart with joy overflowing. Is Mr Finley gone back to his home in A-- how is dear Martha, Carrie and all of your dear children, you do not know what a great pleasure it would afford me to see them all - Remember us affectionately to them all -- you will Laugh when I tell you that I have just had all of my Teeth taken out and going to have a full set of artificial Teeth I think I hear you say "Caroline was always proud" - dear sister write me on the reception of this I am crazy to hear from you, how is dear Col. Brown give him our best love - we have fine society here many visitors for health and pleasure -- it is quite a fashionable place -- all of our Negroe are ? and doin well Heleg is with her sons, got a letter from him by me to write it I had heard from your folks- my children all join me in Love also Mr. Gordon he wants like so much to see you, as ever your fond and dear Sista

C M Gordon

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A granddaughter, Martha "Mattie" Lee Gordon, was born on 16 December, 1867 in Macon, Ga. to William Law and Emma Hurt Gordon(Gomez).

Caroline M. Gordon wrote her sister Mrs. Hamilton (Sarah) Brown

Griffin June 24th, 1868.

"My beloved Sister;

Your dear Letter was received some ten dayes past, and we have been anxiously expecting Allen and his Bride, but as yet have been sadly disappointed, I will therefore answer your Letter, before I got it I expressed my fears, that you were no more in the Land of the Living, but my Husband said if it was the case your Children would write me. O my sister we are getting very old, and I fear will never meet on earth again, but my poor prayers dailey offered to a throne of Grace that we may meet in Heaven to part no more -- I cannot realize that I am so old, I suppose because I have had young daughters and associated with so much company but the Terable war has broken us up, and in some degree broken me down, this hard to do for I still have spirit and a good deal of Life

You ask me dear Sister to visit you this Summer, the joy and pleasure would be inexpressable if I could do so, but I have written you in a former letter our situation and Losses, which is my sad excuse, for my Husband and I are well enough to make the trip.

I am glad you are pleased with Allens marriage for it is a great pleasure to parents, How much I would like to see dear Martha and her family she feels very dear to me.- and you are so happily situated, surrounded by precious good children.- mine are scattered and only three of them, professors, of the blessed Saviour.- dear sister write me what has become of Lenora Mitchell that was, and uncle James Gwyns sons, do you think if Allen moved west Col. Brown will go, dear Sister, the whole Southern Country is forever "ruined- it matters not much, where we are, under the present Laws.- our Country here has been a desirable Land, a Sprited go ahead

people full of life, and joy, and the Climate delightful and the soil productive -- but now a ruined people completely under Radical and Negro rule.

O. why are we so oppressed, are these dreadful creatures used as a sword in the hands of the Almighty- to bring us to the knowledge of the Truth in the right way -- if so, be it so -- we are suffering here very much for rain, we had a splendid Garden but now burnt up - we have had a great deal of fruit and all kind of vegetables-- **Carrie from Macon, my babey you know - will be up in a few dayes, to spend the summer, her little daughter Nellie Gordon - is a delicate child** -- has Mr. Finley sold his place in Alabamma or is he going back there to live-- dear Sister come to see me -- you have the means to come -- you and Martha come we would be so rejoiced to see you -- my Husband sayes he rather see you than any one living -- I have not see Sarah Law in a long time she lives in Memphis she lost a daughter last spring leaving two children - Brother Zac Gordon has lost his wife -- and many other deaths I could mention in the families O. we will soon all pass away -- all my children that are here send love to you and family, they are so glad to hear from Aunt Sarah, whom having not seen they Love, you must Answer this very soon, my Husband joins me in much Love to Col. Brown-- Martha and family Ann and family Carrie and family, Allen and family, they could have spent some time pleasantly here Griffin is a lively business place, and a place of resort for Families and strangers in Summer- very much gaiety and fashions here in some of your Letters please - send me some Nasturtions seeds, you can send two or three at a time, I want to see some of the flowers because my dear Mother loved them, may the good Lord ever bless you and all your dear family is your affectionate sisters prayer

C M Gordon

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Caroline M. Gordon wrote her sister Mrs. Hamilton (Sarah) Brown

Griffin March 4th, 1869.

"Dearest Sister;

Your letter came to hand on yesterday I was rejoiced to hear from you once more, but very sad to know you are afflicted - O. my sister can nothing be done to relieve you, I hope God will restore you and spare you many dayes for the sake of your children.

I will make no apology for my shameful neglect in not answering your letter, I have had company all winter and had much to do; and lately confined, **Carrie has just left me and during her visit had another pretty little blackeyed girl, called it Carrie** Mary was also confined in November she now has three Boyes, she was very ill we, at one time, dispaired of her life Charlie has one child and William two, so you see were are getting rich in grand children - Rebecca had returned to Dalton to live-- after her Husbands estate was settled up, she thought she had enough to live on. we prevailed on her to stay, with us, she said she had been dependant on her Father long enough and was determined to go, she doing very well so far, she is a business woman and very Energetic.

We are now left all alone in a house with eight rooms- we live so quiet and happy we are both healthy for our age, my husband is so kind and devoted to me, does all he can to make me feel contented, he keeps busy all the time in his vinyard and Garden -- But I shall soon have plenty of Company. I have engaged to board a Lady three children and Servant, until next Fall she lives in Savannah and is quite a high flyer. I know they will give me a great deal of trouble, but we are compelled to do something for a support you know I never had a fancy for Boarders-

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we expected her today but she failed to come -- we have had a cold winter or we who have to buy wood at high prices think so - you asked me about my Brothers children, William lives(?d) in a little town not far from here and Carrie in Atlanta, his wife and her children live in Chattooga where he lived at his death-- how did Lenora Hale get rich, I think you must write me a little history of her life, I use to love her so much-- I should be pleased to see Allen's wife, I love her for her name. I am glad there is a prospect of you county improvement- if I never see it again dear old country I feel strong attachment for it- I do not think my dear sister that I am smart enough to write an inscripton for dear James' Monument [*Note: General James B. Gordon CSA*] -- you asked me for my likeness- we have no good Artist - I hear there is one expected. I will then send it-- but I look so old and ugly I expect it will frighten you all -- the folks here say I look old but walk like I was young-- Charlie Maner spent part of the winter with us he is now at school in Yorkville SC- he is nearly grown in size - are any of Martha's children married, and ? has gown flishey, dear Ann like me still thin O, how I would be pleased to see you and all of your dear children - but alas - alas Mr Gordon unites with me in much love to Col. Brown and all of your family write me my dear sister and I pray God you may be relieved of your afflictions. May God bless you all, your affectionate sister

Caroline M Gordon

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Griffin Dec 6th 1869

My darling Cousin, (Mary G. Leconte ?)(GWG Papers)

....My dear you are coming to see us I know we are "mighty poor" but make you as comfortable as we can & be so glad to see you ? never go out at all. have no nurse for my baby but do come to see us. Henry is keeping books here for a small salary but gets as good as are paid clerks here. he is very anxious to away some where else, he ought to get high wages. he is a no 1 book keeper. *she asks for help in finding a better job for Henry though her friends and relations in Macon, at length...*My darling will ever forget me, your sister and playmate in childhood, your sainted Mothers namesake...

Ever yours, M E R *NOTE: in the census below, they are living in Griffin with James H & Caroline M.*

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1870 Census

Census Images via Ancestry.com

Griffin, Spalding County, Georgia

Gordon, James H.	72	MW	ret merchant	\$3,500 Real Estate	\$2,000 Pers.Prop.
Caroline	70	FW	keeping house		
Russel, Mary	30	FW	without profession		
Henry A	33	MW	book keeping		\$1,000 Pers Prop
James	12	MW	Attending school		
Henry	7	MW	at home		
Joseph H	1	MW	at home		
Russell	61	MW	wo occupation		<i>Note: The sex is wrong, the age is correct,</i>

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this may actually be Mother Russell

Beeks, Sarah 12 FW domestic servant

Dalton, Whitfield County, Georgia

Crook, Rebecca 39 FW keeping boarding house
\$1,500 Real Estate \$2,000 Pers Prop

Jennie 16 FW no occupation

Leander 11 MW at school

Nellie G 8 FW at school

There are three domestic servants, a black male 17, black female 15, and a mulatto female 48. There are 9 boarders: one civil engineer, one Jewish sounding name merchant from Prussia, one Judge of Ordinary, an artist, R.R. Engineer, 3 men who work in a cabinet shop, and one 24 year old woman with no occupation.

Dalton, Whitfield County, Georgia

Gordon, Charles 33 MW Physician \$2,500 Real Estate \$300 Pers Prop

Margaret J. 23 FW keeping house

Martha M 1 FW at home

Davis, Mary 23 FB Domestic Servt

James H. and Caroline's son, William Law, and daughter Caroline H were living in Floyd County. Their Father in law Nathan Bass lived in Rome, and they lived out, probably on the Etowah River, near Bass's Ferry, near their brother-in-law, Nathan Bass (household 896).

In Subdivision 141, Floyd County enumerated 24 August, 1870

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Household 886

BASS, Josiah 32 MW Farmer Value of Pers Estate \$600

Carrie G 25 FW Keeping House

Nellie G 4 FW *mother of Katherine Burney Mitchell.*

Carrie F 1 FW

Nathan H 13/30 MW Born in May.

Robert H 22 MW Farmer *Josiah's brother.*

GATEWOOD, Hannah 60 FB Housekeeper

ALLEN, Rolinda? 15 FM Domestic Servant

GATEWOOD, Harry 9 MB Domestic Servant

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Household 900

GORDON, William L 39 MW Farmer Value of Pers Estate \$3400

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Emma W	32	FW
Carrie F	6	FW
Mattie L	3	FW

Seventh Ward, Memphis, Shelby County, Tennessee

Law, Sarah	64	FW	
Erskine, Alex	37	MW	Physician
Carr, Julia	26	FW	
Irvin, Carrie	40	FW	
Smithwick, Mary	12	FW	
Erskine, Alex	6	MW	
John	3	MW	
Carr, Kate	9	FW	
John	7	MW	
William	5	MW	
Mallay, Lizzie	35	FW	Servant
Charity	15	FW	Servant
Rachael	35	FW	

Charles Maner and Octavia must have died. In the June 16th, 1870 subsequent letter, Caroline mentions losing four children: this would have to include Octavia. In a July 29, 1867 letter, there is a reference to "Charlie Maner is gone back to his Uncle in S. Carolina going to school." The reference to Charles Maner in the letters must be to the son, Charles G. Maner who was 9 in the 1860 census and living with James and Caroline. In South Carolina, there was a Maner, Charles G., a 19 yr old farmer in Beaufort, SC: born in SC 22 yr old male named Lawton, H R was the only other person in Household.

Beat 6, Russell County, Alabama PO Hatchechubbee

Gordon, Zach	40	M	Farmer	10,000 Real Estate	600 Pers Prop.
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No other persons in household

Zachariah

can't find nor his son Walter.

Would expect Z to be around Columbus, or back in Alabama.

Gen John B. Gorden lived in Decatur, Dekalb County, and was the President of a Life Insurance Company.

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Caroline M. Gordon wrote her sister Mrs. Hamilton (Sarah) Brown

Griffin May 18th, 1870.

"Dearest Sister;

I have so often commenced my letters with an apology for not writing, I will not this time only say to you, that I have been feeling badly for some months, scarcely able to rise any morning my Husband has had two hard spells this year, the last Pneumonia, came very near taking him off he is now very feeble, I hope the warm weather will restore both of us, in some degree- Spring with all its Beauty has come it always carries me back to those days of my childhood and youth when I wandered on the banks of the dear old Yadkin, with my young friends, many who have departed from this world, and sit under the beautiful Laurel and Ivey, and talk over our plays and frolic and then we had loving kind parents who loved and cared so much for us- O my sister those were happy days, but we did not appreciate them as joyfully as we should have done, we thought real happiness was still ahead of us - I sit and reflect on by gone days sometimes until my head grows giddy -

But now we are old - all we can do, is to try to prepare for a lasting and better world - it is our duty to examine closely and see if we have been led by the Spirit and if we are the children of god.

I often feel like I could give up this scene of sorrow and perplexity, if my children and Grand children were all christians - I can only pray that God in his own good time will make them christians. I do not wish you to think my dear Sister from the strain I have written, that I am discontented or unhappy in my old age, O no far from it. I have a nice home, a kind affectionate husband that dotes on me just as much as if I was young and we have as good children as ever lived and I still retain a great deal of life and Spirit - we are poor, but so far, have never suffered from comfort we were all so much pleased to receive dear Ellens letter ? sends love to her says keep kiss her and say to her mabe? some day she will answer her letter ? ? how I would be delighted to see my dear Martha, Ann and Carrie, I loved M- so much when she was a child - I received a Letter from our brothers wife, Ms. Clayton now last month, she is living in ? Mss- she is doing well Richard has lost his wife and she has his children Richard is a Methodist preacher is now on the Circuit -- Our children are all well, and doing better than we could expect. considering the terrible taxation and Radical Laws we Georgians have to Labor under, our Brother Lorenzo's family is doing well so far as I know Mr Gordon sends much love to you Col Brown and your children my family unites in love to you all, write me dearest sister on the reception of this -- may god bless and make your last days your best your affectione sisters prayer C M G.

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Caroline M. Gordon wrote her sister Mrs. Hamilton (Sarah) Brown

Griffin June 16th, 1870.

"Ever dear Sister;

After three long and anxious weeks of nursing I have taken my pen to answer yours of the 29 of May, which was the first intelligence we had of Col Browns death he is gone, when memory wanders over the many years of acquaintance of happy and social intercourse, we have had with him, - our hearts are full and only relieved by Teares.

The news was doubly sad to me, in consequence of the extreme illness of my dear Husband he has been declining all the Spring is now a mere Skeleton, and two weeks ago was attack with yellow Jaundice, he comfortable this morning, but confined to his bed and very low and weak - he talks but little, but told me that he would never recover, said he was resigned to death, that he had many years past given his heart to God, and the blessed Saviour was the only

door by which, he expected to enter Heaven I know we are quite old and cannot stay here much longer, but it will be a soar, a sad, Trial to me to give him up after living so many years of peace and Happiness, with him, yes he has been a fond and dear Husband and Father, we have seen Happiness, sorrow, and affliction in life, in lossing four dear children, three Grown (*Note: Nellie, Oscar, Octavia, and the baby in Auraria*) and being nearly destitute, in our old age by the cruel war, - but in all these sorrows my poor Husband kept a cheerful heart and sympathes and done everything in his power to make me comfortable.

If the good Lord takes him, my Greatest comfort will be, I will soon follow, and I will meet him in Heaven, and part no more and no sorrow nor afflictions. Tears will ever come their, but god will be all and in all Pray for me my own good and wise sister, when I look at him now laying before me, his manly face all pale as death, his bright and beautiful eyes sunk deep and Low, my nerves and mind are racked beyond description. My children are well, and those living with me send love to you and your children. Write me soon and give my effectionate love to each one of you children and grand children, and to cousin James Gwynn family, I should be pleased to ? Allens wife. may the blessed Saviour ever be with you is the prayer of your fond and effectionate sister.

C. M. Gordon

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 The above is the last of the pertinent Letters in the Hamilton Brown Papers, in the Southern Historical Collection at the University of North Carolina.
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On 26th day of February, 1872, Caroline M. and James H. Gordon, for the sum of \$2,500 sold their 2 acres next to the Christian Church in Griffin, GA. (Spalding Co. Deed Book E, page 462.) This might appear to be a loss, until one considers the purchase price of \$10,000 was probably paid in Confederate Dollars, and the sales receipts would have been in US dollars.

Griffin Oct - 1872

My Dear Cousin Tn Archives says this is to Mary G. LeConte (GWG Papers).
 from Mary Lizzie

"...You know almost a year ago Pa sold his place in Griffin and is now living in Dalton - boarding with Sis Bel- the house was so large for them and the lot so expensive to keep up we all concluded it best for them to sell. & they had nothing to live upon. now the interest of the money supports them nicely. Carrie and Brother (*William Law*) both live not far from them near Rome Joe (*Josiah F. Bass*) & Brother are planting making a good living. Carrie has three beautiful children the eldest - **Nellie Gordon** (*author's Grandmother*). Carrie Flournoy. the baby boy Nathan Harvey. she calls him Nattie. his name is enough to kill him. Emma (*married to William Law*) has but the two little girls Carrie and Mattie ...We have but the three boys. they are nice smart fellow...Henry is still bookkeeping & getting a pretty good salary - I am fat as a pig and the only consolation that its all over and not in one place. Will? is living in old LaFayette poor fellow lost his sight- ? he is clerk of the court of ordinary. has six children, four girls & two boys - Joe is in Texas and is married had one child which they lost - but its place will soon be supplied by another Mother Russell is living with us but- thinks if Joe comes in the

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Spring she will go on a visit to Texas...Ma is in her usual health but Pa is not well and cannot live a great while...we are too poor or I would come to see you. I must tell you Jimmie and I are now both members of the Baptist church you know that Henry is a member of that church. a few years ago we were laughing girls. My dear do you remember the night we stayed with Aunt Malinda and how you slept in Uncle Zacks shirt. oh my love how we laughed when poor Aunt Malinda was saying her prayers - oh those days...Cousin John Gordon told me he heard Minnie and Dr. Erskine of Memphis were to be married ...kiss Jack for me and tell him I love him better than any of my boy cousins...have you got a likeness or photograph of our dear Mattie you could give me...please send me another & one of sweet Minnie.

Ever yours, Mary Lizzie

Charles Maner was to see to see us last winter he is over six feet tall and quite handsome looks like his dear mother. only he is as dark as a spaniard he is to be married soon to his cousin Nina, Joe Morris daughter a beautiful girl. he is planting on his Fathers place. Good bye M.

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Dalton Dec 6th - 1873

My Dearest Cousin, *attached envelope is Mrs. Mary B. Le Conte, Columbia, Tennessee*
(GWG Papers).

"...We left Griffin five months ago - Henry is now at the old Mines. You know they have been leased by Gov Brown and Henry is there as Cashier and Bookkeeper for him with a fine salary. he comes home every Saturday unless a press of business - I see here for a while sending our two oldest boys to school. I have but the three. Joe is almost 5 years old. & no prospect for any more. The Gov is making great improvements at the mines & will soon ship 40 cars of coal per day - Ma and Pa are here boarding with Sis Bel-, they are in their usual health, never very well - Sis Bel- is in miserable health and cannot live long unless a change she is suffering from Dispepsia & calcuated(Sp?) stomach - and has such an appetite - she does not control - which keeps her all the time sick. It was our intention this month to have gone to live in Chattanooga, but the prevalence of Cholera prevented - I doubt now if we go for a year - Charlie is here doing a good practice has two sweet little girls the youngest he calls Mary for me - Henry saw Eugene Gordon at the mines the other day. did you know his wife was insane now in the asylum at Tuscumbia, Ala. caused from womb disease. I feel so sorry for poor Eugene he is young to have had so much trouble - ? knew Johnie Flournoy had lost his wife. died in childbirth oh "my dear" how many sad changes ? of these little boys grown up and sorrows falling upon them and their families. It makes me feel sad and old.

Carrie has been here to see me since I came up the Country - she is as pretty as ever and has three beautiful children the youngest a boy - she calls Gordon - I have seen Brother too - he is looking old, so much broken : Emma is in miserable health, they have but the two little girls - She so often speaks of you & says I wish I could see Mary ... I hear dear little Missie is married...My old beau Ben Morgan is living here...he with a good familys have been spending the summer at our dear old Gordon Springs the place has all gone to rack. all the cabbins down. & the alles & bath house . not even a fence around the old hotel -...

Ever loving cousin

M E Russell i e Mary Elizabeth Gordon Russell

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Joseph E. Brown was a two term Georgia Governor, Senator and Chief Justice of the Georgia Supreme Court. He was also a business man dealing in railroads, and iron and coal mines in northwest Georgia. "In June, 1872, he became president of a company, including W. C. Morrill, **Walter S. Gordon**, and John M. Born, Jr., that leased what eventually amounted to 150,000 acres of land in that area. In February, 1873, the group was given a charter as the Dade Coal Company." (Roberts)

An Act to prevent the sale of spirituous or malt liquors within one mile of the works of Rogers Iron Company of Bartow County, and the works of the Castle Rock Coal Company and within two mile of Dade Coal Company was passed at January session of 1873. The Dade Coal Mines were being worked by the Castle Rock Coal Company. (GLA, 1873 Vol. 1 --p179)

In the January 1874 Session, an Act was passed, authorizing an increase in the capital stock of the Dade Coal Company, construction of necessary railroads, and the "right to keep up and maintain a connections of its roads ...with the railroad of the "Nickajack Railroad and Mining Company" chartered in 1856, which connected the mines of the Gordons et al (now known as the Castle Rock Mine, to the state line near Shellmound, Tennessee. (GLA, 1874 Vol 1--p263)

Charles P. Gordon was practicing medicine in Dalton, Georgia where he had been the Mayor in 1869 (UGA ALUMNI). Rebecca Gordon Crook's family also lived there. On May 13, 1874 Jas. H. Gordon paid \$500 for a lot on the corner of Waugh and North Depot Street that was 90'x140'. (Whitfield Co. DB H/184) Two weeks later, on May 27, he paid \$200 for a lot on N. Spenser St. that was 50'x135' (Whitfield Co. DB H/185)

1874, 23 July, James H. Gordon died and was buried in West Hill Cemetery, Dalton, GA. (Whitfield)

On August 3, 1874, James H. Gordon's will (see above), which had been written in Spalding County in 1864, was accepted as proven and entered into the Whitfield County records, with Charles P. Gordon as executor. (JHG Estate)

On March 4, 1876, Caroline M. Gordon signed her will, with her son Charles P. Gordon as executor. She left a house and lot in Dalton in trust for the benefit of her grandchildren, the children of her daughter, Rebecca C. Crook. Those grandchildren were Leander W. and Nellie Crook, and Jenny Sitton, wife of B. J. Sitton. The remainder of her estate was divided into 7 equal parts, and an equal share each given to her sons, Charles P. and Wm. L Gordon, and her daughters, Mary E. Russell and Caroline H. Bass;. one share to her grandchildren, Octavia Wheeler and Emma Gordon, daughters of her deceased son, R. O. Gordon; one share to her grandson, Charles G. Manor, son of her deceased daughter, Martha Octavia Manor; and one share in trust for Rebecca C. Crook, with Charles P. Gordon as trustee.(CMG Estate)

Caroline may have attended the graduation of one of her grandsons, James Gordon Russell, from the 2 year collegiate program at Crawford High School in Dalton on July 12, 1876. She may

have also attended baseball games; Gordon Russell was a member of the team, the "Crawford" nine. (The Constitution, Atlanta, July 14 & Aug 12, 1876.)

The Castle Rock Coal Company was still in business, and in the January Session of 1877, the General Assembly enacted "That the Castle Rock Company of Georgia, which was chartered and organized during the late war, and its present capital stock then fixed upon a Confederate currency basis, be, and the same is hereby, authorized to reduce the number of its shares, and its capital stock" to a number agreed by 4/5ths of the shares of issued stock. Furthermore, the corporation was authorized to subsequently increase its capital stock to \$600,000 as the stockholders may so decide. (GLA 1877 Vol. 1--p218)

Castle Rock coal was mined within three miles of Joseph E. Brown's Dade County Mines, and "was popular for grate use. The coal was, at one time, mined by a firm headed by John B. Gordon, but Brown bought the lease. It was, reportedly, hard, clear burning coal, second in quality only to anthracite." Brown also mined iron ore in Dade County, and used convict labor in his mines. His Dade Coal Company and Rising Fawn Company also operated about 123 coke ovens (Roberts).

"In spite of all the claims as to the quantity and quality of coal and iron in Northwest Georgia, it is obvious that neither was very great. Brown made money from the mines, but he made it with help of certain advantages peculiar to himself. He was a pioneer and got the land for a low price. He used cheap convict labor and had control of the railroad in the vicinity. The production of the mines reached a peak before and decreased in importance until by the early twentieth century they were no longer major enterprises of the area (Roberts)."

On 25 April, 1878, for \$65, Caroline M. Gordon sold her undivided one-third interest in lot 67, 4th District, White County (formerly in Habersham) with all rights excepting mines & minerals to H. D. Ingersoll of White County (White County DB D, p163). Charles P[ennington] Gordon's heirs still retain an interest in this parcel (White County DB E, p433)

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1880 Census
Dalton, Whitfield County, Georgia
Enumeration Day, June 1

Dwelling # 89

GORDON,

Charles P.	W	M	43	Physician
Maggie M	W	F	33	wife Keeping house
Mary G	W	F	9	Daugh At school
Martha M	W	F	11	Daugh At school
Caroline M	W	F	80	Mother
Sallie	Mu	F	18	Servant Servant

Dwelling # 199

3/7/2023

RUSSELL, Henry	W	M	47		Bookkeeper
Mary E	W	F	38	wife	Keeping house
Henry	W	M	14	son	at school
Joseph	W	M	10	son	at school
Caroline	W	F	71	mother	

Sarah Law was not found

Zachariah was not found but, two of his sons were in Jackson County, Alabama where they had mining interests. Walter S. Gordon (32) and Eugene C. Gordon (35) were both listed as "Dealers in Coal". It was expected that Zachariah should also be living there.

From the subsequent estate information, it appears that daughter **Octavia** and son-in-law Charles Maner have died by the time of the estate settlements. However, Charles G. Maner (29) was found in Hampton County, SC with a wife and with 3 children. One of those is also named Charles G. The elder Charles G's parents were born in SC (father) and GA (mother) which seems reasonable.

=====

Selma, Dallas County, Alabama

Rebecca Crook had died in 1878. One of her daughters had married and lived in Selma, Alabama. Her other daughter lived there with her sister and her husband. They all lived in a boarding house or hotel.

Sitton, B J	W	M	35	boarder	Master Mechanic(?)
E ?	W	F	24	wife	at home
L C	W	M	5	son	
Crook, N G	W	F	18	sister-in-law	

=====

Floyd County, Chulio District (962) as 1 June, 1880, enumerated on 15 June

Caroline H Gordon Bass is living with her husband Josiah, near her father-in-law, Nathan Bass, and brother-in-law Nathan Bass . Her brother, **William Law Gordon**, is also living in Floyd County.

Page 40

Dwelling 378

BASS

Josiah F	W	M	42	Farmer	
Carrie G	W	F	34	wife	Keeping House
Nellie G	W	F	15	dau	At School <i>Katherine G. Burney's Mother</i>
Carrie F	W	F	11	dau	At School
Nathan G	W	M	10	son	At School
Mary L	W	F	5	dau	

3/7/2023

SHROPSHIRE

Nancy B F 25 boarder Cooking
 Laura ? F 4

JOHNSON

Jerry B M 21 Boarder Works on Farm

BROWN

Samuel B M 10 Boarder Servant

919th Militia District of Floyd County

Dwelling 240

GORDON

W. L W M 49 farmer
 Emma W F wife 45 keeping house
 Carrie W F dau 16
 Mattie W F dau 12

1880 Agricultural Census.

Caroline H. Gordon's husband, his brother and his father listed on nearby Floyd County Farms.

Bass, Nathan H.		p22, Chulio District (962), Floyd County.											
Impro	Ac	Woods	Val	Farm	Equip	Stock	Ind	Corn	Oats	Cotton	Eggs	Orchard #	trees
							Bu	Bu	Bales	Doz	Apple	Peach	
108		300	\$1,500		\$200	\$600	1,000	400	25	800	30	40	
Bass, Josiah F		p23, Chulio District (962), Floyd County.											
355		250	\$10,000		\$275	\$1050	1,100	100	109	800	-	50	
Bass, Nathan.		p23, Chulio District (962), Floyd County.											
82		8	\$ 2,000		\$100	\$ 450	600	113	24	600	200	100	

The total acreage of the father and two sons is now 1103 acres. This is a major change from the 5,854 acres in 1870, possibly an indication of continued losses due to Nathan Bass's post war financial difficulties.

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On June 3, 1880, Caroline M. Gordon gave two granddaughters, Jennie Sitton and Nellie Crook of Selma, Alabama, two lots with 50' of frontage on Cuyler Street in Dalton. (Whitfield Co. DB J/398)

1880 28 December, Caroline M. Gordon died and was buried in West Hill Cemetery, Dalton, GA (Whitfield) next to her husband. Charles P. sent his sister, Caroline Bass in Rome, a telegram. The telegraph office in Rome kindly determine what the train schedule was between Rome and Dalton, and sent Mrs. Bass that information along with their "heartfelt sympathy"

(Letter 28 Dec, 1880, in author's possession).

February 7th, 1881, Caroline M. Gordon's will was accepted for probate. (CMG Estate).

In June Court Term of 1881, Charles P. Gordon stated that he had a share of \$225 for Nellie G. Crook and that the annual profits were insufficient for her support, and he requested that he be allowed to give her \$50 to pay her board and to buy clothes and other necessaries, which was granted by the Court. (CMG Estate)

In July of 1882, Mary G. Russell, Wm. L. Gordon, Carrie H. Bass, Emma Bryant and Chas. G. Maynor petitioned the court to have Charles P. Gordon, the executor of the Estate of James Harvey Gordon, appear in court "to make settlement of his accounts as such executor." (JHG Estate)

In July 1882, Charles P., as executor of the estates of James H. Gordon and Caroline M. Gordon, distributed \$117.32 to Benjamin J. Sitton as guardian of Clifton Sitton; \$117.28 to H. Y. Wakely for his wards, Gussie and Gordon Wheeler; \$117.32 to Nellie Gordon Crook. ***It would appear that there should be more, but apparently the Probate Court Office failed to copy and send the next page.***

In the March Term of Court, 1884, Charles P. Gordon was granted the right to sell James H. Gordon's one-fourth interest, and, in the Sept Term of Court, 1884, Caroline M. Gordon's one-fourth interest in lot 47, and 50 acres of lot 27, 4th District, in White County, Georgia, "the same being wild lands and wholly unproductive to the estate" (JHG Estate) (CMG Estate). These sales took place in 1884 (White County DB F, p76 & p78).

In 1885, the estates received \$109.00 from the sale of the White County lands, which had been advertised in the Clarksville advertiser. With this and a little other income, and after expenses, final payments to the heirs were made;

Charles G. Maner	\$10.50
B J. Sitton, guardian	\$5.25
Emma Bryant	\$5.25
Mary E. Russell	\$10.50
Nellie Crook Hayden	\$5.25
W. L. Gordon	\$10.50
Caroline H. Bass	\$10.50
H. J. Wakely, guardian	\$5.25
Charles P. Gordon	\$10.50

In 1887, additional money came in on notes, and was paid out to the same people, at the rate of \$25.50 or \$12.75, depending on the share.

In Oct of 1887, Charles P. Gordon was discharged by the court from his duties as executor of the estates of James H. Gordon and Caroline M. Gordon.

Caroline's brothers, James, William and Peyton, had all predeceased her. Her sister, Sarah Gwyn Gordon Hamilton, died in 1889. (Hickerson, HVA)

Brother Zachariah died in Alabama in 1886, and was carried back to Columbus, Ga (where they had lived during the war) to be buried by his wife, Malinda.

Sarah Chapman Gordon Law continued to live in Memphis where she died on June 29, 1894. (Obit)

Harvey and Caroline's surviving children were William Law Gordon, Caroline Gordon Bass, Charles Peyton Gordon, and Mary E. Russell.

On 28 February, 1891, Emma W. Gordon gave W. L. Gordon a power of attorney to sell a half acre lot in Griffin, Spalding County(DB ?/page 153). Nathan H. Bass (probably Jr.) of Floyd County was the N. P.

In 1908, William Law Gordon died in bed at his home on South Broad Street in Rome, Georgia, at the age of 78. "He was a familiar figure on Rome's streets, his long patriarchal beard, and snowy hair, giving him a distinguished figure". (Obit)

Caroline Gordon Bass and her husband, Josiah, moved into their daughter Nellie Burney's home in Rome. Josiah died in 1917. Caroline continued to live with Nellie Burney until her death on June 7, 1936 at Bluefield, West Virginia, where she was visiting another daughter, Mary Bass Perkins. (KBM)

Mary E. Russell and her husband both died in 1896 according to Hickerson, EHA. Mary died on May 25, 1896 and was buried in West Hill Cemetery in Dalton (Find A Grave). However Henry Russell actually died on March 19, 1916 in Atlanta (Confederate Veteran).



3/7/2023

This Photograph is from *Vanishing Georgia, Georgia Division of Archives and History, Off of Secretary of State*. It was the ca. 1908 home of Dr. C. P. Gordon on the corner of Waugh and Thornton Avenue. Census record indicate that in 1880 Dr. Gordon lived on Crawford Street, and by 1900 he was living on Thornton Avenue.

Charles Peyton Gordon died in 1910 and was buried in West Hill Cemetery in Dalton, where his parents were buried. (Whitfield Co Hist Soc)

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Research Notes,
Information not in main body

Andrew G. Gordon was living in Marion County, FL in 1860. Correct age, wife and child for the Gordon living in Walker County in 1850.

A Search of 1850 and 1860 slave census for Florida, revealed no other Gordon slave owners.

Searched for

1860 slave g(vowel)rd?n no others in state

1860 Fed census every name, g(vowel)rd?n no others of interest.

FindaGrave reports that Andrew was buried in Putnam Co. Ga, but the image of the tombstone slab is not legible and no birth or death dates are given.

FURTHER RESEARCH IDEAS

A. I have seen Volume I of the Wilkes County (NC) Cemetery Records. There are no others in Card Catalogue.

B. June 15, 2005. I Checked Walker County Deeds for Gordons. No George's, Zachariah's, or James H's. A number of James, and I looked at all before 1853, but found none of ours. There is a reference in the Heritage of Walker County, which implies that some deed books survive the courthouse fire of 1883.

C. Check Dade County deeds for mining interests of Gordons.

In 1856 & 1862 deeds, Zachariah lists himself as being from Dade County. In 1861 and 1862 he also lists himself as Jackson County.

Also look for the Nickajack Railroad, Dade Coal Mine Company, and the Castle Rock Mine or Coal Mine.

D. Huntsville, Madison County, Alabama need research there.

Nellie Gordon buried there? Obituary 1 line from Huntsville Paper. No funeral or burial place given..

R. O. Gordon, where buried Seek his military history.

City Directory

Deeds for Madison County.

Alabama 1858 Business Directory

E. Dalton GA,

city directories from 1870 to 1880 or so for

C P Gordon

J H and Caroline

Rebecca C. Crook

Henry Russell

**Newspapers,
North Georgia Citizen, began publication in 1847.**

F. Other Counties to check

Habersham County, CHECKED and COPIED
 White County, originally part of Habersham, CHECKED and COPIED.
 Lumpkin County
 Putnam Co.
 Jones County
 Monroe County
 Spalding County Checked and Copied
 Gordon Deeds

G. White County, 1857 created from Habersham

estates sold land in White, JHG & CMG each had 1/4 interest. Who owned the other half? .

H. The papers of George W. Gordon at the TN State Lib and Archives, would appear to have an abundance of information. HAVE MICROFILM, working on these.

I. Charity Gordon has not been found in the 1850 or 1860 census, I should try a search for Charity Robinette, and possibly just Charity in the appropriate counties.

J. See what I can find out about 415 acres 3 miles south of Ocala, Florida

K. **DONE** Check North Carolina and Georgia for an estate of Jesse Robinett Senior.
 Ancestry search in Byan Grimes 1912 index to wills for Robinet(t)(e) produced no result. Later found he died in Georgia.

L. James Gwyn was married to Jane, according to Newspapers in 1822 to Jane Dickerson of Grayson County, VA. See above where, after his death, she goes to Grayison.

Ancestry search a. NC Marriages to 1825
 b. NC Marriage Bonds 1741 to 1868
 No hits for James Gwyn or James and Jane in NC or Wilkes County.
 Get ages of James, Peyton, and Wm L- did they grow up with James H.

M. Death of George W 1st wife **DONE**

N. **DONE** Check Wilkes County NC Deeds for Charles King, Charles not found.

O. Check Macon City Directory for Gordons WILLIAM L had a drug store there in 1866

P Check Griffin City Directory for Starks and Gordons
WILLIAM L had a shoe store there.

Q. DONE. Write West Virginia for the death certificate of Caroline Gordon Bass.
Found on internet. Miss indexed.

R Charity (a resident of Whitfield County, GA) also applied in 1855 for Bounty Land (CGPF). Elisha King of Adairsville, Ga wrote Gen. George W. Gordon on 25 Dec, 55, that his mother's land warrant was duly received and sent to the Clerk of Superior Court at Dalton on 19th instant, although it has not been returned (GWP Papers).

S. There are Huntsville Alabama Newspapers for the appropriate time period which have been microfilmed.

T. Whitfield County Deeds, check Jesse Callaway deed of 1867 or so and see if it makes reference to an earlier sale.

TO DO NEXT

1850 Agricultural Census Microfilm is missing from Davis Library.

1860 Ag Census, Madison Co, AL no Gordons
Dade, found Z H Gordon.

Manufacturing Census None for Georgia 1850-1880 Nothing at Davis

Madison AL, 1860 No Gordons Found
Jackson, AL 1860 No Gordons Found

Whitfield 1860 no Gordons Found, but did see Jesse Callaway

Spalding GA 1870

=====

Ancestry.com has Non Population Schedules for Georgia and Alabama

On March 6, 2013

1850-1880

Gordon – Walker County, Ours Not Found

Gordon – Whitfield County, none of ours.

Gordon – Madison County, Alabama a James Gordon Blacksmith 1850

Gordon Z H- Jackson Co, Alabama 1860

Gordon – Spalding County, ours not found.

3/7/2023

Also prepare a map of Georgia, showing the counties of interest. **IN PROGRESS**

=====

This is probably Octavia's husband see letter above dated Jan 15, 1854.

MaybeNot.

Gordon Springs Jan 26th 1858

Ever Dearest Sister

, Octa's health is very good, she spent last summer with us, she is healthier than I ever knew her
Mr. Maner's health was not good he brought her here and then went on to Saratoga. He could
not persuade her to go with him, said she much rather stay with us.

So did

Mr. Maner die before 1860, and Octavia also?

See above, Octavia's husband was alive in 1858.

3/7/2023

John S. Maner

[Memorial](#)
[Photos](#)
[Flowers](#)
[Share](#)
[Edit](#)
[Learn about upgrading this memorial...](#)

Birth: Jun. 3, 1818
 Death: Dec. 1, 1854

Inscription:

Age

36 years & 6 months.

Because I love ye shall love also

John XIV:19

"Thy dear Redeemer's might
 hath gain'd for thee the Victory."

Burial:

[Black Swamp Methodist Church Cemetery](#)

Garnett

Hampton County

South Carolina, USA

Created by: [Paulette Johnston P.B. -...](#)

Record added: Mar 20, 2012

Find A Grave Memorial# 87087391



Added by: [nightingale](#)

Appendix A
to
Biographies of James Harvey Gordon and Caroline M. Gwyn

The following genealogy is taken for Gordons of Spotsylvania County, Virginia by Francis Beale Hodges. *The notes in Italics are my attempts to supplement and clarify Hodges. The additions are believed to be correct, but not necessarily complete.*

This is not a complete version of all of Hodges, rather it is just enough to show the relationships of those people mentioned in the present work, *The Biography of James Harvey and Caroline Gwyn Gordon.*

The Gordon Outline is followed by a summary of Caroline GWYN Gordon's family.

The Children and Descendants of John George Gordon and Sarah Chapman Gordon

A1. Mary Gordon, born November 7, 1728.

A2. Charles Gordon, Sr., born August 8, 1730, married Mrs. Mary (Boswell) Herndon, widow of Joseph Herndon of Draper and Spotsylvania County, Va.,....

.The Herndon children were"

- a. Joseph d 1756*
- b. Stephen d 1764 Spottsylvania Co. VA*
- c. Philadelphia*
- d. Mary Ann*
- e. Joseph m NC about 1774
d aboutt 1799 Wilkes County NC*
- f. Benjamin moved to Wilkes Co NC, later moved to SC
Charles Gordon was appointed Guardian of the children in 1759*

Joseph and Benjamin both fought at Kings Mountain.

B1. Charles Gordon, Jr., married Mary Lenoir(*daughter of Gen. William Lenoir*) of Caldwell County, N. C.

- C1. Nancy Gordon
- C2. Polly Gordon

B2. Nathaniel Charles Gordon, born 1755, *died Wilkes Co. NC ca. 1806-8*, married his cousin, Nancy Gordon* of Virginia...*daughter of A4. Gordon* and reared a family in Wilkes County, N. C.

- C1. Richmond Gordon...*m Elizabeth Fletcher 15 Jan 1818 Wilkes*
- C2. John Wesley Gordon...*John W. Gordon m Nancy Robinett 22 Apr 1808 Wilkes*

- C3. Sarah Gordon married John **Rousseau** and had issue: *Sally m 9 Oct 1811 Nath'l Gordon bondsman or witness*
- C4. Thomas A. Gordon...*m Louisa Garland 16 Mar 1815 J.W.Gordon bondsman*
- C5.Gordon married Thomas Fletcher....
- C6. Nathaniel W. Gordon was born in Wilkes County, N. C., married and lived at Pickens District...S. C. *lived in Jones County, Georgia also*
**This is the Nancy Gordon who later left Wilkes County, and went to Jones County, Georgia with her children.*
- B3. Chapman Gordon ...married Charity King.
- C1. Rev. Zachariah Herndon Gordon...married Malinda Cox
 D1 Washington King Gordon died in 1847 in his 21st year while a student in Mercer University, Ga.
 D2. Zachariah Chapman Gordon (*ca. 1829*) died in 1871 at 30 (*40*)years of age, *based on the 1850,60,70 censuses* married Margaret M. Thomas of Bowling Green, Ky.
 Served as a Lieutenant in the Confederate Army. No Issue
 D3. John Brown Gordon, born in Upson County Ga., Feb. 6, 1832; died Jan. 9, 1904;...In 1854 he married Fanny, daughter of Hon. Anderson Haralson of La Grange, Ga....Major General and acting Lt. General commanding a wing of Lee's Army...U. S. Senator from Georgia...35th Governor of Georgia...
 E1 Hugh Haralson Gordon I... married Caroline Williams: had issue
 E2 Frances Gordon married Burton Smith: had issue
 E3 Frank Gordon married Georgia Kilborn: had issue
 E4 Caroline *Lewis* Gordon married Orten Bishop Brown: had issue
a handwritten note lists John B. Gordon, Jr. born 1865 during the evacuation of Petersburg. The Atlanta Constitution Aug 17, 1884 lists J. B. Gordon Jr., next to Frank Gordon, at a social event.
- D4 William Harvey (*ca. 1839*) Gordon died while a student at Union University, Murfreesboro, Tenn., Feb. 14, 1857, age 19 years.
- D5 Augustus Manly Gordon (*ca. 1841*) died at the age of 22 while serving as Lieutenant Colonel at the Battle of Chancellorsville May 1865. *Note: that should be 1863.*
- D6 Marly (*Mary*) Malinda Gordon (*1843*) married Capt. J. C. Roper of Kinston, Ga. 2 children
- D7 Eugene Cornelius Gordon ...born 1845 and entered the Confederate Army in his 16th year and was aide to his brother, Major General John B. Gordon. He rose to the rank of Lieutenant of Calvary. He married first Sallie von Alback Oliver of White Sulphur Springs, Ga., who died Sept. 30, 1867...one son...married secondly Ella Crenshaw of Athens, Ala., 2 children.
- D8 Walter Scott Gordon, born 1848, died in New York City, 1886, married Loulie McLendon of Atlanta, Ga. ...2 children
- C2 Mary Basil Gordon married John Brown of Columbia, Tenn. *On 30 Dec 1813 Wilkes, Nathaniel Gordon Bondsman* (*handwritten note: no children. Her name was most likely Mary Boswell Gordon, probably named after her grandmother, she is so listed in the Rose Hill Cemetery Book, Columbia Tennessee.*

C3 Rebecca (or Mamphradonia) Gordon (*d. Eatonton 1825*) married a Napier of Georgia. *Note: This was Thomas Thompson Napier, on June 17, 1818 in Eatonton, Ga.*

D1. Tom Napier. (*Handwritten note: Thomas Chapman Napier*)

D2. Leroy Wiley Napier.

Following from Charles Corbin, Napier Researcher

D3. Sarah C. Napier m. James L. Delanney

D4. Mary Manfredonia Napier m. William L. Maxwell

C4 Sarah Chapman Gordon married Dr. John S. Law of Columbia, Tenn...
Virginia(Jennie) Elizabeth Law m. Dr. N. M. Sneed before 1856
Julia Gordon Law m. H. T. Coffee
Caroline C. (ca. 1831) m. 1st. Stephen Norris, 2nd. Thomas Irwin
Sarah Rebecca m. Dr. W. B. Wright
Rev. Dr. John Gordon Law (ca. 1840) m. Margaret Kyle
Augusta Aletha (ca. 1837), m. 1st. Thomas White, 2nd. Dr. Alex. Erskine
(later married Margaret Louise G, daughter of G W Gordon.
Mary Louisa (ca. 1826) m. Alfred Smithwick
Lou in Mother's letter 1850(GWG Papers)

Names from S C G L's Obituary

C5. Charles Pennington Gordon married Barbara Galbraith of Carlisle, Pa., and resided Putnam County, Ga.; had issue:

D1 Octavia Gordon

D2 Jennie Gordon married Dr. Chas. T. Abercrombie of Russell County, near Columbus, Ga.; had issue

D3 Mary Ann Gordon married John Manly Flournoy of Columbus, Ga.:
had issue

NOTE: D4-D7 is pencilled in the copy that I have.

D4 Sallie Gordon married Joseph Wilkins of Liberty Co. Ga.

D5 Julia Barbara Gordon *died in 1841 while visiting Aunt Sarah Chapman G Laws in Columbia TN*

D6 Oscar Gordon

D7. Andrew G. Gordon (*ca. 1820*) in Eatonton, Ga. m. *18 May, 1848 Adie ?*
E1. Charles (ca. 1849)
Jan 1858 2 children and nearly another.

C6. James Harvey Gordon married Caroline Gwyn of Wilkes County, N. C....

D1 Richard Oscar Gordon (*1824-1861*) married (*Harriet Price*) *ca. May, 1850*; had issue.

E1. Daughter died Dec 1857,

E2. Octavia m. Wheeler

F1. Gussie in 1882 & 1885 H. J. Wakely was guardian for Gordon & Gussie

F2. Gordon

- E3. *Emma m. Bryant*
- D2 Rebecca Gordon (*Sis Bel*) (1826-1878) married (*Leander W.*) Crook (1821-1862);
 E1. *Alexander G. (ca. 1848) not mentioned in James H's 1864 will.*
 E2. *Caroline Eugenia 16 in 1870 m B. J. Sitton*
 E3. *Leander W. Crook 11 in 1870*
 E4. *Nellie Gordon, 8 in 1870. 1867 Rebecca has three children m. Hayden.*
- D3 Octavia Gordon (*ca. 1829*) married *John (about 1849 or 50) Maner*; had issue. *Both probably deceased before 1860.*
Johney...no hopes of his recovery...did not think he would last the winter Jan 15 1854.
Nov4, 1854 Mr. Maner's health still bad.
 E1. *Charles Gordon (ca. 1851)*
- D4 William Law Gordon (1830-1908) married *Emma Hurt*, had issue. *Later lived in Rome, GA.*
 E.1 *Martha "Mattie" Lee Gordon, was born on 16 December, 1867*
 E.2 *Carrie F never married?*
- D5 *Unknown born July 1833, died before Aug 1833 at Auraria, GA.*
- D6 Mary Elizabeth (*Lizzie*) Gordon (*ca. 1836-1896*) married *Henry Russell* and was considered a brilliant and witty woman; had issue
 E1 Gordon Russell became a Judge of the United States Court of Texas; served in Congress with *his cousin* the late Richard Nathaniel Hackett, brother of James Gordon Hackett of North Wilkesboro, Wilkes County, NC.
 E2. *Henry Another little boy 16 months July 1867*
 E3. *Joseph 1869 has three boys*
- D7 Charles Peyton Gordon (1837-1910), a doctor, married...., had issue.
Lived in Dalton, GA.
- D8 *Cornelia Francis known as Nellie Gordon (1840-1861)*
Died in Huntsville, AL
- D9 Caroline Harvey Gordon (1845-1936) married J. F. Bass of 312 East 4th St., Rome, Ga. Was living in her 85th year in 1930. Had issue.
Note: in 1930 she was living with her daughter, Nellie Bass Burney at the above address.

C7. Wiley Gordon was killed while an officer in the Texas Army during the Mexican War *Note: This is incorrect see page 8 Of James Harvey Gordon's Biography. Most likely he died in or around the War of 1812, consistent with the report of Sarah C G Laws. Confirmation of Wiley's death was found in the probate records of Wilkes County when, on Nov 4, 1818, Charles P. Gordon was appointed to administer the estate of Wiley J. Gordon and was bound in the sum of \$1600 along with Hamilton Brown and Larkin Sheppard. **Date of Death Unknown.***

C8. George Washington Gordon moved to Columbia, Tenn., in 1858. He was an officer in the Confederate Army and was taken prisoner and carried to Vicksburg, Miss.,

where he died before being exchanged. He married Elizabeth Bradshaw Jan. 14, 1834; had issue: *2nd Marriage to Mary Randolph in 1857.*

D1 John Chapman Gordon born July 7, 1835, married Fannie Gillespie: *Died age 70. (Century Review 105-1905, Maury Co. Tn)*

D2 Mary (**Minnie**) Brown Gordon, born Dec. 21, 1836, *22 April, 1858* married Dr. James Le Conte of Ga., and died at 67 years of age in 1903...

D3 Martha Eliza (**Mattie**) Gordon, born May 5, 1838, married Hiram Titcomb of Columbia, Tenn., dying early without issue. *Died Oct 17, 1860*

D4. William (**Willie**) Bradshaw Gordon, born July 23, 1839, married Mollie Franklin who died without issue and secondly Matilda Magruder of Columbia, Tenn; had issue:

D5. Elizabeth Stubblefield Gordon, born May 9, 1841, died Aug 11, 1841.:

D6. Margaret Louise (**LOU**) (**Missie**) Gordon, born Oct. 27, 1842, married Dr. Alexander Erskine of Nashville, Tenn, ; had issue:

D7. George Washington Gordon, born Aug. 27, 1844, unmarried

D8. Charles Law Gordon, born July 11, 1846, died Oct. 1930 in Mississippi, married Alice Short of Sardis, Miss. Had issue.

D9. Hugh Taylor Gordon, born June 12, 1848, died Jan. 1931 in Glednora, Calif., married *Anna Nicholson*; had issue:

D10 Thomas Edward Gordon, born Aug. 6, 1850, married Alice Gillespie; was living in 1931 in his 80th year at Columbia, Tenn.; had issue:

A3. Nathaniel Gordon, born Aug. 27, 1732, married Elizabeth.....

They had several children including a son Nathaniel

A4. John Gordon, born Feb. 7, 1734, died 1766, married Sarah,

B1. Nancy Gordon, born 1759...Charles Gordon, guardian,

A5. Sarah Gordon, born Dec.7, 1735.

A6. Elizabeth Gordon, born Feb. 3, 1739.

A7. Chapman Gordon, born Jan. 15, 1741.

A8. George Gordon, born Jan. 15, 1743 (*-1800 tombstone*), married Sarah Herndon (*30 Aug, 1754-5 Mar 1842 tombstone*), daughter of Mrs. Mary (Boswell) Herndon who married the oldest brother, Charles Gordon, of George Gordon; moved in 1770 to Surrey County (now Wilkes County) North Carolina...

Will for George Gordon...in Wilkes County, N. C., November Term 1800. Had issue:

B1. John Gordon married his $\frac{1}{2}$ 1st cousin, a Miss Herndon, & moved to Mississippi.

John was born Feb. 10, 1779. *Philadelphia Herndon 24 Sept 1800 Wilkes.*

B2. Nathaniel Gordon, born May 1, 1784, died Jan. 31, 1829, *George's Will said Nathaniel was his youngest son.* married March 30, 1820, Sarah Gwyn(*Caroline M Gordon's sister*), born Oct. 6, 1798, died Jan. 6, 1889...

C1 Martha Lenoir Gordon, born Feb. 26, 1821, married A. W. Finley-N. Wilkesboro, N. C., Feb. Term 1829. *Incorrect 1842.*

Had issue:

D1. James Edward Finley.

D2. Ellen Finley

- D3. John George Finley
- D4. Octavia Finley
- D5. Arthur Finley
- D6. Caroline Gordon Finley
- D7. Thomas Brown Finley

C2 Sarah Ann Gordon, born March 28, 1826, married John T. Finley of Wilkesboro, N. C.:*(lived on Coosa River, Leesbury, AL, below Rome in 1853, later moved back to Wilkes Co.)* had issue:

- D1. Walter Gordon Finley
- D2. Ella Finley
- D3. Clara Finley.
- D4. John T. Finley, Jr.
- D5. James Robert Finley.
- D6. Annie Finley.
- D Florence ?

A fourteen year old niece of J Bryon Gordon died on June 26, 1862. Later in Stuart's Tar Heels by Chris J. Hartley , he says her name is Ann.

D7. Samuel Gwyn Finley.

C3 Caroline Louisa Gordon, born **Apr** Jan. 1, 1828, died May 31, 1891, married Dec. 14,1859, Dr. R. F. Hackett of Wilkesboro, N. C....

- D1. Geneva E. Hackett, died unmarried.
- D2. Florence Hackett, died unmarried.
- D3. Richard Nathaniel Hackett died without issue. Served as a member of Congress.
- D4. James Gordon Hackett married Mary Grymes, ... No issue.

C4 James B. Gordon, born *Nov 2*, 1822, served as Brig. General in the Confederate Army and was killed...May 12, 1864, Battle of Yellow Tavern...Never married.

Sarah Gwyn Gordon remarried Hamilton Brown, see Gwyn Family below.

B3. Elizabeth Gordon, born Feb. 21, 1777, married *(16 June 1791, Wilkes Co.)* David Witherspoon and resided in Alabama: had issue

B4. Nancy Gordon, born Jan. 5, 1783, married Nathaniel Gordon, her cousin; had issue
C1. One daughter who died young.

B5. Mary Polly Gordon, born Sept. 5, 1782....., married Dr. James C. O'Reilly of Tennessee *22 Mar 1805 Wilkes, Nathaniel C. Gordon bondsman* and had issue:..

- C1. Sarah O'Reilly married.....
- C2. Caroline O'Reilly married A. O. P. Nicholson and had issue:

B6. Philadelphia Gordon marriedCraig of Mississippi and Tennessee.

B7. Sarah Sallie Gordon, born March 13, 1786, married..... Voorhees of Tennessee
Sarah Chapman Gordon m. Benjamin Herndon 2 Oct 1804 Wilkes Bondsman Nathaniel Gordon. Her mother Sarah had written her brother Benjamin Sr, inquiring if it was all right with him for the 1/2 1st cousins to marry.

B8. **Rebecca Rebeckea** Gordon married Robert Church 26 Sept 1816 Wilkes of Tennessee.

=====

GWYN FAMILY

This is not from Hodges. Prepared by Gordon N Mitchell.
As presented, abstracted from Letters or from Hickerson in Echoes of Happy Valley.

Richard Ransome Gwyn *born Gloucester Co. Virginia (1765-1822) m. (1789) Martha Lenoir born Kershaw District, SC (1768-1829)*
Lived in or near Wilkesboro, NC and buried in the Presbyterian Cemetery behind the old church, just off main street.

I. William Lorenzo m. Frances

William and his brothers followed the Gordons to the Gold Fields of Georgia
Later lived in Floyd County, GA.

- (a.) Adalid (ca. 1837) Female
- (b.) Unknown male (before 1840, assume dead before 1850)
- (c.) Caroline (ca. 1840) Female
- (d.) Isabella (ca. 1843) Female
- (e.) Daton J. (ca. 1847) Male

From Census, could this really be Peyton J.

In 1850 William 43, apparently has a young wife Susan 28
July 1840 has 2 children a boy and a girl, third on the way.
Another daughter by March 1841
1850 wife's health feeble. His health good.
DECEASED by 1869

II. James m. Jane Dicken(r)son of Grayson Co., Virginia. He died 29 July, 1833 in the Georgia Gold Fields, at Auraria.

Had issue

III. Thomas Peyton unmarried according to Hickerson.

Died in Tenn. Before November 4, 1854.

IV. Caroline McFaddin m. James Harvey Gordon. (see Gordon tables)

V. Sarah (1798-1889)

m 1. Nathaniel Gordon (1784-1829 (son of George) (see Gordon tables)

m 2. Hamilton Brown (1786-1870) m. in 1830. *Married Oct 7, 1830*

Reportedly 6 of Hamilton's brothers moved to Maury County, Tennessee.

Mary Boswell Gordon, daughter of Chapman, had married John Brown, Hamilton's brother and moved to Columbia, Maury County, TN.

Although not Gordon's, their children were the nephews of Caroline and James Harvey.

- (a.) Capt. HUGH THOMAS BROWN (1835-1861). North Wilkesboro, N. C., U. of N. C., class of 1857; C. S. A., killed in action at Oak Hill, Mo., in 1861.
- (b.) Col. HAMILTON ALLEN BROWN (1837-1917); C. S. A., m. in 1868, AMELIA SELINA GWYN (1844-1918) lived in Columbia, Tn., had issue.