

JOHN B. GALLIE
1806-1863

A Historical Research

Submitted

by

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Lying all but forgotten, except by the occasional historical research student, in the old section of Laurel Grove Cemetery, ifl Lot 365, is the grave of John B. Gallie, civic leader, businessman, jurist, and militia. The inscription bears this information: “Major John B. Gallie, born on July 1, 1806 at Dornoch, Scotland; died at Fort Pulaski on February 1, 1863. Erected by his Children.” Major Gallie is surrounded by those of members of his family. In this emaculate lot, enclosed in a wrought fence, are two of his wives, three children by his second marriage, a son-in-law, and several of his grandchildren .1

The search for information regarding Major Gallie's early life before coming to Savannah yielded negatively. His name first appeared in the Savannah Newspaper on January 19, 1831. On that date he entered into partnership with William Rose Dry Gopds Business. Thus, it became Rose and Gallie Dry Goods Company. During the 1850's Gallie entered into partnership in the steamshipping business with John R. Wilder. This business was known as the Gallie and Wilder Steamship Line. They owned several sidewheelers that made trips between New York and Savannah and up and down the eastcoast of the United States. Gallie personally made occassional trips to New York.

There is evidence that John B. Gallie married at least four times. His first known marriage was to Miss Isabella Boles of Camden County, Georgia. She died prior to 1838, in Camden County and was reburied in Laurel Grove Cemetery on January 1, 1858. Gallie's second wife was Miss Augusta Kelly Boog of Camden County. They were married at the Presbyterian Church in St. Mary's, Georgia on November 18, 1838, by a Reverend Pratt, They lived at 124 East Harris Street in Savannah, Georgia, whebe she died of bronchitis on August 3, 1847, at the age of 27. Nary Gallie and Julia Gallie were the surviving issues (children) of this marriage. Two :other issues died at tender ages. John B. Gallie Jr., died on October 4, 1844 at the age of 17 months. Annie A. Gallie, died

on March 4, 1849 of convulsions, at the age of 3 years. With the exception of Mary Gallie who later became Nary Gallie Trippi, all of the above mentioned are buried in “Lot 365” in Laurel Grove Cementery. Mary was traced up to 1885, and then her name disappeared from the records.

Sometime between 1848 and 1850, Gallie married Jannet Porcher, the widower of Francis Porcher of Belmont Plantation, in the Beaufort District of South Carolina. In his will, F Francis Porcher stipulated that in the event of his death, Jannet Forcher, his wife would become the holder of his property during her lifetime and then it would be passed to their children. She died of Yellow Fever on September 17, 1854, at Isles of Hope without issue. Thus, her second husband John B. Gallie became the heir and the administrator of the Porchers' estate.⁴

John B. Gallie's fourth wife was Charlotte N. E. Gallie. This was mentioned in his Will in 1858. There were two children horned to this marriages Lucy Christina Gallie, a daughter and Charles Rodrick Gallie, a son. Charlotte, Lucy and Charles disappeared from public records in Savannah after 1825.

John B. Gallie's daughter, Julia Gallie Married Thomas P. Bond and they had several children. Records failed to show that any of them ever married, They died as spinsters, bachelors, or infants, Julia Gallie Bond, died in Daytona Beach, Florida; on January 15, 1926, at the age of 84 years.

Gallie built several beautiful homes in Savannah and surrounding areas. These houses still stand at: 124 East Harris Street, this house in now owned by Mr. Charles Wiegand , whose grandfather purchased it in 1885. There are two houses in Laf ayyette Ward at 203 and 205 Charleston Street at the corner of Aber corn Street, facing Lafayette Square. The beautiful house at Isles of Hope is still in use. Gallie also owned twelve houses in Gilberville; a lot at the corner of Gwinett and Price and six lots on the Ogeechee Canal, known as Savannah Planing Machine Company. Gallie also was a slave master and owned at least 221 slaves at the time of his death. With the exception of a female house servants, all of the others were auctioned off about two weeks after

their master's death.

John B. Gallie was a man of high esteem and rose rapidly to prominence. Being very active on the public scene exclusively from 1831 until the time of his death, he held the following positions: Director of the Central of Georgia Railroad and Banking Company of Georgia, Secretary of the St. Andrews Society, Chairman of Savannah Finance Committee member of the Southern Commercial Convention Committee and jury-man for the United State District Court, On November 29, 1855 was one of the elected Alderman of the City of Savannah, Georgia.⁸

Major Gallie was an ambitious, capable and courageous militia. Hardly a week passed without his name being in the news at least twice. His accomplishments were many. In 1833 he was Sargent Gallie, in 1838 he was Colonel Gallie, and by 1843 he had obtained the rank of Major Gallie, He was an outstanding member of the Chatham Artillery and the Georgia Hussars. The newspaper gave this account of one of his brilliant performances: "In a military parade by 20 of the finest military companies, under the command of Colonel John B. Gallie, the Chatham Artillery turned out 4 canons, well manned. He made a handsome display," Major John B. Gallie was in command at Genesis Point at Fort Pulaski, where he was killed in 1863, defending the Confederacy, The news paper gave this account: "Nine privates were wounded

and Major John B. Gallie was killed. He was struck on the head by a flying shell from the enemy's gun and his face was slightly damaged.

With great fanfare, Major John B. Gallie was buried on February
8
3, 1863.

On October 24, 1859, John B. Gallie filed his "Last Will and Testimony" every description by Will or inheritance to be carried out by Executors and Administrators. The following are excerpts from his Will:

"I John B Gallie of the City of Savannah in the State of Georgia being of sound mind and memory do make my Last Will and Testimony of the 24th day of October, 1859. I bequeath the Negro slave Kate and her three daughters, Clara, Jessie and Sarah together, their future issue, and such property or effect, as I am or may be entitled to through or by virtue of marriage to Augusta K. Boog, now deceased to daughter, Mary and Julia. To them and heirs and assigns forever, share and share alike with power to use, enjoy, sell and convey to the same whether daughters or single or married, and to be in all respects free from the debts or control of their prospective husbands, should they contract marriage. The remainder will go to my wife, Charlotte M. E. Gallie, for equal-use and benefit share and share alike, of my said wife, -my daughter Lucy Christina, and such other child or children as may be born unto me and my said wife and the survivors of them share and share alike."

John Cumminghatn was named Guardian for Lucy and Charles. Charles dismissed him as his Guardian in 1885 and Lucy dismissed him in 1875. As Administrator Thomas P. Bond was authorized to sell at public outcry in front of the court house, dividends stocks shares and script dividends under law regulating the same. Application for sale of script dividends and estate of John B. Gallie was filed on June 16, 1881, with Philip N. Russel Jr., Deputy Clerk of Chatham County Court House, The estate of John

B. Gallie in account on February was \$90,303.24. Appraisal of goods and chattles, right and credit were valued at \$97, 892.20, exhibited by Executor on February 6, 1863. There was an auction sale of Gallie's personal property on April 22, 1863, this brought \$11,290.00.

It is through the genealogy of the Boog family a living descendant has been traced. This information was taken from the diary of Augusta Boog Gallie's brother-in-law, Colonel Charles Rinaldo Floyd, born on October 4, 1797; died on March 22, 1845 at Fairfield Plantation in Camden County, Georgia. He was buried on April 16, 1845 in St. Nary's Georgia. Colonel Charles Rinaldo Floyd was the husband of Augusta Gallie's oldest sister, Julia R. Boog Floyd. It is notated in this diary that various items had been transferred from family bibles.

A copy of this diary is in the possession of Dr. Julia Floyd

10

Smith, who resides at 53 East 53rd Street, Savannah, Georgia.

The father of Augusta Bong Gallie was John Bong, born in Great Britain in 1791, one of the Boogs' of Boogs' Castle in

Sterling Scotland. He applied for citizenship in 1803 at St. Mary's Georgia. Her mother was Esabella Kelly, born on July

18, 1791. Her parents were, Robert Kelly and Margaret Faith Kelly. After the death of her parents she was adopted by her mother's sister and her husband (Major Thomas King and his wife Mary Faith King) and transposed her name so it became Isabella Kelly King. Mary Faith King was originally from Santo Domingo,

-John Bong and Esabella Kelly King were married and became the

parents of six children. He died on September 11, 1825 and she

11

died on October 26, 1825, at St. Mary's Georgia.

-Listed below are the six children of Mr. and Mrs. John Boog:

- 1, Julia Ross Boog; born on April 16, 1815; married on September 9, 1831 to Charles Rinaldo Floyd,
2. Christina Bong, born on October 11, 1817; died on October -11, 1817,
3. Augusta Kelly Boog (twin 1st born) October 9, 1819, married Colonel John B. Gallie on November 8, 1838.
4. James Thomas Boog (twin 2nd born) October 9, 1819; died on December 20, 1832.
5. Margaret Ann Bong, born on February 5, 1822; died on October 24, 1840; at the tender age of 18 years.
6. Mordina Jane Bong, born on December 14, 1823; died on February 24, 1862; married on July 7, 1842 to Henry Hamilton Floyd.

It was notated in this diary that this information was taken

from the bible of Elizabeth Faith King.¹²

Henry Hamilton Floyd's parents were, General John Floyd of

the War of 1812 and Isabella Maria Hazzard. The Henry Hamilton Floyds' were the parents of Thomas Burke Floyd. Mordina Bong was Henry Hamilton Floyds wife and the mother of Thomas Burke Floyd, who was the father of Mamaduke Hamilton Floyd. Mamaduke Hamilton Floyd married Julia Hiatt of Effingham County, Georgia, They were the parents of Dr. Julia Floyd Smith the living descendant. Dr. Smith resides at 53 East 53rd Street, Savannah, Georgia. She is an instructor at Georgia Southern

13

College, in Statesboro, Georgia.

- I am convinced by now that many of the missing pieces to this research can be found in Camden County, Georgia; the Camden County Court House and Health Department, old Church records and old cemeteries might yield a wealth of information in regard to John B. Gallie.

In this research I found that there are often mistakes made in primary sources. Such as the miscalculation of ages on death certificates and the misinterpretation on anything that has to be recopied. I personally made mistakes in copying data . By double checking I found my mistakes. c

FOOTNOTES

1. Lot if 365, Laurel Grove Cemetery
2. "Rose and Gallie", Savannah Newspaper and Index , (January 19, 1833)
"Gallie, Wilder, John R. Savannah Newspaper Digest, vol. II, 3. (1860) pp. 12,' 71, 154, vol. III (1861), pp. 38, 97 198.
- 3 Laurel Grove Cemetery. General Index to Keeper's Record Book 1852-1938,vol. A-K
Abstract of Marriage Notices from the Southern Recorder,1830-1855
Birth and Death Records, Chatham County Health Department, Savannah, Georgia, (1844, 1847,1849,1863,1871,1897,1902, and 1926, 1941, 1946.)
4. Deed Book, Chatham County Court House, Savannah. Georgia vol. 3L, p.⁴⁸⁶.

"Mrs. Jannet Gallie" Savannah Newspaper Digest, (January 19, 1854)
5. General Index to Wills. Estates, AdministratiOn. etc., in Chatham County. Court House. Savannah, Georgia, vol. A-K. File # 248, 185, and 320.
6. Deed Book, vol. 3L, p. 486, vol. 2Z, p. 432, vol. 2Z, p. 443, 3N, p. 486, 4Z, p. 459, 2W, p. 149.
- 7, "Public Sale" Savannah Newspaper Digest, (April 8, 1863), vol. 14, part 1.
8. Savannah Newsoaoer Digest, (1862), vol. 13, p.19, (November 29, 1853), (January 13, 1855)
(1860) vol. II, pp. 12, 71, 154, (1861) vol. III, pp. 38, 198.
9. General Index to Wills. Estates, Administration, etc., in Chatham County, Court House, Savannah, Georgia, vol. A-K File if 248.
10. 11, 12 and 13. Floyd, Charles Rinaldo, Colonel, Diary 17971845 In the possession of Dr. Julia Floyd Smith, 53 East 53rd Street, Savannah, Georgia

PRIMARY SOURCES

1. , Abstracts of Georgia Marriage Notice from the Southern Recorder 1830-1855.
2. - Birth and Death Record. Chatham County Public Health Department, Savannah. Georgia ,
3. Chatham County Census Record 1850

4. Book. Chatham County Court House, Savannah, Georgia
5. Floyd, Charles Rinaldo, Colonel. Diary 1797-1845. In the possession of Dr. Julia Floyd.Smith. 53sEast 53rd Street, Savannah, Georgia.
6. General Index to wills, estates, Administration, etc.. in Chatham County Court House. Savannah. Georgia. Volume A-K. File # 248, 185 , and 320.
7. Laurel Grove Cemetery Savannah. Georgia. General Index to Keepers Record Book. 1852-1938. Volume 2, G N.

8. Savannah. Georgia-City Directory.(1850 thin 1865).
9. Savannah Newspaper Index. ‘-(exclusively 1831-1865)
- 10 Savannah Newspaper. (exclusively 1831 -1845)
11. Savannah Newspaper Digest (exclusively 1845-1865)

SECONDARY SOURCE

I. McGowan, John. 10 West Duffy Street, Savannah, Georgia.

LOCATION OF SOURCES

1. Chatham County Court House, Savannah, Georgia
- 2: Chatham County Public Health Department, Savannah, Georgia.
3. Georgia Historical Society, Whitaker Street at Gaston, Savannah, Georgia
4. Savannah Public Library, Bull Street , Savannah, Georgia
5. Lot if 365, Laurel Grove Cemetery, Savannah, Georgia