

George, Jr. WALTON & Descendants

First Generation

1. **George, Jr. WALTON** was born 15 Aug 1786 in Augusta, Ga. He died 3 Jan 1863 in Petersburg, Dinwiddie, VA and was buried in Blandford Cemetery, Petersburg, VA.

Source: "Georgia's Signers And The Declaration of Independence" by Dr. Edwin C. Bridges (GA Dept of Archives & History); Dr. Harvey H. Jackson (Assoc Prof of History & Chairman Div. Social Sciences, Clayton Junior College); Kenneth H. Thomas (Historian for Historic Preservation Sec GA Dept of Natural Resources); and Dr. James H. Young (C. Howard Candler Prof of Am. Social History-Emory Univ.).

"George Walton, Jr. (b.c. 1789-d. Jan 3, 1863) at Petersburg, VA., and is buried there in the city-owned Blenford Cemetery. An attorney, he was elected to the Georgia House of Representatives to serve Richmond County in the 1810-11, 1816-19 sessions. In 1821 he was appointed secretary of the territory of East Florida under Governor Andrew Jackson; and when Jackson left, he completed the remainder of his term as acting governor. Walton was secretary for the combined territory of East-West Florida (1822-'26). Walton County, Florida, and Fort Walton Beach, Florida, are named for him. He left Pensacola around 1835 and moved to Mobile, Alabama, where he was mayor c. 1837-c1839. After a time, he and his wife parted, and he lived the remainder of his life in Washington, D.C., and Virginia.

"He had married January 10, 1809 at "Bellevue," near Augusta, Sally Minge Walker, daughter of George Walker (d Sept 14, 1805, age 38, in Augusta), an attorney, and Eliza Talbot Walker (d. Nov 21, 1842, age 66, in Augusta). The latter had married May 18, 1790, in Richmond County, Georgia.

"George Walker was the first person to be buried in the Walker Cemetery, now located on the campus of Augusta College, formerly the Augusta Arsenal, and before that his estate "Bellevue."

"Sally Minge Walker Walton was born in Washington, Georgia, on July 18, 1792, and died in Mobile, Alabama, on January 14, 1861, where she is buried in Magnolia Cemetery.

"George and Sally Walker Walton had two children:

1. Octavia Celeste Valentine WALTON (1811-1877). (more further)
2. Robert Watkins WALTON (b 1812 in Augusta; d. Mar 22, 1849, in Mobile, AL and buried in Magnolia Cemetery). He was admitted to the bar, helped organize the Mobile Rifle Co. in 1836 for the Creek Wars, and was a major in that unit when he died, unmarried. (Age 37)

MADAME LeVERT, A Biography of Octavia Walton LeVert, by Frances Gibson Satterfield (quotes from)

This lovely biography states that the young George Walton and Sally Minge Walker Walton lived the first of their married years at "Meadow Garden" in Augusta, GA. Their daughter Octavia was born at nearby "Belle vue" - the home of her maternal grandmother Elizabeth Talbot Walker on August 22, 1811.

George Walton, Jr. had served several terms in the Georgia General Assembly and was practicing law in Augusta in 1821 when Sally's uncle Freeman Walker, a senator from Georgia, recommended to the Secretary of State that Walton be appointed secretary of the West Florida Territory. He received his commissoin from President Monroe on June 27, and was to serve under General Andrew Jackson, the appointed commissioner to receive the Floridas from Spain, and to serve as Governor of East and West Florida until a civil government could be established.

George Walton, Jr. arrived in Pensacola August 5, 1821. The Pensacola of 1823 consisted of 200 dilapidated houses and less than a thousand persons (this number did not include the soldiers and government officials). There were no schools, one doctor, one innkeeper, and inexplicably - 22 shoemakers. Walton sent for his family, no doubt aware their presence would help him maintain the image of acting head and secretary of Territorial Florida. He must have known the sacrifices such a move would mean: giving up "Meadow Garden" with all its memories and comforts would be

especially hard for his mother, Dorothy Walton.

"Actually, "Meadow Garden" was a diminishing property. One of the times when George Walton (Sr.) was in financial difficulties, apparently from poor investments and unsecured loans, he sold part of the land. Later, he was about to lose "Meadow Garden" when his brother-in-law, Thomas Watkins, bought the property and deeded it to Thomas and George Walton, Jr. With the stipulation that their father could live there the rest of his life, if he desired. Later George Jr (the remaining owner) in difficulties, had sold still more of the land. He inherited his father's lack of financial acumen along with his political ambition." (note: I believe this quote is incorrect, in that he did not sell it to his brother-in-law Thomas Watkins, who died in 1778 in Virginia. It was his nephew Thomas, son of Sally Walton and Thomas Watkins. This is mentioned in the Story of Augusta by Edward Cashin.)

In 1835, George and his family moved to Mobile. "George Walton had charmed his fellow townsmen into electing him Mayor of Mobile in 1839, and he and Sally moved to a house on St. Anthony at the corner of North Conception."

In 1849, Sally and George Walton separated. George moved to Washington, perhaps still hoping for an opportunity to receive some type of political recognition. Sally died in Mobile in 1861. George Walton was in Petersburg, VA at the time, as he wrote Octavia a letter from there on February 22nd.

In 1857 Colonel Walton was living in Virginia with his companion, Andrew [never identified, and no last name was ever mentioned]. He was very proud of Octavia, and wrote several letters to her about the publication of her book 'Souvenirs..' Colonel Walton was extremely proud of her achievement, and never failed to pass on things acquaintances remarked about the book. About this time he wrote that he was going to Washington, saying:

"If I cannot get board, fire, and candles for \$60 a month for Andrew and myself I will at once leave Washington and go where we can live on \$60 comfortably. We can get along with the clothes we have this winter. Andrew has become absolutely necessary to me. I cannot part from him. I have had no occasion to ask the smallest favor. Consequently all with whom I have had any intercourse respect me. Should I be fortunately enough to make money the coming session of Congress I shall certainly take better care of it than I have ever done. My sojourn in these mountains has proved to me that I can do without a thousand things which I have heretofore considered absolutely necessary. Since Andrew has been with me I have not been outside my room a single night. His company is all that I require."

Octavia mentioned her father's death in a letter to her brother-in-law, John LeVert, in early 1863. She wrote: "My beloved Papa died at Petersburg of congestion of the brain on the 3rd of January. It is a bitter, bitter anguish to me that I was not near him in his last moments. But his disease only lasted 48 hours. Thus am I left more desolate still, the being remaining on earth who loved me best, appreciated me most, has passed away from my love and my care."

There are frequent mentions of a "Mrs. Robinson" who was an aunt of Octavia Walton LeVert. On February 2, 1867, Octavia wrote Brother John LeVert that they had been at "Belle Vue" six weeks with her aunt Mrs. Robinson, and she further wrote: "My Aunt lives very near the spot where she was born, and she is the only person I have met in America who still resides where they first saw the light. This is also my birth place. A portion of the city of Augusta, with fine dwellings, and great manufactories, now occupies the lands owned by my dear Papa when I was born. When my darling Mamma married Papa he was a Millionaire, and she was also very rich. Papa was young and generous, and noble, and pretended friends induced him to become their security, and they failed, and his splendid fortune melted away like snow in the sunshine, and only Mamma's property remained to us."

I believe Octavia was looking back fondly, but not at reality. Our Walton family - while influential and well-thought-of, was never truly one of great wealth. Her grandfather, George Walton, lost a great deal of money, and left very little for his son George, Jr. Their home "Meadow Garden," was only saved through the devices of his Watkins' nephews. Numerous writers mention the lack of business acumen for both George Walton and George Walton, Jr.

Historical collections of the Georgia chapters, Daughters of the American Revolution

WATKINS, THOMAS, page 17, May 16, 1794: To John Habersham and Anderson Watkins. Lots 17 and 18 in trust for George Walton godson of Thos. Watkins, son of Judge Geo. Walton and Dorothy his wife. If George dies before he is 21, to go to his brother Thos. Camber Walton. Test: Ezekiel Harris, Ph: Clayton, J.P.

"Historical Collections of the Georgia D.A.R." page 333

"GEORGE WALTON, JR. (4th) born_____ 1786, died 1859 in Petersburg, VA. Buried in Blenford Cemetery. He graduated from Princeton, was elected to the Georgia Legislature in 1812, and served several sessions with credit. In 1821 he was appointed Secretary of the Territory of Florida under the Governorship of Andrew Jackson and succeeded him as Governor of that territory. His distinguished mother, Dorothy Walton, is buried at Pensacola. He married Sally Minge Walker, daughter of George Walker and Elizabeth Talbot of Richmond Co., who died in 1861."

"REMINISCENCES OF FAMOUS GEORGIANS" by Lucian Lamar Knight, MA; Vol. 2; pages 61-66

"George Walton's son, who survived him, bore the paternal given-name. Soon after the defeat of the Seminoles he received from Andrew Jackson, in 1821, while residing at Pensacola, the appointment of Secretary of the Territory of East Florida, which office he held under Old Hickory as the Territorial Governor; and in recognition of the conspicuous pioneer part which he played in Floridian affairs, one of the counties of the State bears the name of the younger Walton. He possessed much of his father's genius, but his chief claim to distinction is derived through his daughter, Octavia, who became the foremost woman of the ante-bellum period in the South and who, though less than twelve years old at the tie of her father's appointment, claimed the honor of naming the State capital, which in the musical language of the Seminoles she christened Tallahassee, or Bea

Andrew Jackson in Florida
The Life of Andrew Jackson, by Marquis James

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"Over these scenes crept the shadow of Florida, rendered more portentous by the rumble of revolution that rocked Spain's fabulous empire from the Louisiana border to Tierra del Fuego. During his sojourn in Washington, General Jackson and Colonel [President James] Monroe had discussed the prospect as practical men... Monroe expressed his pleasure at the swarming of settlers upon the Jackson treaty lands. 'As soon as our population gain a decided preponderance in those regions Florida will hardly be considered by Spain as a part of her dominions.'..."
[Note: This apparently refers to the treaties made by Jackson with the Creek Indians in what is now Alabama.]

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"...with the sure instinct that so often enabled him to pick the essential thing from a jungle of miscellaneous detail, Andrew Jackson kept his eyes on Florida. There was much of interest to follow: fortifications stripped of troops to oppose dominions in revolt; Pensacola with 'not enough gunpowder to fire a salute;' Spanish authority sunk to a charade of shabby grandeur."

"Then as now the lazy waters of St. Mary's River formed part of the boundary between Florida and Georgia. In the Atlantic, off the mouth of this international stream within gunshot of shore, lay Amelia Island on whose sands sprawled the village of Fernandina. It was a poor and impermanent looking place of wood and thatch and sunburnt plaster, but these appearances were deceptive. The current value of chattels stored in the flimsy shacks was something like five hundred thousand dollars. Fernandina was the Barataria and the Galveston of the Atlantic, maintaining about the same cordial relations with merchants in Savannah, Charleston and Baltimore as did the Lafitte's with New Orleans. A decent regard for some of the freer traditions of smuggling enabled the Fernandians to surpass in volume the commerce of their rivals in the Gulf..."

[Note: In this period, 1816-1817, occurred the death of Mary Madeleine Fatio Gibson, wife of merchant William Gibson, on Amelia Island]

"In June 1817, an attractive professional adventurer from South American fields named George MacGregor convinced a coterie of Baltimore business men that, without injury to their interests, they could assist the sacred cause of liberty by financing the deliverance of Fernandina from the 'yoke' of Spain. Accordingly, he 'captured' the town, wrote some marvelous proclamations and departed in quest for reinforcements. During his absence 'Commodore' Louis Aury, late client of Edward Livingston and associate of Jean Lafitte, dropped in from Galveston with a stolen ship, the Mexico Libre, and declared Amelia Island a part of the Mexican Republic. These incidents so disturbed the settled order of smuggling along the Atlantic coast that persons of influence began to complain. Meantime our perpetual negotiations for the purchase of Florida emerged from a period of hibernation, and President Monroe saw in the Amelia Island situation a chance to apply pressure upon Spain. A naval expedition was ordered to send Aury on his way and to hold Fernandina in trust for His Catholic Majesty."

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"On December 26, 1817... [Secretary of War, John C.] Calhoun ordered General Jackson to Georgia. His instructions were very broad, 'Adopt necessary measures to terminate... [the] conflict.'..."

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"On May fifth [1818] he [Jackson] notified Calhoun that he would invade West Florida and probably take Pensacola. On the seventh he marched. 'The continued wading of water...first destroyed our horses, and next our shoes, the men are literanny [sic] barefoot.' On the twenty-fifth Pensacola was invested. On the twenty-eighth it surrendered. On the twenty-ninth, in the most sweeping exemplification of imperial powers he had exercised in Florida, Jackson seized the royal archives, appointed one of his colonels military and civil governor, and declared in force the 'revenue laws of the U. States...'"

[Note: apparently refers to the appointment of George Walton, Jr.]

An unidentified 19th century biography of Andrew Jackson. This volume is in my collection. It probably dates from the 1860s or 1870s. Steve Wright

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"General Jackson left Nashville on the 22d of January, 1818, and, having made arrangements with Colonel Gibson, his quarter-master-general, for forwarding provisions from New Orleans, he proceeded rapidly towards the seat of war. On the 10th of February, he arrived at Fort Hawkins, and on the 14th, at Hartford in Georgia, where he used every exertion to hasten the movements of the militia called out by the governor. At Fort Early, on the 26th, he put himself at the head of the Georgia militia, who mustered nine hundred bayonets, and some friendly Creeks..."

Florida finally came under US control in 1821. Congress organized the Territory of FL in 1822, and thousand of settlers poured in. I believe it was around 1824 that Tallahassee became the capitol; it was a brand new town. There is no doubt that George Walton was there.....

"The River Flows North" by Brian E. Michaels; Chapter 5, page 51

"Early in 1825, signing himself "Agent, Seminole Indians," (Col. Gad) Humphreys had warned Attorney General GEORGE WALTON in Tallahassee that the ration program for the Seminoles organized under the terms of the Treaty of Moultrie Creek (also called, incorrectly, "Treaty of Fort Moultrie" - there was no fort at the conference site on Moultrie Creek) was inadequate. On May 19, 1825, Walton had ordered what Humphreys termed "an abridgement of the stipulated supply of provisions to one thousand rations per day." In his response of May 25 Humphreys protested the reduction."

another reference:

"The Red Hills of Florida 1628-1865" by Clifton Paisley - Chapter: The Complaint of Neamathla, page 80

"October 1824 came, and there was now indeed a considerable movement of Indians to their central Florida reservation. By May 1825, though, 120 Indians remained west of the Suwannee River. The situation had worsened by fall 1825, and in August of that year there were, according the 1825 Census, some 900 settlers between the Ochlocknee and Suwannee rivers. Nearly all of these were in or near the new town of Tallahassee. The danger of incidents between reds and whites increased with a new development reported by ACTING GOVERNOR WALTON from Tallahassee on 6 October: he had received information "that most, if not all, of those [Indians] who formerly resided between the rivers Suwannee and Apalachicola are on their return hither." The explanation, he added, was that the Indians simply had no means of subsistence, the country beyond the Suwannee being less productive than the Red Hills."

The second Florida-Seminole War began in 1835. Wouldn't you love to know when they actually left the area?

From Steve Wright:

"George Walton, Jr., had traveled north in order to raise funds to cover the deficit in his accounts. There is no detail about it so we don't know who he went to see or for exactly what purpose. We do know that his efforts failed and he sent his resignation to Secretary of State Henry Clay in December of 1826.

"At any rate, after traveling at different points in the north, he likely settled at Baltimore to await the arrival of his family, which, most likely, he had been corresponding with, keeping them apprized of his whereabouts. When I read that part I had the impression that the Walton's were leaving the Florida area for good but I then found that they had returned.

Since there was a five year period from the time that George Walton resigned his position and the time they seemed to have left Florida, it begs the question; what was his occupation at that time."

ALSO: (about Dr. Claiborne Watkins, son of Col. Robert WATKINS & Elizabeth Martha WALTON)

"I just found "Claiborne Watkins" in the 1825 Florida Territorial census for Leon County [Tallahassee]. All it has on him is that there was one white male over the age of 21, and no slaves.

"George Walton is listed and it also says: "for a/c of W. and self." Not sure what that means. Under him it also lists 17 slaves and one free black.

"Also, there is a list of purchasers of tracts of land in Leon County. There are three tracts listed for Dorothy Walton; 1E 1S 3; 1E 1S 4; and 1E 1S 5."

Territorial Papers of the United States, Volume 22,

The Territory of Florida, by Clarence Edward Carter

Note: I have only transcribed the parts I felt most pertinent.

Acting Governor [George] Walton (West Florida) to Governor [Andrew] Jackson [LC: Jackson Papers, Bk. 61:LS]-[excerpted]-"Pensacola, 10th December 1821...My Dear General...If common rumor is to be believed, the present Chief Magistrate of this Country is governed in a great measure by Mr. Crawford-If this be the fact, a few months more and I shall be permitted to retire from office, for I feel satisfied that the Representation of Georgia, if not openly, will secretly be opposed to my receiving any appointment from the Government of the United States in the Florida's...The enormous expense incurred in removing my family to this country and the uncertainty of my drafts on Government being paid immediately, renders my situation extremely unpleasant, but I will endeavor to think and act like a Roman of the Augustan age, who said 'let a crushed world tumble on him, and he would view the ruins undismayed...I have endeavored to follow strictly the example set me by yourself while in the exercise of the Government and also by your letter of instructions, in consequence of which, I am inclined to believe that the administration of the Government has given general satisfaction. I have exercised the Government with energy and at the same time I trust, with moderation...I feel satisfied that I shall have the pleasure of receiving a communication from you next mail...I have the honor to be with the highest consideration-your obedient servant, George Walton."-pages 298-299

Note: Other content in this letter involved political questions and critical comments on a few individuals.

Acting Governor Walton to the Secretary of State [John Quincy Adams]-"Pensacola June 16th 1822-Sir, By yesterday's mail, I received an Official communication from the Department of State dated the 17th of May, enclosing my Commission (dated 25th April) as Secretary of the Territory of Florida. I gratefully accept this flattering mark of the President's confidence and good opinion, and through you take the liberty of respectfully offering him my thanks...My situation at present is extremely unpleasant. An opinion prevails among many that the temporary organization under General Jackson expired of itself with the end of the last session of Congress and that no legal Government can exist, until the one provided by the last Act of Congress shall be put in operation. For my own part I entertain no doubt that until the present government, be actually and practically superceded, it is my duty to proceed as heretofore-A different determination would lead to results from which the mind would revolt. Under existing circumstances I have endeavored to do the best in my power. But in this state of uncertainty, almost all public business is at a stand, and some embarrassment has been occasioned...I have not yet received any intimation from the Department of State, of the amount which would be allowed me for my services as Secretary and Acting Governor of West Florida. This is at the present moment peculiarly desirable to me in order that I may be enabled to make arrangements which may be important to my private affairs...I beg leave to call your attention to my letter of the 4th of December of last on the subject of the rent of the house which I at present occupy, and the extra expenses I have unavoidably incurred, and most earnestly request that it be laid before the President for his consideration, if the subject has not already been settled....George Walton."-pages 456-457-A footnote to this letter says in part-"Legally speaking, the history of the Territory of Florida, already established on paper, began on the date of the receipt of Walton's commission. The appointed Governor (Duval) not having arrived, Walton, now clothed with his commission as Secretary, became ipso facto the Acting Governor of the territory, and no longer that of the province of West Florida..."

Notes from Steven Wright: The house alluded to is still standing in Pensacola and known as the Dorothy Walton house. In the lobby of the R.A. Gray building where the state archives is housed is a modern picture of this house with workers in the process of restoring it. The accompanying caption states that the house was built in 1810. If so, it must have been already standing when the Walton's came to Pensacola.

Governor [William P.] Duval to the Secretary of State [John Quincy Adams]-St. Augustine-May the 1st 1823-Sir, I have the honour to inform you of my arrival at this city on the 28th ultimo with the public records and documents under my

charge-I was compelled to perform the journey from Pensacola by land-as a vessel could not be procured for St. Augustine. Colonel Walton was left in Pensacola his family were unwell, and his only daughter, was dangerously ill at my departure. If the situation of his family will permit, the Secretary will attend the counsel after which I shall direct him to return to West Florida as his presence will be more necessary there, than in this quarter...I find all peace and quietness here. The excitement against me was confined to a few disappointed men, who have succeeded in imposing themselves on our delegate, as the majority of the people-This will be fully proven by the events that will follow hereafter...Wm P. Duval"-page 675

Memorial To Congress By Inhabitants of the Middle District [Referred February 16, 1829] To the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled...The memorial of the undersigned, inhabitants of the Middle District of Florida, respectfully represent, that your memorialists, identified with the interest and prosperity of this section of country, have heard, with the deepest concern and regret, that a port of entry is to be established at Magnolia, on the river Saint Marks. Your memorialists hope, they may not be considered officious...when they endeavor to show the inconvenience and injury, which must result from the adoption of this measure...Situated at the confluence of the rivers St. Marks and Wakulla, with an open exposure to the gulf, from which it is not more than ten miles distant, St. Mark's is easily accessible by land and by sea...your memorialists further pray, that the port of entry, about to be established at Magnolia, be abolished, and that it be removed to, and established at St. Marks...[fourth name on a long list of names was] Claiborne A. Watkins..."-pages 152-155

December, 1819 Augusta Chronicle (numerous ads) SHERIFF'S SALES:

"On the first Tuesday in January next, at the Market house in the city of Augusta, between the usual hours, WILL BE SOLD....

325 acres of land, more or less, lying near the waters of McBean, Richmond County, adjoining Job. S. Burney, Jeremiah Harris and others - taken as the property of John Turman, to satisfy an execution in favor of ANDERSON WATKINS, Trustee of GEO. WALTON.

Also...The undivided interest or one fifth part of 1700 acres of land, more or less, bounded by Oswell Eve, Edward Rowel, and lands formerly belonging to the Estate of S. Jones. Known by the name of "Rosney". Levied upon as the property of GEO. W. WATKINS, to satisfy an execution in favor of Cosby Dickinson and others. W. LAMKIN, D.S. December 6th."

1820 CENSUS, Richmond County, GA:

page 21 of census

G. Walton (must be Geo. Walton Jr., son of signer - he was living in Augusta in 1820)

1 m under 10	1 f under 10
1 m 16-26	1 f 26 - 45 (wife ?)
1 m 26-45 (Geo.)	

Florida Land Records
Dorothy Walton:

Document no: 187
Acreage: 79.97
Accession no: FL0010____.189
Volume/page: 10/189
Land office: Tallahassee
Aliquot part reference: W ½ NW
Section/Township/Range 3/1 South/1 East
Date signed: 15 March 1826

Document no: 201
Acreage: 79.97
Accession no: FL0010____.203
Volume/page: 10/203

Land office: Tallahassee
Aliquot part reference: E ½ NE
Section/Township/Range: 4/1 South/1East
Date signed: 1 April 1826

Document no: 202
Acreage: 79.97
Accession no: FL0010___.204
Volume/page: 10/204
Land office: Tallahassee
Aliquot part reference: W ½ NE
Section/Township/Range: 4/1 South/1East
Date signed 1 April 1827

Document no: 203
Acreage: 79.97
Accession no: FL0010___.205
Volume/page: 10/205
Land office: Tallahassee
Aliquot pat reference: E ½ NW
Section/Township/Range: 4/1 South/1 East
Date signed: 1 April 1826
[this date may suppose to be 1827 but it is what printed out from the CD]

Document: 204
Acreage: 79.97
Accession no: FL0010___.206
Volume/page: 10/206
Land office: Tallahassee
Aliquot par reference: W ½ NW
Section/Township/Range: 4/1 South/1 East
Date signed: 1 April 1826

Document: 205
Acreage: 79.97
Accession no: FL0010___.207
Volume/page: 10/207
Land office: Tallahassee
Aliquot part reference: E ½ SW
Section/Township/Range: 4/1 South/1 East
Date signed: 1 April 1826

Document no: 206
Acreage: 79.97
Accession no: FL0010___.208
Volume/page: 10/208
Land office: Tallahassee
Aliquot part reference: W ½ SW
Section/Township/Range: 4/1 South/1 East
Date signed: 1 April 1826

Document no: 207
Acreage: 79.97
Accession no: FL0010___.209
Volume/ page: 10/209
Land office: Tallahassee
Aliquot part reference: W ½ SE
Section/Township/Range: 4/1 South 1/East
Date signed: 1 April 1826

Document no: 208
Acreage: 79.97
Accession no: FL0010__210
Volume/page: 10/210
Land office Tallahassee
Aliquot part reference: E ½ SE
Section/Township/Range: 4/1 South /1 East
Date signed: 1 April 1826

Document no: 209
Acreage: 79.91
Accession no: FL0010__212
Volume/page: 10/212
Land office: Tallahassee
Aliquot part reference: E ½ NE
Section/Township/Range: 5/1 South/1 East
Date signed: 1 April 1826

Florida and Alabama Land Records
George Walton

Alabama
Document no: 8150
Acreage: 79.35
Accession no: AL1320__346
Land office: Huntsville
Aliquot Part reference no: E ½ NE
Section/Township/Range: 19/6 South/8 West
Date signed: 5 August 1837

Alabama
Document no: 8161
Acreage: 159.55
Patentee name: Walton, William W.
Accession no: AL0290__063
Volume/page: 290/63
Land office: Cahaba
Aliquot part reference: SW
Section/Township/Range: 12/20 North/6 East
Date signed 1 December 1831

Alabama
Acreage: 79.87
Accession no: AL0250__012
Volume/page: 250/12
Land office: Cahaba
Aliquot part reference W ½ SW
Section/Township/Range: 33/19 North/5 East
Date signed: 27 July 1831

Florida
Document no: 376
Acreage: 80
Patentee name: Burch, Daniel E.
Accession no: FL0010__378
Volume/page: 10/378
Land office: Tallahassee
Aliquot part reference: E ½ NE

location of the grave or stone. Even Colonel Walton's meager burial record was incorrect. He was born in Savannah, Georgia, in 1788, which would have made him seventy-five, and he was 'acting-governor.'

George, married¹ **Sarah Minge "Sallie" WALKER**, daughter of George WALKER and Elizabeth TALBOT "Eliza", on 10 Jan 1809 in Richmond County, GA. Sarah was born 19 Jul 1792 in Washington County, GA. She died 14 Jan 1861 in Mobile, AL and was buried in Magnolia Cemetery- Mobile, AL.

MADAME LeVERT, A Biography of Octavia Walton LeVert, by Frances Gibson Satterfield (quotes from)

Sarah Minge Walker Walton was the eldest of the Walker children. At 17 this talented and beautiful girl was married to 20 year old George Walton, Jr. They spent their early married years at "Meadow Garden," George Walton's home in Augusta, GA. In the 1835, (after the death of George's mother in Pensacola) they moved to Mobile, where George practiced law, and became Mayor of Mobile. Sometime following the period after their son's death, and the deaths of their granddaughters Claudia and Sally in 1849, Sally and George Walton separated. George moved to Washington, perhaps still hoping for an opportunity to receive some type of political recognition. Whatever his relationship with Sally, he and Octavia remained very close and corresponded frequently. In a letter to Henry Breckenridge in March 1850, Octavia mentioned her "dear Papa," and asks Breckenridge to tell him they were all well.

Three days after Alabama seceded [January 11, 1861] Sarah Minge Walker Walton died. The Mobile Advertiser announced the sad news:

"An impressive funeral cortege yesterday paid the last honors of friendship, esteem, and sorrow to the remains of Mrs. George Walton; but it will be long ere the last honors of esteem and sorrow to her memory will be offered.

In her veins ran the blood of some of the noblest of citizens of the South, men of revolutionary fame or family, and she was the mother of Mrs. Octavia Walton LeVert.

We have never seen a more worthy demonstration, for the many that attended the funeral obsequies of the lamented woman, mourn the dead and feelingly sympathized with the living and bereaved."

Octavia informed her many friends of her mother's death, telling them that her beloved Mama died on Monday morning, January 14th, at four o'clock. "She died of an affliction of the heart after an illness of seven weeks. No serious danger was apprehended until a week previous to her death. Poor Madame LeVert is almost heartbroken. Their devotion to each other through life was a most beautiful touching sight." In the letter of a friend, they gave a following sketch of Sally:

"She was a native of Augusta, Georgia; daughter of George Walker, a lawyer of high literary attainments and rare excellence of character." She was "universally beloved; her kindness to the poor and suffering, her heart overflowing with charity for human nature, endeared her to all. Her mind was of a superior order. Her manner courteous and refined; while her husband was Governor her house was the strangers home, her cordial welcome and genuine hospitality madder her universally respected." While in Mobile "in seasons of pestilence she was a ministering angel and remained in the city to relieve the suffering and destitute. Her servants are almost inconsolable for her loss."

Another letter sketched her life:

Mrs. Walton, was well known as miss Sally Minge Walker of Augusta, Georgia, the daughter of George Walker, an eminent lawyer of that city and a man of high social position. After her marriage with George Walton Jr., whose father was one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence, she moved to Pensacola, Florida, where during her stay of 15 years she was known for her elegant hospitality and quiet benefactions. In 1835 she removed to Mobile, Alabama, and from that time until the day of her death, January 14, 1861, has been known and honored not only for her merits but as the mother of the universal social favorite, Madame Octavia Walton LeVert, shoes "Souvenirs of Travel" are made up of familiar letters to her.

Her tombstone reads:

Sacred
To the memory of
Mrs. SARAH MINGE WALTON
Daughter of
George and Eliza Walker

And wife of
Col. George Walton:
She was born
At Washington, GA July 19th
1792,
and after residing in Georgia,
Florida and Alabama, died at
Mobile, January 14th
1861

Beside her repose, her noble son and lovely
Little grandchildren, who proceeded her
Through the gates of death to their eternal rest.
Her only daughter, Octavia Walton LeVert,
Erects this memorial to the fondest
And best of
Mothers.

On the back of the tombstone is written:

S.M.W.
This estimable lady
In all the relations of life as
Daughter, Wife and Mother
Was Most exemplary and devoted as
A companion and friend
She was
The light of the social circle
And an ornament of her sex.

By her well cultivated mind, benevolent heart and cheerful temper, she diffused happiness around her. To the poor and the needy she was always the friend and comforter. Connected by birth and marriage with the leading families of the American Revolution her mind was a storehouse of useful and interesting reminiscences. To her children and grandchildren, she was a daily guide and blessing: "Pure in Heart," the great purpose of her life was "to do good," and she died beloved and honored by friends in all portions of her country.

She sleeps not hopeless in the tomb
But lives in heaven's unfading bloom;
Her virtues here have left a light
Which soothe and cheer bereavement's night."

Some information about the ancestors of Sallie Walker who married George Walton - as they are worth note:

John Williston TALBOT was, for 25 sessions, a member of the House of Burgesses at Williamsburg, the capital of Colonial Virginia, where he represented his home community, Bedford County. Birth: 13 JUL 1735 in Virginia; Death: 25 AUG 1798 in Wilkes County, GA; Burial: Smyrna Church Cemetery, Wilkes County, GA. He married Sarah ANTHONY, and they had 1) Phoebe Talbot b: 1768 2) Thomas Talbot; 3) Matthew Talbot b: 3 MAR 1767 in Bedford County, VA; 4) Mary Anne Williston Talbot; and 5) Elizabeth Talbot.

MATTHEW TALBOT, GOVERNOR OF GEORGIA: Matthew Talbot accompanied his father when he moved from Bedford County, Virginia to Wilkes County Georgia about 1783.

Following in his father's footsteps, he entered politics in 1799 and remained active in state politics for virtually the rest of his life. He was elected to the Georgia General Assembly in that year and to the Georgia Senate in 1808. He served as President of the Senate in 1811 and 1817 - 22. As Senate President, he became Governor of Georgia on October 24, 1819, following the death in office of Governor Rabun. He remained in that office until November 5, 1819, when the Senate elected his political ally, John Clark, as his successor. In 1823, he was a candidate for governor but lost in the Senate by one vote. He retired from politics in 1824, but, once again, was a candidate for governor in 1827, when he

suddenly died at his home in Washington, GA. Politics was obviously his main occupation, but he remained active in business and financial affairs. One interesting project in which he participated was the founding in 1810 of Georgia's first cotton mill in Washington, GA. The milling industry did not thrive in the South, however, and soon became concentrated in New England, with raw material provided by Southern plantations.

Governor Talbot left no will following his sudden death. His brother, Thomas, was appointed Administrator of his estate. Although the estate contained substantial assets, its value was reportedly substantially offset by his obligations. He apparently paid a material price for his devotion to politics rather than business affairs; however, he was awarded the posthumous honor of having a county (Talbot) and a town (Talbotton) named for him.

-- John Lamar Mills

Marriage 1 Anna Twining
Married: 5 SEP 1799 in Wilkes County, GA
Children
Euphemia West Talbot b: 1800
Sarah Ann Eliza Catherine Talbot b: 1803

Marriage 2 Elizabeth Mounger
Married: 18 JUN 1812 in Wilkes County, GA

PHOEBE TALBOT married DAVID CRESSWELL, "Phoebe married Colonel David Creswell, a brother of Elizabeth Creswell, who married Thomas Talbot." They had six children: 1) Zeluma Creswell; 2) John Talbot Creswell b: 1786; 3) Phoebe Talbot Creswell b: 1787; 4) Elizabeth Creswell b: 1790; 5) Samuel Creswell b: 1799 in Wilkes County, GA; 6) Mary Garlington Creswell b: 1785

ELIZABETH TALBOT married GEORGE WALKER, and was the mother of Sarah "Sally" Minge Walker who married George WALTON.

Freeman Walker "Edited Appleton's Encyclopedia" and "Historical Collections of the Joseph Habersham Chapter, DAR" page 230-231

WALKER, Freeman, United States Senator ("a talented, brilliant man"), born in Charles City county, Virginia, 25 October, 1780. He removed to Georgia in 1797, was admitted to the bar, and began practice in 1802 in Augusta, soon becoming eminent in his profession. In 1807 he was a member of the legislature, and in 1819 he was elected United States senator from Georgia, but in 1821 he resigned. His speech on the Missouri compromise question attracted general attention. He died in Augusta, GA Sept. 23, 1827, and is buried in his family cemetery in Augusta, GA.

Freeman married Mary Moseley. They were the parents of GEN. WILLIAM HENRY TALBOT WALKER, who was killed at the battle of Atlanta.

Quote per: "Historical Collections of the Joseph Habersham Chapter, DAR" page 230-231

"About a week before the battle of Atlanta was fought, I met GENERAL WALKER in Augusta and he gave me a large photo of himself; said he had three taken, one for his mother, one for his wife, and one for his favorite cousin, myself. In parting he said: "Goodbye, I shall never see you again." I asked him why. He said, "When Atlanta is taken, which it will be, Georgia will fall, and I will die with Georgia." Like a knight of olden times, worthy of the race he sprang from, "he died for Georgia." "Forte et fidele" was engraved on the banner borne by Richard de Talbot at the battle of Hastings in the year 1006. He was a young Norman knight, a gentleman swordsman of William the Conqueror, Shakespeare, in his "Henry VI," has immortalized the Great John Talbot, first earl of Shrewsbury. The greatest warrior of his age he lived in, was killed at Chatillon, a town in France, at the age of 80, fighting for England. ELIZABETH TALBOT BELT."

General William Henry Talbot Walker, CSA
November 28, 1816 - July 22, 1864

General William Henry Talbot Walker was born November 28, 1816, the son of Augusta's first mayor, Freeman Walker, and Mary Garlington Creswell of Wilkes County, GA. He attended Augusta schools and entered West Point in 1832. In 1837 he graduated as a second lieutenant of the 6th Infantry. From 1854 to 1856 he was commandant of cadets and instructor of tactics at West Point.

In April, 1861 he was appointed major-general of the First Division of Georgia Volunteers. In May of the same year he was promoted to brigadier-general and commanded a division under General Joseph E. Johnston. After Vicksburg, he took part in the Battle of Chickamauga.

On July 22, 1864, during a charge on the Union left at Atlanta, he fell. His body was left in Union lines but was later recovered. He was buried in the family cemetery now on the Augusta State University campus near his boyhood home, Bellevue. The spot where he died is marked at I-20, exit 30.

General Walker's statue is on the northwest corner of the Confederate Monument which stands in the center of the 700 block of Broad Street in downtown Augusta. He is also portrayed in an Augusta history mural on 10th Street.

They had the following children:

- + 2 F i. **OCTAVIA Celeste Valentine WALTON** was born 11 Aug 1811 and died 13 Mar 1877.
- 3 M ii. **Major Robert Watkins (son of George, Jr) WALTON** was born² 1812 in Augusta, Ga. He died 22 Mar 1849 in Mobile, AL and was buried in Magnolia Cemetery- Mobile, AL.

"Historical Collection of the Georgia D.A.R." page 333

He was admitted to the bar, helped organize and was a Major in a Mobile Rifle Regiment of Volunteers in 1836, serving during the Creek Wars, and was Mayor of Mobile at the time of his death. Died unmarried."

Eugenia Richards sent me a copy from a page in the "Students of the University of Virginia, A Semi-Centennial Catalogue," that showed Robert Watkins Walton was a student, from Pensacola, FL, 1828-1829.

"Suddenly, on March 22, 1849, Robert Walton was dead. Throughout her life Octavia had been close to her brother. Because he had never married, Octavia's children were an extension of Himself. He, too, had her remarkable memory and flair for languages and conversation, so was a popular member of the Mobile bar. He had also helped organized the Mobile Rifle Company in 1836 for the Creek War. An eulogy by a devoted friend tells more of his life than is detailed anywhere else and gives some idea of the esteem in which he was held. It appeared in the Mobile Register and Journal of march 23:

"Another melancholy dispensation of Providence calls forth the voice of sorrow and the language of eulogium. The gifted and graceful ROBERT WATKINS WALTON is no more. Hew departed this life on the 22nd isn't. In the city, of an inflammation of the brain [encephalitis]. At the time of his death he was 36 years of age. Born in Augusta (GA) his youthful days were spent in Pensacola (Fla) where the friend, who now pays the last tribute to his memory, knew him in the cordial associations of early life as a school companion. A valued friendship, thus early formed, ripened into an intimacy and an enduring appreciation of his worth that enables the writer to speak of his virtues and merits in terms of just commendation...

At the University of Virginia, where he was educated, he displayed in the prosecution of his collegiate studies, talents of the highest order, placing him in the front rank of his competitors for literary distinction. The writer heard one of the ablest Professors of that University say that he regarded "Young Walton" as one of the most talented young m en ever at that institution and that he learned with a facility most remarkable. All who knew him can attest the fact. His mind was peculiarly sprightly; his attainments enlarged and diversified.

These attainments, united with cultivated wit, playful humor, and remarkable conversational powers, rendered his society always pleasing and attractive; while the most graceful and polished

manners, ever easy, dignified and deferential, made him an ornament to the social circle.

But the deceased was not less patriotic than accomplished. At the time of the Creek War (1836) he was among the first to volunteer in the service of his country, and to give to it his strong arm and noble heart. Subsequently his companions in arms and fellow citizens evinced their appreciation of his military qualities by promoting him to the rank of Major in the Mobile Regiment. The fine Rifle Volunteer Company of this city was also much indebted to his exertions for its successful establishment.

By all our community the death of Major Walton will be lamented; but to his immediate family circle, his loss will be irreparable. Time never fills the void which death makes, yet for his bereaved parents and affectionate and accomplished sister, there is consolation in the thought that their sorrows are shared by all who knew the deceased, and were thus prepared to appreciate his many high and noble qualities.

Green wave the trees above his grave;
A noble bosom sleeps below,
His cultured mind, his spirit; brave
Have passed from earthly cares and woes.

Robert was buried in Magnolia Cemetery (in Mobile). His monument gives his name, date of death and age, and "Grandson of George Walton, Signer of the Declaration of American Independence," followed by the same poem carried in the eulogy. On the reverse was:

A MEMENTO
OF
MATERNAL AFFECTION,
My love, my darling only Son
Art thou forever gone?
Teach me, Oh! God to feel
Thy will, not mine be done.

SMW

There's not an hour of Day, or
Dreaming night but I am with Thee
My two little Angels repose by the side
Of my dear lamented Brother, the Loved
On earth, are in Heaven united.

Octavia.

Octavia wrote Longfellow: "My only brother is dead. There were but two of us, bound together by more than usual affection of brother and sister. He was almost my idol. He is gone. He was buried yesterday with military honors. I sent you an obituary. It is not the language of praise. It is simply the truth. He died of inflammation of the brain, in the bloom of his beautiful manhood, and the full radiance of his bright intellect. He has gone from me forever, but we shall meet again, for he gave evidences of a belief in God's mercies."

Second Generation

2. **OCTAVIA Celeste Valentine WALTON** (George, Jr.) was born 11 Aug 1811 in "Bellevue", Augusta, Georgia. She died 13 Mar 1877 in Augusta - Richmond County, GA and was buried in Walker Cemetery, Augusta, GA.

Octavia Walton LeVert, author, born in Bellevue, near Augusta, Georgia, August 11, 1811; died in Augusta, Georgia, 13 March, 1877. She was a granddaughter of George Walton, a signer of the Declaration of Independence. Her father,

George, removed to Pensacola in 1821, as territorial secretary under General Jackson, upon whose retirement he acted for a time as governor. His daughter acquired some knowledge of Greek, Latin, and science, and became an Italian, French, and Spanish scholar. She was asked to name the capital of Florida, and selected the Seminole word Tallahassee, meaning "beautiful land."

She was presented to General Lafayette when he visited Mobile, who, in speaking of her, said: "A truly wonderful child! She has been conversing with intelligence and tact in the purest French. I predict for her a brilliant career." She spent the winter of 1833-'4 in Washington, D. C., and during the congressional debates upon the removal of the deposits from the United States bank wrote such accurate reports that, it is said Clay, Calhoun, and Webster frequently called her to read their speeches from her portfolio.

On February 6, 1836 she married Dr. Henry S. Le Vert, whose father was fleet surgeon under Rochambeau, and present at the siege of Yorktown, and resided with him in Mobile. In 1874 she made her appearance as a public reader. She rendered much service in behalf of the Mount Vernon association. She was opposed to secession, but remained in Mobile, and rendered service to the soldiers during the entire war, after which she visited Washington to ask pardon for her friend General Beauregard. Lamartine advised her to prepare a book of her travels, which was written in the form of letters to her mother, and entitled "Souvenirs of Travel" (Mobile, 1858" 2d ed., New York, 1866). She also wrote "Souvenirs of Distinguished People" and "Souvenirs of the War," which were never published.

The Twentieth Century Biographical Dictionary of Notable Americans: Volume VI
L. Levin, Lewis C.; page 410

She was a noted belle and was presented to Lafayette when he visited Mobile in 1825. She travelled [p.410] extensively in the United States in 1833-34, and spent a part of her time in Washington, D.C., where she made personal friends of Clay, Calhoun and Webster, whose congressional debates she often reported, and so accurately that she was frequently called to read them. She was married in 1836 to Dr. Henry S., son of Dr. Claude Le Vert, fleet surgeon under Rochambeau, and resided in Mobile, Ala.

She visited Europe in 1853 and again in 1855, and was presented at court. About this time she commenced her literary work. After the death of her husband in 1860 she remained in Mobile, where she nursed the soldiers in the hospital throughout the war. She used her influence in securing a pardon for General Beauregard, and visited the national capital in his interests. She appeared as a public reader in the principal cities of the United States in 1874-75. She translated Dumas's Musketeers and The Pope and the Congress, and is the author of Souvenirs of Travel (1858); Souvenirs of Distinguished People (MS.), and Souvenirs of the War (MS.). She died in Augusta, Ga., March 13, 1877.

Source: "Georgia's Signers And The Declaration of Independence" by Dr. Edwin C. Bridges (GA Dept of Archives & History); Dr. Harvey H. Jackson (Asso Prof of History & Chairman Div. Social Sciences, Clayton Junior College); Kenneth H. Thomas (Historian for Historic Preservation Sec GA Dept of Natural Resources); and Dr. James H. Young (C. Howard Candler Prof of Am. Social History-Emory Univ.).

"Octavia C. V. Walton was born at "Bellevue," Augusta 11, 1811, and died March 12, 1877, in Augusta, Georgia. She is buried in Walker Cemetery.

"Octavia became one of the most accomplished women of the 19th century, much of this being due to her early upbringing and travel. She moved with her parents in 1821 to Florida and learned to speak several languages. In 1833 she was presented to society in Washington, D.C. (age 12!) , and in 1835 she moved to Mobile with her parents. Her mother had been grooming her for the "right" marriage, and in 1836 (age 25) she married Dr. Henry S. LeVert, a physician. Throughout her brilliant social career she received various honors and compliments, among these being a poem in her name by Edgar Allen Poe; John C. Calhoun's referring to her as "the gifted daughter of the South"; and a long-standing friendship with Senator Henry Clay of Kentucky. A high point in her career came with her European tours of 1853 and 1855, which she related in her two volumes "Souvenirs of Travel" (1857).

"While the Civil War ensued, Madame LeVert remained in Mobile and aided the Confederacy. The end of the war brought an end to the society to which she was accustomed, and she eventually closed her home in Mobile and returned to Augusta. Her home there, known as "Chateau LeVert," was razed in the early 1960's. It was there that she died in 1877."

"REMINISCENCES OF FAMOUS GEORGIANS" by Lucian Lamar Knight, MA; Vol 2;
pages 61-66

"Octavia Walton LeVert, the signer's granddaughter was born at Bellevue, near Augusta, in 1810, and twenty six years later became the wife of Dr. Henry LeVert, of Mobile, Ala., whose father came to America as fleet surgeon under Rochambeau. Though endowed with a beauty which suggested the sweetheart of Mark Antony rather than the sister of Caesar, young Octavia was distinguished even in girlhood by an intellect of surpassing brilliancy; and much of the prestige which Madame LeVert achieved years later when she became the toast of two hemispheres was prefigured. Enabled by reason of ample means to enjoy the delights of travel and hailed where she went as the beautiful granddaughter of the signer, it is only fair to suppose that the bewitching damsel who was dubbed "the belle of the Union" before she was out of her teens must have attracted suitors whose courtship offered both purse and pedigree. Yet she was not loath to bestow her affections upon the modest man of science whom she met while bent upon an errand of charity which took her to one of the hospitals.

Perhaps the most striking mental characteristic of this remarkable woman was the ease with which she acquired foreign languages. She is said to have caught even the idioms and the mannerisms. She spoke fluently most of the tongues of modern Europe; and her accomplishments in this respect began when she was quite young. Letters and dispatches often came to her father in French and Spanish when he held the office of Territorial Secretary, and her knowledge of both languages was so accurate that he could reply implicitly upon her translations, though she was still in short skirts. Several years after her marriage, while attending a court ball in London, she delighted the ambassadors from France, Spain and Italy by talking with each in his own tongue, an accomplishment which no other lady present could boast. At another time she completely captivated the Pope of Rome by this same wonderful familiarity with the European tongues. It seems that the Holy Father had been employing French and Spanish in the conversational interview, and thinking it might suit him better to employ Italian, she requested him to speak in his own tongue, which she understood perfectly well. Madame LeVert was always proud of the fact that she inherited the blood of the signer, and the ancestral strain was undoubtedly an open sesame to the aristocratic doorknobs of European society; but the gifted American woman was indebted for her social triumphs less to the genealogical chart than to the recognized genius which placed her in the very front rank of the world's great women. Yet, strange to say, her early education, like Timothy's, was chiefly her mother's and her grandmother's work, barring the months which she spent under an old Scotch tutor.

Madame LeVert's intimate friends embraced some of the world's celebrities. She was visited at her home in Mobile by Kossuth, the Hungarian patriot; Frederika Bremer, the Swedish novelist; Lady Emmeline Stuart Worley, the daughter of the Duke of Rutland, by whom she was presented to the queen on her first visit to England; Joseph Jefferson, the famous actor, and by many others of equal note. Moreover, she included among her literary correspondents men like Washington Irving, Henry Clay, Millard Fillmore, Edwin Booth, Edward Everett and Henry W. Longfellow. She also kept a scrapbook which abounded in many precious memorials of her friendships. Twice she crossed the water; and her impressions of European life are most charmingly preserved in "Souvenirs of Travel." It was at the suggestion of Lamartine that she took up the pen for the purpose of recording her memoirs. At Florence, Italy, she was the recipient of marked attentions from the Brownings; and at Ferrara she was so impressed by the manner in which the home of the poet Ariosto was preserved that she returned to America enthusiastic over the idea of purchasing Mount Vernon, and she became in the South what Mrs. Harrison Gray Otis was in the North, the leader of the movement to rescue the home of Washington.

"LaFayette's last visit to this country marked an ever memorable date in the girlhood's calendar of Madam LeVert. The old paladin of liberty was anxious to meet the widow of the signer, Octavia's grandmother, but she was too feeble to undertake the journey from home and Octavia was sent in her stead. She was entrusted with a miniature of her grandfather, by whom the old soldier had been entertained on his former visit to Georgia, and to whom he was still endeared by the lingering memories of the Revolution. But she scarcely needed the help of the portrait to recall the features of Mr. Walton; and he was struck with the resemblance between the little girl and the signer. Moreover, he was delighted because she could talk to him in French.

"Another girlhood reminiscence upon which Madame LeVert loved to dwell was the manner in which she became acquainted with Washington Irving. It was in a stage-coach back in the early thirties soon after the return of Mr. Irving from Spain. Octavia Walton was traveling with her mother between Saratoga and New York when she chanced to fall into conversation with an exceedingly affable stranger who, during the early part of the journey, had been little inclined to talk, but overhearing some bright remark from the girl, had ceased to be taciturn. One topic of conversation followed

another, and finally he touched upon bull-fights, recalling the particular one which he had last witnessed in Madrid.

" "Stop," said Octavia Walton; "you are Washington Irving!"
"Yes, said he, "but how did you know?"

"Smilingly, she informed the author of the Sketch Book that Mr. Slidell, who had told her about this same bullfight, stated that his companion at the time was Washington Irving. Dating from this chance acquaintance, an intimate friendship ensued; and the great author often recalled the sparkling wit of the beautiful Georgia girl whom he met in the old stage-coach.

"Another one of Madame LeVert's warm person friends, with whom she frequently corresponded, was Henry Clay; and when the monument to the great orator and statesman was unveiled in New Orleans, she delivered an address which is said to have been characterized by rare beauty of thought and diction. It is not surprising that one who possessed such ethereal charms as Octavia Walton should have been the recipient of many flattering regards, and that even as Madame LeVert she should still continue to exact adoring homage from the great host of admirers whom she still kept in willing thralldom. More than one sonnet blossomed in the triumphant train of this gifted woman whose career was an Appian Way of conquest; and not the least beautiful of the tributes which her personality inspired was the apostrophe which she drew from the harp of General Mirabeau B. Lamar.

"Though Dr. LeVert cared far less for society than for science he fairly adored the woman of genius who bore his name with such an air of queenliness among the royalties, and who requited his affection with an ardor which the deepest devotion alone can feel. He died soon after the war, and Madame LeVert spent the remaining years of her life between New York and Augusta. The beautiful city of the Gulf Coast was no longer the same after the palatial home on Government Street ceased to enshrine the brilliant hostess who had been so long the beloved occupant. But it was kindly ordered that this dear old lady of the regime in whose sweet face the lines of beauty were still distinct should close her days near the home of the Walton's in her native State; and though Georgia has produced more than one gifted woman whose genius suggest the efflorescence of the mountain laurel, yet in view of her manifold accomplishments it is necessary for thought to scale the very highest summit of the Blue Ridge to salute the Magnolia Grandiflora of Georgia womanhood: Octavia Walton LeVert."

ALABAMA WOMEN'S HALL OF FAME:

Although Octavia Walton Le Vert neither was born in nor died in Alabama, she was so closely associated with the state in the mid-nineteenth century that her fame as the "Pride of Mobile" gave new stature to the city as a site of learning and culture.

Born on August 11, 1811, near Augusta, Georgia, Octavia Celestia Valentine Walton was the granddaughter of George Walton, a member of the Second Continental Congress, one of the three Georgia signers of the Declaration of Independence, a former governor, and a prominent jurist. Her mother and her grandmother instilled in the young Octavia a pride of family and keen awareness of its place in the making of a nation.

After Octavia's father, George Walton, Jr., became secretary and, at one point acting governor of Territorial Florida, he moved his family there in 1821.

Her mother, her grandmother, and a Scottish tutor supervised her education, which included - in addition to learning as many as six languages - music, painting, traveling, and becoming acquainted with major figures of the day. In 1835, she moved with her family to Mobile, where she married French physician, Henry S. Le Vert. They had five children, three of whom died in childhood. From their elegant house on Government Street, she entertained internationally known persons, and she became one of the most widely known socialites of the 1850's, North and South. She was a friend of such notables as Edgar Allan Poe, Washington Irving, and Henry Clay and knew many other well-known Americans. During her extensive travels in Europe she was presented to the Pope, to Queen Victoria and Prince Albert, and to Napoleon and Eugenie.

Although Madame Le Vert is remembered primarily as a socialite, after the poverty and misery she saw in Europe distressed her, she had a role in painting a particularly bleak picture of the life of a working-class women. She was concerned with the welfare of women in sweat shops, cotton fields, or theatre troupes, as well as that of those struggling for acceptance as they pioneered in new fields. She also worked tirelessly on behalf of the "Save Mount Vernon"

movement, and she was a charter member of "Sorosis," a women's club said to be one of the first of its kind in America.

Her *Souvenirs of Travel*, which recorded her two trips to Europe in the 1850's, is the only book that madame Le Vert wrote; however, much has been written about her remarkable life.

<http://www.awhf.org/levert.html>

EDGAR ALLEN POE'S POEM "OCTAVIA"

In March 1827, Edgar Poe made his second visit to Baltimore after quarreling with and quitting the household of his foster father. This followed Poe's academically successful but financially disastrous year at the University of Virginia where he accumulated gambling debts that John Allan refused to pay. In Baltimore, Poe visited his elder brother, William Henry Leonard Poe, who was developing something of a literary reputation. Desiring a literary career for himself, Edgar Poe may have met the Baltimore poet Edward Coote Pinkney, and two friends of his brother's, Nathan C. Brooks and Lambert A. Wilmer, who would later become literary figures and editors. In the album of a young lady of the city, Octavia Walton, he wrote "To Octavia," one of the earliest of his poems.

Text: Edgar Allan Poe, "[To Octavia]," manuscript, @1827.]

[TO OCTAVIA]

When wit, and wine, and friends have met
And laughter crowns the festive hour
In vain I struggle to forget
Still does my heart confess thy power
 And fondly turn to thee!
But Octavia, do not strive to rob
My heart of all that soothes its pain
The mournful hope that every throb
 Will make it break for thee!

[May the 1st 1827 —]

[The date at the bottom of the manuscript was clearly written by a hand other than Poe's, which is why it is here given in square brackets.]

FROM: "Henry Clay, Statesman for the Union", by Robert V. Remini, page 635,

"...When Clay arrived in Mobile the day after his departure from New Orleans, he stayed at the home of Dr. Henry Le Vert and his charming wife, Octavia, who gave him a 'splendid ball.' Clay thoroughly enjoyed Octavia's company and frequently wrote her, virtually to the end of his life. In his letters he invariably referred to Octavia as 'my ever dear friend.' He remained for a week with the couple, recovering from a bad cold he had contracted in New Orleans, before moving on to Montgomery and Columbus. He reported to Lucretia that he was overwhelmed with kindness and generosity. 'My greatest difficulty is to restrain the enthusiasm of my friends and to avoid the entertainments which they are pressing me to accept.'..."

This visit was apparently made during Henry Clay's final run for the presidency in 1844."

Augusta Chronicle, November 24, 1859

"MR FILLMORE COMES SOUTH.....The Mobile Mercury on the 19th inst., says, "Ex President Fillmore has written M'me LeVert of his expectation of coming southward the coming winter, at which time it is his intention to pay her a visit at her home in Mobile."

Augusta Chronicle, August 3, 1866

"Mrs. Octavia Watkins LeVert has released her "Souvenirs of Travel" through the New York house of Carleton."

"A Belle of the Fifties Memoirs of Mrs. Clay, of Alabama, covering Social and Political Life in Washington and the South, 1853-66".....Put into narrative form by Ada Sterling; Copyright 1904, by Doubleday, Page & Company; Published, September, 1904

page 12 "My father led me at once to Mme. Le Vert, then the reigning queen of every gathering at which she appeared, and in her safe hands every fear vanished. I had heard my elders speak frequently of her beauty, and somehow had imagined her tall. She was less so than I had pictured, but so winning and cordial to me, a timid child, that I at once capitulated before the charm she cast over everyone who came into conversation with her. I thought her face the sweetest I had ever seen. She had a grace and frankness which made everyone with whom she talked feel that he or she alone commanded her attention. I do not recall her making a single bon mot, but she was vivacious and smiling. Her charm, it seemed to me, lay in her lovely manners and person and her permeating intellectuality.

"I remember Mme. Le Vert's appearance on that occasion distinctly, though to describe it now seems garish. To see her then was bewildering, and all her colour was harmony. She wore a gown of golden satin, and on her hair a wreath of coral flowers, which her morocco shoes matched in hue. In the dance she moved like a bird on the wing. I can see her now in her shining robe, as she swayed and glided, holding the shimmering gown aside as she floated through the "ladies' chain." The first dance of my life was a quadrille, viz-à-vis with this renowned beauty, who took me under her protection and encouraged me from time to time.

"Don't be afraid, my dear," she would sweetly say,

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"Do just as I do," and I glided after my wonderful instructress like one enchanted, with never a mishap.

"Mme. Le Vert, who in years to come became internationally celebrated, was a kinswoman of Clement Claiborne Clay, and in after times, when I became his wife, I often met her, but throughout my long life I have remembered that first meeting in Mobile, and her charm and grace have remained a prized picture in my memory. It was of this exquisite belle that Washington Irving remarked: "But one such woman is born in the course of an empire."

page 17 " I have said my strange premonitions regarding Mr. Clay were realised. Ten days after we met we were affianced. There was a hastily gathered trousseau selected in part by Mme. LeVert in Mobile, and hurried on to my aunt's home. A month later, and our marriage was celebrated with all the éclat our little city could provide, and the congratulations of a circle of friends that included half the inhabitants."

Notes from Walker Family Cemetery website:

Not all of the Walker family gained their renown through politics and /or the military. Octavia Celestia Valentine Walton, the daughter of George Walton, Jr. and Sarah Minge Walker Walton, was born on August 11, 1811, at Bellevue, the home of her late maternal grandfather, George Walker. Her paternal grandfather was George Walton the signer of the Declaration of Independence.(24) When she was ten, her uncle U.S. Senator Freeman Walker secured a position for her father as Territory Secretary for Florida. According to tradition, Octavia suggested the name "Tallahassee" (the Seminole word for "Beautiful Land") to the Florida administrative committee, which had recently selected the site for the capital of Florida.

The intelligence and charm that she exhibited as a young girl remained important components of her character and her relationships with prominent national and international individuals. Octavia had a talent for languages and by an early age could speak Spanish, French, Italian, and German.(26) She met and conversed in French with the Marquis de Lafayette during his 1824-1825 visit to America at which time he predicted a "brilliant career" for her.(27) While on a visit to Baltimore in 1827, she met Edgar Allen Poe who was so impressed that he wrote the poem, "Octavia," in her honor. Several years later, she shared a stagecoach with Washington Irving, and the two became friends and correspondents. During the time of her debut in Washington, D.C. in 1833, she attended congressional sessions and kept notes of the proceedings. These proved to be so accurate that Henry Clay, Daniel Webster, John C. Calhoun and others called upon her to refresh their memories of debates.

In 1835, George Walton, Jr. and his family moved to Mobile where, within a year, Octavia met and married Dr. Henry Le Vert. Of the five children born to the couple, only two daughters survived. Octavia Walton Le Vert, Jr. was

nicknamed "Diddie" by the family and Henrietta Caroline, named for Henry Clay, was called "Cara Netta." (29) For many years Octavia and Henry Clay had corresponded frequently, and he had visited her family in Mobile. When the cornerstone was laid for a monument in his honor in New Orleans in 1856, Octavia Walton Le Vert was asked to deliver one of the tributes to the late "Great Compromiser."

The home of the "Madame" Le Vert, or "the Countess of Mobile," as she came to be called, was a magnet for the political, social and intellectual elite who visited the city. Her summers were spent in the cooler climate of Saratoga and Newport. Over the years she numbered among her friends such individuals as William Wadsworth Longfellow, Edwin Booth, Edward Everett, Millard Fillmore, Alexander Stephens and Lady Emmeline Stuart Wortley, the daughter of the Duke of Rutland. Her friendship with Lady Emmeline prompted Octavia Walton Levert to expand her travels to Europe. On her first trip in 1853, Dr. Le Vert stayed in Mobile; however, he did accompany her in 1855. While she toured Europe, Mrs. Le Vert was introduced to Queen Victoria and Prince Albert, Benjamin Disraeli, Pope Pius IX, Emperor Napoleon III and Empress Eugenie, Elizabeth Barrett and Robert Browning, and Alphonse de Lamartine, the French statesman and historian who encouraged her to publish her travel journal. Following his recommendation, the two-volume *Souvenirs of Travel* was printed in 1857.

Through her discussions and correspondence with Henry Clay, Octavia Walton Le Vert came to believe that compromise was far better than conflict. Therefore, when the talk around Mobile turned to secession, she supported the preservation of the union through compromise. Most of Mobile turned on her and rumors even circulated that she was a "Yankee" spy, who had searched the papers of Confederate General P.G.T. Beauregard while he was a house guest. Upset over the accusations, the general wrote a denial of the rumors. But, "Madame" Le Vert keenly felt the resentment she endured in Mobile both during and after the war. After several years of periodic travel, even two years touring as a public reader, she returned to her birthplace, Augusta. Octavia Walton Le Vert died on March 12, 1877, and was buried in the Walker Cemetery. As the years passed, the people of Mobile forgot the gossip and remembered her with admiration and respect. In the restored "Oakleigh" House, a room was dedicated to the memory of the lady who had been called the "Countess of Mobile."

"Some Georgia Historical Sketches" - pages 45-49

MADAME OCTAVIA WALTON LeVERT, by Frances Beach Hudson

"In a corner of a lot in the government-owned tract of land known as "The Arsenal" near Summerville and Augusta, Georgia, is the last resting place of Madame Octavia Walton LeVert. Surrounded by an iron fence and overarched by beautiful shade trees is an ornamental headstone somewhat discolored with age but still bearing this legible inscription:

Octavia Walton LeVert
Born August 11, 1811. Died March 12, 1877
Blessed are the merciful for
They shall obtain mercy."

"Her mortal ashes repose there among her illustrious relatives, the Walkers, with a daughter and two grandchildren near by, yet in contemplation the memory of the "most celebrated woman of her day and time" comes naturally and graciously with a flash of charm and fascination from the other days when she reigned as the "Belle of the Union."

"Fredrika Bremer called Octavia LeVert "The Sweet Rose of Florida"; however, she was born at Belle Vue near Augusta, Georgia. Although a Georgian by birth, her early memories were of the sunshine and flowers of Pensacola, Florida, where her father, George Walton the second, lived while secretary to Andrew Jackson, then governor of the Territory of Florida, and while he was governor himself. Octavia's own words recall her impressions:

" 'Memories of the orange and live oak trees shading the broad verandah; of the fragrant acacia, oleander, and cape jasmine trees which filled the parterre sloping down to the sea beach; of merry races with my brother along the white sands, while the creamy waves broke over my feet and the delicious breeze from the gulf played in my hair; of the pet mocking birds in the giant oaks by my window whose songs called me each morning from dreamland.'

"Remarkable as the precocity and later career of this unusual woman were her ancestry and environment contributed much to her success. Most illustrious of her ancestors was her grandfather, George Walton, a Georgia signer of the Declaration of Independence, twice governor of Georgia, senator, judge of the Superior Court, and colonel during the Revolutionary War. He was a native Virginian, but upon moving to Georgia early in life, he identified himself with the interests of his adopted state. His wife, an English lady (a Miss Camber) wished to return to England at the beginning of

the Revolution. However, when she saw that her husband was a thorough "rebel," she remained by his side. Captured by the British, she was sent a prisoner to the West Indies. To the thrilling details of her there the little Octavia listened enthralled. Thus, early her imagination was fired.

"From her grandfather, too, she came to know the great events and people associated with the history of her country. She always kept as cherished mementos letters from General Washington, Jefferson, Adams, and Lafayette, which her father gave to her because of her interest in them. It was Lafayette who exclaimed after she had conversed with him in the purest French and intrigued him by her deportment (at the age of fifteen), "A truly wonderful child. I predict for her a brilliant career!"

"Octavia's mother was Miss Sally Minge Walker, whose family name is known and honored throughout Georgia and the South. Too, she was related to the Talberts (Talbots?), whose name is equally well known. In the lovely old town of Talbotton, Georgia, stands a beautiful memorial to Octavia LeVert. A college for women, located there, was named LeVert College in her honor. In 1833 the title of the college property was transferred to the town of Talbotton and the main building today, known as the Straus-LeVert Hall, is a community center.

"Her mother and grandmother assisted by a private instructor were Octavia's teachers. A Scotch tutor who was a fine classical scholar and linguist was responsible to a large degree for her interest in the languages. Learning from those she loved was, evidently, a pleasure to this little girl - and she seemed to love and have an interest in everyone. It was said of her that "her tongue never wounded and she never had an enemy."

"The family relation was beautifully exemplified in the home of the Walton's. Frequently grandmother, mother and granddaughter attended the same parties and danced in the same quadrilles. And always she was dressed for these occasions by the loving hands of her slave, Betsy, who together with all other slaves begged to remain with her after their emancipation following the War Between the States.

"This precocious child appeared to absorb knowledge and culture from every contact. Pensacola, Florida, where her father moved his family in her early life was the rendezvous of the United States vessels of the Gulf Station. The well-education and chivalric officers formed a large element of the society to which Octavia was accustomed. This gave her an ease of manner which was remarkable in one so young. At the age of twelve she could converse in three languages with facility, and it was her practice to interpret for her father all foreign dispatches. This, perhaps, explains the ease with which she conversed with French, Italian, Spanish and German ambassadors many years later while attending a court ball. Also, she is said to have completely captivated the Pope in Rome by the fluency of her Italian as well as her charm. She carried her interest in languages to the extent of learning something of the Indian tongue. It was Octavia who named the present capital of Florida, Tallahassee, which means, "beautiful land" and she was, in turn named by her old Indian chief friend, Neamathala, "The White Dove of Peace."

"Travel did much toward the advancement of Octavia's education. While in her teens, she and her mother and brother visiting the leading cities of the United States where they had entree to the most select circles and were everywhere enthusiastically admired. Then began her

" ' remarkable career as a social genius which helped to give her name its world-wide celebrity. Proclaimed throughout the country as the "Belle of the Union" she awoke to the fact that in her slender white hand lay the key to human hearts-a power never used by her save for the highest good.'

"Typical of one of her rare genius and accomplishments were her friendships. While touring the United States, she chanced to travel in the same stage-coach with Washington Irving, and he, attracted by the fascination of her manner and the sprightly conversation between her and her brother, sought her acquaintance. Frequently thereafter he invited her to "Sunnyside," always remarking upon her leaving, "I feel as if the sunshine is all going away with you, my child." It was Washington Irving who, divining her peculiar ability, during one of her early visits to him advised her to keep a daily journal which she would find most useful later when she became a writer.

"In later years, Clay, Calhoun and Webster were her personal friends. During Jackson's administration she often heard their speeches. As an illustration of the caliber of her brilliant mind it is interesting to note that she wrote such excellent accounts of the congressional speeches that this great triumvirate frequently asked her to read to them their own speeches from her portfolio.

"Among her intimate friends were, also, world celebrities. In her home in Mobile she was visited by Kossuth, the Hungarian patriot; by Fredrika Bremer, the Swedish novelist; by Lady Emeline Worley, daughter of the Duke of Rutland by whom she was introduced to the queen on her first trip to England in 1853; by Joseph Jefferson; and by

many others of equal note. While in Florence, Italy, she was the recipient of marked attention from the Brownings.

"Correspondence with such men as Henry Clay, Edwin Booth., Edward Everett, Henry W. Longfellow, and Lamartine served to make even more scintillating the keen, clever mind of this brilliant woman. Indeed, it was Lamartine who, captivated by her conversational gifts, urged her to become a writer. He enthusiastically characterized her as a natural improvisatrice and suggested that she delight her countrymen by writing an account of her travels.

"Acting upon the advice of Lamartine and a coterie of admiring friends Madame LeVert gave to a delighted world her journal and matters under the title "Souvenirs of Travel". This book excels in graphic descriptions, and its spirit and style make it charming and valuable as a picture of the times. She later translated Alexander Dumas' "Three Musketeers" and "The Pope and the Congress." A painful accident prevented completion of another book "Souvenirs of Distinguished People." Virginia French, commenting on her books said:

" "Prejudiced by no sectarian dogmas, influenced by no sectional jealousy, she opened wide the portals of her heart and folded the whole world of humanity in her loving and friendly embrace."

"More time and space would be required to write of all of the accomplishments of this unusual woman. One great secret of her versatility lay in her indefatigable industry. Only by close application did she become conversant with classical and scientific studies, make herself mistress of many languages, proficient in music, an eloquent conversationalist, and a ready writer. In addition to these graces she was no less a success as a wife and mother. In 1836 she was married to Dr. Henry LeVert of Mobile. He was the son of Dr. Claud LeVert, fleet surgeon under Rochambeau who came over with Lafayette during the Revolution. In the palace of Versailles is a large painting representing a reception given by Washington and his officers to Rochambeau. The fine head and commanding person of Dr. Claud LeVert is easily recognized. His wife, the mother of Madame LeVert's husband, was related to Admiral Vernon for whom Lawrence Washington named Mount Vernon. Undoubtedly this accounts in a large measure for Madame LeVert's enthusiasm over the idea of purchasing Mount Vernon for the purpose of restoring it to posterity. It was she who first suggested this project and as a vice-regent of the Alabama Association raised large amounts while contributing generously herself to the movement.

"But to return to her marriage: It was while ministering to the sick and distressed in Mobile that she met the kindhearted and handsome physician who later became her husband. After thirteen years of happiness with her husband and children, sorrow came to her. She lost her dearly-beloved brother and two of her children in the same year. Noting how depressed this otherwise cheerful friend seemed, those nearest to her urged her to accept an invitation to visit Europe, advice she enjoyed extended tours abroad, making new friends and writing the letters and journals that eventually became her "Souvenirs.." ..After the death of her adored mother in 1860 and of her husband in 1864, she led a quiet and secluded life in Mobile and in the Sand Hills near Augusta, until she was prevailed upon to go to New York to live with her two daughters. There she regained much of her former animation and charm and became the center of fashionable and literary circle. She died in New York in 1877.

"So as we look upon the headstone of Madame Octavia Walton LeVert we see no records of the social triumphs which made her the toast of two hemispheres; of her rare linguistic accomplishments; of her wit, diamond-like in its scintillation; of her eloquence, flaming in its warmth as when she dedicated in New Orleans the shaft to Henry Clay; of her ability in every phase of her life to evolve only light and warmth from her large human heart in order to bring to the surface the best qualities of all who came within her influence; of her happy faculty of presenting apart from her world-woman aspect a child nature as pure as a pearls from the sea.'

"But turning the pages of history or gazing upon the fine features of her pictured face, we trace the record of the "perfect woman, nobly planned."

MADAME LeVERT, A Biography of Octavia Walton LeVert, by Frances Gibson Satterfield, is an excellent book and I recommend it to anyone interested in Octavia. I thank Kevin de l'Aigle for sharing his copy of this rare book!

After her husband's death in 1864, she spent the final year of the War in Mobile. By the summer of 1866 she was traveling, and spent that summer in Saratoga. She often was invited to visit friends for extended periods. In November 1868, right before Cara Netta's wedding in New York, she wrote to friends asking about the "rise in property in Mobile," a possible indication she had begun thinking of selling her home & other property there. In 1874 she would eventually be required to earn her living giving lectures about her travels in Europe.

On February 1, 1875, Octavia appeared before the Forty-third Congress seeking help through "A Bill for the Relief of Octavia LeVert and her Children." She was seeking back rent, plus damages, caused by Union soldiers who occupied the hospital belonging to her late husband, and his partner Dr. Claude M. Mastin. This was no easy task. Several notable men testified on her behalf: "For her Union sentiments and hospitality to Federal officers, and especially to Chief Justice Chase, she and her two daughters have been virtually driven from their home." Congress was not moved by anything it heard, refusing to pay any part of the claim.

Madame LeVert died three months after her daughter Carra Netta's death. She died on March 12, 1877 of pneumonia. The funeral service was held from Mrs. Robinson's home, "Belle Vue," in Summerville, where she and Diddie were living with Rigial and his little son, George Walton Reab. There was no mention in the obituary in the Augusta Chronicle the next day of who would conduct the service, or where she would be buried, or of Diddie. Only that "of late years" Madame "had been residing with her daughter, Mrs. LAR. Reab." There was an account of the highlights of her life, and it added the information that for some years she was a contributor to various American and English periodicals. She left no will.

Octavia Walton LeVert was buried in the Walker family cemetery on the old Arsenal Grounds where Augusta College is now located. Close by her are Cara Netta and "little Giley." Her marker is five feet high and undoubtedly was designed by Diddie. It bears the simple inscription:

OCTAVIA WALTON
LeVERT
August 11, 1891
Died
March 12, 1877

"Blessed are the merciful,
For they shall obtain mercy."

The inscription is all but faded away, now.

Oakleigh, Mobile's official ante-bellum mansion, boasts portraits of George and Sarah Walton which are attributed to William E. West; a portrait of Dr. Henry S. Levert by T.S. Officer, a Mobile artist; and miniatures of Madame, Diddie, and Henrietta Caroline (Cara Netta).

The old LeVert home was demolished in April 1965, however the plans and photographs are preserved in the Library of Congress as part of the U.S. Department of the Interior Branch of Plans and Design Historic American Buildings Survey. The drawings not only give the floor plans but the various elevations and the details of the iron work. One even indicates the later changes from the simple Georgian townhouse to the unrelated Moorish features outside and the arched lattice work in the drawing room inside.

Dr. LeVert's office was preserved.

There is a collection of Madame LeVert's in the Mount Vernon Archives, 1939, titled "A Brilliant Southern Woman, Her Collection of Manuscripts of Great Contemporaries." Description: A collection of more than 170 autograph manuscripts signed by different authors, all written especially for her, bound, about 1835, large 4to, in magnificent full crushed Levant Morocco (306 pages), Solander Case. None of these manuscripts are included in her volumes of travel or of people she had met. A veritable treasure chest of manuscripts and intimate addresses of great people.

OCTAVIA married **Dr. Henry Strachey LEVERT**, son of Dr. Claudius LEVERT "Claude" and Ann Lee METCALFE, on 6 Feb 1836 in Mobile, AL. Henry was born 26 Dec 1804 in Virginia. He died 15 Mar 1864 in Mobile, AL and was buried in Magnolia Cemetery- Mobile, AL.

MADAME LeVERT, A Biography of Octavia Walton LeVert, by Frances Gibson Satterfield (quotes from)

The book claims that Octavia met Henry LeVert in Mobile. Dr. Henry Strachey LeVert was tall and handsome, with black hair and brown eyes. He was well established in the practice of medicine and was a much sought after bachelor when he met Octavia. His elder brother was Francis John Levert, who would be counselor and financial adviser to Henry his entire life, and enabled him to go to the Univ of Pennsylvania Medical School in Philadelphia in 1826.

On February 10, 1836, the Mobile Commercial Register and Patriot, in its Wednesday evening edition, carried this simple announcement:

"Married: On the evening of the 6th inst by Rev. Dr. Kennon, Henry S. Levert, M.D. to Miss Octavia C.V. Walton, daughter of col. Geo. Walton, all of this city."

After their marriage they probably lived his her paretns for awhile. In 1837 his office was "under Mansion House on Conti."

Dr. LeVert would face financial difficulties most of his career and life, and was frequently assisted by his family. "The financial crisis of 1837 which spread across the nation had also hurt Dr. LeVert. Money was so scarce that families could not afford to buy groceries much less pay their bills. Although Dr. LeVert owned considerable property he couldn't sell it for a half, or even a fourth of its value to pay his billls. Brother suffered, too, and calledc on Henry to pay somet;hing on the money he loaned him while in medical school and to set up his practice in Mobile. In January 1839, Dr. LeVert signed over a deed to a house and lot he owned on Government Street to secure the remainder of the debt and interest. He had reduced the debt to \$3,743.58, due January 1, 1847."

When his father-in-law was elected Mayor of Mobile in 1839, Dr. LeVert and his family moved to the Waverly House on Royal Street.

In 1841 Dr. Levert, Josiah C. Nott, Sodenan Mordicai, and John W. Woodcock petitioned the legislature for a charter and the Mobile Medical Society was granted articles of incorporation and empowered to organize a Board of Health to help improve the health of the city of Mobile.

In 1844 the LeVerts were living in a house at the northeast corner of St. Anthony and Conception, apparently across the street from Octavia's mother and fahter. Dr.Levert's office was located at 66 Royal Street.

Dr. Levert's health declined in the late 1850's - and on December 20, 1862, Octavia wrote his brother John that Henry couldn't write himself "in consequence of paralysis." She said that his general health was excellent but he found it very difficult to move about. In early 1863, she wrote that his health was perfect and his mind clearn, but his lameness hindered him from going his usual rounds of practice. "This troubles him dreadfully, as we have no income independent of his practice. As soon as the weather is warmer he is going to Arkansas Hot Springs, feeling convinced those waters will cure him."

Dr. Levert's death on March 15, 1864, appears to have been unexpected. Octavia had written a letter to their friend, General Beauregard, four days before his death, and did not mention an illness.

The following appeared in the Mobile Register and Advertiser on Friday, March 18, 1864:

"Tribute of Respect:

"In pursuance of a call made upon the members of the Medical Profession of Mobile, a very large and respectable meeting assembled at the office of Dr. J.C. Nott, This Day, at 12 o'clock, to pay a tribute to the memory of DR. HENRY S. LEVERT, and Dr. John H. Woodcock was called to the Chair. The following preamble and resolutions were unanimously adopted:

"It having pleased the Almighty, in his indiscernible wisdom, to take from this world of trouble our professional brother, Dr. Henry S. LeVert, after a long and painful illness, we have come together in sorrow to bear testimony to his virtues and to express our admiration for him as a member of society, and as a member of the profession in which he has played so conspicuous a part in this city during the last thirty-five years.

Resolved, That the State of Alabama may, by the death of Dr. Henry S. LeVert, has lost one of its brightest ornaments and one of it most useful and valued citizens.

Resolved: That by his kindness of heart, by his fidelity to his friends, by his devotion to his profession, and his skill as a practitioner, he has commanded the affection and confidence of all who knew him.

Resolved, That his fair and manly conduct throughout his long career towards his professional brethren, has won our unqualified respect and esteem.

Resolved, That as a feeble tribute to his memory, we will wear crepe on the left arm for the usual period of thirty days.

Resolved, That although we are fully aware of the futility of language to palliate an affliction like this, all we beg leave, very respectfully, to offer our deep sympathy to his afflicted family, and to express the hope that God in His mercy will give them strength to meet the blow with Christian resignation and hope which he alone can give.

Resolved that a copy of these proceedings be transmitted to the family.

Resolved, That proceedings of this meeting be published in the journals of this city.
March 17, 1864.

Dr. Levert had been active and had risen high in the Masonic orders, so it was natural that on his tombstone Octavia designed a triangle with the symbols of his lodge. Below this was the simple inscription:

HENRY S. LE VERT, M.D.
Born in
King William County, VA
Died in Mobile
March 15th
1864.

"Mark the perfect man and behold the upright: for the end of that man is peace."

On the back of the erect column was the one name: LeVERT

"Early Settlers of Alabama," by James Saunders: "Of the family in Georgia, the Honorable George Walton was head. Born in Frederick County, VA in 1740, and died in Augusta, GA 1804, Governor of Georgia, 1779, fought in the Revolution. He was one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence, a member of the United States Senate. Mrs. LeVert, of Mobile, was his granddaughter. She was an authoress, and in the firmament of society, shone as a star of the first magnitude. In the city of Paris, on one occasion, the American minister presented a celebrated French statesman to Mrs. LeVert. After they resumed their seats, the Frenchman was informed that Mrs. LeVert was a daughter of one of the signers of American Independence; he rose from his seat, with signs of deep emotion, made her a profound bow, and resumed his seat without a word. This silent bow was an eloquent tribute to her ancestor. She was unaffectedly kind and affectionate in her intercourse with her neighbors. One always left her company feeling better and thinking more of himself than he did before. She was an optimist; always looked on the bright side of things, and never spoke evil of other women. If this was not that charity spoken of in the good book, it was "one floweret of Eden left since the fall," and should be cultivated by everyone. I am not traveling "out of the record" in saying so much of Mrs. LeVert, for her husband, Dr. Henry S. LeVert, was a resident of Lawrence county for several years, while a student of medicine. He made his home with an uncle of mine within sight of where I pen these lines, and taught a classical school that he might perfect his professional education, and he left many dear friends behind him. After more than twenty years I found him in the city of Mobile, in the front rank of physicians, contending for supremacy with such men as Dr. Nott and others; and I was gratified to learn that he cherished a lively remembrance of the friends of his early days. Mrs. LeVert, once Octavia Walton, must have had a substratum of good common sense, to have selected so solid a man as Dr. LeVert from a crowd of such frivolous suitors as contended for the hand of the Pensacola belle."

1820 US Census: Mobile, AL
Henry S. Levert, 55/56 years old, physician, born in Virginia
Octavia W. Levert, 46, born in Georgia
Octavia Levert, 21, born in Alabama
Caroline Levert, 12, born in Alabama

Source: "Georgia's Signers And The Declaration of Independence" by Dr. Edwin C. Bridges (GA Dept of Archives & History); Dr. Harvey H. Jackson (Asso Prof of History & Chairman Div. Social Sciences, Clayton Junior College); Kenneth H. Thomas (Historian for Historic Preservation Sec GA Dept of Natural Resources); and Dr. James H. Young (C. Howard Candler Prof of Am. Social History-Emory Univ.).

"Her husband, Dr. Henry S. LeVert, was born in King William County, Virginia, December 26, 1804, and died March 15, 1864, in Mobile, Alabama, having been in declining health for many years. He is buried there in Magnolia Cemetery.

"According to Madame LeVert's diary, they had five children in the first ten years of marriage:

1. Octavia "Didi" Walton, born 1837 in Alabama; died 1889 in Augusta. Unmarried.
2. Claudia Anna Eugenia, born c 1837-'38; died May 8, 1849, age 11, of scarlet fever and buried in Magnolia Cemetery, Mobile, Alabama.
3. Sally Walker Walton, born c 1840-'41; died May 3, 1849, age 8, of scarlet fever and buried in Magnolia Cemetery, Mobile, Alabama.
4. Son who died at birth. Note: There is a Regail Levert buried in the Walker Family Cemetery, Augusta, GA.
5. "Cara Netta" (born Henrietta Caroline and named for and by Henry Clay), born December 6, 1846.

Augusta Chronicle, February 21, 1880: "SENATE, Washington, DC. "A number of bills for the relief of private individuals were considered and passed. A bill to authorize the compilation and publication of a naval history of the war, comprising both Union and Confederate records, was passed as were also a bill authorized the payment of \$1,200 to Claude H. Masten, of Mobile, for rent of the LeVERT HOSPITAL during the war, and a bill for the relief of Monroe Donoho, Land Registrar of Alabama."

"Women of the Century" "Miss Walton married Dr. Henry Le Vert of Mobile, in 1836, who died in 1863, "having been an invalid four years, tenderly nursed by the wife whom he blessed with dying breath." Other relatives having also died, she "was left alone in the world with her two young daughters." But she retained the pleasing manners, and the noble qualities of heart and mind, which rendered her a favorite in earlier days. The change of fortune which she knew in later years did not diminish her power to charm; she was a favorite in society till death, ever welcome, respected, and beloved."

They had the following children:

- 4 F i. **Octavia Walton LEVERT** "Diddie" was born³ 20 Nov 1836 in Mobile, AL. She died 4 Jul 1889 in Augusta, Ga and was buried in Walker Cemetery, Augusta Arsenal, Augusta, GA.

Octavia "Diddie" was born November 20, 1836 in Mobile. "It was several months before Madame recovered" from her birth, and four months later Dr. LeVert wrote his brother that Octavia had a long and dangerous illness after the birth of her daughter, "but has recovered entirely."

In 1846, a letter from Henry Clay to Octavia Walton LeVert mentions: "you informed me that you had sent your dear little Octavia to her aunt, at Augusta, to divert her from intense study and reestablish her strength and health. I hope that, in that object, you have been completely successful."

In July 1847, Octavia wrote describing Octavia, her eldest, "Octavia Walton," is a brunette, with glorious large dark eyes, like those of Circassian Maid, soft brown hair, and a radiant intellect."

Octavia frequently traveled with her mother, and in fact accompanied her on one of her trips to Europe. In 1866, her mother wrote: "Octavia is the greatest comfort of my life, and is my chief dependence for every joy..." She continued to travel with her mother after her sister Cara Netta's marriage.

Octavia (Diddie) kept house for her sister, Carra Netta, when she was so ill after the birth of George Walton Reab in 1872. Her mother Octavia wrote that she "devotes herself incessantly to care of her."

Octavia Walton Levert wrote of Diddie on Cara Netta's death: "Octavia will devote her life to George Walton (Reab), and Regial is precisely like my own child. We will live here with him and Aunt Anna, and take care of her. She has always been so affectionate to me that I feel it my sacred duty to watch over her, and I will never leave her again. Octavia is an excellent housekeeper and she has taken charge of everything, and will do everything to make Aunty and Regial comfortable."

Little George Walton Reab was only three years old when his mother died, but he was not lacking in love. Octavia, Jr. became "Ma Diddie."

After her mother's death, Diddie continued managing Aunt Anna Robinson's household and caring for little George and Rigial Reab. Old and infirm, Anna died on May 1, 1878, a little over a year after Octavia's death, and her beloved "Belle Vue" passed into Rigial's hands. Not long after, he married Maria Ann Jenkins, and Diddie and Betsy moved to a house on Broad Street, their caretaking days over. The affectionate relationship between Diddie and Rigial continued, however, and Laura Reab Bowen recalls that her father, Lawrence Reab, Rigial's son by his second wife Maria, remembered his father's taking the children in the family carriage to see George's "Ma-Diddie." Their special treat was looking at the many post cards from Madame LeVert's travels.

Diddie died on July 4, 1889, twelve years after the death of her mother. Her obituary in the Augusta paper is filled with more of the life of Madame LeVert than of her own.

1880 Census, Octavia W. LEVERT 43 <1837> Alabama Sister-in-Law Single White Female Summerville, Richmond, GA

Augusta Chronicle, April 4, 1882:

"The Macon Telegraph and Messenger say: "Miss BLANCHE WALTON, of Augusta, and a great favorite in Macon, will soon leave for Athens on a visit to Miss Claude Thomas, who is also very popular in the Central City. Miss Walton is a descendant of Madam LeVERT, who was the most beautiful and accomplished woman in the world."

[note: in fact, Blanche Walton was not a descendant of Octavia Walton LeVert, and the newspaper printed the following correction a few days later:

"Last Sunday's issue spoke of one of this season's debutantes as a granddaughter of Mrs. Octavia Walton LeVert. Mrs. LeVert has but one living grandchild, Mr. George Walton Reab, of this city. Mr. Reab also bears the distinction of being the only living lineal descendant of George Walton, the signer of the Declaration of Independence from Georgia."

Augusta Chronicle, July 5, 1889

DEATH OF MISS LeVERT

"A Member of a Distinguished and Highly Cultured Family.

"Miss OCTAVIA W. LeVERT, daughter of the late Madame Octavia Walton LeVert and a great-granddaughter of George WALTON, one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence from Georgia, died yesterday at her residence at 111 Broad Street. She has been an invalid for years, and death was not an unexpected nor unwelcome visitor. She had patiently looked for his coming and every preparation her funeral had been made under her own direction.

Miss LeVert inherited her mother's love of books, and was a woman of rare culture and remarkably extensive reading. Her mother, Madame LeVert, is well remembered in Augusta as a brilliant conversationalist, accomplished linguist and famous society woman. Her father, George Walton, was territorial governor of Florida, and while still a girl she was invited to choose a name

for the capital of that state. She selected the musical Seminole word Tallahassee. In 1836 she was married to Dr. H. S. LeVert in Mobile, where her father had removed upon the expiration of his term of office.

In Washington city she enjoyed the friendship of Webster, Clay, Calhoun, and Washington Irving, and her accurate reports of the famous congressional debates on the removal of deposits from the United States bank were highly commended. She was the recipient of distinguished social attentions in Europe and conversed in French or Spanish as fluently as in English. Her "Souvenirs of Travel" are interesting volumes, and her work in behalf of the Mt. Vernon Association and her noble charities during the war will keep her memory green in the hearts of her people.

Miss LeVert's invalid life gave her constant opportunity for reading and study, and though she has not followed her distinguished mother as a writer, she was, like her, a woman of brilliant mind and marked intelligence. She was a woman of means, and after a bequest to BETSEY LAMAR, her faithful and constant nurse and the maid of her mother for many years, the residue of her estate, it is said, goes to her sister's child, the son of Mr. L.A.R. Reab, of this city.

The funeral will take place this morning at ten o'clock from the Church of the Atonement."

Last Will and Testament of OCTAVIA W. LeVERT
July 20, 1884

I, OCTAVIA W. LeVERT, of the County of Richmond and State of Georgia, being of sound and disposing mind, memory and desiring to dispose of my worldly goods make and publish this my last will and testament.

I desire all my debts paid and that there shall be no ostentatious display made at my funeral but that my body shall be interred with the simple forms of Christian burial.

Item 1: I bequeath unto MRS. CHARLOTTE M. REAB the sum of five hundred dollars, and if she should die before do then to her son, GEORGE E. RIAB

Item 2: I devise unto BETSY WALTON LAMAR the sum of two thousand dollars, but if she should not survive me then to GEORGE WALTON REAB, son of L. A. R. Reab.

Item 3: I devise unto MARGARET GLOVER REAB and TABITHA REAB each - one diamond ring; and to GEORGE W. RIAB two diamond pins and one pair of diamond earrings and the remainder of my jewelry, watches, silverware, books and pictures to the said George Walton Reab, it is however my wish that he shall in no event dispose of said artwork so that they will go out of the family.

Item 4: I bequeath unto BETSY WALTON LAMAR all my wearing apparel, trunks, bed and table linens, and cutlery, furniture, and sewing machine, and the possession of these articles shall be delivered to her immediately upon my death.

Item 5: All the rest and residue of my Estate real and personal, in possession remainder or reversion I devise and bequeath unto GEORGE WALTON REAB, son of L. A. R. REAB, in fee simple.

I constitute and appoint L. A. R. REAB the executor of this my last will and testament and I especially enjoin upon him not to erect or allow to be erected over my remains a monument of any kind, and I further empower my said Executor to sell any and all of the property of my estate real or personal at private sale or otherwise without the order of any court whatever.

Signed this 20th day of July, 1884.

Octavia W. LeVert

Her wish regarding her burial was carried out. She, too, was buried in the Walker cemetery, following a simple service at the Episcopal Church of the Atonement, located on Telfair Street and since demolished. There is no monument, but planted over her grave, opposite her mother's and at the foot of Cara Netta's, is a Spanish Bayonet, or Yucca plant. According to family legend, it was planted over the grave by Rigial. He was concerned over her instructions and at least wanted to show where Diddie was buried. Diddie had always adored her mother, and lived in her shadow. Perhaps even in death she did not wish to create any questions as to which grave was that of Madame Octavia Walton LeVert.

The contradictory sentence in the paragraph appoint L.A.R. Reab her executor was apparently largely responsible for the scattering of the remaining papers and treasures of her mother, which she had guarded so carefully. They were disbursed across the land, by sale or gift.

- 5 F ii. **Claudia Anna Eugenia LEVERT (died a child)** was born³ 22 May 1838 in Mobile, AL. She died 8 May 1849 in Mobile, AL from scarlet fever at the age of 11 and was buried in Magnolia Cemetery- Mobile, AL.

MADAME LeVERT, A Biography of Octavia Walton LeVert, by Frances Gibson Satterfield

In July 1847, Octavia wrote describing the second girl: "Claudia Eugenia, is a lovely blonde, bright rosy-lipped, and sparking as Hebe."

Before the tombstone on Octavia's brother's grave could be placed and just six weeks after his death, Octavia's "black-eyed, golden haired Sally" was dead, following five days later by her sister, "the rosy-lipped and sparkling Claudia."

This obituary in the Mobile papers expressed the wide-spread sorrow:

"Death, as if fearing to destroy
Paused o'er the couch awhile;
She gave a tear for those she loved,
Then met him with a smile.

In this way, died, early on the morning of the 8th instant, Claudia Anna Eugenia, the second daughter of Dr. Henry S. And Octavia W. LeVert, aged nearly eleven years. Another link is broken, and another bright spirit is gone! Scarcely had the grave closed over her dear little sister Sally before Claudia was called to join her. 'Twas but the other day she knelt by her side and wiped the death-damp from little Sally's brow. Now these two beautiful girls, of rare promise, lie down together in the same tomb. Locked in each other's embrace, their fine spirits have winged their flight to their Heavenly home. Strange, and mysterious indeed, are the workings of an all-wise God!

"Claudia, like her sister Sally, from the first dawning's of her intellect, and from the first flow of her feelings, gave evidence of being no common child. Her conceptions and expressions were unlike other children's of her age. Her ideas, and the language in which they were clothed, often startled by the originality of the one and the beauty of the other. The idol of her fond parents, she was the admiration of all who came within the influence of her attractions.

"The last moments of Claudia were replete with melancholy interests. She had just bent, with a saddened heart and child-like tenderness, over the body of her dear sister, and before the tear of grief had died upon her cheek, she had followed Sally to her long home. Inseparable in life, they are united in death. Pure on earth, they are angels in Heaven. Beautiful visions!

"Death lies on them like an untimely frost,
The loveliest flowers in all the field.

"The early and sudden death of two such beings stirs sympathy from the "bosom's depths."

Friends weep their loss, and mingle their tears with the parents of these early loved, and early departed spirits. They have followed Claudia, too, to the grave:

"Yes, they are bending o'er her
Eyes that weep;
Forms, that to the cold grave bore her
Vigils keep.
When the summer moon is shining
Soft and fair
Friends she loved, in tears are twining
Chaplets there.
Rest in peace, though gentle spirit
Throned above,
Souls like things, O God! Inherit,
Life and love.

Octavia designed and wrote the memorials on their tombstones. On Claudia's tombstone is formed a wreath of roses, ribbons, and flowers, with CLAUDIA encircled and below:

CLAUDIA ANNA EUGENIA LE VERT
Died May 8th, 1849
Aged 11 years

In five more days death came again,
Claudia! Sweet and matchless Rose
Within those arms serenely died,
Ere on my fist, the grave could close.

Now, these white Tombs, one shelter give
So two, that blossomed, side by side,
Fond and devoted in their lives,
Death could not their angel forms divide.

- 6 F iii. **Sally Walker Walton LEVERT (died a child)** was born 6 Apr 1841 in Mobile, AL. She died 3 May 1849 in Mobile, AL from scarlet fever at the age of 8 and was buried in Magnolia Cemetery- Mobile, AL.

MADAME LeVERT, A Biography of Octavia Walton LeVert, by Frances Gibson Satterfield

"The most important event of 1841 was the arrival on April 6 of Sally Walker Walton LeVert. Dr. Levert was busier than ever, and Madame now had three little girls to supervise as well as her continuing social and charitable activities.

In July 1847, Octavia wrote describing her third daughter: "Sally Walker is the beauty of the whole South. Neither the painter or the sculptor could detect one fault in face or form. Her eyes are as black as night, and yet as soft as the first blush of dawn. Her hair is golden, as rather like sunbeams. T'would seem the sunlight was imprisoned in every bright curl, which hung around her oval face like a halo of light. Her brow is high, her nose completes the classic profile so rarely seen save in antique gems. Her mouth is small, her lips light twin-cherries or wet coral. Her form is worthy of the beautiful face."

Sally died 5 days before her sister Claudia.

Octavia designed and wrote the memorials on their tombstones. At the top of Sally's is a carved wreath of leaves and buds with ribbons encircling her name, SALLY. Below is:

SALLY WALKER WALTON LeVERT
Died May 3rd, 1849
Aged 8 years

Sally! My beauteous Lily, first,
Drooped with untimely frost and pined,
Till on this bosom gently nursed
Slow, but surely life declined.

Ah! Well I know Whom Angels love
The fairest, brightest flowers of earth,
The soonest, to their clime removed
Where love and purity have birth.

Octavia's grief was so overpowering that "M.D." (her pet name for Dr. Levert) and others close to her, were concerned for her health. She was a woman who loved deeply, and three great losses so close together seemed too much to bear."

Octavia kept two portraits of her lovely lost children in her drawing room, as others remarked.

7 M iv. **(son who died at birth) LEVERT** was born 1844. He died 1844.

MADAME LeVERT, A Biography of Octavia Walton LeVert, by Frances Gibson Satterfield

In the eventful year of 1844, Dr. Levert and Octavia had looked forward with great anticipation to the birth of their fourth child, who they hoped would be a boy. The longed-for son, unfortunately, did not live. Octavia was quite ill for awhile. This was the second sorrow of the year, earlier Brother (Francis Levert) had written Henry that their mother had died.

In July 1847, Octavia wrote describing her children, and said: "The fourth was a boy, but death robbed me of him."

+ 8 F v. **Henrietta Caroline "Cara Netta" LEVERT** was born 6 Dec 1846 and died 15 Dec 1876.

Third Generation

8. **Henrietta Caroline "Cara Netta" LEVERT** (OCTAVIA Celeste Valentine WALTON, George, Jr.) was born 6 Dec 1846 in Mobile, Alabama. She died 15 Dec 1876 in Augusta, Ga and was buried in Walker Cemetery, Augusta Arsenal, Augusta, GA.

MADAME LeVERT, A Biography of Octavia Walton LeVert, by Frances Gibson Satterfield

In late November 1846, Dr. Levert wrote Brother that Octavia would be confined in two or three weeks and that he was anticipating some trouble in her delivery, judging by "the severity of her previous confinements. I am apprehensive that she will be ill for many months, to say the least of it."

On December 8 he wrote: "Octavia was confined on the 6th. She has another daughter. Both herself and the child are doing well so far. Tell Caroline (his sister) that Octavia has determined to call it after her." The Leverts had hoped that this fifth child would be another boy and be named Henry. It was typical of Octavia that she would let Henry Clay know that the name was to honor him, her long time friend. Of course, Clay knew that Henry was also Dr. Levert's name. Clay wrote to Octavia on the birth of this fourth little girl. And Octavia wrote him that since the baby was a girl, she could not be named Henry, as planned, and judging from his reply she gave him a choice of two ways to spell the names selected for a girl. On February 28, 1847, he wrote: "I have thought of presenting some trifling memento to my namesake, your little infant daughter, and it occurred to me that a silver cup would be more useful to her at present, than anything I could offer. Accordingly, I have purchased one and had Henrietta Caroline LeVert engraved on it.... Henrietta is the English name, Henriette the French. I adopted the former because it is associated with Caroline, also an English name. May your Henrietta realize your fondest hopes and prove a blessing to her parents..."

In July 1847, Octavia wrote describing her children, and said: "The fifth, Cara Netta, is a rose-bud of six months growth with her sweetest leaves, of course, yet unfolded, but giving an earnest of decided loveliness."

After the War, Octavia and her remaining two daughters traveled frequently, depending on the welcome of her numerous friends all over the country. They were especially successful socially in New York. On November 4, 1868, Octavia

wrote Brother John LeVert:

"I write to inform you of the engagement of my darling Cara Netta to Rigail Reab, the adopted son of my Aunt Mrs. Robinson. They are to be married on the 16th of December. The match is very agreeable to me, for the young man is intelligent, handsome, and industrious. Immediately after the ceremony, Cara Netta leaves for her Southern home, which will be with my beloved Aunt, in her beautiful cottage near Augusta, GA. Octavia and Cara Netta tell her (Claude) how rejoiced they should be to have her with them on this joyous occasion."

Lawrence Augustus Rigail Reab was actually a great-nephew of Anna Walker Rigial Robinson. Anna was a sister of Sally Walker Walton and Mary Walker Walker (wife of George Brown Walker). Rigial was the son of Mary Walker's daughter, Emma Rigail Walker Reab, and Cara Netta was the daughter of Octavia, Sally's daughter. Cara Netta and Rigail were third cousins. They had known each other through the years and had seen each other on frequent visits of the LeVert's to "Belle Vue."

In spite of her apparently changed (reduced) circumstances, Madame LeVert's daughter's wedding was given full coverage by the New York papers. The Evening Mail of December 17, 1868, devoted a full column to the event:

"At Trinity Chapel This Week
LeVert-Reab; Higgins-Brooks
Two Brilliant Weddings.

A very large and brilliant wedding took place last night at Trinity Chapel, at seven o'clock in the evening, it being the occasion of the marriage of Carra Netta, youngest daughter of Madame Octavia Walton LeVert, to Mr. Rigail Reab, of Augusta, Georgia. For hearty enjoyment, the number of distinguished guests present, etc, etc, this wedding may be considered one of the social events of the season. Notwithstanding the rain the large chapel was filled with hundreds of people anxious to witness the ceremony. At about half-past seven o'clock the bridal party entered the church, Miss Octavia LeVert leaning on the arm of Mr. Jefferson, leading. She was dressed in rose-colored silk, cut en train, Pompadour waist, and trimmed with lace, roses in the hair. The dress was very becoming to her dark hair and eyes and fair complexion.

Madame LeVert followed, leaning on the arm of a nephew of Dr. LeVert, Dr. Skillern of Philadelphia. Madame L. was dressed in a rich pearl watered silk cut en train and décolleté, with short puffed sleeves edged with lace. The dress was trimmed with white Brussels lace and brilliants. She wore a lace under waist fastened at the throat with a cluster of diamonds. The hair was puffed. A beautiful lace shawl fell from her shoulders. The whole formed a rich and beautiful costumer.

The bridegroom and bride followed. Mr. Reab is a young looking man with mild blue eyes and alight moustache. His family is of French extraction. He was dressed in the usual suit of black. His bride, Miss Carra Netta, was very handsome, in an elaborate muslin dress, with an immense train, edged with three rows of fluting. The skirt was composed of alternate narrow tucks, and puffings of insertion. The waist was décolleté, and edged with lace. A lace underskirt fastened at the throat. A wide, white satin sash passed around the waist and fastened behind. She carried a large bouquet of flowers, and a wreath of orange blossoms fastened the veil to the head. The bride was given away by Dr. Skillern of Philadelphia. The music furnished upon this occasion was excellent.

After the ceremony at the church, the party drove to the Coleman House, where a very brilliant reception was held. (A very, very long list of the distinguished people present followed) The reception was large, fashionable and brilliant, and further details were provided of the event.

Betsy, the former slave but devoted maid of Octavia, made the muslin dress that Cara Netta wore in her wedding. An account of this was also written up in the newspaper, which remarked that the bride could have worn silk, but elected instead to wear a bridal trousseau "made and presented to her by her old Negro nurse!"

Cara Netta's first baby boy died at eight months of age, and she lost another baby after than. Then little George Walton Reab was born, but she was in delicate health, and seemingly never recovered to complete strength. In December 1876, Rigial telegraphed Octavia in New York that Cara Netta was quite ill, and Madame and Diddie left at once for Augusta. Octavia wrote her cousin Maria about Netta's death:

"When we arrived here, she was not considered dangerously ill, but soon after, the symptoms became more serious and 24 hours before her death the physician discovered that she had Bright's disease of the kidneys. Everything that the most skillful physicians and the most devoted nursing could do was bestowed upon our precious darling. But her

heavenly father had summoned her to a world where suffering and pain are no more. There is not the shadow of doubt in my mind that she is now an angel in heaven.

"We buried our darling on the 8th anniversary of her marriage. It was the 16th of December 1868. On that day we had decked her so proudly and so fondly for her bridal, and on the 16th of December 1876 we draped her in ivory snow white with Japonicas on her breast and on her bosom. She was beautiful, so beautiful in Death. A lovely smile was on her lips, as though she already saw the angels and her angelic children who had gone before her. Oh Father of Heaven, give me strength to endure the agony. Never can any more happiness come to me."

Carra Netta's tombstone, an upright, marble marker, gave her name, dates of birth and death, and this simple inscription:

"A devoted wife and mother.
Home life she beautified
And thereby fulfilled the
Scriptural definition of a
Perfect woman."

1870 Augusta, Richmond Co., GA Census
Roll: M593_172
Page: 135
Image: 536
Year: 1870

REAB, Rigail - 25 - born in GA - whol. grocer
Netta - 22 - born in AL

Some sources state her name was Anne Casanetta "Carra Netta" - but in the biography of Octavia Levert it is Henrietta Caroline.

Source: "Georgia's Signers And The Declaration of Independence" by Dr. Edwin C. Bridges (GA Dept of Archives & History); Dr. Harvey H. Jackson (Asso Prof of History & Chairman Div. Social Sciences, Clayton Junior College); Kenneth H. Thomas (Historian for Historic Preservation Sec GA Dept of Natural Resources); and Dr. James H. Young (C. Howard Candler Prof of Am. Social History-Emory Univ.).

"Cara Netta LeVert was born December 6, 1846 and died in Augusta, December 15, 1876; buried in the Walker Cemetery. She married, c. 1868, her cousin, Lawrence Augustus Regail Reab (b Dec 16, 1944, d. July 3, 1909; buried in the Walker Cemetery). He was the son of George B. Reab and his first wife, Anna Euphemia Emma Re'Gail Walker, who were married in Augusta on November 23, 1839. Anna was the daughter of George M. Walker (b in VA., C. 1789; d Oct 1, 1863, in Augusta, buried in Walker Cemetery) and Mary Tyler Walker (b c. 1793 and d. in Augusta, Aug. 27, 1864, age 71). Mary T. Walker was the daughter of George and Eliza Talbot Walker."

Henrietta married **L.A.R. (Lawrence Augustus Rigail) REAB** "Rigail ", son of George Brown REAB and Anna Euphemia Emma Regail WALKER (died age 22) "Emma", on 16 Dec 1868 in Trinity Chapel, New York City, NY. Rigail was born 16 Dec 1844 in Augusta-Richmond County, GA. He died 3 Jul 1909 in Augusta, Ga and was buried in Walker Cemetery, Augusta Arsenal/College, Augusta, GA.

1850 Census list Lawrence A.R. Reab age 5 living Richmond Co in the household of his grandfather, George M. Walker, a Teacher.

Civil War Service Record

Enlisted as a Private on 10 April 1862
Enlisted in Company A, 12th Battn Light Artillery Regiment Georgia on 10 April 1862.
Transferred Company A, 12th Battn Light Artillery Regiment Georgia on 15 October 1862
Transferred in Company A, 63rd Infantry Regiment Georgia on 15 October 1862.
Promoted to Full 11th Corp on 15 April 1863
Promoted to Full 7th Corp on 15 August 1863
Absent, without leave on 22 August 1863
Promoted to Full 2nd Corp on 15 February 1864

POW on 27 June 1864 at Kenesaw Mountain, GA
Transferred on 18 July 1864 at Camp Douglas, IL
Transferred on 04 May 1865 at New Orleans, LA (For exchange)
Exchanged May 25, 1865

L. A. R. Reab was a director of Augusta Savings Bank. (per Augusta Chronicle, 1888 and 1890)

Augusta Chronicle, November 26, 1878: "Dennis Jackson, colored, died suddenly at the farm of L. A. R. Reab near Summerville." Cause of death was from heart disease.

Augusta Chronicle, January, 1891: Mr. Reab and his company prepare a float for a parade. Mentioned is the fact that his business had recently suffered damage from a fire. His company represented Pabst Milwaukee Bottled Beer.

Social notes in 1908 concerning Mrs. Reab visiting her daughter in Douglas, GA. The Reab's lived at "lower Telfair Street."

1880 Census:

L. A. Rigial Reab, 35 - living in Summerville, Richmond County, GA - merchant - widower
Charlotte - step mother - 50
George W. - son - 8
plus 5 servants

Augusta Chronicle, July 3, 1909, Obituary

"MR. L.A.R. REAB CLAIMED BY DEATH: Well Known Citizen Passes Away at Early Hour Today. He Had Been Ill a Long Time.

"The death is announced, at 1 am, July 2, 1909, Augusta, GA, of Mr. L.A.R. REAB, in the sixty fifth year of his age. Mr. Reab had been in failing health for a long time and seriously ill for four months. His death was not unexpected. But it is a sad grief to his bereaved wife and children, for few men were so dearly beloved in the family circle as he.

In his prime, Mr. Reab was one of the leading business men of this city, and under the firm names of Reab and O'Connor; Reab, O'Connor and Bailey, and L.A.R. Reab, conducted the largest wholesale liquor business here.

Mr. Reab was married twice. His first wife was Miss Netta LeVERT, daughter of Madame LeVert. Of this union there was but one child living, Mr. GEORGE WALTON REAB, perhaps the only living lineal descendant of George Walton, one of the Georgia signers of the Declaration of Independence. Madame LeVert was George Walton's daughter. (actually, George Walton, Jr's.)

Mr. Reab's second wife was Miss Mariah Jenkins, of Grahamville, SC, who survives him. Of there unition there are: MRS. C.F. ROSSIGNOF, MRS. C. W. CRANE, MRS. COLEMAN DEMPSEY, MRS. GEORGE MILAM of Douglas, and Mr. LAWRENCE REAB.

Mr. Reab was born in Augusta and his life was spent here, the family having resided on the Hill, in the well known and historic Chateau LeVert. Some years ago they moved to the city.

(In Georgia Marriages: Reab, George B. to Walker, Anna E. E. R. 23 Nov 1839 Richmond Co., Georgia)

Mr. Reab was fine type of the Southern gentleman, courtly, refined, cordial. His were warm friendships. In his prosperity, he was liberal and public spirited and he occupied a high place in the business life of Augusta.

Bad health, in later years, bore heavily upon him, but he never gave up. Latterly, however, the inroads on him physically were very severe and finally death claimed him.

Interment will take place in Walker cemetery, Summerville. The funeral occurs this afternoon at 4:30 o'clock from the residence, 437 Telfair Street. The following gentlemen are quested to act as pall bearers: Messrs. Charles S. Bohler,

2 Henrietta Caroline "Cara Nettie" Levert b: DEC 06 1846 d: DEC 15 1876
+ Lawrence Augustus Regail Reab b: DEC 16 1844 d: JUL 03 1909
3 Regail Reab b: AUG 31 1870 d: MAY 07 1871
3 Infant Reab (died)
3 George Walton Reab b: JUN 17 1873 d: MAR 06 1925

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They had the following children:

- 9 M i. **Rigail REAB (died a baby)** "Giley"⁴ was born 31 Aug 1870 in Augusta-Richmond County, GA. He died 7 May 1871 in Augusta - Richmond County, GA and was buried in Walker Cemetery, Augusta Arsenal, Augusta, GA.

MADAME LeVERT, A Biography of Octavia Walton LeVert, by Frances Gibson Satterfield

His grandmother, Octavia Walton LeVert, wrote of his birth that December 1870 in a letter to her niece Claude Levert: "Our dear Baby is beautiful. He is a perfect LeVert in features, and we are very proud of this, for the LeVerts are a handsome race of people. He knows us perfectly, and is so engaging and lovely. I don't know how I shall ever tear myself away from him." The news of his death several months after she and Diddie left Augusta must have been a stunning blow. He is buried in the Walker Cemetery, located on the old Augusta Arsenal grounds. A little lamb lay at the foot of a small upright marker which portrays the parents' grief. "Our Little Giley" [his pet name]. Below that: "Regail Levert, Infant of L.A. and Caranetta Reab, born August 31st 1870; died May 7th, 1871. He was only eight months old. [The changes in spellings are probably due to the tombstone engraver. Nearby is an unmarked infant's grave, that of the baby Cara Netta had lost earlier at birth.

- 10 M ii. **George Walton REAB** was born 4 Jun 1872 in Augusta-Richmond County, GA. He died 6 Mar 1925 in Augusta, Ga and was buried in Walker Cemetery, Augusta Arsenal/College, Augusta, GA.

MADAME LeVERT, A Biography of Octavia Walton LeVert, by Frances Gibson Satterfield

Madame and Diddie were back in Augusta in June of 1872, when she wrote Martha Skillern to explain about Netta: "We found her a very great invalid indeed. She had been threatened with a miscarriage during all her pregnancy and was not enabled to leave her room. Her husband, who is surely the most devoted man I ever saw, had rented a house that she might have all the comforts of her own home during the days of trial. As soon as he obtained possession of it, Octavia and our faithful Betsy began preparing the house. The accomplished perfect wonders in work, and by the 4th of May we carried my poor little darling into her nice, neat home. She seemed to revive after we arrived, and I would go into the kitchen and cook nice little dishes to tempt her appetite, so she grew stronger and could walk across the room. On the 4th of June, she gave birth to a beautiful boy. A few hours afterward she was taken with vomiting and flooding and was in very great peril. So dangerous was her condition that the physician never left the house for 24 hours. Oh! My friend! You can understand my sufferings and my anguish! I would rather have a dozen children than witness the sufferings of my child. Now, the physican pronounces her out of danger,

but I am still intensely miserable about her."

George Walton Reab was the last in the lineal line of descent from George Walton, signer of the Declaration of Independence. He never married.

Source: "Georgia's Signers And The Declaration of Independence" by Dr. Edwin C. Bridges (GA Dept of Archives & History); Dr. Harvey H. Jackson (Asso Prof of History & Chairman Div. Social Sciences, Clayton Junior College); Kenneth H. Thomas (Historian for Historic Preservation Sec GA Dept of Natural Resources); and Dr. James H. Young (C. Howard Candler Prof of Am. Social History-Emory Univ.).

Cara Netta and Lawrence A. R. REAB had three children:

1. Regial LeVert REAB, born August 31, 1870; died May 7, 1871. Buried in Walker Cemetery.
2. Infant, died young. Buried in Walker Cemetery.
3. George Walton REAB was born June 17, 1873 (?) and died March 6, 1925, in Augusta, unmarried. Buried in the Walker Cemetery. At his death, just a year before the 150th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence, the direct line of descent from George WALTON, signer, ended. REAB had become heir to much of his grandmother Madame LeVert's possessions, including her renowned scrapbook. Most of this was distributed, sold, or lost during his lifetime - a great loss to researchers.

"Descendants in Augusta of the second marriage of Lawrence A. R. REAB, to Maria JENKINS (1859-1931) are: Margie Ann Rossignol (Mrs. Miller) MEYER; William A. ROSSIGNOL; Laura Reab (Mrs. Charles) BROWN (b 1907); Anne Reab (Mrs. William M). BERRY (b 1912); and Lawrence Reab BERRY. Although not descended from the signer, they have many items of memorabilia that relate to the descendants of Madame LeVert."

George Walton Reab gave his date of birth as 4 Jun 1881 when he registered for the draft. He registered in Augusta, September 1918. Said he was 37 years old, and gave his birthdate as June 4, 1881. George stated he was a reporter for the Augusta Chronicle; was 5 ft 6 in tall; blue eyes and brown hair. He was living at 103 9th St, Augusta. His next of kin was his brother, L.A.R. Reab, Augusta. The only reason I can think for the year of his birth to be off so much, is that he gave them that date on purpose to appear younger, and thus still eligible for the draft. His half brother Lawrence registered at the same time.

Augusta Chronicle, March 7 1915: 'JUDGE VISON AT WORK ON CLAIM OF GEORGE REAB; "For Rent for Hospital Purposes During War Between States.

"Friends of Mr. George Walton REAB, for a number of years connected with the local newspapers in a reportorial capacity, will be interested to learn that he has lately, through his attorney, heard that Congressman Vinson, of this district, has filed for him (Mr. Reab) a Civil War claim, which represents some \$800 to \$1000. This claim is for rent to the United States government during the war for a hospital owned by the late Dr. Henry S. LeVert of Mobile, AL. Dr. LeVert was the husband of the late Madam LeVert, of Mobile and Augusta. Mr. Reab is the grandson of Dr. LeVert. Should the committee on claims in congress decide favorably on the petition filed through Congressman Vinson, it means probably \$800 or \$1000 for Mr. Reab."

June 15, 1915: Dr. E.E. Murphy, Mr. Jas. C.C. Black, Jr. and Mr. George Reab left this morning to attend the reunion of their class '95 in Athens. The class banquet will be given tonight.

Augusta Chronicle, March 7, 1925 - DEATH YESTERDAY OF GEO. WALTON REAB: Well known Augustan and Former Newspaperman Passes Away Following Stroke of Paralysis.

"GEORGE WALTON REAB, a well known Augustan and former newspaper man died yesterday after a prolonged illness at a local hospital. Mr. Reab has been in gradually falling health for years, but had been ill at the hospital for some weeks following a stroke of paralysis.

The funeral services will take place this afternoon at 3:30 o'clock from the home of his brother, Lawrence REAB, 1323 Glenn Avenue, and he will be laid to rest in the family burying grounds in the Augusta arsenal.

Mr. Reab is survived by his (half) brother Lawrence Reab, his step mother, Mrs. M. A. Reab; and the following half sisters: Mrs. Charles Crane, Mrs. Coleman Dempsey, Mrs. Charles Rossignol all of Augusta, and Mrs. George Milam, of Miami, also a first cousin, Mrs. Emma Hilton of Augusta.

Mr. Reab was of most distinguished ancestry. His mother was the late Mrs. Anne Casanette Reab, was the only child of Madame Octavia LeVert, who was the only daughter of George Walton, one of the three signers of the Declaration of Independence from Georgia, whose home, Meadow Garden, is now kept up by the local chapter of the D.A.R. He was at one time one of the best known newspaper men in this section and worked for a long time on the Athens Banner, the Augusta Herald and the Augusta Chronicle. He was a very literary and cultured man and a constant reader, indeed probably there were few men in the state more widely read.

Mr. Reab was a graduate of the University of Georgia and a member of the Delta Tau Delta fraternity.

While he was a quiet man and one who did not seek the public gaze, he was a man who was always loyal and devoted to his friends, and most highly valued by them. He had a warm and generous heart and there will be many who have kindly memories of him today, and who will be saddened that his long fight for health was in vain, and that his gentle kindly presence has gone forever."

Georgia Deaths, 1919-98

Name: George Reab

Death Date: 06 Mar 1925

County of Death: Richmond

Certificate: 8901-G

Augusta Chronicle, August, 1933

"The Macon Telegraph of Thursday carries a most interesting story of the reunion of the WALTON family, headed: "GEORGE WALTON'S DESCENDANTS ATTEND THEIR ANNUAL MEETING." This was held at Raymond Lake, Camp Lorene, Sunday, August 27. It is unfortunate that in one sense that the get-together was so erroneously featured since all Augustans who are interested in history as it really is, and not as it is known, traditionally, know that George Walton, the signer of the Declaration of Independence, has no descendants. George Walton, who established his home in Meadow Garden, now the "home" of the Augusta Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution, was married to Dorothy Camber. Two sons were the issue, one of whom died in youth. The other, George Walton, Junior, married Sallie Minge Walker, whose only issue was Octavia Walton (note: there was a son, but he never married), who married Dr. Henri LeVert, whose father had been associated with Marquis de Lafayette, accompanying him from France as surgeon. Of this issue there were two daughters (who survived into adulthood). One died unmarried, the other, Octavia Walton (actually, it was "Netta"~!) became the wife of George Walton Reab, of Augusta. The only issue of this marriage was George Walton REAB, who died about 1923 (1925) in Augusta. He was not married; therefore the direct line died with him. He had been associated with The Athens Banner-Herald, The Augusta Herald, and the Augusta Chronicle, on the editorial staff. It is an indisputable fact that GEORGE WALTON HAS NO LIVING DESCENDANTS."

Appendix A - Sources

¹ "40,000 Early Georgia Marriage", p. 225.

² *"Historical Collections of the Georgia D.A.R."* .

³ Frances Gibson Satterfield, *"MADAME LeVERT, A Biography of Octavia Walton LeVert"*.

⁴ *Walker Family Cemetery, Augusta, GA*, http://www.walkerfamilycemetery.org/walker_family_cemetery2_007.htm.

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