ARMSTRONG STATE COLLEGE

THE LIFE OF EDWARD MAFFITT ANDERSON

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CONTENTS

1. CONTENTS
2. ABSTRACT
3. TEXT
4. ILLUSTRATIONS
5. ENDNOTES
6. BIBLIOGRAPHY
Edward Maffitt Anderson was born on August 6, 1843 in Savannah, Georgia. He was the son of Edward Clifford Anderson and Sarah Williamson Anderson. Edward became a naval hero while serving as a midshipman aboard the C.S.S. Alabama. He was assumed dead when the Alabama was sunk off Cherbourg, France. He survived and returned to Savannah where he lived until his death on January 28, 1923. Although he was a loving son and brother, he never married and left no direct legal descendants.
Edward Maffitt Anderson was born in Savannah, Georgia on August 6, 1843. He was the son of Edward Clifford Anderson and Sarah Williamson Anderson. (1)

While Edward was a teenager, his father was a planter and slave owner. (2) His father owned two plantations known as Cottonvale and Saranac which covered approximately 1333 acres. These plantations are contiguous and are "bounded on the north by the Ogeechee Road, on the east by a branch of the Little Ogeechee River, on the south by the said branch of the Little Ogeechee River and a tract of land known as Lebanon, and on the west by said tract of land known as Lebanon." (3) Cedar Grove Plantation, which came to be known as Saranac, was owned by Sarah Williamson Anderson. (4) It became the property of Edward Clifford Anderson at the time of their marriage on February 11, 1841. Edward's father also owned a house at 87 Charlton Street which is located at the corner of Abercorn and Charlton Streets in Savannah. (5)

Edward Clifford Anderson was a prominent business man in Savannah. He served as mayor of Savannah for three terms, 1854-1856, 1865-1869, and 1873-1877. In 1870, the census records indicated that Edward Clifford Anderson was an M W Life Insurance agent, had rental property valued at $10,000.00, and personal...
property valued at $8,000.00. He was also Director of Central Railroad in 1879.\(^6\)

During the Civil War, Edward Clifford Anderson was a Major serving as a Confederate Foreign Agent.\(^7\) Records of his military career are available through the Chatham County Library, and the Georgia Historical Society.

This background of Edward Clifford Anderson is given to show the lifestyle of the Anderson family during the early years of Edward Maffitt Anderson's life. Although there is no concrete evidence, it appears Edward Maffitt Anderson's early years were carefree.

The years of Mr. Anderson's life that are most outstanding are those during the Civil War. He became a Masters Mate in October, 1861; a Midshipman on November 18, 1861; a Midshipman in the Provisional Navy on June 2, 1864; and by the end of the war, he was a Lieutenant. He served on the \textit{C.S.S. Savannah}, Savannah Squadron in 1861. From 1862-1864 he served on the \textit{C.S.S. Alabama}. While on the \textit{Alabama}, he participated in the engagement with the \textit{U.S.S. Kearsarge} off Cherbourg, France, June 19, 1864. He also served on the Blockade Runner \textit{Owl}, 1864-1865.\(^8\)

While on the \textit{C.S.S. Alabama}, Midshipman Anderson wrote several letters that were saved and later published in the
Midshipman Anderson was nineteen years old when he wrote these letters. He had sailed to Liverpool, England along with Captain James Dunwoody Bulloch and Lieutenant John Low. He spent ten weeks assisting in the fitting out of the Alabama. When the Alabama sailed, he was one of four midshipman aboard. The Alabama was responsible for the capture of twenty-six enemy ships in a three month time period.

It was in November, 1861 while the Alabama sailed from Port Royal, Martinique to the Island of Blanquilla, that Midshipman Anderson wrote to his father. In this letter he told his father about the captured ships.

Midshipman Anderson gave detailed information including dates and the courses they followed. He gave the names of ships they captured and used descriptive terms in relating the events that occurred at sea. He was proud of their accomplishments. He indicated that they were "anxious for a fight." Although they had captured numerous ships, they had not actually had to fight. The ships they captured were either burned or ransomed. When this part of the letter was written on November 21, 1961, he had only heard from home once since he left. He received information about the welfare of his family through comments made in a letter he had received from Mrs. Bulloch. She was a long-time friend of the Anderson
family. He sent his love to his Mother, his sisters, Nina and Georgia, and other relatives. He asked to be remembered to Mom Binah, a domestic, and to the servants in the country.

By the servants in the country, he may have meant those living either on Saranac or Cottonvale. He also may have meant Lebanon Plantation that was owned by the Anderson family. The house at Lebanon was build by James Habersham in 1804. In 1806, it was acquired by George Anderson, brother of Edward Clifford Anderson. The family lost the plantation during the Civil War, but bought it back in 1871. It was sold to Mills B. Lane by Mrs. George W. Anderson, Jr. in 1916 or 1917. M. Lane Morrison presently owns the home at Lebanon.

On December 22, 1862, Edward wrote to his Mother. He quoted articles about the exploits of the *Alabama* that were printed in the *New York Herald*. These articles called Captain Semmes, Commander of the *C.S.S. Alabama*, a rebel privateer. He showed lack of compassion when he told his Mother about the capture, ransom, and release of the Mail Steamer *Ariel* that was going from New York to Aspinwall. He was of the opinion that they should have burned the ship with every soul on board. This was a harsh view considering that there were citizens of Savannah aboard the *Ariel*.

On December 24, 1862, Edward wrote to his sister Georgia. He described his location as "lying between the Islands of Las
Arcas, Lat. 20 degrees 12 Long. 91 degrees 59 minutes."(24) In his letter, Edward implied that spending Christmas on the Alabama was much more to his liking than his Christmas in 1861 in which he was located on a deserted island.(25)

He continued his letter on January 1, 1863. They were making minor repairs such as painting and caulking of the ship. He was not required to do any of the work, but chose to participate for his amusement. He indicated that he wrote to Nina, his sister, before leaving Liverpool. He also mentioned writing to a girl named Ella. He describes her as nice and beautiful. Evidently Georgia did not know her because Edward said that he knew that Georgia would like Ella if they met.(26)

On June 19, 1864, the C.S.S. Alabama left Cherbourg, France accompanied by the French warship Couronne. The Couronne was to serve as referee when the Alabama challenged the U.S.S. Kearsarge. The Kearsarge was commanded by Captain John A. Winslow, a former friend and roommate of Captain Semmes, the commander of the Alabama. The Kearsarge was faster and heavier-armed. The fight between the two ships was observed by over fifteen thousand people on the French shore. The Alabama was quickly defeated and sunk. Twenty-one men were lost. Nine were killed in action and twelve were drowned. French pilot boats, the Kearsarge, and the Deerhound picked up the survivors. Midshipman Anderson was among forty-two survivors who were rescued by the Deerhound, an English yacht captained by Evan P. Jones.(27)
Midshipman Anderson was safe, but the only news his family had was that the Alabama had sunk. This news first came as a telegraphic rumor and was confirmed five days later by a story in the *New York Herald.* (28) Names of the dead were not listed. Colonel Anderson, Edward's father, made an entry in his diary on July 10, 1864 expressing grief. He refers to Edward as his darling boy. On July 17, 1864, he made another entry saying that his worst fears had been realized. He called Edward his noble boy and his darling boy. He gave an account of the engagement between the Alabama and the Kearsarge. (29) He stated that according to the *Augusta Sentinel* of July 16, 1864, his son was blown overboard by a shell, and that his leg was left on deck. (30) Colonel Anderson said that he went home to tell Sarah the news. (31) There is no comment on her reaction to this terrible news.

It was not until August 1, 1864 that news arrived that Midshipman Anderson was not dead. The news came through family friends in Liverpool who had received a telegraphic message from Edward in Southampton on June 21, 1864. (32)

On June 28, 1864 Edward wrote to George Lyman Appleton of Savannah. Appleton was living in England and had apparently written to Edward offering his assistance. Edward thanked him for his offer, but said he was not in need. He also told Appleton that he escaped with a slight wound. He gave the
address of Fraser, Trenholm & Co., 10 Rumford Place, Liverpool, to be used in reaching him. (33)

Colonel Anderson entered in his diary a prayer of thanks, and he wrote to his son in care of Mr. Edmund Molyneux of Liverpool. (34) Mr. Molyneux had been the British consul in Savannah before the war. (35) Edward received this letter on September 1, 1864 and nine days later he replied.

In Edward's letter of August 10, 1864, he expressed his sorrow that his family had been grieved by the false report of his death. He asked his father to tell his August Sallie that he appreciated all the nice comments she made about him in her letter to him. (36) He made the statement "I believe a man's virtues are never found out until after his death." (37) He then said he yearned to be at home with them in Savannah, and that he missed them. He mentioned the Sears family. Mrs. Sears was the sister of Sarah Houston Anderson, Edward's aunt. (38) He said they were very kind to him and allowed him to bring his friends to their home. He made the statement that "Ella is the prettiest and most lovely girl that it has ever been my fortune to meet." (39) This is most likely the same Ella mentioned in his letter to his sister Georgia December 24, 1862. He said he visited London and stayed to sightsee.

Edward said he was sending his letter by Lieutenant Armstrong and asked his family to be nice to him. (40) He also
asked his father to get some of his friends to recommend him for a promotion. He felt he deserved it because many men who had not seen any service were promoted. (41)

He signed each of these letters "your affectionate son." (42) In his letters he mentioned Eugene several times. This Eugene was Eugene Anderson Maffitt, the son of Captain John Newland Maffitt. Captain Maffitt and Colonel Anderson were friends and roommates in the 'Old Navy'. They showed this friendship by giving their son's the last name of each other as their middle name. (43)

Edward and Eugene left for Bermuda where they joined Eugene's father. His father was the captain of the Owl, a Confederate blockade runner. They persuaded Edward to remain on the Owl as acting master and navigating officer. He remained with the Owl until the collapse of the Confederacy. Captain Maffitt delivered the Owl to Captain Bulloch in Liverpool instead of surrendering. (44)

Edward, who was now a lieutenant, left Liverpool for Savannah. He arrived in the fall of 1865. (45)

These letters were owned by Mrs. Florence Crane Schwalb of Savannah. She was the adopted daughter of Nina Anderson Pape, Edward's niece. (46) The letters were published under a grant-in-aid from the University of Alabama Research Grants
Committee. (47) In the editorial that appeared along with Edward’s letters his death date was erroneously reported as January 28, 1905. (48)

Edward’s war career has been given in detail because it is the primary information found on his life. The letters from him describing events in his life are the major clues to the type person he was. I will not attempt to identify his personality type, but will leave that to the imagination of the reader. The comments about him in his father’s diary indicate that he was loved and respected by his family.

On April 12, 1869, Edward M. Anderson, Lieutenant, C.S.S. Navy became a member of the Georgia Hussars, a voluntary military group organized in 1736. (49)

He was employed by the Plant System Railroad of Georgia for a short time. (50) His position may have been as a collector. (51) He later worked in various enterprises with his father and uncle. (52)

He was mentioned in The Daily Morning News, The Daily News Herald, and The Savannah Morning News for various activities he participated in from 1867-1887. He was appointed to the Health Board for Lafayette Ward in 1867 and 1868. (53) He served as a pall bearer at the funeral of Commodore Josiah Tattnall in June, 1871. (54) He was juror for the Grant Jury on May 8, 1872, (55)
and in June 1881. He also served as a juror in Superior Court in 1881. He was nominated as secretary of the Democratic Convention for Chatham County in September 1874. He declined this nomination.

In November 3, 1876, Edward ran the following ad in the Savannah Morning News:

"E. M. Anderson request the readers of the Morning News to suspend their opinion upon all matters pending between Dr. Jas...J. Waring and Himself until a full and accurate statement is presented to them."

This article gives reference to a debate that arose between Edward Maffit Anderson and Dr. Waring. Dr. Waring publicly criticized Mayor Edward Clifford Anderson for his handling of the yellow fever epidemic. Edward demanded the "satisfaction due a gentleman." Dr. Waring refused and placed Edward under bond for good behavior. Edward withdrew his challenge, but was unhappy with the entire episode.

Another newspaper article showed Edward as pall bearer at the funeral of Captain George A. Nicoll. He was appointed to the general committee of arrangements for the Georgia Historical Society in 1882.

On November 28, 1881 the following article appeared in the Savannah Morning News:
"Several days since mention was made in the Morning News of the mysterious disappearance of Captain E. M. Anderson, who bought out the Brig Co. line McNeill from Boston. He collected the freight amounting to several hundred dollars, taking with him his overcoat and valise. There is no clue to where he has gone." (63)

It cannot be established by me whether or not this was indeed Edward Maffit Anderson or perhaps someone else with the same name. There is no proof that he was ever a captain. There was no information found related to this article either before or after it was written.

On February 1, 1884 Edward was listed as the son of Sarah Anderson in her death notice. (64) On February 22, 1884, Edward was listed along with Horace A. Crane and Richard S. Anderson as qualified executors of Sarah Anderson deceased. (65) On January 1, 1885, Horace A. Crane, Edward M. Anderson, and Richard S. Anderson applied to the Court of Ordinary for Letters Dismissery as Executors on the estate of Sarah Anderson, deceased. (66)

On October 3, 1886 Edward was appointed as a Chatham County manager by the magistrates and freeholders. (67)

On July 6, 1887 Letters Dismissery were granted to Horace A. Crane, Edward M. Anderson, and Richard S. Anderson as executor of Edward Clifford Anderson, deceased. (68)

All of this newspaper information indicated that for several years Edward was active in the civic life of Savannah. It also
showed that he was respected by his parents since they both left him as one of the executors of their Estates.

The City Directory of Savannah shows Edward employed by the Albany and Gulf Railroad Company from 1871 – 1878. During this time he worked as a collector and a clerk. He was still living at his father's resident at 87 Charlton Street. (69) In the 1900 census records indicated that Edward lived at 20 West Harris Street in Savannah with Nina Pape. (70)

In 1907, (71) 1908, (72) and 1909 (73) his address was shown as 20 East Taylor Street, and in 1910 (74) it changed to 16 East Taylor Street and remained there until 1923 when he died. (75) The owner of the house at 16 East Taylor and 20 East Taylor was listed as Nina Anderson Pape. Ms. Pape was Edward's niece, who was the principal at Pape School. (76)

The only record found of Edward's last years were in The Land of Loving Children by Katherine Kirkwood Scott. (77) Miss Scott was a teacher at the Pape School and lived at 16 East Taylor Street. (78) She described Edward as Miss Pape's bachelor Uncle Eddie. She mentioned his Confederate war service aboard the Alabama. She was told by a Savannahian that when Edward read his obituary after the Alabama was sunk, "he had been as good as dead ever since." She did say that he was a "vague, kindly old gentleman" who slept at the Pape School at nights as a night watchman. (79)
Edward suffered a broken leg when he was knocked down by a celebrant on Armistice Day in the late eighteen hundreds. Miss Pape cared for him when he mended to good health.\(80\)

The Georgia Historical Society at 501 Whitaker Street received a letter from Mr. Robert Sullivan of Baltimore, Maryland in 1992. He included a photograph of a portrait painted by John Singer Sergeant and signed "To my dear friend Edward Maffitt Anderson." Attempts to reach Mr. Sullivan by both the Georgia Historical Society and myself have been unsuccessful.\(81\)

On January 28, 1923 at five o'clock a.m. Edward Maffitt Anderson died. He was seventy-nine years, five months, and twenty-two days old. His death certificate listed influenza-asthma as the cause of death. It also indicated that he was single and was a retired accountant. The information on the death certificate was supplied by Nina Pape. \(82\)

The Savannah Morning News ran the notice of his funeral under the "Mortuary" column. The notice invited friends and relatives to attend the funeral at 16 East Taylor Street. The interment was private. \(83\)

On the same page under "Special Notices" was the following notice:

Confederate Veterans Association Camp, 756, U.C.V.
The members of this Camp will assemble at Laurel Grove
Cemetery, entrance on Magnolia Street which is about a block north of Henry Street (on account of obstructions on Anderson Street entrance which is not being used) this (Monday) afternoon at 3:45 o'clock to pay the last tribute of respect to our deceased comrade, Edward M. Anderson. Members of other Confederate bodies, especially McLaws Camp, 596, U.C.V., is invited to join us.

Wm. Harden, Commander
D.B. Morgan, Secretary (84)

This entire article has been included because it reflects the comradeship that still existed among the men who had fought for the Confederacy. It also indicates that Edward was probably active in this association.

He was buried at Laurel Grove Cemetery, Savannah, Georgia on Monday, January 29, 1923 at four o'clock p.m. Edward's grave is in the family plot. Also buried there are his parents, Edward C. Anderson and Sarah Williamson Anderson; his sisters Sarah W. Anderson, and Nina Anderson Pape; his niece Nina Pape; John W. Anderson and his wife Sarah A Anderson, Edward's uncle and aunt. There are also graves of other cousins.

Edward Maffitt left his Last Will and Testament that consisted of one page. It was written on stationary of the Citizens and Southern Bank, Savannah, Georgia. The will was dated April 23, 1915. The witnesses were, A. M. Glover, Joseph J. Gleason, and E. W. Cubbedge, Jr.

In his will he asked that all his debts be paid and a small stone put on his grave. He left all property to his sister Sallie W. Anderson, and to his nieces Sally W. Anderson, Virginia
A. Banks, Nina A. Pape, and Nina A. Hammond, and to his nephews William H. Crane, Horace A. Crane, Jr. and Edward A. Crane. He appointed William H. Crane as the executor. His will was filed on February 20, 1923 and recorded in Will Book Y, Folio 48. (86) Edward’s assets of his estate consisted of fourteen shares of C & S Bank, 14 shares of C & S Co. at 240 per share all issued in one certificate for a total amount of $3360.00, and cash on hand of $3353.71 for a total of $6713.71. His debts, including court costs, bill from Dr. Julian F. Chisholm, funeral expenses from Henderson Bros., grave stone, and administrative costs, totalled $1867.65. This left a total of $5846.06 to be distributed amount his sister, nieces and nephews. (87)

There was a nice article in the paper entitled "E. M. Anderson, Naval Hero of Confederacy, Passes Away." (88) This short two column remembrance sums up Edward’s life better than I have been able to do in several pages. He was the "last survivor of the crew of the gunboat Alabama of the Confederate Navy." (89) Three short paragraphs tell of his illness, his descendents, and his burial arrangements. The other seven paragraphs are centered on his outstanding war service. (90)

"The fact of this young gentleman's promotion from acting midshipman through all of the intermediate grades to that of lieutenant in the short space of two years attests his high qualifications." (91) This statement made by Lieutenant Colonel Arthur Sinclair in his book Two Years on the Alabama makes me
feel that there is information that I have not uncovered that will tell more about this qualified young man. There must be reasons that he never married and that for almost fifty years there is very little information about him. Edward Maffitt Anderson has aroused my curiosity, but has remained enigmatic.
PHOTO TAKEN AT THE TIME HE BECAME A MEMBER OF THE GEORGIA HUSSARS, APRIL 12, 1869.
GRAVE OF EDWARD M. ANDERSON AT LAUREL GROVE CEMETARY
16 EAST TAYLOR STREET. EDWARD M. ANDERSON'S PLACE OF RESIDENCE AT THE TIME OF HIS DEATH.
PHOTO OF EDWARD M. ANDERSON THAT APPEARED WITH HIS OBITUARY.


4. Michele Kirby, Nina Anderson Pape, Special Collection, Lane Library, Armstrong State College, Savannah, Georgia, SPEC COLL. F294 S2 S38, Vol. 12, Savannah Biographies.


6. Georgia Census 1870, (Savannah: Chatham County Public Library, M593, Roll 141, page 182, s.v. Anderson.


10. Ibid., 416.

11. Ibid., 417.

12. Ibid., 417.

13. Ibid., 421.


15. Ibid., 425.

16. Ibid., 421, 430, s.v. No. 17.

17. Ibid., 421.


21. Ibid., 423.

22. Ibid., 423, 424.

23. Ibid., 424.

24. Ibid., 424.

25. Ibid., 424.

26. Ibid., 425.

27. Ibid., 425, 426.

28. Ibid., 426.

29. Ibid., 426.

30. Ibid., 426.

31. Ibid., 426.

32. Ibid., 426.

33. Ibid., 426, 427.

34. Ibid., 427.

35. Ibid., 427.

36. Ibid., 427.

37. Ibid., 427.

38. Ibid., 427, 431, s.v. No. 31.

39. Ibid., 427, 428.

40. Ibid., 428, 432, s.v. No. 36.

41. Ibid., 428.
42. Ibid., 421, 425, 428.
43. Ibid., 432, s.v. No. 39.
44. Ibid., 428, 429.
45. Ibid., 429.
46. Ibid., 429, s.v. No. 8.
47. Ibid., 429, s.v. No. 8.
48. Ibid., 429.


60. W. Stanley Hoole, ed., "Dispute With Dr. James J. Waring," Georgia Historical Quarterly 29: (93) 148.


64. "Death Notice," Savannah Morning News, 1 February 1884, s.v. Mrs. E. C. Anderson.


69. City Directory of Savannah, 1871 - page 30, 1874 - page 11, 1876/77 - page 12, 1878 - page 35.

70. Chatham County Census Records - 1900, Soundex Reel T 1040 # 5, Item 536, Georgia Vol. 11 e.d. 67 Sheet 1, line 57.

71. City Directory of Savannah 1907, page 212.


76. City Directory of Savannah 1907, page 618; City Directory of Savannah 1910, page 461.


78. Ibid., page 2.

79. Ibid., page 5, 6.

80. Ibid., page 84.

81. Robert Sullivan of Baltimore, Maryland, letter to Georgia Historical Society, Savannah, Georgia.


87. Ibid., page 232, 233.


89. Ibid., page 10, col. 3.

90. Ibid., page 10, col 3, 4.

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Savannah Morning News. 1 February 1884.


Savannah Morning News. 3 October 1886, page 8, column 1.

Savannah Morning News. 6 July 1887.

Savannah Morning News. 29 January 1929, page 10, columns 2,3.

Savannah Morning News. 29 January 1923, page 2, column 1.


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