Presented to Dr. Warlick

By

Sandra L. Vick

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AUGUSTUS BARIE

Biographical Abstract

Augustus Barie was born in Augusta, Georgia, on July 15, 1815. While he was still a boy, his family moved to Savannah, Georgia; here, his father became the French Consul.

In his early career, Augustus was associated with various banking and loan associations; but in his mature years, he served as accountant for the Savannah Gas and Light Company from 1874 until failing health forced him into retirement in 1889.

Living on Liberty Street for nearly sixty years, he became a well-known and well-respected member of the Savannah community.

On February 3, 1904, Augustus Barie died after a four-month illness. His heirs were his brother, Eugene; his nephew's widow, Emily V. Verdery; and his grand nieces, Emily Joseph Verdery and Mary Eugenia Verdery.
Louis Barie was born in Paris, France; but his family, because of their political beliefs, left France and moved to the southern part of Haiti. In the 1790's, a series of slave uprisings forced many Frenchmen in Haiti to leave and come to the United States; Louis moved to Charleston, South Carolina,\(^1\) where, on November 22, 1809, he married Jane Victoria Coquillon,\(^2\) a Frenchwoman born in San Domingo. After their marriage, Louis and Victoria moved to Augusta, Georgia, where they began a family.\(^3\)

Augustus Barie was born in Augusta on July 15, 1815—\(^4\) presumably the third child of Louis and Victoria.\(^5\) While he was still a young boy, the Barie family moved to Savannah,

\(^1\)Information gathered from an interview with Edmund Ryan of 50 Grimbal Point Road, Isle of Hope; Savannah, Georgia. The interview was made on July 8, 1975. Edmund Ryan is the great-grandnephew of Augustus Barie and the son of Mary Eugenia (Verdery) Ryan who lived with Augustus for the last decade of his life; Mary Eugenia was the daughter of Augustus's nephew, Mandos L. Verdery. (Hereinafter cited as Ryan, Interview.)

\(^2\)Chatham County Marriages; 1805-1852. Located at the Georgia Historical Society; Savannah, Georgia. Apparently this marriage record was made after the Baries moved to Savannah. (Hereinafter cited as Chatham County Marriages.)

\(^3\)Ryan, Interview.

\(^4\)Savannah Morning News; February,\(^4\), 1904. Microfilm located at the Savannah Public Library; Savannah, Georgia. (Hereinafter cited as Savannah Morning News; February 4, 1904.)

\(^5\)Chatham County Census Record, 1850; page 494. Located at the Georgia Historical Society; Savannah, Georgia. (Hereinafter cited as Census, 1850.)
Georgia, where Louis became the French Consul for Georgia, South Carolina, and Florida.

In his position as French Consul, Louis set the stage for one of the most memorable events of nine-year-old Augustus's life. General Lafayette, the French hero of the American Revolution, made a grand tour of the United States in 1825; while in Savannah, he was entertained by the Baries. Augustus always remembered with pride his shaking of Lafayette's hand, his mother's dancing with the General at the grand ball held in his honor, and his father's escorting the General from Savannah to Augusta.

Augustus's family included an older brother, C. Eugene; an older sister, Eugenia; younger twin sisters, Zulma C. and Zelda E.; and his youngest sister, Clara. According to the 1850 census, all of the children, except Eugene, were still living with Louis and Victoria. Eugene, a merchant, was married and had a large family of his own.

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6 Census, 1850. Also; Savannah Morning News; February 4, 1904.
7 Ryan, Interview.
8 Ibid. Also; Savannah Press; February 3, 1904. Microfilm located at the Savannah Public Library; Savannah, Georgia. (Hereinafter cited as Savannah Press; February 3, 1904.)
9 Savannah Morning News; February 4, 1904.
10 Census, 1850. Also; Ryan, Interview.
Apparently between 1850 and 1860, Louis Barie died and was buried in the Colonial Cemetery.\(^{11}\) Augustus became the head of the household. The 1860 census lists Augustus, Victoria, Eugenia, Zulma C., and Zelda E., as still living together.\(^{12}\)

On September 22, 1857, Clara Jane, Augustus's sister, married Matthew Spain Verdery\(^{13}\), whose family had also come from Haiti.\(^{14}\) One of their children, Mandos L. Verdery, became a particular favorite of Augustus.\(^{15}\) When Mandos died in 1893?, Augustus moved his widow, Emily V. Verdery, and his two daughters, Mary E. Verdery and Emily J. Verdery into his home where he cared for them and served as guardian for the children until he died. Augustus never married; so in later years he also took care of his older brother, Eugene.\(^{16}\)

\(^{11}\) Ryan, Interview. Note: I can find no verification that he is buried in the Colonial Cemetery.

\(^{12}\) Chatham County Census Record, 1860; page 218. Located at the Georgia Historical Society; Savannah, Georgia. (Hereinafter cited as Census, 1860.

\(^{13}\) Chatham County Marriages; 1851-1866.

\(^{14}\) Ryan, Interview.

\(^{15}\) Savannah Morning News; April 19, 1885, states that Mandos held half-interest in a winning Louisiana Lottery Ticket for which he was to receive $7,500; but, according to Edmund Ryan, Mandos lost the ticket and never collected.

\(^{16}\) Chatham County Will Index and Files; file number, B910. Located in the Office of the Clerk of the Ordinary; Savannah, Georgia. Also; Ryan, Interview.
Augustus began his career in the banking and loan business. From 1856-1860, he was cashier for the Merchants' and Planters' Bank; in 1861, he was elected secretary-treasurer and one of the directors of the Mechanics' Savings and Loan Association during which time he was in partnership with Hiram Roberts; in 1866, he was elected one of the directors of the Savannah Mutual Loan Association. In 1874, Augustus became the accountant for the Savannah Gas and Light Company. He held this position for fifteen years until his failing health forced his retirement in 1889.

Throughout his life, Augustus was a speculator. He bought many pieces of property at bargain prices and sold them at a profit; occasionally these deals were in partnership with others including John D. Delanney and Joseph V. Connerat.

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17 Savannah News Digest; 1856, 1858-1860. References made to his position in the Daily Morning News on February 7, 1856; December 18, 1858; August 5, 1859; January 24, 1860; and June 7, 1860. Located in the Savannah Public Library; Savannah, Georgia.

18 Savannah News Digest; 1861, 1862. References made to his position in the Daily Morning News on February 6, 1861 and June 21, 1862.

19 Savannah News Digest; 1872. Reference made to their partnership in the Savannah Morning News on December 14, 1872. Also; Ryan, Interview.

20 Savannah News Digest; 1866. Reference to his position in the Daily News Herald on September 11, 1866.

21 Savannah Morning News; February 4, 1904.

22 Ryan, Interview.

23 Chatham County Deeds Index and Deeds. Located at the Office of the Clerk of the Superior Court; Savannah, Georgia.
He invested in various railroad stocks including the Augusta-Savannah Railroad, the Southwestern Railroad, and the Central of Georgia Railway Company. In 1861, he served on a committee to obtain subscriptions for the Skidaway Shell Road in which he was a stockholder.

Augustus was well-respected by the citizens of Savannah. He was known for his charity to widows and beggars; and his caring for his older brother and the widow and daughters of Mandos Verdery gained him much respect. As an active citizen, he served as Superior Court Grand Juror frequently; and he served as a member of the Savannah Volunteer Guards. During the Civil War, when bunkers were being built at the Catholic Cemetery, he moved all the remains of the Barries to his backyard where they remained until he died. Though he did not serve in the Civil War because of his age, three of his nephews were killed at Gettysburg; and he made the journey to Pennsylvania to claim their bodies.

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24 Chatham County Wills Index and Files; file number, B910.

25 Savannah News Digest; 1866. Reference made to his position in the Savannah Daily Herald on January 6, 1866.

26 Savannah Press; February 3, 1904.

27 Ryan, Interview.

28 Savannah News Digest; 1859, 1860, 1867, 1868, 1875, 1877, 1888. References to jury service on March 2, 1859; May 24, 1859; April 10, 1860; March 8, 1867; July 24, 1867; March 7, 1868; March 6, 1875; November 19, 1877; December 5, 1886.

29 Savannah Press; February 3, 1904.

30 Ryan, Interview.
Living on Liberty Street for about sixty years, Augustus became a familiar face to most of Savannah. In 1860, he lived at 18 Liberty; in 1867, he lived at the Northwest corner of Harris and Habersham; in 1868, he built a 2-story building on Liberty between Abercorn and Lincoln; in 1874, he lived at 116 Liberty; and in 1897, he lived at 321 Liberty.31

Augustus was an eccentric man at times. He ate carrots every day. He delighted in criticizing the sermons of a man named Ulee; he is credited with repeatedly saying, "You know you lie, Ulee!" He was one of the first in Savannah to put gas in all rooms of the house—except the bedrooms; and he was a pioneer in having a special room in the house for the bathtub. He never married though he remained a close, lifelong friend to his teenage sweetheart. (She never married either.) He asked that his grave be marked by a large granite boulder.32

In his mature years, Augustus was an attractive man. He was 6'3" tall and weighed 185-200 pounds. He had sky-blue eyes and a fair and rosy complexion. His snow-white hair fell to his shoulders. His favorite color was brown; and he usually wore a brown top hat and a brown suit.33

31 Savannah City Directory; 1860, 1867, 1871-72, 1874, 1879-81, 1884-86, 1888, 1890, 1896-1897, 1899, 1901-1903. Located at the Georgia Historical Society and the Office of the Clerk of the Ordinary; Savannah, Georgia.

32 Ryan, Interview.

33 Ibid.
In the last thirty years of his life Augustus seldom went to church; but he did consent to see a priest before he died. 34

After retiring from the Savannah Gas and Light Company, Augustus lived another fifteen years. On October 12, 1903, he made out his will; and, after an illness lasting four months, he died on February 3, 1904. His funeral was held on February 5 at 9:00 at the Cathedral of St. John the Baptist; and he was buried in the Catholic Cemetery. 35

Augustus's heirs were his brother, Eugene; his nephew's widow, Emily V. Verdery; and his two grand-nieces, Emily J. Verdery and Mary E. Verdery. Eugene received Lot # 15, Troup Ward; Emily V. Verdery received $1500; and Mary Eugenia and Emily Joseph received the remainder of the property to be divided equally. 36

34 Ryan, Interview.
35 Savannah Morning News; February 4, 1904.
36 Chatham County Will Index and Files; file number, B910.
APPENDIX

Appraisal and Inventory of the Estate of Augustus Barie

(1) Portions of Lots #29 and #30, Columbia Ward & imp. $1,800.00
(2) Lot #10, Columbia Ward & impt. $2,500.00
(3) Lot #14, Troup Ward & impt. $9,000.00
(4) Lot #15, Troup Ward & impt. $3,300.00
(5) Eastern 1/2 of Lot #3, Troup Ward & impt. $4,500.00
(6) Western 1/2 of Lot #57, Brown Ward & impt. $7,000.00
(7) 104 shares of Augusta-Savannah Railroad stock $11,804.00
(8) 5 shares of Southwestern Railroad stock $570.00
(9) 6 second preference income bonds of the Central of Georgia Railway Company ($1000) $1,755.00
(10) Cash in Germania Bank $27.24
(11) Furniture and household effects returned by testator for taxation at $300.00

TOTAL $42,556.24

Taken from File B910 at the Office of the Clerk of the Ordinary; Savannah, Georgia.
APPENDIX (2)

Edmund Ryan has a miniature of Louis Barie which is painted on ivory. He also has a matched set of engraved pitchers of silver that was hand-made for the Barie family. His sister now owns the chair in which Lafayette sat when he visited in 1825.
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Chatham County Census Record; 1860, page 218. Located at the Georgia Historical Society; Savannah, Georgia.

Chatham County Death Record; February 4, 1904. Located at the Chatham County Health Department; Savannah, Georgia.

Chatham County Deeds Index and Deeds; 1785-1910. Located at the Office of the Clerk of the Superior Court; Savannah, Georgia.

Chatham County Marriages; 1805-1852. Located at the Georgia Historical Society; Savannah, Georgia.

Chatham County Marriages; 1851-1866. Located at the Georgia Historical Society; Savannah, Georgia.

Chatham County Will Index and Files; file number B910. Located at the Office of the Clerk of the Court of the Ordinary; Savannah, Georgia.

Interview with Edmund Ryan, the great-grandnephew of Augustus Barie. He lives at 50 Grimbal Point Road, Isle of Hope; Savannah, Georgia. (Interviewed on July 8, 1975.)

Savannah City Directory; 1860, 1867, 1871-72, 1874, 1879, 1880-81, 1884-86, 1888, 1890, 1896-97, 1899, 1901-1903. Located at the Georgia Historical Society and the Office of the Clerk of the Ordinary; Savannah, Georgia.

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