Mrs. Welthy Ann (Martin) Edwards

A housewife born in Bullock County, she spent most of her eighty one years moving around Georgia.

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Historical Methods
Doctor Warlick, A S C
Welthy Ann Edwards was born on April 20, 1850 in Bullock County, Ga. (1) to John and Margaret (Whaley) Martin. According to the 1850 Bullock County census there was a John and Mary Martin who had come from South Carolina. If these are Ann's parents, (and it seems probable, although hard to confirm as there are no Bullock County birth certificate for that time.), they had quite (2) a family. There were ten children before Ann was even born. (She was born after the census was taken). There is no available 1860 census for Bullock Co. so I was unable to keep track of Mrs. Edwards during her childhood. I submit however that she must have stayed in Bullock County, since the next record I was able to find showed that she was married to Augustus Oliver Edwards in (3) Bullock on January 3, 1867 at the age of sixteen. (4)

Augustus Oliver Edwards was born on April 12, 1843; I was unable to (5) find out where. He fought in the "War between the States" and was consequently (6) disabled; he lost an eye. Their first child was born in 1867, a female named (7) Tulula Edwards, (unfortunately I could not find a birth certificate). I believe they were still in Bullock County at the time, but then they moved to Effingham (8) County to have their second child; Aaron Cone born in 1870. Nellie Edwards born in 1871 was also born in Effingham County, (at least according to her death (9) certificate). This places her parents in Effingham County at least up to 1878 when after the birth of a daughter, Augusta Edwards, their son (and last child) (10) Eugene F. Edwards was born.

While they were in Effingham County they bought a house in Tusculum (11) Georgia, which is just south of Egypt. Their main income was from a hat shoppe which Mrs. Edwards and her sister had on the first floor. Tusculum is on the Central of Georgia railroad, in fact when the Edwards lived there it was 'just' a little ol' train stop' according to Mr. Bennett, one of my sources. I believe that it is possible that Mr. Edwards might have worked for the Central of Georgia at this time, since at a later date in a Savannah City directory
he is listed as a machinist with the Central of Georgia. Also his oldest son Aaron Cone was a retired Station Master for the Central of Georgia line when (14) he died. The Edwards also spent some time in Springfield, Georgia, (north of Rincon) while they were in Effingham County.

As near as I can tell the Edwards family moved to Savannah in or around 1888 since their name appears for the first time in the 1889 city directory. The family lived on Montgomery Street until 1894, then moved to Duffy Street. In 1898 the Edwards bought lot #84 on Henry Street (which originally was a part of lot #82), in Gue Ward. The house number was 219 West Henry Street and they lived there approximately until 1911, when Mrs. Edwards and her daughter Nellie Edwards Griner, apparently bought a house in Springfield, Georgia. I have come to this conclusion for two reasons, one-- The Edwards disappear from all city directories beginning in 1911, and two -- I was told by Mr. Bennett that Mrs. Edwards and her daughter bought a house in Springfield around the time of Mr. Edwards death, which was in 1914.

Between 1914 and 1931 the activities of Ann Edwards are again somewhat of a mystery. I know she lived with her daughter, Nellie Griner during this time. Part of the time mother and daughter lived in Springfield and part of the time in Savannah. Mrs. Edwards died in Savannah at the residence of her daughter, 17 East 38th Street on September 9, 1931 at 4:40 PM. According to her Doctor, she died of Cardio-vascula disease and old age in general. According to the Savannah Morning News, she had lived forty years of her long life in Savannah and was a member of the Calvary Baptist Temple. The obituary stated that she had left behind three daughters and one son; this is because Eugene had died in 1929. It also stated that she left twelve grandchildren. Five of these twelve grandchildren were the sons and daughters of Mrs. Augusta Edwards Bennett, one of whom acted as my source of information, a living descendant.
Aaron Cone had two children and so did his deceased brother Eugene, which brings us to a total of nine grandchildren, where the other three came from I do not know.

I did delve into the subsequent lives of Ann Edwards' children and their children since there was much more available information which was easier to locate. I will not however include all that information here since this biography is really only about Ann Edwards.

I feel it necessary to mention that there were two Ann Edwards who were at times listed with the same middle initial which could be very confusing to a fellow researcher. I discovered this quickly enough when I looked up an Estate file in the Chatham County courthouse. The date I had been given was 1877 but according to the courthouse documents Ann Edwards had died in 1874 and therefore could not have built a house in Savannah in 1877. I found out that this Ann Edwards had been born in the late 18th century to an English "Gentleman" named Thomas Hogg. I regret now that the coin landed in favor of Ann Martin Edwards because I have come to believe that it would have been more interesting, more challenging and more informative if I had researched Ann Hogg Edwards biography. But perhaps some other researcher can take up this project.
(1) Vital Statistics–Public Health Dept. of Chatham Co.; Death certificate–Volume 51, pg. 1230

(2) Georgia Historical Society; Bullock Co. Census of 1850 (Index).

(3) Georgia Historical; Register of Marriage Records for Bullock Co; Page 39.

(4) Laurel Grove Cemetery; Edwards’ Family Plot, Augustus’ grave stone.

(5) Ibid; A plaque by Augustus’ grave which bore the Confederate flag and dates 1861-65;(it also bore the initials G.S.A. and "VINDICK which I have been unable to interpret). This conjecture is borne out by the following reference also:

(6) Edwards Holland Bennett – Grandson of Augustus & Ann Edwards, in one of our telephone conversations he gave me this information. (Feb., 1978)

(7) Laurel Grove Cemetery; Edwards Family Lot, Lula’s grave stone.

(8) Edwards Holland Bennett; Information from our conversations. (Feb., 1978).


(11) Laurel Grove Cemetery; Eugene’s grave stone.

(12) Edwards Holland Bennett--From one of our conversations.

(13) Georgia Historical; 1910 Savannah City Directory.

(14) Vital Statistics (Public Health of Chatham); Death Certificate, 1952; Vol. 129, page 1241

(15) Edwards Holland Bennett -- Conversation

(16) Georgia Historical; Savannah City Directories, 1889 Volume

(17) Ibid – 1894 Volume

(18) Chatham Co. Courthouse; Deed Book #7W, Folio # 241

(19) Georgia Historical; Gue Ward Book, Lot # 84, see diagram.

(20) Laurel Grove Cemetery; Augustus’ grave stone.
(21) Edwards Holland Bennett

(22) Vital Statistics - (Public Health); Death Certificate 1931, vol. 51, pg 1230

(23) Georgia Historical; Savannah Morning News, Sept. 10, 1931, mortuary column.

(24) Chatham County Courthouse; Wills and Estates, J.L. Bennett # 2193 & 2215 1948.

(25) Ibid; Will of Aaron Cone Edwards, # 460, 1953.

(26) Ibid; Will of Nellie Edwards Griner, # 1248, 1948

(27) Georgia Historical; Abstracts of Wills in Chatham County, Willbook 'E'
Annotation:

In the course of doing some research for my Anthropology class I came across a collection of documents relating to the history of a piece of land on the Ogeechee River, now known as Uncle Shed's fishing camp. These documents were copies of deeds from the courthouse of Chatham County. The research he did was very accurate, I personally checked on every entry and each one was correct. Not only that but he copied word for word every deed; tedious handwriting and all! The Georgia Historical Society now has a copy of this information.