RESEARCH ON
JAMES POLK
1796-1867

SUBMITTED BY
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James Folker, a native of Charleston, S.C., came to
Savannah as a young man to earn a living, marry
and to raise a family. Mr. Folker lived a long and
productive life as a father, husband, Churchgoer,
employee, and participant in community life.
James Folker 1796-1867

James Folker was born in Charleston, South Carolina in 1796.(1) It seems that Dr. Thomas Folker of Charleston was his father.(2) Sometime prior to 1820 James moved to Savannah where he was married to Miss Eliza Greene by Rev. Walter Cranston of Christ Episcopal Church.(3) Eliza died the following year, leaving two children, one of whom, Eliza R. Folker, died later that same year. The other child, Thomas, lived to the age of twenty-eight.(4)

In 1825 Folker married Miss Maria Box of Savannah. James and Maria had nine children, four of whom lived to adulthood.(5) The Folkers resided at 410-412 East Broughton Street. They seem to have been a close-knit family, for in 1860 his grown-up children by his wife Maria were still residing with him.(6) Folker's daughter Maria, twenty-nine years old at the time, lived with her father, as did son William, a twenty-seven year old engineer and machinist. Also at home were Albert, a nineteen year old clerk, and Laura, the youngest at age seventeen.(7) The children who preceded Folker in death were: Ann Elizabeth, Laura Louisa, Marion Amanda, Victoria Alexandrina and Charles Stephens. James Folker's wife of twenty-one years, Maria Box Folker, died giving birth to this lost child and was buried in July of 1846 at the age of forty-two.(8)

CIVIC AND COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

Folker was a communicant of Christ Episcopal Church.
as were the other members of the family. Albert was confirmed and married in Christ Church. Maria was confirmed in Christ Church by the bishop of the state of Georgia, St. Rev. Stephen Elliott, D.D. Laura was a Sunday School teacher in Christ Church, and Albert was a member of the library committee of St. John's Church. Apparently Albert moved his membership to St. John's in later years. William is the only member of the family who does not show up on church rolls.

James Folker was also on the Board of Health for Washington Ward. Two men were appointed as inspectors for each ward, they would inspect all premises for unhealthy conditions. Folker served on the committee of accounts for the German Friendly Society in 1832. Although Folker was a community minded person, he regularly ignored summons to jury duty, perhaps because he was so busy with his other civic involvements and with his job.

BUSINESS

The first business transaction that we see is the purchase of two slaves—Hammond and Brutus from Mr. Thomas N. Box in 1834. In 1837 Folker "sold, conveyed, grants" to Thomas N. Box all buildings in the western half of lot thirty-four in Warren Ward. In 1854 Mrs. Mary Rousseau sells Folker one half of lot number eighteen in Wesley Ward, a sixty foot long and ninety foot deep piece of property, subject
to yearly payment of thirty-eight dollars and sixty-four cents by four equal and quarter yearly payments. (20)

DEATH

After many years of work and service to the community, James Folkert passed away on September 19, 1867. (21) The following account appeared in the Savannah Daily News and Herald of September 20, 1867.

We are pained to announce the death of Mr. James Folkert, an old citizen of this place. He died at his residence yesterday afternoon, about half past one o'clock. He had been complaining for some time, though nothing serious was anticipated; but on Wednesday he commenced sinking rapidly, and died as stated. Mr. Folkert was employed in the old Planters Bank for forty-three years, the last ten years of which he held the important post of cashier, but increasing years caused him to give up his position in 1860, and in consideration of his long services he was allowed by the bank an annuity of $600, which was paid up to the time that the bank ceased operation. He was seventy-one years of age at the time of his death. His funeral takes place this afternoon at 4 o'clock. (22)

Folkert's cause of death was diagnosed as gastro-enteritis by his physician, Dr. Bragg. (23)

EVENTS IN THE LIVES OF THE CHILDREN

In 1867 Albert married Caroline Y. Smith of Savannah. (24) Their son Joseph was a pressman for the Morning News and resided with his parents at 40 Broughton Street. (25) From 1871 on Albert's occupation has changed from clerk to pilot. (26) In 1886 Albert's wife died at the age of forty-
Maria married Mr. H. A. Lumsden of Fayetteville, North Carolina on July 2, 1868, by the Rev. Mr. Stoney. Maria and her husband moved away from Savannah, probably to North Carolina. Laura, the youngest of the children, never got married. In 1901 Laura is a resident of the Home for the Aged. And finally William G. Folker, who went to war to serve the Confederacy, killed in the war. He served in the 22nd Battalion of the Georgia Artillery. His funeral was from his father's home on December 1, 1864.

**CONCLUSION**

James Folker left no will. His estate was sold by the city marshall, L. L. Goodwin in front of the courthouse in 1880. James Folker and the other family members were buried in Lot 901 of Laurel Grove Cemetery, but there are today no signs of any grave markers. I could not locate a descendant to interview. Because of other classes I could not devote all the time and energy to this research that I wanted to. However, the research was interesting and may prove helpful to me in researching my own roots.
James Folker

Married: Eliza Greene 6/15/1820 died: 4/24/1821

1825 - James marries Anna Maria Boz - 4/26/1825
Children: Ann Elizabeth
Born 1826 Baptized 4/12/1827
buried 4/20/1827
Laura Louisa
born 5/12/30 Baptized 9/14/30
buried 11/1/30
Marion Amanda
born 1/23/32 Baptized 4/3/36
buried 11/6/39
Maria
born 1831
confirmed in Christ Church 3/31/61
married: Mr. H. A. Luesden 4/2/68 Children:
William
born 1833
buried 12/1/64
Children: Edward B. * & Georgia Florida*
Born 1879 born 6/7/62
Victoria Alexandrina
Baptized 12/12/47 born 5/15/47
Died: ?
Albert
born 1841
confirmed 12/24/65
Married 6/6/67 to Caroline V. Smith
Children: Joseph
Baptized 4/23/82
born 1880
Buried 4/7/83
Joseph Oliver
George W.
Baptized 3/2/68
born 1/1/66
Buried 1/7/68
born 5/10/61
Laura V.
born 1843
confirmed 1862
Charles Stephen
baptized 10/25/46 born 7/10/46
Buried 4/14/48

*Uncertain
Sources

1820 South Carolina Census
1860 Georgia Census
Laurel Grove Cemetery Records
Annals of Georgia Mortuary Records
Marriages & Deaths. Warren
Christ Episcopal Church Registers
Daily Georgian Newspaper
Daily News & Herald
Daily Morning News
History of Savannah Municipal Government. Cample
Courthouse Deed Books 28, 29, 4N
City Directories 1871, 1880, 1885, 1890, 1894, 1897, 1899
1. 1860 Georgia Census
2. 1822 South Carolina Census
3. Marriage license #715, Chatham Co. Courthouse
4. Membership records, Christ Church
5. Ibid.
6. 1860 Georgia census
7. Ibid.
8. Christ Church register 1 Page 93
9. Christ Church membership records
10. Christ Church register 2 Page 209
11. Christ Church register 2 Page 99
12. Savannah Newspaper Digest, Apr 1877
13. Savannah Newspaper Digest, 1871
15. History of Savannah Municipal Government, Gamble
16. Daily Georgia 1/19/1838
17. Daily Georgian 8/12/1840
18. Deed Book 28 Page 480
19. Deed Book 28 Page 435
20. Deed Book 4N
22. Ibid.
23. Laurel Grove Cemetery Records
24. Christ Church register 2 Page 209
25. City Directory, 1865
26. City Directory, 1871
27. Savannah Newspaper Digest, Nov. 9, 1866
8. Savannah Newspaper Digest, July 1868
9. City Directory, 1901
10. Savannah Newspaper Digest, May 19, 1866
11. Savannah Newspaper Digest, Dec. 1, 1864
12. Savannah Newspaper Digest, Sept. 7, 1880