William H. Bordley (1820-1905)
Mr. William H. Bordley was born in Kent County Maryland in 1820. I was unable to find the names of his parents but there a lot of Bordleys in Maryland. The name Bordley can also be spelled Broadly, Broadley, Brodly, or Boardly but I will spell it Bordley. William H. Bordley lived in Savannah until he died in 1905. He fathered seven children, three girls and four boys. That is about all I am going to say in this opening statement you will have to read this report to find out the rest.
Before we get into the life of William H. Bordley lets look at some other Bordleys who may have been relatives of William and who were also from Baltimore, Maryland. In 1831 there was a Mr. Bordley from Baltimore who was giving an art exhibit. One of the paintings was titled, Decent From the Cross, presented by Louis 16th, to the catholic cathedral in Baltimore and was to be exhibited on the corner of Drayton and Bryan streets in Savannah. Bordley then returned to Baltimore on the brig, Maryland.

In the year 1834 a Miss. Henriettet E. Bordley arrived in Savannah from Baltimore. She was then married to Capt. Patrick Ramsbotten of Savannah. Then another Bordley popped into Savannah in 1836. His name was Matthias Bordley and he arrived in Savannah on the brig. Oglishere captained by Captin Fitzger. We also know of a J.B. Bordley who had a letter held for him at the Post Office on January 5, 1842.

William H. Bordley was born in Kent county in 1820. He first showed up in Savannah, in the 1850 census. He was living at the home of Sarah A. Oliver along with Margret Oliver and John Lamore. William is listed as a 30 year old engineer from Maryland and John is listed as a 27 year old blacksmith from Virginia. In November of 1850 a notice was put in the daily newspaper saying that the friends and acquaintances of Henry G. Oliver, William H. Bordley and John Lamore are invited to the funeral of the latter from Mrs. Oliver's corner of Zully and Call street. Henry Oliver is the brother of Margaret Oliver who on January 19, 1852 married Wm. H. Bordley. Services were performed by the local deacon.

Margaret Oliver was born on September 1, 1829 in Savannah. Her parents were George and Sarah Ann Oliver. She had a brother named Henry and her father was from Scotland and her mother was from South Carolina. Her father George Oliver was brought from Scotland dying in the late part of 1853 and died on December 19th. He is buried in Laurel Grove Cemetery lot 1067.
William and Margaret had their first child on September 15, 1852. Her name was Alvarado Gertrude Bordley. On April 21, 1853 the citizens of Sav. met to form a Land Loan Association. A resolution was passed that stock may be taken from the undersigned committee: James Sullivan, J.M. Guerrard, H.R. Fort, S.S. Miller and Wm. H. Bordley. (17)

The Bordleys had another child born on December 1, 1854. This child was also a girl and she was named Sarah Jane Bordley. Sarah Jane died on February 28, 1856 the cause of death was measles. (18) At the time of Sarah's death the Bordley family was living at Blues Range. (19) Blues Range was located at 433-453 Barnard street, lot 33. (20)

The Bordleys were blessed with another child this one also a girl named Williamanina M. Bordley and born on January 8, 1857. (21) On October 6, 1857 William H. was appointed trustee of Alvarado in a deed from Sarah Oliver to Alvarado. In the deed Sarah sold to Alvarado, through William, a slave girl named Isabella age 12. The price of the girl was $5.00 and William was to be in charge until Alvarado was old enough to take over. (22) I have been unable to find any later information on Isabella. On December 14, 1857 William H. Bordley bought some land from Thomas Norwood for $1000. The land was known as lot 18 of Chatham Ward. William had bought the eastern half of this lot bounded on the north by Taylor st., on the south by Wayne st., on the east by lot 19, on the west by western half of lot 18. (23)

In the 1859 Sav. City Directory we find the Bordley family living at 2 Chatham Square. In it William's occupation is listed as being a blacksmith. (24) On March 22, 1859 another child was born at the Bordley house. This time it was a boy and his name was John Scriven Bordley. This was the first boy born but nowhere near the last! The 1860 census showed the Bordleys living in the 3rd, district. The census shows William as being a 40 year old master blacksmith with real estate value of $8000 and personal estate value of $15,000. Margaret is shown as being 30 years of age. Alvarado is shown as being 8 and Williamanina as being 3. John S. is 1 and his grandmother, Sarah Oliver, is 68. Henery Oliver is also listed as living at the Bordley home. He is listed as a
38 year old overseer at a local railroad and being worth $100.\(^{(26)}\) In the 1860 Tax Digest, Mr. Bordley's land was listed as having $3000 worth of improvements.\(^{(27)}\)

A second son was born into the family on June 30, 1861 and was named Oliver Berkley. I could find no reference to Wm. H. Bordley serving in the army during the war between the states. I did find out that on October 1, 1863 a article was put in the local paper thanking those who had contributed money for the relief of the wounded at Atlanta and Mrs. Wm. H. Bordley was one of those who contributed.\(^{(29)}\) On December 4, 1863 a third son was born and he was named William Elliott Bordley.\(^{(30)}\)

Death came calling at the Bordley home in the year 1865. First it claimed young Oliver B. Bordley at the age of 3. On March 22, 1865 Oliver died of dysentery and was buried at Laurel Grove lot 1067.\(^{(31)}\) A quote from Margaret O. Bordley's bible is as follows:

"Oliver Bartow Bordley departed this life on March 22, 1865 was sick 17 days with thysford, desentory and measles his suffering was of the most excruciating kind. He was 3 years 8 months 22 days old and entered in Laurel Grove Cemetery. Second son of William H. and Margaret Oliver".\(^{(32)}\)

On October 4, 1865 death also claimed Henry G. Oliver at the age of 43. The cause of his death was listed as congestion of the brain. He was living on Walnut st. at the time of his death.\(^{(33)}\) He was buried at Laurel Grove in lot 1068.\(^{(34)}\) Sarah Ann Oliver had died on February 24 of the same year and was also buried in lot 1068. The cause of her death was pneumonia.\(^{(35)}\)

On March 21, 1866 the Board of Health met to appoint citizens to be in charge of their wards. Wm. H. Bordley was appointed to be in charge of Chatham Ward.\(^{(36)}\) In the summer of 1866 Wm. H. deeded his land to his wife Margaret.\(^{(37)}\) This could have been done for tax reasons. The 1867 Sav. City Directory shows Wm. H. as living on the north side of Chatham Square and his occupation as being a grocery store owner.\(^{(38)}\)

On February 23, 1867 Mr. Bordley's store was visited by four negroes who attempted to rob it. His store was located near Tattnall and Taylor streets. Policeman Charles
Sullivan came upon the robbery and arrested one. While scuffling with him the affair fell and at this time the negro fired his pistol, the ball taking effect in the shoulder of officer Sullivan. Two of the four negroes were arrested and identified as Santus and Johnson. (39)

William was reappointed in charge of Chatham Ward on April 2, 1868 by the Board of Health. (40) On May 12, 1868 he was selected to serve on the Grand Jury of the Superior Court under Hon. W. E. Fleming. (41) On June 3, 1868 Wm. Bordley ran an ad in the paper to try an rent one of his houses out. The house was two-story brick, basement with gas and water on the corner of Wayne and Barnard st. (42)

Bordley's last child was born August 2, 1869 and was named Charles Rogors Bordley. On April of that year Wm. Bordley had been appointed, along with four others, by the Mayor for a special committee. This committee was to assess damages and to open Huntington street, Gordon street lane and Gaston to Price street. (44)

The 1870 Sav. City Directory shows Wm. H. Bordley still as a grocer and living at 110 and 112 Barnard street. (45) In the February 17, 1870 newspaper it shows Wm. Bordley was the assistant to the clerk of city market and he asked for an increase in salary and got it. (46) The 1871 City Dir. shows Bordley still at the same address on Barnard street. (47) Wm. Bordley appeared again on the grand jury list on March 24, 1871 and again later that year. (48) Wm. Bordley was again on the grand jury list in 1873. (49) In 1875 Wm. Bordley was one of the magistrates for the Savannah Volunteer Guards. (50) Earlier that year Wm. Bordley was Deputy Clerk of Market. (51)

The 1877 City Dir. shows William living at 106 Barnard and his son John as working as a clerk at 62 Bay st. (52) William is listed in the July 4, 1877 newspaper as having jury duty. (53) The 1879 City Dir. shows that Wm. Elliott Bordley has a job working for D.B. Lester. Wm. H. is still Deputy Clerk of Market and John S. Bordley is a clerk at Torsett and Kennedy. (54) On July 27, 1879 Elliott stopped a black man from stealing a
bottle from Mr. Lester's store. Elliott gave chase and was shot at by the black man.\(^{55}\)

John started working at the Central Railroad and is still living at home at 106 Broad street.\(^{56}\) While Wm. H. was busy being Deputy Clerk of Market his wife, Margaret O., was busy with her temperance club meetings.\(^{57}\)

The year 1882 brought a promotion to Wm. H. Bordley. His title was now Clerk of Market a very important job.\(^{58}\) 1882 also brought some new people into the Bordley family. On December 20, 1882 Mr. Percy E. Wilson married Williamania Bordley. On December 27, 1882 William Elliott Bordley married Miss. Catherine E. Barthlemess.\(^{59-60}\) The 1883 City Dir. shows Elliott and John working at the Central Railroad.\(^{61}\) On April 26, 1884 John S. Bordley married Lula Yonge.\(^{62}\) On December 9, 1886 Catherine E. Bordley got a second verdict against Wm. Elliott Bordley toward a divorce.\(^{63}\) The Bordley family appear in the papers at least once a year for such things as jury duty and trips, but nothing really important. One important fact is that on May 3, 1889 John's office at the Central Railroad station got new curtains.\(^{64}\) Charles Rogers had gotten a job at the railroad earlier that year so now all three brothers were working at the railroad.\(^{65}\)

On September 2, 1891 Margaret O. Bordley bought the rest of lot 18 for $764.48 plus back taxes from the Mayor and Alderman of Sav.\(^{66}\) On December 1 of the same year Margaret deeded to her daughter, Alvarado, part of lot 18 for $1.00.\(^{67}\) On November 26, 1895 Charles R. Bordley married Ophelia C. Wright.\(^{68}\) Everything was going great of the Bordleys until Wm. H. died on February 2, 1905. At the time of his death he was living 705 Barnard st. The medical report said the cause of death was senile decay. He was 84 and retired.\(^{69}\) His Will stated that Alvarado, Williamania, John, Elliott, Charles and Margaret were his heirs. All were living in Sav. at the time except for Williamania Wilson who lived in Florida and Wm. Elliott Bordley who lived in Bibb County, Macon Georgia. The Will stated that all of his land was to go to Margaret,
his wife. The children were to get city bonds ranging from $1000 to $5000. The total amount of all the bonds given equaled $16,000 worth of city bonds. The Will was filed on February 25, 1905. He was buried from the First Baptist Church of Savannah in Laurel Grove Cemetery in lot 1067.

Death struck Mrs. Margaret O. Bordley on July 10, 1905. She was 75 years of age when she died. The cause of death was listed as paralysis. Her Will stated that her husband gets the northern half of lot 18 on the southeast corner of Taylor and Barnard. To Alvarado she left the southern half of lot 18 plus her personal wardrobe. To Williamanina and Alvarado she left her household furniture and to Williamanina she left her feather bed. Margaret was also buried in Laurel Grove in lot 1067.

On August 4, 1917 Charles R. Bordley died at the age of 48. His Will stated that he leaves every thing to Ophelia. He was buried in lot 1067 at Laurel Grove and was later moved by his wife to Hill Crest. Charles and Ophelia had three children: Charles Jr., George W., and Margaret E. Charles R. Bordley is now living in France and is a world famous art expert. George W. Bordley was killed in action during W.W.I and Margaret E. Bordley Murray is now living in Bristol, Virginia.

October 19, 1918 was a very big day for Margaret E. Bordley and Fredrick W. Murray. It was their wedding day and they were married by Pastor L.R. Christie. Ophelia W. Bordley remarried around this same time to a Mr. Fred C. Wallis. Fred Wall later owned his own paint store and Fred Murray later owned his own lumber yard.

On December 22, 1929 death took Miss. Alvarado Bordley. She was 78 years old and the cause of death was diarrhea. Her surviving relatives were listed in the paper as John S. Bordley, Charles R. Bordley Jr., Mrs. Margaret B. Murray, Mrs. Ethel W. Hext and Mrs. Marguerite W. Schwaner. Her Will set up a fund for her brother John to take care of him in his old age. When John died, the fund was to be divided up be-
between the following people: Margaret B. Murray, Charles R. Bordley Jr., George W. Bordley, all three children of her brother Charles. Her nephew William H. Bordley Jr., son of her brother John. Her niece M. W. Schwaner the daughter of her sister W. Wilson and her niece Ethel W. Hext. (84)

John S. Bordley, last surviving child of William H. and Margaret O. Bordley, died on March 28, 1930 from a short illness. He was 72 years old and had one son. (85) On January 1, 1931 Ophelia W. Wallis lost her second husband and he was buried in the Hill Crest Cemetary. (86) Charles R. Bordley Jr. became very important in the art business and donated two paintings to the Telfair, here in Savannah. (87) While I was at the Telfair looking for them I noticed a painting of an early Bordley. It was a portrait of Miss. Elizabeth Bordley (1717-1789) done in Maryland by John Wollaston. (88) Charles R. Bordley Jr. is famous for his work and research into the life of a painter named Frans Snyders and has written a few books on the subject. (89)

On June 16, 1956 Mrs. O.W. Wallis died here in Savannah. She was 83 years old and living with Margaret Murray at the time. (90) She was buried between her two husbands in Hill Crest. On November 9, 1964 Fred Murray died and was also buried in Hill Crest. (91)

After finding all this information I started looking for a living relative of Wm. H. Bordley. I tried to contact the brother of Fred Murray, but he was already dead, so I talked to his wife. She gave me the address of Mrs. Margaret B. Murray and I wrote her a letter. She wrote me back and I have enclosed a copy of that letter in my report.

Now that we have traced the Bordley family lets look at what happened to lot 18 of Chatham Square. In 1905 all the heirs of Margaret O. Bordley sold their shares of lot 18 to Charles R. Bordley. (92) Then in 1909 Charles and Alvarado deeded the northern portion to Henreitt Fidderwitz for $4000. (93) In 1914 H. Fidderwitz deeded it to I.P. Weitz for $10.00. (94) In 1918 Weitz deeded it to E.B. Pinkney for $8000. (95) In 1919 H.E. Cook bought it for $10,000 plus $4,500 more to pay off a loan Pinkney had
taken out on the land. In a interview with C. Rogers Bordley in 1972, in Savannah, he said the house on lot 18 is now a boarding house but hoped some day it would be restored. Well that day has come and I have included pictures of it in my report to prove it. I really enjoyed doing this project and met a lot of helpful people who are interested in our research projects!
(9). U.S. Census, 1860, Chatham.
(10). Chatham County Census, 1850, page 76.
(13). Letter from Margaret Murray to Daniel Brown, 2/2/1978.
(22). Deed of Slave, 10/6/1857, QQQ page 462.
(23). Deed of Land, 12/14/1857, RRR page 14.
(29). Daily Morning News, 10/1/1863, 2/2.
(33). Death Certificates, Chatham, H.G. Oliver.
(35). Death Certificates, Chatham, S.A. Oliver.
(37). Deed of Land, 6/15/1866, HHH page 405.
(51). S.M.N., 1/14/1875, 3/3.
(52). Sav. City Dir., 1877, page 47.
(67). Deed of Land, 12/1/1891, 72/453.
(69). Death Certificates, Chatham, Wm.H. Bordley.
(70). Will of Wm.H. Bordley, A/289 no. 924.
(72). Death Certificates, Chatham, M.O. Bordley.
(73). Will of M.O. Bordley, S/226 no. 935.
(75). Death Certificates, Chatham, C.R. Bordley.
(76). Will of C.R. Bordley, 11Z/345 no. 1196.
(84). Will of A.G. Bordley, 2B/12.
(86). Hill Crest Cemetery Records.
(88). Telfair Painting Collection.
(90). Death Certificates, Chatham, O.W. Wallis.
(91). Hill Crest Cemetery Records.
(92). Deed of Land, 9/19/1905, 91/357.
(93). Deed of Land, 1909, 9T/371.
(95). Deed of Land, 1918, 13Y/277.
(96). Deed of Land, 1919, 14R/370.
(1). General Index to Wills, Estates, Administrations, etc. in Chatham. Savannah Ga. (1937) Ref.929.3H, Found at Savannah Public Library.


(3). Census of Georgia, Chatham County. (1850), Found at Georgia Historical Society.


(13). Wills. Probate Court, Chatham County Court House.


(15). Marriage Records Index. Savannah Ga. (1806-1857), Probate Court, Chatham County Court House.


(17). Death Certificates. Savannah Ga. Chatham County Health Department.
(18). Deeds.
    Chatham County Court House.

(19). Margaret O. Bordley's Bible.
    Owned by her grandchild in Bristol, Vir...

(20). Margaret B. Murray's letter to Daniel Brown.
    (2/2/1974).
424 Barnard St.

Lot 1067 in Laurel Grove.
Feb 2, 1978

Dear Mr. Brown,

Received your letter and am very interested and would be happy to have a copy of your finished report. I am sending what information I could find.

My Grandfather's parents names I don't know. I have Margaret Oliver's Bible.

Margaret Oliver was born Sept 1st 1824 and died July 10th 1908. William H. and Margaret Oliver were married Jan 1st 1852. There is no birth date, but he died Feb 2, 1905.

To my knowledge, they were both born in Savannah and lived all their lives there. They are buried in Laurel Grove Cemetery.

Their Children: Alvreda Gertrude (known as Aunt Allie) born Sept 15, 1852 death date not recorded. Aunt Allie never married.

Sarah Jane born Dec 1st 1854 died Feb 23, 1864. 56

There are two entries in the Bible that I thought might be of interest to you. One about Sarah Jane. The other about Oliver Banton.

"Sarah Jane Bordley departed this life on 28th of March 1864 and was entaried in Laurel Grove Cemetery, Daughter of William H. and Margaret Bordley age Sixteen month 28 days. Disease Measels."

Margaret Williamanina born Jan. 8th 1857

Pet name (Auntie Wee) was married, had two children. I don't know when she died or where the children are.
John Seriven born March 22\textsuperscript{nd} 1857 death date unknown. Uncle John was married and had one son, Oliver. Banton born June 30\textsuperscript{th} 1861 died March 22\textsuperscript{nd} 1865.

"Oliver Banton Borden Departed this life on March 22\textsuperscript{nd} 1865 was sick 17 days with Thysford, Descent, and Mumps his suffering was of the most excruciating kind he was three years & month 22 days old Enter'd in Laurel Grove Cemetery. Second son of William and Margaret Oliver."

William Elliott born Dec. 4\textsuperscript{th} 1863. Uncle Elliott left home as a young man and was never heard from again.

Charles Rogers born August 3\textsuperscript{rd} 1869 died August 4\textsuperscript{th} 1917.

My father Charles married Ophelia Clarke Wright, had three children, Charles Rogers Jr, Margaret Elizabeth, George Wright.

George died serving his country overseas in 1943. He had no children.

I married Fred Wilson Murray had one child, four grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

Charles Rogers is in Nice France. The present address is (over)
C. R. Bordley
Hotel Albion
Nice, A.M.
France, 06000.

Don't know just how long he will be in France, or at this address. In the Spring or early summer he goes to London.

Best wishes on your report,
Margaret Murray