Moses Abram Cohen was born in Charleston, South Carolina on October 22, 1815. He came to Savannah in 1834 and very rapidly entered the steamship business. In 1836 M. A. Cohen served as a Pheonix Rifleman in the Seminole War. During the American Civil War, Mr. Cohen served with the Savannah Artillery at Fort Pulaski for a short time. Socially, M. A. Cohen was a long-time member of the Zerubbabel Lodge of Masons. He also was an organizer of the Savannah Yacht Club in 1869. The only political position Mr. Cohen ever held was that of Mayor of Vernonburg (White Bluff). In the early 1890's he served as president of the Jasperville Lawn and Improvement Co. M. A. Cohen died on November 12, 1899 at the age of 84. Before his death he had been the oldest merchant living in Savannah and was also the oldest living member of the Chatham Artillery. On June 3, 1962 the family of Mary Newcomb Bull, relatives of M. A. Cohen, were killed in an Air France plane crash over Paris, France.
Moses Abram Cohen was born in Charleston, South Carolina on October 22, 1815. His father was Barnett Cohen who was reportedly a well-known citizen of Charleston.\(^9\) In 1834, at the age of 19, M. A. Cohen moved to Savannah and began working with several local merchants. Most of his early work was involved with the sale and transportation of cotton. These early experiences in the work force would prove to be good training for young Cohen's future.

In 1836 Moses A. Cohen decided to serve his country. He joined the Pheonix Riflemen of Savannah and served in Captain Brown's Company during the Seminole War. After a short time his group was sent back to Savannah and mustered out. He straightway joined the Chatham Artillery and remained a member for over sixty years.

On May 7th of 1845, Moses A. Cohen married Harriet Newcomb from Staten Island, New York.\(^10\) They would remain married for fifty four years. Over the years the Cohens had six children: Kate; Isabella; Orlando; Newcomb; Moses A., Jr.; and Harry.\(^11\) All of the children's lives extended past their parents except Moses, Jr. He died in 1887 of liver problems. He, like his father, was a member of the Chatham Artillery when he died.\(^12\)

After his marriage, M. A. Cohen became heavily involved in the steamship business. He reportedly owned the first steamship line between Savannah and Augusta, Georgia in the early
1850's. Mr. Cohen appears to have been very successful in this business before the war, and he has even been called a pioneer in the Savannah steamship business.\textsuperscript{14} His importance is evidenced in the fact that he was interviewed in 1897 in a newspaper article in which Mr. Cohen recalled the early days of the steamships.\textsuperscript{15}

During the Civil War, Moses A. Cohen served for a short time with the Savannah Artillery at Fort Pulaski. He had to be removed when he came down with typhoid fever and was unable to return to service.\textsuperscript{16}

Moses A. Cohen emerges as a very enterprising man. As stated earlier, he was extensively involved with the steamship business, but he also had many other various business ventures. In 1851 he bought a drug store. The store was purchased from William Humphreys and was located on the corner of Broughton and Whitaker Streets.\textsuperscript{17} After the war, Mr. Cohen procured several land tracts throughout the area. He obtained Lot No. 32 on Bryan Street from William Crawford in 1866. For this land Mr. Cohen paid 11 dollars down and 24 dollars in sixty days.\textsuperscript{18} Mr. Cohen purchased another parcel of land in 1869. He acquired Lot No. 9, a tract of land known as Stephens Ward from John Nicholson for 2000 dollars. This property bordered Gaston Street.\textsuperscript{19} With this property, we can get a slight glimpse of the character of Moses A. Cohen. He was a man that provided well for his own family. He took this last parcel of land and divided it equally among his
two daughters, Kate, the wife of William F. May, and Isabella, the wife of William R. Boyd. This was a notable gesture on the part of Mr. Cohen.

During the late 1860's, M. A. Cohen became active in Savannah social circles. He was one of the organizers of the Savannah Yacht Club in 1869 and served as secretary and treasurer for several years. He also served as secretary for the Ten Broeck Racing Association. Mr. Cohen was also an active member of the Zerubbabel Lodge of Masons of which he had been a member since the 40's. 20

Around 1872, Mr. Cohen apparently had some financial setbacks, although the exact problem is unclear. About this time Mr. Cohen entered the insurance business. He began as a salesman for several companies and eventually formed his own company called M. A. Cohen and Co. Several of his sons worked with Mr. Cohen in the business. 21 By the time of his death, Mr. Cohen was one of the oldest and most respected men in the insurance community of Savannah.

The only political office ever held by M. A. Cohen was that of Mayor of Vernonburg (White Bluff). He reportedly owned a summer home in Vernonburg. Mr. Cohen remained active in the business world throughout his latter years. In the early 1890's, Moses A. Cohen became very involved with the Jasperville Lawn and Improvement Company. He served for some time as president of the
company. Jasperville was an area located just west of the city of Savannah. One interesting development that occurred between Cohen and the Jasperville Company happened in 1892. In a resolution passed by the company's Board of Directors on June 2, 1892, a parcel of land 30 feet wide and 100 feet deep would be given to each stockholder for the price of $1.00. This land was located west of Savannah in Jasperville. Most notable was the clause in the agreement which stated that this property could not be transferred or assigned in part or whole to a person of color for a period of five years.²² Jasperville Lawn & Improvement Company was the party of the first part of this agreement and O. E. Cohen was the party of the second part. Incidentally, O. E. Cohen was the son of Moses A. Cohen.

This brings to light another element of Moses Cohen's later life. He worked very closely with his sons in his business endeavors. We have already seen how his sons joined him in the insurance business and, by examining this land deal, we can see that they were involved in other aspects of Mr. Cohen's business life.

Moses Abram Cohen died on November 12, 1899 at the age of 84. He was remained active in his business affairs until the day of his death. This again shows the enterprising spirit of Moses A. Cohen. The family met at the Cohen home at 213 Charlton Street after Mr. Cohen's death. The house at 213 Charlton was
built by M. A. Cohen in 1846 and had always been occupied by the Cohen family. The service for Mr. Cohen was held at the Independent Presbyterian Church in Savannah. He was a long time attendant of this church but was not an official member. The service was conducted by the Reverend J. Y. Fair. Moses A. Cohen was buried in the Bonaventure Cemetery in Section E, Lot 101.

Mr. Cohen's wife, Harriet Newcomb Cohen, lived another 2 years before she died on March 3, 1902 at the age of 77. She is also buried in Section E, Lot 101 in the Bonaventure Cemetery. Along with Mr. and Mrs. Cohen, many relatives are buried in this cemetery plot. Moses Jr., their son who died in 1887, is buried there, together with Mrs. Catherine Newcomb, Mrs. Cohen's mother. Also located in the Cohen plot are five graves of the Bull family. The intriguing aspect is that all five, including the grave of Robert Scott Newcomb, shows the date of death as June 3, 1962. The Bull family consisted of Mary Newcomb Bull, who was 80 years old at her death. She appears to have been a niece of Mrs. Harriet Newcomb Cohen. Subsequently, Mrs. Bull's son, Frederick A. Bull, and his whole family: wife, Elizabeth W. Bull and two children, Eleanor A. Bull, age 10, and Elizabeth W. Bull, age 17, all recorded the same date of death. This entire family was killed in an Air France plane crash over Paris, France. They were on a tour sponsored by the Atlanta Art Association. One hundred and thirty people were killed in the crash and one hundred fifteen were Georgians.
In researching M. A. Cohen, I encountered various leads to his life. I inquired into records of the Savannah Yacht Club, Records of Masons at the Georgia Historical Society, Vernonburg political records at the Bull Street Public Library, the Georgia Historical Society, and Chatham Artillery Records. Subsequently, I would like to do more research in M. A. Cohen’s business affairs during the 1850’s, especially concerning his steamship business. I would also like to extensively examine his real estate and insurance affairs. I think, in order to perform a fair job in researching Moses A. Cohen, we must also study his family. I feel it would be important to trace his children’s activities and perhaps any living relatives.
In summary, throughout his life Mr. Cohen proved to be an adventurous man who remained vehemently active in business and social affairs in the Savannah area. He was supportive of his country and fought in several wars, demonstrating his loyalty. He was a man that could overcome financial setbacks by diversifying into different areas of business. He provided well for the needs of his family. He served his family and community respectfully and skillfully with a vision for the future.
Endnotes


7. Deed Book 7D, Savannah Chatham County Court House, 3rd floor Superior Court, pg. 149, Business transaction recorded 6-23-1892.


11. Index to Marriages, 1806-1851, Portfolio 39, Chatham County Court House, Probate Court, 5th floor.

12. 1860 Census Index and 1860 Census, Moses A. Cohen, Chatham County Public Library, Bull Street microfilm roll 1173-1159.


17. Deed Book 3I (Chatham County Court House, 3rd floor Superior Court, pg. 40.) Business transaction recorded June 2, 1851.

18. Deed Book 3X (Chatham County Court House, 3rd floor Superior Court, pg. 591) Business transaction recorded September 10, 1866.

19. Deed Book 4D (Chatham County Court House, 3rd floor Superior Court, pg. 382) Business transaction recorded June 1, 1869.

21 Savannah City Directory, 1890, Moses A. Cohen & Co.

22 Deed Book 7D, Savannah Chatham County Court House, 3rd floor, Superior Court, pg. 149, Business transaction recorded 6-23-1892.


24 Bonaventure Cemetery Keeper's Record Book, Moses A. Cohen, Georgia Historical Society

   also Sipples Mortuary, Official Death records.
   also Savannah Morning News, 4 June 1962, pg. 1, col. 7, Worst Plane Crash.
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Bonaventure Cemetery Keeper's Record Book, Moses A. Cohen, Georgia Historical Society.

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Savannah Morning News, 6-4-1962, pg. 1, col. 7, Worst Crash Kills 115 Georgians.

Savannah Morning News, 2-2-1897, pg. 8, col. 1, Steamships.

Savannah City Directory, 1890, Moses A. Cohen & Co.