Honoria Foley

Submitted by Eva Valdez
To: Dr. Roger Horlick
History 390
Winter 1980
Honoria Foley was born in Kerry, Ireland in 1831.¹ She came from the county of Leitrim. It is still unknown when Honoria Foley actually came to Savannah, but she first appears sometime after 1840. While unwed, Honoria lived with Rev. John J. Kirby.²

Honoria Kirby was married to Owen Foley in January 12, 1851. They were married by Rev. John F. Kirby at the Cathedral of St. John the Baptist.³ Owen and Honoria had two children, Francis born in 1851 and Catherine born two years later.⁴ In 1855, Owen Foley dies of unknown causes.

Owen Foley had owned a confectionary on Whitaker street until a fire burned the upper story of the building in July 29, 1851.⁵ At Owen's death, Honoria and the children had no immediate financial difficulties. Owen Foley had made good investments. Owen Foley bought or inherited much of the land existing in his last will. He owned many lots throughout Jackson, Middle Oglethorpe, Moore Bathing Pavilions, and Solomon's Parks.⁶ In one of many business dealings, Owen loaned Thomas A. Theus money and Mr. Theus gave Celie, a slave as collateral.⁷

Even though Owen left Honoria wealthy, it was not until 1973 when the estate was settled.⁸ Honoria Foley as Administratrix of Owen Foley, received in December 1893 real estate from the last will of
Nathaniel C. Mills. There was an attachment of large debts concerning the Mills' estate and the claim was given up. But in September of the same year, a bid of $14,975 was made for the Mills' estate. The western half tract of land in lot 13 in Jackson Ward was bought. Although subjected to a ground rent of $13.80 to the city, the land included houses, buildings, stables, yards, and much more. 9

Honoria Foley worked as a seamstress until the estate of Owen Foley was settled in 1873. 10 By 1840, Francis was nine years old and Catherine was seven years old. Eliza Connor worked for Honoria as a domestic servant. 11 After 1870, Catherine married James William McIntire, a Protestant Irish attorney. During their marriage, they had five children, Catherine, James Jr., Francis Percival, Ethel, and Alice. 12 By 1896, Francis Foley was dead as well as Catherine, and her children, James moved to 14 East Hill. There Honoria took care of the children with the help of Katie Halligan. 13 Like most women of her time, Honoria spent time helping such charities as the St. Mary's Orphan Home as well as the Little Sisters of the Poor. 14

With the help of her son-in-law, Honoria bought a great deal of land and stocks before her death. Such tracts of land as the east one half of 24 Crown Yard and the lots 61 thru 70 in Stiles Yard, each valuing
eight thousand dollars. Investments included 45 shares in the "Citizen and Southern Bank, 21 shares in the Chatham Real Estate & Improvement Co., and 7 shares in the Merchants National Bank. The shares totaling was worth $11,970.  

By the 1900s, Honoraria's grandchildren, Catherine Honorinia and Francis Percival were married. Francis wedded Lucy Barrows and had three children before 1914, James, Cornelia, and Lucy. And in June 28, 1911, Catherine married Walter Charlton Hartridge, a prominent attorney and had one child, Walter. Ethel never married.

In September 4, 1914, Honoraria Foley died of old age. Honoraria left relatives in Savannah, Macon, and her native Ireland.
Obituary

Honoria Foley, 83, of Kerry, Ireland, died September 6, 1914 in her declining years at her home on 14 West Hull Street.

She was a member of the Cathedral of St. John the Baptist in Savannah, Georgia. Honoria Foley was an active member in the St. Mary's Orphan Home and the Little Sisters of the Poor.

Surviving Honoria Foley was her son-in-law, James William McIntire, her grandchildren, Francis Percival McIntire, Catherine Honoria Hartridge, and Ethel Foley McIntire, and two great-grandchildren, Cornelia J. and Lucy B. McIntire.

The following article announces Honoria Foley's passing:

"Foley—Mrs. Honora Foley died September 6, 1914 at 2 P.M. Funeral at Cathedral of St. John the Baptist 9:30 A.M., September 7th. Interment Private. No Flowers."
Notes

1. 1860 Census of Georgia, Chatham County, City of Savannah, no.s 1493-1495.

2. 1860 Census of Georgia, Chatham County, City of Savannah, p. 243.

3. Index to Marriage Licenses 1836-1857, Chatham County Courthouse, Court of Ordinary, no. 3373.

4. 1860 Census of Georgia, Chatham County, City of Savannah, no.s 1493-1495.

5. Savannah Newspapers, 1891, p. 61.

6. General Index, Wills, Estates, Administrations in Chatham County, Georgia, vol. 1, file no. 129.

7. Shreak Index, Chatham County Courthouse, Superior Court, book/page 79149.

8. General Index, Wills, Estates, Administrations in Chatham County, Georgia, vol. 1, file no. 129.

9. Shreak Index, Chatham County Courthouse, Superior Court, book/page 79149.
10. 1860 Census of Georgia, Chatham County, City of Savannah, no. s 1497-1495.

11. Ibid.

12. Interview with Lucy B. Smith, Feb. 27, 1981.


14. Ibid.

15. Ibid.

16. Interview with Lucy B. Smith, Feb. 27, 1981.

17. General Index, Wills, Estates, Administrations in Chatham County, Georgia, vol. 1, file no. 479.

Bibliography


Interview with Lucy B. Smith, B. M. Valdez, February 27, 1981.


Savannah, Georgia, City Directories, Directories used 1806, 1912, 1914, 1936, 1939, and 1940.


Shreck Index, Chatham County Courthouse, Superior Court, books/nn. 39140, 39144, and 39142.