MAJOR JOHN FOLEY
(1813-1881)

HISTORY 650
Dr. Roger Warlick

June 2, 1993

BY: Glenn Carey Godbee
Table Of Contents

Acknowledgements ........................................ ii
Abstract of Major John Foley ............................ iv
photocopy of Major John Foley ........................... vii
Erin Go Abroad ............................................. 1
Business Success 1840-1860 .............................. 3
The War of the Rebellion .................................. 9
The Triumph of Major John Foley ........................ 14
Notes ....................................................... 20
Works Cited ............................................... 27
APPENDIX ................................................ A
Acknowledgements

I would like to begin by thanking my wife Doreen. She has demonstrated the patience of Job, the personality of Mary (Luke 10:38-42), and the selflessness that only a true friend can appreciate. Thanks go out to Tally Kirkland, Historian, Fort Pulaski National Monument. I could listen to his stories all day long. William L. Fogarty was very helpful on the Hibernian Society in Savannah. He supplied directions on how to locate the minutes of the Society in the local newspapers. I tip my hat to the staff at the Savannah-Chatham Public Library for their help with the microfilm collection of newspapers and Census rolls. Thanks also for the tour through the Thomas Gamble Collection. Kudos to the staff at Laurel Grove Cemetery. We were able to reconnoiter the grounds, and locate the grave of Francis Stebbins Bartow (#690). The location being northwest of Major John Foley (#1882). I would also like to thank an unnamed Lady for imparting her knowledge of Freemasonry to me. The staff at the Georgia Historical Society was very helpful in providing assistance with the manuscript collections. Jan Flores displayed conspicuous professionalism under severe canister fire. Michael Seigle provided insightful background on the Irish Jasper Greens. Thanks to anyone else I may have neglected to mention during my research.
Finally, I would like to thank the library staff at the Church Of Jesus Christ Of Latter-Day Saints. They were most helpful with genealogical research. Special thanks go to Dr. Roger Warlick for his advise and timely encouragement.
Abstract of Major John Foley

John Foley was a native of Ballinclaive County, Kerry, Ireland, born in the year 1813. Foley was married in early life, but his wife passed away in Europe many years ago. They had no children from the marriage. He came to the United States in 1836, and on to Savannah, Georgia in October of the same year. He did contract work for the Central of Georgia Railroad and Banking Company until circa 1840. By 1840, Foley opened a successful merchandise-grocery store business on the corner of Columbia Square (fronting present day Habersham, President, and State Streets). During the 1840's, he joined the Hibernian Society (1844), was a member of the Republican Blues military unit (1845); joined the Irish Jasper Greens military unit (1849). He became a Freemason in 1851, joining Solomon's Lodge No. 1, F.A.M.

Although he never attained elective office, Foley was actively involved in local politics. He was nominated for city alderman in the 1850's and 1860's. In 1851, he was nominated by the Constitutional Union Party along with Richard D. Arnold, for mayor; John W. Anderson, alderman (of the Republican Blues); Francis Stebbins Bartow, alderman (of the Republican Blues in 1845); and John J. Kelly, alderman (President of the Hibernian Society in 1856).

iv
By 1860, Foley was able to "retire" from the grocery business and became a Commission Merchant. The War of the Rebellion put his "retirement" plans on hold. While Captain of the Irish Jasper Greens, Foley was elected Major of the First Volunteer Regiment of Georgia in January 1862. His military service effectively ended with the siege and surrender of Fort Pulaski in April 1862. Second in command to Colonel Charles H. Olmstead, he chose not to accept a commission as Lt. Col. in the newly reformed First Volunteer Regiment of Georgia. He remained in Savannah and aided the Confederate cause as a "home guard" volunteer. Foley later travelled to Atlanta in 1864 to care for the wounded soldiers, rendering assistance and relief. In the 1870's he "retired" again to the business of Collector (of rents). His residence would now be 37 York Street (Lot# 31, Columbia Ward).

He was elected President of the Coast Line Railroad (a local line that ran to Thunderbolt, Georgia). "The only road that was ever known to carry a man beyond the cemetery" (Bonaventure). He gained this post in 1873. After the company got "rolling", Foley played only a minor role.

Foley owned several properties on the northeast side of Savannah and spent the remained of his life in leisure, holding the offices of Vice-President (1873-1881), and as Seventh President of the Hibernian Society in (1881). Foley passed away while president of this organization. He died of dropsy, from a diseased heart on September 4, 1881, at the age of 68.
Major John Foley lived an active life, involved in social, civic, and military endeavors until death claimed this honorable Irishman. He is buried at Laurel Grove Cemetery in Savannah, Georgia (802 West Anderson Street). The Hibernian Society, Republican Blues, and the Irish Jasper Greens were all present at his funeral, interred with military and Masonic honors.

Foley stated in his Last Will and Testament that he had no living relatives in Savannah, but did have a brother named Patrick living in Ireland. Patrick's son (nephew of Major Foley) was able to visit Foley before his death in 1881. Foley left everything to his brother, except a few houses he gave to his nurse Henrietta Cooper, who stood by him in his final months. The remaining property was sold at public auction and the money was given to the Patrick Foley legacy.

N.B.- Major Foley did provide for two charities in his Will. Both received $500 in December of 1881. A very nice Christmas present indeed!
MAJOR JOHN FOLEY

(1813-1881)
Erin Go Abroad

John Foley was a native of Ballinclavie County, Kerry Ireland\(^1\) located on the Southwest Atlantic coast. He was born in 1813\(^2\) and was married early in life, but his wife died many years ago in Europe.\(^3\) The exact date and location of his marriage remain a mystery.\(^4\) Did the death of his wife cause him to seek refuge in America? Did he yearn to break away from the repressive English rule of Ireland? Many questions remain about his early years in Ireland. Who were his parents? Where was he educated? How many brothers and sisters did he have?\(^5\) Patrick Foley, an Episcopal minister, was living in Tipperary, Ireland (northwest of Kerry) at the time of his brother's death in 1881.\(^6\)

By the twelfth of August 1836, Foley had embarked from Liverpool\(^7\) for the United States. He arrived in New York on September 22, 1836 and came to Savannah on October 31, 1836, taking the oath of allegiance to the United States on May 16, 1838.\(^8\)

The hero of New Orleans, Andrew Jackson, was President of the United States when Foley arrived (for good) in America. The Mayor of Savannah was John C. Nicoll,\(^9\) serving a one year term.

Foley engaged in some contract work on the Central of Georgia Railroad, which was then under construction.\(^10\) The Central of Georgia laid its first rail on December 14, 1835,\(^11\) with William Washington Gordon (former mayor of Savannah) as the first president
of the Corporation from April 1836 to March 1842. The Central of Georgia was to run from Savannah to Macon, Georgia, a distance of 190 miles. By 1843 the line was completed. Foley was no longer employed by the Central of Georgia when the railroad opened for service. Ironically, Foley may have provided General William Tecumseh Sherman with a measure of sartorial splendor (Sherman's neckties) during his "March to the Sea". The very rails Foley may have laid were torn asunder by Sherman's "bummers". The proud Irish labor expended on the rails was laid to waste by an army of 60,000 battle hardened veterans.
Business Success 1840-1860

The 1840 Georgia Census lists a John Foley, as a male between the age of 20 and 30, involved in commerce (he would be about 27 in 1840).\(^1\) Foley began to pay taxes in 1840 on the value of merchandise and poll to the City of Savannah.\(^2\) In 1843 the property was listed as Lot# 19, Columbia Ward (2 Columbia Square).\(^3\) Foley may have been a touch too zealous in his approach to merchandising his goods. On December 31, 1840 he was fined $30 for violating the Sabbath ordinance against opening on Sunday.\(^4\) His license was forfeited for (this) third offense.\(^5\) Fate must have shinned upon Foley because he was able to obtain another license, which was used to run the business, until he was fined again for violating the Sabbath ordinance (this time the fine was $5).\(^6\) His business did continue to prosper and grow despite these minor indiscretions.

Foley frequently travelled to New York to buy goods for his store and often left his business in the care of his friends.\(^7\) One such friend was J[ohn] Riordan. The name of John Riordan appears in the original minutes of the Irish Jasper Greens dating to June 30, 1842.\(^8\) His room above the store where he ran a clothing/linen goods business was located in the Marshall's Building (I believe it to be the same location of the Marshall Hotel) at Drayton and Broughton Streets (southeast) of the present Krystal Restaurant on Drayton and Broughton. The fact that John Riordan and John Foley were both at
the original meeting (in the room of John Riordan) is clear.

However, Foley did not join the Irish Jasper Greens at this first meeting. He was a member of the Republican Blues during the mid 1840's. The Irish Jasper Greens were named for Revolutionary War hero Sergeant William Jasper. The unit was formed to provide the First Regiment of Georgia militia with an Irish company. Foley was appointed to a uniform selection committee along with John McMahon and John J. Kelly (both served as President of the Hibernian Society). He did not formally join the Irish Jasper Greens until February 8, 1849 "being a recent member of the Repb Blues". He was elected ensign and served in that post until February 4, 1850. Philip Kean replaced Foley as ensign, but was asked to resign the position on April 18, 1853.

Foley returned to the "Greens" on December 12, 1855 as an elected member of the Company. On December 21, 1855 he was voted 1st Lt. Finally, on April 8, 1859, Foley was voted Captain of the Irish Jasper Greens. John McMahon served as Captain of the "Greens" during the Mexican War 1846-1848. The "Greens" won the honor of representing Savannah in the campaign. Foley was a member of the Republican Blues at the time of war.

In the interregnum from "Blues" to "Greens", Foley was elected to membership in the Hibernian Society on March 18, 1844. The Hibernian Society was founded on March 17, 1812 to aid the impoverished Irish immigrants to America. The Irish were being ill treated by unscrupulous men willing to take advantage of the plight that many foreigners found themselves involved in. John Cumming was the first president of the Society. Alexander Robert Lawton (of the United States Military Academy and Harvard) delivered the address at
the Catholic Church, being escorted to the Church by the Irish Jasper greens, under command of Captain Ward. Alexander Robert Lawton (brother-in-law of General Edward Porter Alexander (CSA), and future president of the Central of Georgia Railroad) was to later gain fame at Sharpsburg (Antietam), where he suffered a leg wound that ended his field command. Foley was dearly blessed to be admitted into this society of Irishmen.

The entry of John Foley into the Masonic order bears closer examination. The "Tribute of Respect" published in the Morning News on October 10, 1881 claims that Foley became a member forty years ago (in 1841). The manuscript record reveals something different. It states: "The petition of Mr. John Foley for initiation was read the first time on October 2, 5851 [1851], and he became a member on November 6, 5851 [1851]." Foley would rise to the Junior Warden degree in the 1860's and (as stated before) was buried with full Masonic honors by Worshipful Master [Colonel] J.H. Estill, proprietor of the Savannah Morning News.

I will now note the political activity of John Foley. On November 24, 1851 Foley was nominated as an aldermanic candidate with John W. Anderson (a one-time Captain of the Republican Blues); Francis Stebbins Bartow (hero of First Manassas); John J. Kelly (elected president of the Hibernian Society in 1856); and Dr. Richard D. Arnold, for mayor. Anderson, Bartow, and Arnold were elected in December 1851. Arnold, the prominent Savannah physician would later have the "honor" of turning the city over to "Cump" Sherman in December 1864.

John Riordon (whose meeting room, above his store, was the founding place of the Irish Jasper Greens) was elected alderman in
1852 along with John McMahon. In 1868 John Foley and Dr. Arnold
were involved in a Conservative Meeting which selected candidates
for local and state wide office. The group made frequent remarks
against the "carpet-bag party" and the "great scalawag party".
The group's choice for governor was General John Brown Gordon 21
(hero of Sharpsburg, and the First day of Gettysburg, July 1, 1863).
General Gordon would gain the Governor's chair in 1886. To say
Foley believed in the cause of slavery is not for me to decide. I
will let others judge Dr. Arnold and John Foley on this count.
The fact is, Foley escaped one form of "oppression", only to be
"ruled" by another form to the north. It would only be natural for
Foley to side with his adopted land against the "enemy".

Foley continued to prosper in his business and added other
properties to his portfolio. After the Columbia Square property,
Lot# 19, he added the properties at Lot# 21 and # 31 of Columbia
Ward. These three properties were all within a two-block distance.
The city directory of Savannah of 1858 places John Foley at 2
Columbia Square. 22 By 1860 Foley had "retired" to the Marshall House,
as a "Gentleman of leisure". 23 He is listed as a (commission)
merchant living at the Marshall House. 24 Although Foley went into
"semi-retirement", he did not sell any of his properties. He would
soon move to less tranquil surroundings.
State of Georgia

Chatham County

This Indenture made this thirty-first day of March in the year of our Lord eighteen hundred and eighty-two, between Dennis O'Connor and Hugh C. Lester, the legatees personal representatives of the last will and testament of John Foley late of Chatham County, residence of the city of Savannah, County and State of Georgia, the first part, and Theresa Elsinger of the City of Savannah, County and State of Georgia, the second part. Wherein John Foley departed this life at his house and premises of the west part of the City of Savannah, having previously executed a will which has since been legally probated by the term of which Dennis O'Connor and Hugh C. Lester are substitutives and appointees in trust with power to sell either at private or public sale all of the property of his estate as soon after the probate of said will as practicable.

Whereas the said trustees have bargained the said Description preceding (to wit number nineteen) Columbia Street to Theresa Elsinger at

for the sum of three thousand five hundred dollars ($3,500), and that being a just and fair price for the same.

This Indenture Witnesseth:

that the said Dennis O'Connor and Hugh C. Lester do grant and convey in trust to the said Theresa Elsinger as aforesaid in consideration of the sum of three thousand five hundred dollars ($3,500) to be paid as herein stated, the premises described in the Indenture of the said John Foley and in consideration of the sum of three thousand five hundred dollars ($3,500) to be paid as herein stated, to the said Theresa Elsinger as aforesaid.

...the receipt whereof the said Theresa Elsinger doth acknowledge receipt of said

Property description of 2 Columbia Square located at Lot# 19, Columbia Ward. This is the store that Major Foley ran from 1840-1860. His Estate sold this property at public auction in April 1882. The purchaser was listed as Sigmund Elsinger, but the deed Book lists Theresa Elsinger (probably his wife). The property was sold for $3,500.00.

Superior Court of Chatham County Deed Book 5D, folio 164
To further bind me and singular the heirs or successors of the said John Foley deceased, and of the said Dennis O'Connor and Hugh O. Lister, his assigns or the like persons to the same or any part or parcel thereof, with the appurtenances and the reservation and exceptions herein referred and rate of the said Twenty-fourth Street. In or about the said Twenty-fourth Street, being the part of the said Twenty-fourth Street, the said Twenty-fourth Street, with the rights and appurtenances thereto belonging to same, and every part and parcel thereof into the said street, that hereinafter is assigned to her and their heirs of every degree forever. In witness whereof, the said Dennis O'Connor and Hugh O. Lister, Executors or Assigns, have caused to be set their hands and seals this day of July, in the year of our Lord, one thousand eight hundred and sixty-four, in the presence of us, John Foley, Executor, of the estate of said John Foley, deceased, and John A. Smith, M. J. O'Connor, Esquire, and Hugh O. Lister, Executors of the said John Foley.
The War of the Rebellion

Captain Foley, of the Irish Jasper Greens paraded his troops, with full ranks, for drill, during the summer of June 1860. The Irish Jasper Greens, numbering 50 men, under command of Capt. Foley...left for Fort Pulaski on Saturday [January 12, 1861]. A complete Muster Roll of the "Greens" was listed in the Daily Morning News on September 14, 1861. It listed Foley as Captain, with 1st Lt. Martin J. Ford, 2nd Lt. James Dooner, and 3rd Lt. John Flannery as the officer corps. Foley is listed in the Roster of the Confederate Soldiers of Georgia 1861-1865 as Captain of Company A, First Regiment of Georgia Volunteer Infantry (Olmstead's) Army of the Tennessee. He became Captain on May 30, 1861. The rank of Major is listed as being from January 30, 1862. Foley was elected Major on January 13, 1862, winning 307 votes; to Capt. Read (Irish Volunteers) winning 129; Capt. Pritchard (Coast Rifles) received 83 votes.

General Robert E. Lee visited Fort Pulaski in November 1861. He may very well have met Capt. Foley. Lee stated to Olmstead. "They will make it pretty warm for you here with these shells (southeast wall), but they cannot breach your walls at that distance" (Tybee Island). Little did Lee know, Capt. Quincy A. Gillmore, an engineer, (as was Lee), had positioned 10 experimental 30-pounder Parrott guns to the southeast of Fort Pulaski. These "rifled" guns had an
effective range of over 8,000 yards (enough reach to do damage to Pulaski). Herein lies the sad irony of warfare. Lee would later misjudge his strengths (July 3, 1863) on Cemetery Ridge. The fact that Lee underestimated his enemy requires no rebuke from the author. Could it be that Lee graduated from the United States Military Academy in 1829, standing second behind Charles Mason, or could it be the fact that (General) Gillmore stood number one in the class of 1849. Something to ponder.

When Fort Pulaski surrendered on April 11, 1862, the Irish Jasper Greens were not present. They left Pulaski on January 11, 1862, being replaced by the Wise Guards. Col. Olmstead details the Confederate position in his memoirs, and the hopelessness of the situation. When Capt. J.H. Wilson (USA) delivered the demand to surrender the Fort, Olmstead stated: "I am here to defend the Fort, not surrender it". Thirty minutes after the demand for surrender was refused, the Federals opened fire. Olmstead capitulated after 30 hours of constant fire.

It was early afternoon on April 11, 1862 when the Fort raised the white flag. An interesting account given by Olmstead recounts the "...scene when the Confederate officers were all assembled to give up their swords. We were grouped around a table in the Head Quarters room and one after another laid the sword upon it. Many made remarks as they did this, but I can only remember that of old Captain [John] McMahon, who unbuckled his waist belt and threw it with the sword upon the table saying "Take it! I wore it in Mexico". [As a member of the Irish Jasper Greens]... Captain Horace Porter (USA) presided at this function, If I recollect aright...". Upon the death of Major Foley an account was given in
the *Morning News* dated September 5, 1881 concerning his
department at the surrender of arms. It is related of him [Foley] 
that at the capitulation of the Fort [Pulaski], when called upon

to deliver up his sword, he drew himself up proudly and erect, and

extending his weapon to the Federal officer said: "That is the
sword of a true Irishman, and I hope I have never disgraced it".

Can it be that Olmstead, writing many years later, could not

remember what Major Foley said during those most trying times.

The Confederate officers at Pulaski were sent north to

Governor's Island in New York harbor. Foley was paroled on November

10, 1862 at Aiken's Landing, Virginia on the James River.13

When Foley returned to Savannah he was offered the Lt. Col.'s

grade in the reorganized First Independent Volunteer Regiment of

Georgia. Within two weeks time he declined the offer and remained

in Savannah.15 Why did Foley decline the offer to continue with the

Regiment and gain glory with his fellow comrades? Could it be the

treatment he received at the hands of his Federal captors or

did he decline the offer because of poor health? Foley was forty-nine

when Pulaski fell, Olmstead being his junior by more than ten years.

Despite this obvious enigma, Foley continued to aid the

Southern cause. In 1863 Foley and John McMahon issued a plea for

"All citizens able to bear arms...to aid in defense of their homes

and firesides, are invited to meet at the drill room of the

Jasper Greens, in the Exchange [located at Bay and Bull Streets,

site of the present City Hall building] on Monday evening the 23rd

of February 1863...All old or young, who are willing to aid our

brave soldiers in beating back the Yankee vandals are invited to

be present."16 Foley was appointed to a committee to organize the
arms-bearing residents for the Third Beat (bailiwick) during
August 1863. 17 Foley made a donation toward the Confederate cause
in Virginia by providing money in November 1862. 18 He travelled
to Atlanta to aid the "sick and wounded" as a member of the
Relief Committee organized in Savannah in 1864. "...Zealous
and earnest in the execution of the good work". 19

With the cessation of hostilities Foley continued his commission
merchant business at 199 Bay Street. He dealt in the "trade" of
wholesale liquor through the Bay Street store. 20 He was agent for
the sale of "Reilly, Leavy & Co's celebrated brands of whiskies,
Brandies, etc." 21 Two humorous stories involving the "libations"
and Foley are herein proffered. The first involves an incident
which occurred in June 1865. "In the Second Provost Court-Capt.
T.P. Rundlett, Judge Presiding, Savannah, June 16, 1865. 22
United States vs. John Foley—charged with drunkenness and disorderly
conduct. Ordered that the prisoner be fined in the sum of ten dollars." 23

There were two men named John Foley living in Savannah during this
time period. The "other" John Foley was a member of the Savannah
Police Department. Could it have been this John Foley, and not
Major John Foley. Access to the proper military court records would
reveal the proper answer. The second incident involves the 199 Bay
Street wholesale store on February 14, 1868. It seems that some
enterprising malefactors purloined "several hundred dollars worth
of liquor...by means of false keys...Mr. F[oley] offers a reward of
seventy-five dollars for proof sufficient to convict the parties." 24
The plot thickens when Major Foley places an ad in the same
newspaper offering a "$75 reward for the conviction of the person
or persons who stole several barrels of Liquor from my store.
The ad appears on the second page, while the article about the robbery appears on page three. One hundred and twenty-five years later this "crime" would make a great silent movie scene, with the "bad guys" rolling several barrels of hooch down the wharf by moonlight.

[Major] John Foley
Irish Jasper Greens
circa 1850-1860.
The Triumph of Major John Foley

By 1870 Foley was living at 37 York Street (Lot# 31) Columbia Ward. He would "retire" again in 1879 to become a Collector [of rents]. He was elected to the position of Vice-President of the Hibernian Society in 1873, with John McMahon being elected President. In 1881, six months before his death, Foley was President of the Hibernian Society on March 17.3 "The esteemed Vice-President, Mr. John Foley, was chosen Seventh President, but his election was only a pathetic compliment to a deserving officer. Advancing years and sickness prevented his attendance at any meetings till death claimed him September 4th, 1881".4

Foley was elected President of the Coast Line Railroad on February 28th, 1873.5 His primary role was helping set up the company. The route ran from downtown Savannah, east to Thunderbolt, Georgia. From start to completion, the route was built in less than two years.6

The sobriquet Major was used for the first time in the 1870 Tax Digest records for the city of Savannah to denote John Foley.7 The properties of Foley continued to grow until he was paying $132.25 a year on the aggregate value of real estate totaling $14,860 in 1875-1876.8 He purchased Lot# 20, Trustee's Gardens (corner of East Broad and East Broughton Streets) from
Thomas R. Mills, a commission merchant at 128 Bay Street. He then went to work right away making improvements to the property, so that by February 1874, Foley "had erected...three fine wooden dwellings...They are fitted with all the modern improvements and conveniences, in addition to being large and commodious".[comfortable spacious].

Foley collected ground rents from the properties located at Lot# 11, Green Ward; Lot# 31, Columbia Ward (37 York Street); and Lot# 21, Columbia Ward.

Peter Reilly, a real estate agent and collector of rents, may have had a business relationship with Major Foley. Reilly resided at 26 Drayton Street. His name is prominent in the Estate Records of Major Foley.[He (Reilly) may have collected rents for Foley and then took a percentage of the gross receipts. He may have been responsible for custodial improvements concerning the properties.

Not every business transaction by Foley was amicable. Thos. [Thomas] J. Daley sued Foley in 1876 to foreclose on a mechanic's lien. Foley was granted a continuance to delay paying a $250 judgement.[Major Foley's estate settled with Mr. Daley for the sum of $166.47.][Major Foley wanted to leave this world with no debts hanging over his head.]

As Major Foley began to decline in health, his nephew (Dr. Thomas McC[o]aith Foley), a surgeon on the Monarch Line of merchant steamers, learned of his uncle's imminent demise, and was able to secure passage from New York to Savannah.[He rushed to his uncle's bedside, bringing comforting words from the old country [Ireland].][Dr. Foley then left the York Street residence to check in at the Marshall House. The distance from the Marshall House and York Street is .3 miles. Dr. Foley was to have dinner and then return}
to visit his uncle later that evening. Suddenly, the nurse H. Cooper came rushing in to tell Dr. Foley that his uncle had just passed away (with little suffering), the time being 2:45PM, Sunday, September 4, 1881.\textsuperscript{17} His nephew witnessed the signing over of the property that Major Foley had promised his nurse, Henrietta Cooper, "two houses and lots" being on the Western half of Lot\# 11, Green Ward on September 6, 1881.\textsuperscript{18} Henrietta Cooper, a "servant" who has been faithful in her attendance upon me in my "sickness" was given these two properties fronting on State and Broughton Streets respectively.\textsuperscript{19}

The attending physician was Dr. Martin.\textsuperscript{20} I believe this is Dr. John D. Martin of 88 State Street, and a member of the Savannah Hospital staff. Savannah Hospital was (is) located at the Huntington and Drayton Streets area, east of Forsyth Park. It was later renamed for a Methodist bishop, Warren Candler. Dr. Martin received $400 from the estate of Major Foley for services rendered.\textsuperscript{21} Dr. Martin and Dr. Richard Arnold were both on the staff at Savannah Hospital, and may have shared office space at 86 State Street in 1874.\textsuperscript{22} The office was located on the northwest corner of State and Abercorn Streets (A city parking garage now occupies this space).

Reverend Thomas Boone, rector of Christ Church (Johnson Square) conducted the funeral from 37 York Street at 4:00PM Monday, September 5, 1881.\textsuperscript{23} The military units fired a salute of three volleys over the grave.\textsuperscript{24} Major Foley may have been a member of Christ Church at Johnson Square.\textsuperscript{25}

Major Foley let the vanity bug bite him by requesting a "neat substantial and appropriate monument be erected to my memory".\textsuperscript{26} This monument built by R.D. Walker Company, cost $958.50 (in 1881 dollars).\textsuperscript{27} His genuine character came through in the charitable act
demonstrated in his Will. Major Foley gave $500 to the Orphans House of the Episcopal (Protestant) Church of Chatham County, and $500 to the Savannah Widows Society for indigent relief. These gifts were given to the respective charities on December 15, 1881, just in time for Christmas. The total of Major Foley's estate was approximately $50,000, the majority of it going to his brother Patrick Foley, of Tipperary, Ireland. The Estate was administered by Denis O'Connor and Rufus E. Lester (former political ally). The remaining property was sold at public auction on March 7, and April 4, 1882.

The Will was challenged by George A. McCleskey in the City Court (of Savannah) on May 24, 1882. The defendants were Denis O'Connor and Rufus E. Lester, executors of the Estate of the late Major John Foley. The case was thrown out.

James Doolan, purchaser of Lot# 31, Columbia Ward; 37 York Street still lived at the property in 1897—the street address was listed as 417 East York Street.

Major John Foley had run the race and his legacy was now secure in the hearts of family and friends. He was a man of worthy character and strong convictions. Major Foley never disgraced his name and his contributions are obvious everywhere.

ERIN GO BRAGH

MAJOR JOHN FOLEY GO BRAGH
**Sales of Real Estate of the late Major John Riley**

In the Court of Chatham County

**Purchasers**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Sale Details</th>
<th>Sale Price</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lot 19, Long &amp; Short Street</td>
<td>Sold for $1,505.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lee Ward, Lot 4, Lot 5</td>
<td>Sold for $450.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Sullivan, Lot 30, Deed Book 5D,</td>
<td>Sold for $3,900.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deed Book 5E, folio 79</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trustees Gordon, Lot 19, Deed Book 5D</td>
<td>Sold for $330.00</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Deed Book 5E, folio 53</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dolan, Lot 53, Deed Book 5E, folio 52</td>
<td>Sold for $33,700.00</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Goring, Lot 19, Deed Book 5E, folio 64</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kelly, Lot 57, Deed Book 5E, folio 206</td>
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<tr>
<td>Green, Lot 31, Deed Book 5E, folio 206</td>
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</tbody>
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**Charges**

- Commission: $135.00
- Cash paid for advertising: $158.00
- Total proceeds: $2,026

**Signed**

L. A. Waugh for Auctiors

L. A. Waugh

Savannah, April 4, 1852
Notes

Erin Go Abroad

1. From tombstone of Major John Foley. Lot# 1882, Laurel Grove Cemetery. 802 West Anderson Street, Savannah, Georgia.

2. See Alien Declaration, Book B, folio 337, Clerk's Office of the Superior Court of Chatham County.


4. I could find no record of his marriage in the Probate Court of Chatham County.

5. Estate Records Of Major John Foley lists Patrick Foley as his next of kin. F-227, folio 77. Probate Court of Chatham County.


8. ibid.


12. ibid., p. 23.

13. A search of the Central of Georgia manuscript records did not reveal the name of Major John Foley. I would advise my successor to spend more time in searching this vast collection at the Georgia Historical Society. The Monday edition of the Morning News of September 5, 1881, lists this vocation as his first, when he came to America. This would be a good example of Oral History, from his nephew, nurse and friends.
Notes

Business Success 1840-1860

1. See the Georgia 1840 Census record on microfilm at the Savannah-Chatham Public Library (Main Branch). The census lists a John Foley, male, between 20 and 30 years of age, involved in commerce.

2. See the Savannah City Treasurer, Tax Digest Records. The records are on microfilm at the Georgia Historical Society. Classification: 1840, C-5600-70-05, under page heading F, p. 32. Foley paid the merchandise & poll taxes on his Columbia Square property.

3. From the Savannah City Treasurer, Tax Digest Records. See 1843, p. 32. It lists the property as Lot 19 Columbia Ward.


5. Ibid.

6. Daily Georgian, April 27, 1841, Tuesday. Mr. Foley ran afoul of the dreaded "blue laws", common to the South and other environs. Even though he "lost" his license after his third offense, he was able to obtain a second one and continue his business. This was obviously a common practice, otherwise Foley would have been put out of business for good.


9. From a March 22, 1927 article about the Republican Blues. The name of the newspaper is not known. I believe it could be the Savannah Morning News. The article is listed with the Georgia-Savannah Collection at the Public Library. The classification is listed under Savannah Military Units. John Foley was a fifth sergeant in the "blues" along with Francis Stebbins Bartow, as a second lieut. dated from July 4, 1845. I could find only one other source of Foley having been a member of the "blues". It is listed in the minutes of the Irish Jasper Greens. The "blues" were organized in 1808.


11. Ibid., p. 1, 72.

12. Ibid., p. 137.
13. ibid., p. 185.

14. ibid., p. 186.

15. Savannah Morning News, May 10, 1875, Monday. The local newspaper reprinted a synopsis of the minutes in 1875. It states John Foley was admitted as a member on March 18th, 1844. See also The Hibernian Society HS 1813 .H52 A6 1887, published by F. McManus Jr. & Co. printers no. 29 North Sixth Street Philadelphia:Local 1887 publication lists John Foley as becoming a member on March 18, 1844.

16. ibid., Savannah Morning News


22. Directory of the City of Savannah, 1858. p. 30. Foley is listed as a grocer, 2 Columbia Square.


Notes

The War of the Rebellion


4. See the *Roster of the Confederate Soldiers of Georgia*, compiled by Lillian Henderson for the State of Georgia. It lists the soldiers that were on active duty during the War of the Rebellion, 1861-1865. Volume # 1. Printed by Longino & Porter, Hapeville, Ga.

5. ibid., p. 115.

6. *Daily Morning News*, January 14, 1862, Tuesday, p. 2, col. 1., The discrepancy may be that Foley won election as major, but did not receive his "official" commission until January 30, 1862.


8. *Daily Morning News*, February 13, 1862, Thursday, p. 2, col. 2. The "Greens" returned from Fort Pulaski on Tuesday, February 11, 1862. If they left during the morning or early afternoon, it would stand to reason that the "Greens" did in fact leave on the eleventh. Capt. Martin J. Ford was commander of the corps when it left Pulaski. They were out of service on February 12. The "Greens" continued to fight for the Confederacy later in the war.

9. See *Collections of the Georgia Historical Society: Vol. XIV, The Memoirs of Charles H. Olmstead, edited by Lilla Mills Hawes, Savannah, Georgia, The Georgia Historical Society: 1964*. Olmstead relates the story of the surrender demands, and the refusal. He tells of the preparations made before the siege, and the events during the siege and surrender on April 11, 1862. p. 96-100. Major Foley is given scant notice by Colonel Olmstead in his memoirs. He is cited on pgs. 90 and 116, as second in command at the time of surrender and when he declines the offer to rejoin the First Volunteer Regiment of Georgia.
10. ibid., p. 100.
11. ibid.
13. See *Roster of the Confederate Soldiers of Georgia 1861-1865*. Service record of Major Foley. He returned to Savannah and did not take part in any future "combat". His support consisted of home guard detail and relief work in Atlanta, Georgia, in 1864.
15. ibid., October 23, 1862, p. 2, col. 2.
19. *Morning News*, September 5, 1881, Monday. This committee was organized in Savannah and sent to Atlanta. I have searched for records on this organization, but have not succeeded in locating anything at this time. This group, and many others similar to it, provided aid and comfort to the boys, both Blue and Gray.
20. *Daily News And Herald*, December 16, 1867, Monday. This is an ad placed by John Foley advertising his wholesale liquor business at 199 Bay Street.
21. ibid.
23. ibid., I searched the OR for a clue to this foible, but could not locate a record of this case. I searched the *Supreme Court Reports*, with equal result. Further research may reveal the true identity of the defendant.
24. *Daily News And Herald*, February 18, 1868, Tuesday, p. 3, c. 1 Foley was offering $75 in 1881. Ground Rent was typically $15 to $20 a month. "nuff said".
25. ibid., p. 2, col. 5. "STOP THIEF" the caption screams! This is a man who wanted his liquor returned.
Notes

The Triumph of Major John Foley


5. Savannah Morning News, July 28, 1875, Wednesday. The article gives background of the genesis of the Coast Line Railroad. One of the original directors was John Flannery of the Irish Jasper Greens. As of July 1875, Alfred Haywood was President of the Company. See also City and Suburban Railway Company Papers MS # 147, these records post-date the life of Major John Foley. They begin in 1892.

6. ibid., Savannah Morning News

7. Savannah Treasurer, Tax Digest Records. The other Foleys are listed by first and last names, while, Major John Foley is used to record his tax record. For the year 1870.


13. Estate Records Of Major John Foley, folio listing Foley's debts and credits to his estate. folio # 54.

14. ibid., folio # 92


16. ibid.
17. ibid., The distance from the Marshall House to the residence of Major Foley was .3 miles. From Broughton St. east to Price St. south

18. Estate Record Of Major John Foley, F-227. folio # 87,88.

19. ibid.

20. Death Record of Major John Foley, Vital Records Department, Chatham County Health Department, Savannah, Georgia.

21. Estate Records, F-227. Listed as a payment to Dr. Martin on April 14, 1882. folio # 54.

22. Directory of the City of Savannah, 1874. passim.

23. Morning News, September 6, 1881, Tuesday.

24. ibid.

25. Telephone calls to Christ Church (Episcopal), Johnson Square and the local Episcopal Diocese of Georgia at 611 East Bay Street, did not confirm membership at the Church. A search of the manuscript record of the Church, located at the Georgia Historical Society, did not confirm membership. Patrick Foley, brother of Major Foley, was a minister in the Episcopal Church in Ireland. Major Foley's local parish would have been the Christ Church bailiwick. A more careful study of the manuscript record may determine membership at Christ Church.


27. See APPENDIX A


29. ibid.

30. ibid., Listed as a payment to the charities on December 15, 1881. folio # 54.

31. ibid.


Works Cited

Books


Census Records

1840 Georgia Census., Located at the Savannah-Chatham Public Library, Main Branch, Savannah, Georgia.

1860 Census of Chatham County, Georgia., Located at the Savannah-Chatham Public Library, Main Branch, Savannah, Georgia.
City Directories

Directory of the City of Savannah, 1858, Located at the Georgia Historical Society, Savannah, Georgia.

Directory of the City of Savannah, 1860, Located at the Georgia Historical Society, Savannah, Georgia.

Directory of the City of Savannah, 1870, Located at the Georgia Historical Society, Savannah, Georgia.

Directory of the City of Savannah, 1874, Located at the Georgia Historical Society, Savannah, Georgia.

Directory of the City of Savannah, 1879, Located at the Georgia Historical Society, Savannah, Georgia.

Directory of the City of Savannah, 1897, Located at the Savannah-Chatham Public Library, Savannah, Georgia.

Estate Records

Estate Records Of Major John Foley, F-227, Probate Court of Chatham County.

Thomas Gamble Collection

Central of Georgia Railway, Etc and other data concerning Savannah Railroads: Centennial Celebration of the Central of Georgia Railway December 15, 1935. Located at the Savannah-Chatham County Public Library, Savannah, Georgia.
Manuscripts

Alien Declaration., Book B, folio 337. Located at the Georgia Historical Society, Savannah, Georgia.

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City and Suburban Railway Company Papers., MS # 147. Located at the Georgia Historical Society, Savannah, Georgia.

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Irish Jasper Greens., MS # 416. Located at the Georgia Historical Society, Savannah, Georgia.

Solomon's Lodge # 1 (Masonic) F.A.M., MS # 940. Located at the Georgia Historical Society, Savannah, Georgia.

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Daily Georgian., on microfilm. Located at the Savannah-Chatham Public Library, Savannah, Georgia.

Daily Morning News., on microfilm. Located at the Savannah-Chatham Public Library, Savannah, Georgia.

Daily News And Herald., on microfilm. Located at the Savannah-Chatham Public Library, Savannah, Georgia.

Morning News., on microfilm. Located at the Savannah-Chatham Public Library, Savannah, Georgia.

Savannah Morning News., on microfilm. Located at the Savannah-Chatham Public Library, Savannah, Georgia.

Savannah Republican., on microfilm. Located at the Savannah-Chatham Public Library, Savannah, Georgia.
Personal Interview

Interview of Mr. Tally Kirkland, Historian, Fort Pulaski National Monument, Savannah, Georgia. Conducted by author on May 8, 1993 on site.

Tax Records

Chatham County Tax Collector, on microfilm. Located at the Georgia Historical Society, Savannah, Georgia. Roll # X-5125-07. 1875-76.

Savannah City Treasurer: Tax Digest Records, on microfilm. Located at the Georgia Historical Society, Savannah, Georgia. Classification: 1840 and 1843, C-5600CT-70-05


Telephone Interview


Vertical File Collection

Georgia-Savannah-History, Located at the Savannah-Chatham Public Library, Savannah, Georgia. (Source for unknown newspaper article on the Republican Blues). Listed under classification: Savannah Military Companies (Units).

Societies and Clubs-Hibernian, Located at the Georgia Historical Society, Savannah, Georgia. Classification: Folder # 3. (Picture credit: Major John Foley, p. vii., 13)

Vital Records

Death Record of Major John Foley, on file. Located at the Chatham County Health Department, Savannah, Georgia. Classification: F-1881.
Tombstone of Major John Foley
lot# 1882, Laurel Grove Cemetery
802 West Anderson Street,
Savannah, Georgia