GEORGE WASHINGTON HARDCASTLE

A BIOGRAPHY IN SAVANNAH


Cynthia A. Freeman
History 300
March 1, 1979
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ABSTRACT

George Washington Hardcastle and wife Ann arrived in Savannah during the week of 20 August 1843. He worked at his occupation of wheelwright, eventually entering business for himself in 1850. Mr. Hardcastle expanded his business and built the present building at 30-38 Montgomery St., Franklin Ward. After a series of loans from the Oglethorpe Mutual Loan Association, Mr. Hardcastle sold his business in 1856. During his entrepreneurship, he was involved with the Fire Department, International Order of Odd Fellows, Clinton Lodge No. 54 (Ancient York Masons), and the Georgia Militia.

After divesting himself of the business, he was a delivery clerk and then a news agent. A minor skirmish with the law in 1868 and a small robbery at his news stand are the last known about Mr. Hardcastle. No death date was found.
The American Dream must have been in the hearts of George Washington Hardcastle and his wife Ann as they stepped off the ship Charleston from Charleston the week of 20 August 1643. We do not know their educational backgrounds or their wealth, but we can be fairly sure that they came with little more than their talents of wheelwright and milliner. Mr. Hardcastle's skills are to carry him upward to his entrepreneurial status in 1650 with the carriage business at 200 Congress St. and later at Montgomery and Congress.

We may assume that either one, or both, of the family was employed. We do not know when the two children Nathaniel and Frances joined them, or if they were possibly with them in the beginning. The list of letters remaining at the Post Office 30 June 1644 includes Mr. Hardcastle's name. This is the only time his name was on such a list. It is reasonable to assume that the family found permanent living quarters.

As the old saying goes, "there are only two things in life that are certain—death and taxes." Mr. Hardcastle will prove to be illusive of one of those truths. However, he appears as a good citizen paying $2.00 for two polls in 1646; $3.00 for one poll and two dogs in 1647; and again in 1647 paying $2.00 for two polls.

A change in status occurs in 1648 which shows Mr. Hardcastle paying $5.00 tax for four salves and one poll. This is the only year that slaves are listed on the tax records as belonging to Mr. Hardcastle. Savannah is a busy, growing town with a population of 13,573. We will see Mr. Hardcastle's fortune grow with it.

He is listed as "boarding" at 213 Congress St. in 1649 and paying
taxes of $3.00 for dogs and poll. 10

1850 was the realization of the Hardcastles' dream. A young blacksmith living with the family, William Carruthers, a 21 year old Scotsman, entered into business with Hardcastle. 95 St. Julian St. must have been a busy place with part of the carriage and smithy businesses, the four Hardcastles, William Carruthers, three young men described as carriage makers or blacksmiths, and a female child from North Carolina all living there. 11

Mr. Hardcastle paid taxes of $3.00 for dogs and one poll in 1850. 12

In the middle of January an advertisement was printed stating that Hardcastle & Carruthers had formed a co-partnership in the carriage business. 13 They also ran a 3/4 page ad in the City Directory, 14 (p. 6 following). Hardcastle and Carruthers were each listed individually at 95 St. Julian St. and as a business, Hardcastle & Carruthers, Wheelwrights, 95 St. Julian St. and 200 Congress St., Franklin Square. The map on p. 7 shows the relationship of the two addresses and other locations pertinent in Mr. Hardcastle's life.

The Hardcastle family as recorded in the Census on 23 September lists George, 40, New York birthplace; Ann, 35, North Carolina; Nathaniel P., 18, carriage painter, New Jersey (this could be New York); and Frances A., 10, F, North Carolina. 15 It was assumed that Nathaniel was a son; however, it is more likely that he was a relative of Hardcastle's as the birth place is either New York or New Jersey. He does not appear again in any records, i.e., marriage, deeds, census, directories, or death.

Frances A., 10, will present a problem later as she is listed as Frances M., 27, school teacher, in the 1860 Census. A more confusing entry will appear in 1870. The two female children were listed as having attended school that year.

It is not until 1860 that Ann is listed as a milliner. 16 However, she
HARDCASTLE & CARRUTHERS
Carriage Makers & Blacksmiths
121 Water St. and U.S. Eddy St. Savannah, Ga.

JOHN OLIVER,
Mouse & Sign Painter,
Glazier, Gilder, Glazier &
No. 124 Broad Street, Savannah.
may have had this skill since her arrival in Savannah. We do not know when or where she met her husband or anything about her trade. It is assumed that she was not in business for herself as no advertisement was found in the newspapers or city directories. There would have been shops where she could have worked, or she could have made hats in the busy home. After 1860 she drops from sight with no recorded death.

Mr. Hardcastle still has dogs and dutifully pays $3.00 for dogs and one poll in 1851. He also paid the business taxes of $3.75 for improvements valued at $500.00 on the W 1/2 of Lot 23, Franklin Ward. The Hebrew Congregation owned Lot 23 in 1820 and sold it in 1913.

The next few years will bring Mr. Hardcastle recognition as a Fire Captain and as a member of the I.O.O.F., Clinton Lodge No. 54 (A.Y.M.), and the Georgia Militia. But before joining the Lodge, he was busy with the improvements on Lot 23, valued at $2,000.00 and taxed at $15.00. He no longer has his dogs, as the total tax was $16.00 including one poll in 1852.

There now emerges another pattern which will become all too familiar. Mr. Hardcastle makes a promissory note to Joseph Lippman on 3 August 1852 for $1,000.00 for one year, giving improvements on Lot 23 as security. This transaction was recorded as a mortgage to Mr. Lippman in the Ward Book. Mr. Lippman will appear again as the final money lender of Mr. Hardcastle's.

A brighter note was Hardcastle's initiation as Entered Apprentice No. 82 in the Clinton Lodge No. 54 (A.Y.M.) on 16 November 1852. He was passed to Fellow Craft on 7 December and raised to Master on 21 December. Clinton Lodge No. 54 (A.Y.M.) was chartered 27 October 1847. Mr. Hardcastle's signature is shown below and the title page of the Clinton Lodge By Laws follows.

The spaces for recording demit, reinstated, death were blank.
By Laws of Clinton Lodge

No. 54 A.Y.M.

Organized by Dispensation granted by W.W.G.M. John H. Deen
Decr 1 N.D. 1846 A.L. 5844

Chartered Octr 27 N.D. 1847 A.L. 5847

By the M.W. Grand Lodge of the State of Georgia
A change in the status of the partnership with William Carruthers may have taken place as early as 1853, although the partnership was not officially dissolved until 5 December 1857. Mr. Hardcastle alone is listed as agent for the New York Wire Railing Works in an advertisement on 15 January 1853. This firm manufactured wire railing for public and private grounds and wire fences on a new plan with rails and iron posts. The business address is still No. 200 Congress St. and 95 St. Julian St.

Later that month Mr. Hardcastle was one of 20 names listed as signing the following advertisement.

Liquor Traffic - A convention for the suppression of the Liquor Traffic will be held in Atlanta in Feb. 1853. Citizens of Chatham Co. who favor the object of the convention are invited to attend a meeting at the Armory Hall on Friday 28th 7½ to aid in the deliberations and to appoint delegates to the convention. (Signed) ²²

No later mention is made of Mr. Hardcastle's attending the convention in Atlanta or of his continued interest in the subject.

Taxes were paid in 1853 on two dogs, $2.00; one four-wheel carriage and horse, $10.00; stock in trade valued at $500.00, $3.75; improvements on Lot 23 valued at $2,000.00, $15.00; taxes on gross sales of $989.00, $9.89; and other business taxes of $3.71; totaling $44.35. ²⁵

Mr. Hardcastle was recorded as registered to vote for the first and only time on 7 April 1853. The list included those who had registered since 1 January 1853. ²⁶

The first mention of his participation in the Fire Department is his attendance at a reorganizational meeting of the Savannah Fire Department. The following year shows a greater participation in the Fire Department.

Mr. Hardcastle must have been appointed a Fire Captain because he is reported as having been Captain of Engine No. 3, the Franklin, a New York machine, which engaged Engine No. 2, the Pulaski, a Boston machine, in a spirited contest under the Bluff.
Engine No. 3 played into No. 2, endeavoring to overflow her, but after a sharp effort, which called forth all the muscular strength of the combatants, No. 3 failed to accomplish her object. The members of No. 3 gracefully acknowledged their defeat in the friendly contest.

Two days later the paper reported the improvement in Engine No. 3 which was attributed to Mr. Hardcastle's "highly creditable skills" and mechanical ability.

.... The arms have been altered to turn up at the sides in order to allow the machine to pass on our sidewalks in proceeding to a fire ...

Mr. Hardcastle now became a property owner with the purchase of Lot 28, Franklin Ward, on 23 June 1854, from the Estate of John Snick for $4,000.00. There are three transactions recorded which are difficult to follow. The note for $4,000.00 has written across the face "Cancelled January 10, 1857." The other documents are a $6,000.00 note to be paid back in three payments to Abram W. Harmon and Oliver M. Lillibrige, Executors of the Estate of John Snick. Across the face is an assignment which makes the reading difficult. The other instrument appears to be a mortgage with Lot 28 as security.

Independence Day saw the steamship Floride arrive from New York with a consignment for G. W. Hardcastle. The increase in stock was reflected in the taxes paid for 1854: one dog and one poll, $2.00; one four-wheel carriage, $10.00; stock in trade valued $3,000.00, $22.50; improvements valued $2,000.00, $15.00; totaling $49.50.

Early in January the schooner L. S. Davis arrived from New York with a consignment for him. His taxes for 1855 reflect the change in the appearance of Franklin Square: stock in trade valued $3,000.00, $22.50; improvements on Lot 23 valued $2,000.00, Lot 28 valued $4,000.00, and improvements on Lot 28 valued $6,000.00, $45.00; five saddle horses, $5.00; totaling $72.50.
The next several months probably see the seeds of tragedy being sown. Whether it was illness of his wife or other family member, or, more likely his involvement with the Oglethorpe Mutual Loan Association, it is not known. Bad business judgment is also quite likely to have been the cause. What we do know is that he made a series of loans totaling $12,000.00, giving as security deeds on Lot 26, Franklin Ward. The first loan was in May for $4,000.00 from the O.M.L.A. This was followed by another loan in July for $2,000.00 from the same source, giving again Lot 26 as security and reaffirming the note for $4,000.00. Again the next month a loan from the same source for $2,000.00, September another loan for $2,000.00 was executed. The final note with the O.M.L.A. was executed in December for $2,000.00 and attested to the four previous mortgages, all totaling $12,000.00. The $2,000.00 loans required repayment at $10.00 a month each plus a like amount which is assumed to be interest or possibly a share purchase in the Association. The $4,000.00 loan required a $20.00 per month payment with a like amount for either interest or shares.

Mr. Hardcastle continued to be involved with the Fire Department although we do not know if he was still a captain. Two detectives searching a colored man's house in Yamacraw recovered $575, $75 of which was recognized as "money lost by Mr. G. W. Hardcastle in a fire near West Broad street lately."

A new advertisement appeared in November for a New Carriage Warehouse at the corner of Congress and Montgomery St.--the "Sign of the Flying Chariots." He built the building with special adaptations for his business.

Another dimension appeared in Mr. Hardcastle at the end of the year. All white males between the ages of 16 and 60 were members of the Georgia Militia by law. Mr. Hardcastle would have been a member of the 1st Regiment which was Savannah. He announced as a candidate for Brigadier General, 1st
Brigade, 1st Division, Georgia Militia at the end of December. The Warrior's presented their candidate as "a man unawed by death and unappalled by danger." The advertisement continued

Should the time ever arrive when we will be called out in defence of our country, or our rights, we are confident, that under his leadership victory would be certain, and in the discharge of his duties, should he fall, as fall he might, he would be found as graphically expressed in the words of a favorite bard

"His breast with wounds outnumbered riven,
His back to each, his face to Heaven."

One of the 25

There seems to have been almost a frenzy of community and social activities. The next day appeared an announcement concerning the new officers of Clinton Lodge No. 54. G. W. Hardcastle was listed as Senior Warden, the next step being Worshipful Master. The initiation on the previous evening at the Zorubbabel Lodge was for all officers of the three Masonic Lodges in the City. The choir of Christ Church sang "Let There be Light," and ladies were also present.

The last day of the year reported Hardcastle as being elected an officer in the I.O.O.F., Magnolia Encampment No. 1. He was Senior Warden in this organization, two steps from Chief Patriarch. Mr. Otis Quarles, East Grand Patriarch of the I.O.O.F., assures me that there was only one Encampment. Thus the "2" printed in the paper must have been erroneous. (See p. 18.)

The same advertisement which appeared in November was again run 1 January 1856. Taxes must have been paid before the business was sold in February because the Digest reflects: one dog and one poll, $2.00; stock in trade valued at $11,000.00, $105.00; Lot 28 and improvements valued $14,000.00, $82.50; totaling $189.50.

Apparantly some questions arose about Hardcastle's running for Brigadier General. On 11 February two notices were in the paper. The first concerned
a meeting of the "25" held at their Hall where a committee of five was appointed to take into consideration the propriety of running their candidate, George Washington Hardcastle, for Brigadier General. The next article gave him a vote of confidence.

Resolved, that while we deprecate and adjure the intention of creating any ill-feelings towards the candidates now running for Brigadier General yet at the same time, courtesy requires of us to state, that having placed our candidate first in the field, we would prefer a defeat rather than his name should be withdrawn.\footnote{47}

The above resolution meeting with no objections, it was resolved.\footnote{48}

We do not know the length of time of the negotiations for the sale of the business. Francis Jewett Champion became the owner of Lot 28, improvements, and all the stock on 16 February for $21,086.75. The stock was very large including: 2 carriages, 1 Barauck \footnote{sic}, 9 Rockaways, 16 top buggies, 23 buggies without tops, 2 wagons, 26,000 feet of lumber, and various lots of axels, harnesses, iron, tools in the wheelwright and blacksmith shops, stock and fixtures in the paint shop and trimming shop, etc. The amount of the sale would approximately cover the $12,000.00 loan from the O.M.L.A. and the large stock as well as the improvements.\footnote{49}

As a footnote to this month, on 25 February George Paul Harrison was promoted to Brigadier General.\footnote{49}

This was not the final sadness for the Hardcastles. On 23 April Mr. Joseph Lippman again enters the scene. Hardcastle borrowed $486.95 and executed a Deed of Bargain and Sale for all household and kitchen goods. The list included:

1 piano forte, 2 rocking chairs, 12 mohair chairs, 1 cane bottom chair, 7 bedsteads, 2 feather beds, 5 mattresses, 1 looking glass, 1 clock, 3 carpets, 3 tables, 1 bureau, 1 side board, 1 chest of bedding, 1 cooking stove, 1 floor matting, 2 washstands, 1 lounge, 1 lot of crockery, 1 lot of cooking utensils, 1 safe, and 1 writing desk.\footnote{50}

It seems reasonable that at this time Mr. Hardcastle probably trans-
ferred Lot 302, Old or 1st Sub. Div. R in Laurel Grove Cemetery to Thomas Henderson. A price was not listed, and there were not any Hardcastles buried in Laurel Grove Cemetery.\textsuperscript{51}

His community interests continued with his election to Chief Patriarch in the I.O.O.F. Magnolia Encampment No. 1 in December.\textsuperscript{52} Unfortunately the records of the I.O.O.F. were unattainable. The last day saw a typical legal notice of the time but one which had not been used by Mr. Hardcastle.

During Mr. G. W. Hardcastle’s absence from the city, Mr. Wm. D. Bacon will act as his attorney.\textsuperscript{53}

The same advertisement appeared the following day.\textsuperscript{54}

A more exact nature of the problem probably could have been determined from the Clinton Lodge records as Hardcastle was to have proceeded to Worshipful Master at the end of 1856. This he did not do. Unfortunately those records were lost during a move at the time of the Civil War, according to Mr. Sam Shenkman, Secretary of Clinton Lodge.

It is possible that Mr. Hardcastle left Savannah and that explains the sale of all household goods. If he did leave Savannah, it was only for a short time as we do have more information about him.

Very little is known about Mr. Hardcastle during the next 14 years (1857-1871). He did not pay taxes so we know he no longer had any dogs or a wagon and horse. At the end of the year a piece of legal business was cleared up, the dissolution of the partnership with William Carruthers. He paid to Carruthers $1,000.00 and received in exchange

\ldots all the stock, materials, implements, and every article belonging to said firm, including the unexpired lease on lot on Franklin Square and the building erected on the same, and used by said firm as a workshop and place of business. Debts are responsibility of George Hardcastle and he acquired the accounts.\textsuperscript{55}

This would indicate that possibly Mr. Hardcastle built the building on Lot 28 and leased it to the firm which was originally Hardcastle & Carruthers.
However, for some reason we do not know, Mr. Carruthers drops out of the concern.

Mr. Hardcastle boarded at 213 Congress St. in 1858 but no mention is made of any family or of his working. This was the same address where he boarded in 1849.

Sometime before the next City Directory was published, he moved to 73 Montgomery. He was employed as a delivery clerk by the CRH. CRH was the Central Rail Road and Banking Company of Georgia.

He continued his employment the following year with the CRH and lived at the same location. A small "h" follows the CRH in the Directory, but it is not known what this "h" represents. The Census on 19 July 1860 sheds more light on who was living with Mr. Hardcastle. He, 50, continues to list his occupation as carriage maker and wife Ann, 45, is listed here as a milliner. The value of his personal estate is $100.00. Frances M., 17, ("A." previously and age 10) is listed as a schoolteacher.

The next information is in 1866 when Mr. Hardcastle lists himself as a mechanic and living at the SE corner of President and W. Broad.

In 1868 Mr. Hardcastle's only clash with the law that has been discovered occurred. It was reported in the paper that on 19 October, A. Rowe Cullens appeared and entered a complaint against George W. Hardcastle for assault and battery. A warrant was issued, Hardcastle was arrested, and he refused to post a bond. On the way to jail Constable W. D. Oliveria turned him loose at Forsyth Park. Constable Oliveria was now arrested but cleared of any wrong-doing when Mr. Cullens admitted that he did not want Mr. Hardcastle jailed; his sole purpose was to punish him. The matter must have ended there.

The building at 30-38 Montgomery, SE corner of Montgomery and Congress, was again sold in May 1870, and Mr. George W. Hardcastle was listed as the
builder. The Forest City Mills was to be located there.63

The Census on 19 July 1870 reveals wife Ann is no longer a part of the family. There were no records of her death either in the newspaper or Vital Statistics. Mr. Hardcastle is now a news agent, and his age is erroneously listed as "48." The value of his personal estate is $250.00. A female named Mary, 28, is listed as "k.h.," keeping house, and birth place as "S.C." It is assumed this is Frances "M." as the age is fairly correct: 1850, 10; 1860, 17; 1870, 28. We do not know when Hardcastle moved to the Indian Lane near Farm address listed in the City Directory for this year.65 Frances Hardcastle is listed as being a member of a Sunday School of Trinity Methodist Church in 1852.66

Sadness came to Indian St. Lane when Mary Magdalene Hardcastle died 17 April 1871. She is recorded as a W.F. (white, female), 27 years of age. The cause of death was Phlogosis Pulmonalis, attending physician was Dr. Smith. Burial was in the Catholic Cemetery. Long Island, New York was listed as birthplace.67 A discrepancy appears in the Keeper's Book of the Catholic Cemetery. It records the same name, age, nativity, and burial in the Free Grounds of the Catholic Cemetery, but lists death and burial as 4/23/1871. The residence is given as Indian St. Lane.68 It may be a false assumption, but no other female Hardcastle of that approximate age has been found. It is assumed that Mary Magdalene, Frances A., and Frances M. are one and the same. Mr. Hardcastle's church affiliation was not discovered, if any. It does not seem likely that he was a Catholic because of his Masonic affiliations.

The final entry that has been ascertained about George Washington Hardcastle was his news stand at the Market being robbed by thieves on Monday night, who succeeded in taking off the money drawer, which they found to contain about $1.50—no enough to pay them for their trouble.69
Mr. Hardcastle had such high hopes in 1843 and showed such promise in the early fifties. He certainly ran the spectrum of success and failure in Savannah. Just what happened will probably never be learned. It was a sad ending to those high hopes of August 1843.

Addendum

Mr. Otis Quarles, Past Grand Master, State of Georgia I.O.O.F. and Past Grand Patriarch, State of Georgia, Encampment, has just provided some very interesting information from the Semi-Annual Report of Magolia Encampment. Mr. Hardcastle took a withdrawal card between 1 June 1851 and 31 December 1851 and deposited it with Live Oak Lodge No. 3 in Savannah. Mr. Quarles did not know from which lodge he was withdrawing. There were three lodges in Savannah: Oglethorpe No. 1, name not remembered No. 2, and Live Oak No. 3.

1 January 1854 Hardcastle was elected Nobel Grand and served 1 January 1854 to 30 June 1854, a six month term.

He was suspended between 1 January and 30 June 1858 for drunkenness. This was an automatic suspension by the Encampment. An alcohol problem would explain a lot of Mr. Hardcastle's troubles. Mr. Quarles said that drunkenness was dealt with harshly, but that he could have been reinstated.

Mr. Quarles is going to continue to check to see if he can learn anything more. If Mr. Hardcastle quit paying dues, then they will have no more record of him.

An Encampment is similar to the Scottish Rite. In other words you have to be a member of a Lodge before you can become a member of the Encampment.
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<td>Ancient York Masons</td>
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NOTES


2. United States Census, 1850, 23 September, Dwelling No. 884.


5. T.D., 1847, p. 36.

6. Ibid., p. 41.


12. T.D., 1850, p. 34.


15. Census, 1850.


17. T.D., 1851, p. 44.


21. By Laws of Clinton Lodge No. 54 (A.Y.M.)


27. D.M.N., 18 November 1853, 2/1.
30. D.B., 30 3-5.
33. D.M.N., 4 January 1855, 1/1.
34. T.D., 1855, p. 48.
35. D.B., 30 112.
36. Ibid., 245.
37. Ibid., 270.
38. Ibid., 354.
39. Ibid., p. 509.
40. D.M.N., 7 July 1855, 2/1.
41. D.M.N., 8 November 1855, 2/1.
42. D.M.N., 27 December 1855, 2/6.
43. D.M.N., 28 December 1855, 2/2.
44. D.M.N., 31 December 1855, 2/2.
45. D.M.N., 1 January 1856, 1/7.
46. T.D., 1856, p. 52.
47. D.M.N., 11 February 1856, 2/7.
49. Gordon Smith, History of the Georgia Militia, to be published.
50. D.B., 3P 190.
56. C.D., 1858, p. 38.
57. C.D., 1859, p. 93.
60. Census, 1860, p. 140.
61. C.D., 1866, p. 71.
63. S.M.N., 6 May 1870, 3/1.
64. United States Census, 1870, 19 July 1870, p. 195.
65. C.D., 1870, p. 83.
67. Chatham County Health Department, Department of Vital Statistics.
68. Keeper's Book, Catholic Cemetery, Free Ground Listing.
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Savannah Morning News, 1868, 1870, 1871.

Tax Digest, 1846, 1847, 1848, 1849, 1850, 1851, 1852, 1853, 1854, 1855, 1856.

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Ward Book, Franklin.