The Life of ansel Adams

James Russell Parker, Jr.

Historical Method
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Noble Andrew Hardoe - a man of integrity, honor and pride - 1800-1933.

He was a direct descendant of the Hardoes of Pitt County, North Carolina, leaving no present day descendants with the surname Hardoe. However, at this writing there is a great-granddaughter, Mrs. Margaret Hardoe Ziloa Cubbage, living in Savannah.

He owned two plantations during his lifetime: one in Savannahville, Wilkinson County, Georgia, the second, called Calloway, in Camden County, Georgia. In 1830 he served in the House of Representatives from Camden County.

In the mid-1820's he married Martha Threewhite Williams, of Killearnsville, who bore him two children that did not survive early childhood. She died in childbirth in 1833.

In 1835 he married Ann Margaret Lewis of Savannah, who bore him three children who lived full lives. They were John Lewis, Susan Ann, and Mary Elizabeth.

The mid-1800's found him as a businessman in Savannah, where he had interests in cotton factorage, banks, real estate, railroads, and insurance.
Noble Andrew Hardee was the fourth child and third son of Samuel and Sarah "Ellis" Hardee.\(^1\) He was born at "Rural Felicity" in Garden County, Georgia, on October 28, 1835.\(^2\) His family was already prominent and substantial, and Noble would uphold the highest traditions of the family. His father served in the Georgia Senate for thirteen nonconsecutive years after Noble was born.\(^3\) He also rose to the rank of major during the War of 1812.\(^4\)

A fairly safe assumption would be that Noble and his brothers went crabbing\(^5\) as small boys and on "saloons"\(^6\) when they were old enough to spend the night in the open by themselves. Their early formal education was probably provided by a competent, educated gentleman (who)

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\(^1\) Stated by Mrs. Margaret Hardee Ellis Cubbs, the great-granddaughter of Noble Andrew Hardee, in an interview (hereafter referred to as the "Cubbs interview") with James Russell Parker, Jr., on June 30, 1975, at her home.

\(^2\) Noble Andrew Hardee's tombstone, Section D lot 4 of Bonaventure Cemetery, Savannah, Georgia. The "Cubbs interview" corroborates this date though Folks Huxford, Pioneers of Wiregrass Georgia, 612 shows the date October 3, 1804.

\(^3\) Official Register of Georgia, 1924, p. 35-36.


\(^6\) Ibid., p. 19. Though Charles D. Hardee, Noble's nephew, was at "Rural Felicity" after Noble was a young man, boys "play" was probably little changed from the time of Noble's boyhood.
presided over...school...in strict accordance with all the rules and regulations practiced in the best schools in the city...though not a finished education, they were grounded in the essentials.\(^7\) (One only needs to read about General William Joseph Hardee, Noble's younger brother, to see how well grounded the essentials were.)

Though this writer's evidence is not conclusive prior to 1828, it is his belief that Noble accompanied either his brother-in-law, Joseph Hall,\(^8\) or a member of the Cone family\(^9\) to Milledgeville in the mid-1820's where they served in the Georgia House of Representatives.\(^10\)

During that time he met, courted, and married Martha Thesewits Williams, daughter of John Williams, Esq., of Milledgeville.\(^11\) Their first child, Ann Eliza, was born in the year 1826.\(^12\)

Noble first came into the public eye in 1828 through his correspondence to The Georgian as secretary of the Anti-Tariff Committee of Camden County.\(^13\) The citizens of Camden County elected Noble and

\(^7\)Ibid., p. 16.

\(^8\)Hardee, D.I., p. 103. Sarah Matilda Hardee (an older sister) married Joseph Hall of Camden County.

\(^9\)Ibid., p. 102. Either the first or second wife of Noble's father, John Hardee, II, had the maiden name of Cone.

\(^10\)Official Register, p. 299. Cone served from 1822 through 1824 and Hall served from 1825 through 1829.


\(^12\)Ibid.

\(^13\)Ibid., October 16, 1825, 2/3.
Edmond Atkinson to represent them in the 1830 session of the Georgia House of Representatives. 14

The following incident is a demonstration of the integrity with which Noble served. During the balloting by the Legislature for the Judge of the Ordinary of the Ocmulgee circuit, some of the ballots were misplaced. In confidence, Noble was told about them. However, he refused to appear before the investigating committee, knowing that he would be required to reveal what he knew about the incident. The committee later found Noble's confeder, who they said was only guilty of "the ignorance of youth". The committee then exonerated Noble and commended him for his silence, which appeared at the time an admission of wrong doing. 15 Upon his return to Oakland (his plantation in Camden County) in January of 1831, he found that rumor stated he had had the missing ballot box. Holding to the basic philosophy that a good name is worth more than great riches, he "begged" The Georgian to either publish the entire investigation or the committee's findings. 16 The former, The Georgian replied, was too lengthy, but they would gladly do the latter. They reiterated the committee's findings, the exoneration and praised Noble anew for not violating a confidence 'counsel to client'. 17

14 Official Register, p. 299.
16 Ibid., Noble's letter to the editor, January 13, 1831, 2/3.
17 Ibid., Editorial, January 13, 1831, 2/3-4.
But Noble's personal fortunes were changing, as they often did in nineteenth century rural America. On December 20, 1831, while the family was in Milledgeville, Noble's five month old son, John T. Williams Hardee, died.\textsuperscript{18} Death struck again on July 28, 1833; this time it was his six year old daughter.\textsuperscript{19} Then one week later, on August 4, Noble's wife Martha died at age 22 of puerperal fever.\textsuperscript{20}

For little more than a year Noble Andrew Hardee—widower at 27—remained out of the public eye. Then in December 1834 he took up life again as a member of the planning committee for the Bill of Rights Ball given at St. Mary's, Georgia.\textsuperscript{21} Because the records were not available at the time of this writing, the writer is unable to give documented accounts of Noble's life between 1836 and 1840. However, he would like to believe that among those present at "the grandest affair" that Christmas night\textsuperscript{22} was Ann Margaret Lewis, daughter of John Lewis, of Savannah. The best source indicates that they were married on May 3, 1835.\textsuperscript{23} (After a courtship in true Gone with the Wind style—hopefully!) The Hardes's did not move immediately to Savannah however, since Noble remained active in politics in Camden County through June

\textsuperscript{18}The Georgia, Obituary, January 2, 1832, 3/3.
\textsuperscript{19}Ibid., Obituary, August 15, 1833, 3/3.
\textsuperscript{20}Ibid.
\textsuperscript{21}Ibid., December 25, 1834, 2/4.
\textsuperscript{22}Ibid.
\textsuperscript{23}Deed Book, Chatham County Courthouse, 262, p. 289. The marriage contract of Noble Andrew Hardee and Ann Margaret Lewis appears.
of that year. They probably stayed at Oakland until late autumn.

From the low ebb of 1831 and 1833, Noble’s life apparently prospered. The 1840 census shows Noble’s household as comprising nine persons; himself, his wife, three children and four servants. He was already in a commercial enterprise. Letters giving Noble power of attorney show that Thomas P. Bond of Bryan County, et al., trusted him with handling their business affairs in Savannah.

Summer were spent at the Hardee plantation in Washington County near Sandersville, but the children’s time was not always idly spent. When their cousin, Charles Seton Henry Hardee, visited there in August, 1848, after graduating from Franklin College, he was hired by noble to tutor the two older children, John L. and Susan Ann.

Charles Hardee tells of Noble’s sense of honor and practicality through his account of his uncle hiring him for N.A. Hardee & Company. Charles had been reading law for “about a month” for another uncle, Judge (Charles) Henry, when Noble met him in Court House square.

21The Georgian, June 0, 1835, 2/5.

22Hardee, C.S.H., p. 23. (During this period of time, “it was not considered safe to return to the city [Savannah] until after a heavy frost”.

23Census of Savannah, Georgia Census, 8:37.


25Hardee, C.S.H., p. 23. How and when this plantation was acquired or its name is unknown to this writer, however this reference to it and the “Cubedge interview” corroborate its existence. It should also be noted the correct spelling of Susan Ann. The Marriage Index, 1851-1866 and the “Cubedge interview” agree with this spelling but Hardee, D.L., p. 105 has her name as Susanan.
"Charles," said Noble, "you are a little over eighteen years old and if you continue to study law, it will be nearly three years before you are old enough to be admitted to the bar. In the meantime, you may find it difficult to make enough to support yourself so that you may not have to be dependent upon others." 29

Charles' mother had been a widow since July, 1835. 30 Noble offered Charles a position in his "lumber house," but it was not acceptable, however, since a "Mr. B.---" was leaving the company and Charles was to take his place. 31 After all, Charles had stayed with the Hardes for five months in Sandersonville, so Noble knew of what metal his nephew was made.

Noble's political activities in Savannah found outlet in civic participation. He served as a member of the Grand Jury in 1859, under Judge Fleming and Judge John M. Hillen, Jr. It was the last session over which Judge Hillen resided. 32

N.A. Hardee & Company, located at No. 6 Stoddard Range (128 Bay Street) was a well run enterprise, engaging not only in cotton factorage, and importation of nitrate fertilizer, but other manufactured items also. 35

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30 Ibid., p.6.
31 Ibid., p. 21.
32 [Savannah] Daily Morning News (hereafter referred to as DMN), January 25, 1859, 1/1 and November 16, 1859, 2/3.
34 Ibid., December 5, 1859, 2/2.
35 Ibid., September 6, 1859, 2/4.
Noble also encouraged the development of southeast Georgia's fledgling turpentine industry. His other commercial interests included railroads, real estate, banking and insurance.

Noble Andrew Hardie (and R. A. Hardie & Company) was a product of his age. He did not long survive the system, of which he had been a part and had fought to maintain in his younger days. The strain of the war broke Noble's health. While on a recuperative visit to Richfield Springs, New York Noble died. It was his daughter who

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36. BURT, March 16, 1850, 2/2.

37. Wills and Administrations, Chatham County Courthouse, file 306.

38. Ibid. At the time of his death, Noble owned fourteen pieces of property, nine of which listed improvements. Among those listed was lot 37, Monterey Ward (3 W. Gordon) which at the time was valued at $600.

39. Bancroft, p. 90. He was a member of the Board of Directors for the Bank of the State of Georgia, DN, February 9, 1859 and February 6, 1861. He was also on the Board of Directors of the Marine Bank in 1859 and 1861.

10. Savannah Daily News and Herald (hereafter referred to as SDW), January 13, 1867, 2/2. Noble was on the Board of Directors for the Home Insurance Company, DN, July 2, 1864, 2/2. He was also on the Board of Directors of the Oglethorpe Insurance Company of Savannah.

11. SDW, September 12, 1867, 3/2.

12. "Oglethorpe interview" or corroborated the tombstone inscription, "Died at Richfield Springs, New York", DN, September 12, 1867, 3/2 may well be incorrect in citing Richfield, New York as the place of death. It might be noted here that Administrations and Wills, file 306 also contains an erroneous death date of August 20, 1867.

13. SDW, September 12, 1867, 3/2. No verification of the daughter's identity was established by the newspaper or the "Oglethorpe interview".
accompanied the body home aboard the SS San Salvador, which arrived in Savannah on November 19, 1867.\textsuperscript{42} His funeral was held at the Independent Presbyterian Church at 3 o'clock on November 20, 1867.\textsuperscript{45}

Morn not, dear reader, the passing of this fine man, for his business and his most important work—his children John Lewis, Mary Elizabeth and Susan Ann—lived on. The descendents of John Lewis\textsuperscript{46} and Mary Helen Stoddard Hardee are many and well documented.\textsuperscript{47} What is not mentioned elsewhere, that this writer could find, was that Noble was interested in music. He was interested enough, at least, to foster that interest in his son. John Lewis played the piano well and wrote music for that instrument.\textsuperscript{48} Not only was one of John's sons, Noble Andrew Hardee, Jr., an accomplished pianist and studied music in Europe,\textsuperscript{49} he also wrote and had published music for the piano.\textsuperscript{50}

\begin{footnotes}
\begin{itemize}
\item [42] \textit{Tbid.}, November 19, 1867, 3/1.
\item [43] \textit{Tbid.}, November 20, 1867, 2/5.
\item [44] Marriage Index, Chatham County Courthouse, 1851-1866. John was married by Rev. Dr. Knox on May 5, 1861 to Mary Helen Stoddard.
\item [45] Hardee, D. L. See chapter 9 page 105 for a complete genealogy (through ca. 1964) of the John Lewis Hardee family.
\item [46] "Cuttridge interview."
\item [47] Wills and Administrations, file 552. At the time of his father's death, Noble Jr., as he was called by the family, was in Stuttgart, Germany. According to the "Cuttridge interview", he was quite talented and was studying music there.
\item [48] Noble Andrew Hardee, "Improvisation for piano", sheet music, a copy of which is on file in the Savannah White Library on Hull Street in Savannah, Georgia.
\end{itemize}
\end{footnotes}
He also taught piano in Savannah for several years. Noble, Jr., the surviving son of the only son of Noble Andrew Hardee, never married. Noble’s daughter, Mary Elizabeth, was married at White Bluff Presbyterian Church by Rev. G. B. King on March 6, 1864. She married Clifford A. King, owner of C. A. King and Company Cotton Factories in Savannah. Noble’s other daughter, Susan Ann, married General William W. Kirkland, the partner in W. A. Hardee and Company. The partnership of Noble Andrew Hardee and General William W. Kirkland was dissolved by the former’s death and was formally dissolved by the surviving partner, W. W. Kirkland on September 26, 1867. However it was reborn (formally) on the same day by his son, John Lewis Hardee, Esq. and Gen. W. W. Kirkland as W. A. Hardee’s Son and Company prospering under their management.

51 Wills and Administrations, file 1291. Noble, Jr. left his music collection and books to Molly Bernstein. In a telephone interview on July 10, 1975 with Mrs. Melvin Bernstein, sister-in-law, it was learned that this collection was given to Armstrong State College in 1964 for the express purpose of starting a music library in her name.

52 Ibid. interview.

53 Marriage Index, p. 132-133.

54 Wills and Administrations, file 362.

55 Marriage Index, p. 130-131. This document does not indicate the date of marriage, nor does the DN for February and March, 1859.

56 DN, September 26, 1867; 2/6.

57 Ibid., 2/2.

58 Wills and Administrations, file 352. At John Lewis Hardee’s request (he was the surviving partner), the business was sold shortly after his death.
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