Enoch D. Hendry

A Biography

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History 300
August 1, 1979
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Abstract

Enoch D. Hendry was born September 28, 1822 in Liberty County Georgia. He married Caroline Staley on December 5, 1847. They had five children. From 1850 until about 1859 he was engaged in business in Savannah Georgia. In 1859 he moved to Balkshear Georgia in the newly created county of Pierce. He remained a resident of Pierce county for almost the rest of his life. He organized the first company of Confederate volunteers from Pierce county. He died in Waycross July 14, 1909.
HENDRY BROTHERS — These 3 sons of Robert Hendry, Jr., of County lived in Pierce County for varying periods. Left to right are Nathan Hendry, Alfred Iverson Hendry, and Enoch Daniel Hendry. Iverson was a physician and practiced medicine in Blackshear for

CAPTAIN ENOCH DANIEL HENDRY, 1822-1909, organized and commanded the Atlantic & Gulf Guards, cavalry, the first military company from Pierce County sent to Confederate service.
Lot #13 Chatham Ward
Connor, Taylor & Barrard
August 6, 1979

Blackshear City Cemetery
July 1979

Kishaw City Cemetery
1979

110, 112 (w/t show) W. Taylor
Oct 1, 1979
Enoch D. Hendry, born September 28, 1822 in Liberty County in the community of Taylor's Creek could trace his roots far back into American history. His grandfather, Robert Hendry, was born on the Scottish Isle of Arran near the mouth of the river Clyde on March 17, 1752. He immigrated to America in 1770 and served under "Lighthorse Harry" Lee. He was present at the surrender at Yorktown. In 1801 Robert Hendry, Sr. settled in Liberty County, Georgia. He was a respected man in his community serving as Justice of the Peace from 1802 to 1811 and again from 1819 to 1824. He and his wife had nine children.

One of his sons, Robert Hendry, Jr., was born March 4, 1787 in North Carolina. He was one of the most respected early citizens of Taylor's Creek. As a young man he bound himself to a Mr. Underwood for six years and served as an apprentice surveyor. Shortly after that he was employed by the state of Georgia to survey and divide counties in Western Georgia. He saved his money and returned to Taylor's Creek. On March 25, 1819, he married Nancy Daniel. This union produced twelve children, the third born child was Enoch Daniel Hendry.

Very little is known of Enoch's life as a very young man. It appears that his father was a prosperous planter and mill owner. The sketches of life in Taylor's Creek at that time present it as a peaceful, secure, hardworking community. It may be safe to
assume that Enoch did not suffer any extreme hardships as a child.

In 1835 a party was held to show support for the candidates for the state legislature from the Union Party in Liberty County. It was a festive occasion with much eating, drinking and speech making. The affair was hosted by Mr. J. E. Martin of Martin’s Mills. Mr. Jesse Floyd, Esq., Enoch’s uncle proposed the following toast, "Our Union candidates Busby, West and Hendry. The principles they support prove them pure patriots they alone can represent in the next legislature the majority of the people of Liberty County." Enoch Hendry, Esq. replied, "May our next president equal Andrew Jackson." Who was Enoch Hendry, Esq.? Did he win his election? These questions remain unanswered. However, it is probably safe to assume that Enoch Hendry, Esq. was an uncle of Enoch D. Hendry. All through the records of the Hendry family there are examples of children being named for their uncles. This incident serves to illustrate an example of community involvement and public service which Enoch was to emulate in his later years.

On December 5, 1847 Enoch D. Hendry married Caroline Eliza Staley of Savannah. Caroline had been born in Savannah on April 2, 1829, daughter of George N. Staley a prominent citizen of Savannah. They were married by the Reverend Alfred J. Mann of Trinity Methodist Episcopal Church."

By 1847, the year of his marriage, Enoch’s father had died. The only available record of this is an abstract of wills of Liberty County. This abstract describes Robert as a land owner and mill operator. The sons are listed in two separate sections. John A. and Enoch D. are listed first followed by the daughters and then
the remaining sons. The executors were: George Hendry (brother)
John A. Hendry and Enoch D. Hendry (sons), Enoch Daniel and James
R. Bird. Witnesses were : Eli McPhail, Littleberry Daniel and
Jesse Floyd. From the abstract it is impossible to determine
exactly how wealthy Enoch became as a result of his father’s death.
However, from this time until approximately 1890 Enoch D. Hendry
sold land in Liberty County. There are no records of land purchases
made by him in Liberty County. These records of land sales makes
it fairly safe to assume that Enoch inherited a vast amount of property
from his father. As early as 1848 records show Enoch selling land
in Liberty County to his brothers for $1,000.14

During the 1850’s Enoch, Caroline and their young family lived
in Savannah.15 Their first son, George Robert was born April 26,
1849 and their second child a daughter, Carolina Ann Eliza was
born March 29, 1851. It is possible from a study of deeds, tax
digests, city directories and newspapers to form a picture of a
young ambitious man starting in business in 1849, gradually gaining
momentum, peaking around 1855 and then going into a rapid decline
which appears to culminate in financial disaster by 1858. In
1859 Enoch and his family including his wife’s parents left Savannah.

In 1849 Enoch was a grocer in business at 178 Congress
street. That year he paid a total of $1.00 in city taxes.18

1850 was an active year for Enoch. He is listed on the
1850 census as residing with his father-in-law and having real-
estate valued at $2,500. The city directory indicates he was a
shoe-maker operating a business at 180 Congress street. Early
in that year a notice appeared in the newspaper of a business
partnership between Enoch and S. H. Fish being dissolved by mutual consent. The business was to continue under Enoch. Enoch's father-in-law filed his tax return for that year and Enoch paid a total of $4.00 for one poll and one slave. But in April of 1850 Enoch purchased both Lot # 10 and Lot # 13 in Chatham Ward. On March 4, 1847 a certain portion of the South common was laid out in lots. It appears that a valuation was placed on each Lot (Lot # 10, $800, Lot # 13 $1,000) and the purchaser was required to bid $1.00 above the amount of valuation, then pay 20% down and thereafter pay a ground rent of 6%. The purchase of these two lots are the only records of property purchases made by Enoch that were available.

In 1851 Enoch had increased his property holdings to two slaves. He was also now in business with John Staley doing business as Staley and Hendry. Enoch filed the tax return for this business which had $4,000 worth of merchandise.

The following year shows an increase in fortune coupled with an omen of trouble in the future. In 1852 Enoch had a row of tenements build on Lot # 10 at what is now 108, 110, 112 West Taylor street. He also made some improvements on Lot # 13 probably a small structure located on the Northwest corner of this lot. He is also listed as having made improvements on lot # 1 of Springfield Ward; however, this lot is not mentioned again. He made a total of $5,600 in property improvements in 1852 and paid personal taxes totaling $49.00. The return he prepared for Staley and Hendry that year shows $6,000 in merchandise and three slaves.
It would appear to have been a year of prosperity except for one item. This is the year that Enoch made his first loan from Savannah Mutual Loan Association through Mr. John N. Lewis, president in the amount of $2,000 and for collateral he used lot #10. It is possible that this loan was made because of a fire reported in the Savannah Morning News June 7, 1852. The fire was on lot #10 and started in the stables at the rear of the houses. It appeared to be quite a mystery as the fire started in a stable where no fire was used. Enoch, as owner of the property, was interviewed and stated that the property was partially insured. The loss of the stable was estimated at about four to five hundred dollars.

In 1853 Enoch was still paying tax on his property and had increased his personal holding of slaves to nine. Staley and Hendry now had merchandise valued at $7,000 so growth was continuing. Staley and Hendry was receiving merchandise via the steamship Florida from New York city. But once again Enoch made a loan from Savannah Mutual Loan Association. This time for $1,000 and again using lot #10 as collateral.

By 1854 Enoch had reduced his number of slaves to four. Staley and Hendry still had $7,000 in merchandise and was paying taxes on improvements on lot #11 Curry Yard. As Enoch went more deeply into debt it is possible that people also owed Staley and Hendry money and perhaps lot #11 Curry Yard was being held as collateral on a loan underwritten by Staley and Hendry. Once again Enoch borrowed from Savannah Mutual Loan for the first time he used lot #13 to borrow $2,000.
In the Daily Morning News of June 19, 1855 the following advertisement appeared: "Spring and Summer Clothing just arrived per stemship by John A. Staley. A fine assortment of clothing, boots, shoes, hats, caps and all kinds of Gentlemen's Furnishing goods—which can be bought on accommodating terms at the old stand of Staley and Hendry 187 Congress street—sign of the Golden Eagle."

The tax records for 1855 show that Staley and Hendry was in trouble. No merchandise is listed only $350 worth of improvement on Lot #11 Currie Town and a total tax bill of $2.63. It would appear that they began their advertising campaign a bit late. Enoch's personal tax return stayed exactly the same as the previous year with one exception—he purchased a dog. Perhaps this was a family pet for his small children now six and three years old. Enoch's increasing desperate financial situation is reflected in a loan for $5,000 made from Enoch Daniel and James Alexander of Liberty County. The records concerning this transaction are difficult to understand; however, Savannah Mutual Loan appears to have been involved also. Lot #10 and two-thirds of Lot #13 were used as collateral also two of Enoch's slaves, Isaac about 24 a carpenter and Richard about 21 a blacksmith, were sold to Daniels and Alexander.

By 1856 Staley and Hendry is no longer paying taxes. Enoch is still paying taxes on his greatly diminished property, 2 slaves and one-third of Lot #13 for a total tax bill of $17.25.

The next year Enoch was so far in debt that an entry made in red ink in the tax digest states that he had notes of $512.62 and thus paid only $3.64 in taxes. Also Enoch Daniels and J. J. Alexander appear on his tax records at the men in control of his property.
By this time he was down to one slave.

The next two years must have been difficult for Enoch. But as with many people he appears to have needed to touch the depths of financial despair before he could begin to experience his renaissance.

On June 29, 1859 an advertisement appeared in the *Daily Morning News* announcing that on the first Tuesday in March all right title and interest of Enoch D. Hendry in lot # 10 would be sold before the courthouse door. This was the result of a judgment against Staley and Hendry obtained by Alfred J. Browne. By this time Edward Lovett had begun paying taxes on lot # 13. It appears he might have acquired this property because Enoch defaulted on the annual ground rent. The registry of city lots shows Enoch selling lot # 10 to Daniels and Alexander but then reclaiming it and selling it to Sarah Sibley on December 17, 1858. The deed covering this sale indicated that Enoch was now a resident of Ware County and received $4,650 for the sale of lot # 10. By 1860 Sarah Sibley was paying taxes on lot # 10 and George N. Staley had defaulted on the taxes on his home on Gaston street.

From 1852 through 1855 Enoch borrowed $10,000. The records show $7,000 of this was paid. The most confusing aspect of this are the indications that lot # 10 was to be sold to satisfy a judgment in favor of Mr. Browne and yet the records indicate that Enoch not Mr. Browne received the proceeds from this sale. It may be safe to assume that Enoch left some unsatisfied debtors when
he departed from Savannah. He may also have caused his family in Taylor's Creek some distress. This may be illustrated by the fact that many years later (1879) his aunt, Elizabeth Hendry Hoys, who had no children, leaving the bulk of her estate to her nieces and nephews excluded Enoch from her will.

The next few years show Enoch's determination to start out as a virtual pioneer in the newly formed county of Pierce. Miss Nellie Stewart a resident of Blackshear recalls, "Captain E. D. Hendry and family moved to Blackshear from Savannah this year (1859). His wife was a lady of great refinement and charm of manner.... Mrs. Hendry's parents, Mr. George Staley and his wife, Eliza, lived with them. Mrs. Staley was devoted to her church and her Christian virtues made her life as beautiful as the flowers she loved and cared for so well."

"The Hendry's lived a while in the country on a place known as the Delanney place...but their first home in Blackshear was on a hill...The trees and flowers they planted there made it a place of beauty. Captain Hendry built the first home there."

Enoch immediately became involved in the affairs of the young city of Blackshear. In the first census (1860) he is listed as a merchant. He was one of the original trustees of the Blackshear Academy and upon learning the results of the presidential election of 1860 began to organize a company of calvary.

In 1861 a public meeting over secession was held and Enoch was elected as a delegate to the secession convention in Milledgeville.
Regiment were from Wiregrass counties except a company from Twiggs county, and the 4th Georgia Cavalry Regiment was entirely from Wiregrass Georgia. Capt Hendry was among them mustered out March 31, 1862...

Pension records show that after Enoch left active duty he was appointed by the governor to distribute rations to soldiers' wives and to look up deserters. The balance of the time of the war. In 1863 he also served as a justice of the Inferior Court for his county. He was obviously held in high esteem by his peers in Pierce County, but little is known of his financial condition. However, on January 6, 1863 he sold a tract of land in Appling County consisting of 381½ acres to John Delaunoy. He received $400 for this land and the sale of which was recorded in Chatham County.

It is impossible to determine if his expertise as a businessman had improved since his tragic days in Savannah. There is evidence that would support that he was successful, but there is also disturbing evidence indicating that he continued to have financial problems.

In 1864, his third child, Mary Alice Lee, was born and in 1867 his fourth daughter, Leila Camilla Moore was born. This is in the realm of pure speculation; however, it appears that Enoch and Caroline had their children during periods of relative calm and prosperity. There is a surprising gap between the birth of the second child in 1851 and the third, a period of 13 years later in 1864.
In 1866 Enoch once again had some activity in Savannah. He was Administrator of the Estate of Jasper Leonidas Gill, who died of the cholera on September 5, 1866. Mr. Gill was a respected river boat pilot on the Savannah river whose estate included such items as a gold watch and chain, a flute and interest in the river boat Sophia. Mr. Gill died intestate so it is not possible to establish a direct relationship between Mr. Gill and Enoch, but Enoch did administer his estate and filed a final return on August 2, 1873. The year 1867 once again marks the beginning of a downward phase in Enoch's life. His son Robert was severely injured when thrown from a horse, but he must have recovered because on January 12, 1868, Robert was married. But tragedy soon followed. On March 8, 1871, Enoch and Caroline had their last child, Rosa. Rosa died September 15, 1871 and on September 28, 1871, Enoch and Caroline's son Robert died. Robert was survived by his widow and two young children, a boy and a girl. The daughter, Lily died in 1903 and the son died in a tragic accident while still a child.

There are a variety of ways in which human beings attempt to deal with despair. Whether it was in an attempt to cope with his sorrow or out of financial necessity is not known, but in 1871 Enoch resumed working in Savannah. He began as a salesman and by 1873 had become a partner in Orff, Watkins and Company a wholesale dry-goods firm. As there had been train service between Savannah and Blackshear for a number of years it is possible that he traveled for this company. In the city directories of that period he is listed as boarding.
Then in 1877 Enoch makes his last known venture into the Savannah business world. The Savannah Morning News carried the following advertisement February 5, 1877, "The undersigned have formed a co-partnership from the 1st February 1877 under the firm name of Hendry and Scudder, for carrying on the Auction and Commission business at no. 176 Bay street--E. D. Hendry, H. V. Scudder." The city directory of that year also contained a ½ page advertisement for their company.

In that same year the newspaper mentioned that on April 4, Enoch arrived at Terrell's European House and on April 26, he arrived at the Pulaski House. He was obviously attempting to make a comeback in a city where he had previously failed. Once again Enoch failed as a businessman in Savannah. The newspaper of February 10, 1879, announces that the petition for final discharge in bankruptcy for Enoch D. Hendry had been filed. That same year he went to work for Frank and Company another wholesale dry-goods company, and began boarding in the Planter's Hotel.

Two of his daughters, Carolina and Leila had married into the Strickland family in Blackshear. It is possible that Enoch was associated with them in some way, but his business activities after 1880 are not known.

Caroline Hendry, his wife, died at their Blackshear home on October 5, 1889. The inscription on her tombstone reads in part, "Not dead but gone before, To know her was to love her. She passed
through glory's morning gate and dwells in paradise." The tombstones of Enoch's son and father-in-law bear the masonic emblem, his does not though he is listed as a member of Lodge No. 270 F & A M in 1893. Shortly after his death in 1909 the Blackshear Times printed a biographical sketch of him.

In his declining years he made his home in Waycross with his oldest daughter. Here, too, he had many friends who admired and respected his sterling qualities and high ideals, the quiet dignity and courteous bearing, which belong peculiarly to gentlemen of the old school.

For weeks before the end came, he realized that he walked in the very shadows of the borderland. To more than one he spoke of this, and through his conversation there breathed the Christian's quiet courage and the old soldier-like fearlessness that had helped to make his character strong.

Once he was asked if he minded the change he was soon to make. His reply was that of a brave man who has an abiding faith and trust in his Maker.

With loved ones gathered around his bedside, the final hour came quietly, and very peacefully he passed to the end of his earthly pilgrimage.

He was for years a member of the First Methodist Church in Waycross, the pastor of which conducted the funeral services at the Methodist Church at Blackshear, where the remains of Captain Hendry were brought with loving hands and saddened hearts laid to rest by the side of his wife who had preceded him many years....
Enoch D. Hendry, whose houses on Lot #10 in Chatham Ward have been restored and are in the historic landyard section of Savannah deserves to be remembered in Savannah as well as in Blackshear. His life was typical of many lives, he experienced his share of successes and defeats, joys and sorrows. But through it all emerges a gentleman of dignity and courage.
Notes

1. Bird and Paul Yarbrough, ed., Taylor's Creek, The Story of the Community and her People Through 200 Years (Atkinson County, Georgia 1963) p. 185

2. Ibid., p. 183

3. Ibid., p. 184, 185

4. Lachlan McIntosh Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution, Abstracts of Wills of Liberty County, 1771-1887 (1954) p. 38

5. Georgian, September 12, 1835, 2/1

6. Yarbrough, Taylor's Creek p. 184

7. Georgian, Sept. 12, 1835, 2/1

8. Yarbrough, Taylor Creek p. 185, 187

9. Marriage Records of Chatham County, Probate Court

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12. D. A. R. Abstracts of Wills... p. 38

13. Deeds on file Superior Court, Liberty County, Hinesville, Georgia

14. Ibid., Book N 1847-54 p. 21

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16. Yarbrough, Taylor's Creek p. 186

17. City Directory of Savannah 1849

18. Tax Digest, City of Savannah 1849

19. U. S. Census, City of Savannah 1850

20. City Directory of Savannah 1850


22. Tax Digest, City of Savannah 1850

23. Registry of City Lots, 1851-1856

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26. Tax Digest, City of Savannah 1851

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32. Savannah Morning News, June 7, 1852 1/2
33. Tax Digest 1853
34. Daily Morning News, May 25, 1853 1/4
35. Deed Book C. C. 3 L p. 266
36. Tax Digest 1854
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46. Ibid.
47. Deed Book 3 S p. 528
48. Tax Digest 1860
49. Ibid.
50. D. A. R. Abstracts of Wills... p. 31
51. Dean Broome, History of Pierce County Georgia, volume I (Blackshear Georgia 1973) p. 137
52. Ibid. p. 225
53. Ibid. p. 203
54. Ibid. p. 148
55. Ibid. p. 208
56. Ibid. p. 252
57. Judge Folks Huxford, Pioneers of Wiregrass Georgia (Huxford Genealogical Society Quarterly volume 2 Summer 1975) p. 81
58. Broome, History of Pierce County Georgia p. 279
59. Ibid.
60. Ibid. p. 422
*Note* There is a discrepancy between the Tombstone of Enoch D. Hendry, July 14, 1909 and the newspaper article from the Blackshear Times reproduced in Mr. Broome's book. The newspaper is said to be from the July 8, 1909 issue of the paper and gives the date of death as June 14, 1909.
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