John E. Hernandez

For Dr. Warlick
Historical Research

Prepared By
Mike L. Flanagan

From: The Savannah Biographies, volume 2.
Minis Collection, Lane Library.
Armstrong Atlantic State University
Savannah GA 31419-1997
[written in the mid-1970's]
Around the year 1850, Mr. John E. Hernandez, his wife Josephine Hernandez and their children, Alonzo and Eliza Agnes moved into a modest two-story wooden-framed house on 82 Liberty Street.

Prior to their move to Savannah, the Hernandez family were residents of Fernandina Florida. On their arrival at Savannah, John was 33 years old, his wife Josephine 22, his son Alonzo 12, and his daughter Eliza Agnes 5. Due to the age difference between mother and son, it is evident that one spouse may have been married before. This fact cannot be verified, however, due to the complication of obtaining information from Fernandina.

It was here in Savannah that John established a confectionary below his residence. For thirty years Mr. Hernandez provided Savannah's citizens with a large assortment of confectionary goods. His business proved to be financially successful at the time of his death on April 23, 1881. Mr. Hernandez's business, at his demise, was worth an accumulated net value of $9,000.00.

Around 1856 Alonzo left the Hernandez household and moved to 1914 Abercorn Street. During his lifetime, Alonzo was a carpenter until his death on July 16, 1903. His sister, Eliza Agnes, left the family around 1859. The period after in Eliza's life remained a mystery until she was laid to rest at the Poor Sisters Lot in the Catholic Cemetery.

In the 1860 census, the Hernandez family grew with the addition of two more sons and one daughter. The two sons
were Robert, born in April of 1849, and Charles, born in January of 1854. Their sister Alice was born in December of 1851. At the 1860 census, Charles was 18, Robert 13, and their sister Alice 16.

The children attended school, except for Charles who worked as a clerk at a local general store.

9By 1880, Charles Hernandez moved from his home to 16 Taylor Street. 10 Until his death on March 19, 1890, Charles continued his work as a clerk in the dry goods store. 11 Charles's brother Robert moved from the house around 1880 to his new residence at 513 E. Charlton Street.

12 Until his death on July 16, 1903, Robert drifted through various jobs. Their sister Alice stayed with her parents until she moved to 522 Taylor street in 1885. Mr. and Mrs. Hernandez's children produced few grandchildren. Eliza Agnes and Alice remained spinsters until their death. Alice's background can be verified, but Eliza Agnes's is only assumption.

The oldest son Alonzo remained a bachelor throughout his lifetime. 14 Charles Hernandez married Harriet J. Knight on June 7, 1857. The Charles Hernandez family resided at their 16 Taylor Street address.

From this marriage only one child was produced. Her name was Terry Lee Hernandez. She was born on May 2, 1859.

16Robert Hernandez married a woman whose first name was Gussie. Gussie's last name is indistinguishable on their marriage license and census reports on July 6, 1892. The Robert Hernandez family resided at 513 E. Charlton Street.
There was only one birth from this marriage but the child was stillborn.

17On January 21, 1896, Charles and Harriet's little girl married a gentleman named Neisbon. The marriage was performed outside of Chatham County due to two reasons; there is no record of this marriage at the Chatham County Public Health Center or at the Chatham County Courthouse. The reason that Terry Lee Hernandez is the granddaughter of John D. Hernandez is that she is listed on Charles Hernandez's property deed as his daughter. She is the apparent heir to the Hernandez estate.

18The entire Hernandez family is buried at the Catholic Cemetery. The family is enclosed in the N.E. and N.W. sections of lots 31, 32, 33, and 34.
   *Savannah Historical Homes*, p. 16.


5. Property Deed 52, Chatham County Courthouse.


8. Birth Certificate Numbers 21, 114, 71, Chatham County Health Department.


10. Death certificate record, Chatham County Health Department.

11. Death certificate record, Chatham County Health Department.


13. Death certificate record, Chatham County Health Department.

14. Marriage license 49, Chatham County Health Department.
   *Savannah Morning News Digest*, June 7, 1851.


16. Ibid.
17
Death certificate 17, Chatham Public Health Center, Jan. 21, 1896.

18
Catholic Cemetery burial records.