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Abraham Nichols
The Savannah Years

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Abraham Nichols

Abraham Nichols (c. 1771-1829) was a New Engander who came to Savannah at the turn of the 19th century. He was a mariner who began sailing from this port. He eventually settled in Savannah and became a leading citizen. He was at various times Harbor Master, Port Warden, and Commissioner of Pilotage for the port of Savannah. He was a merchant in the city dealing in ship supplies, and eventually married a woman from the local area. He was involved in the defense of Savannah during the War of 1812. Nichols became a valuable part of the community, well respected by many of the cities' top citizens. He was a civic minded individual who added much to the cities' history.
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The turn of the 19th century saw the port of Savannah one of the most dynamic in the country. By the early 1800s tobacco had peaked and the invention of the cotton gin had allowed "king cotton" to take over. Savannah soon became the most important port on the southeast coast, and was the largest exporter of cotton in the world. The Savannah River was used to transport cotton from inland areas for export to Europe and to the industrial centers in the North.¹ It was in this setting that Abraham Nichols first appeared.

Nichols was one of that strong-willed breed of individual who were instrumental in molding this new and growing nation. He appears to have been an energetic and caring man, determined to play an active role in the history of our city.

He first appeared in Savannah in late 1807. At that time he was an active commercial sea captain. On September of that year a series of advertisements were published in a local newspaper stating that the brig America was in port, with Abraham Nichols as Master. The ship was bound for Liverpool with a cargo of cotton. The ad announces that he had five hundred bales of cotton, and needed three hundred more to "fill her up." He was sailing for the Mein-Mackay Shipping Company. The America had recently arrived from England, and Mien-Mackay wished to sell four thousand bushels of Liverpool ground salt, fifteen bales of cotton bagging, seventy-five crates of assorted crockeryware, and 150 casks of London bottled Porter. The goods would be sold at a low price if they were taken from on board immediately.² The America sailed sometime in late October,
as the advertisement was published at intervals with the last appearing on October 20, 1807.³

In 1808 he was Master of the ship Edward, another Mien-Mackay Company vessel, and this voyage was bound for Greenock, England.⁴ He returned from England to the port of Savannah in May 1808.⁵ In August 1808, again Master of the Edward, he sailed to New York, advertising that he was "able to accommodate a few passengers."⁶ In 1810 he was Master of the new brig, Joseph Ricketson, bound from Savannah to New York and advertised for freight and passengers.⁷

Prior to establishing residency in Savannah, Nichols was a resident of Newark, New Jersey. He appears on the tax lists of New Jersey, township of Newark, in 1810.⁸ In addition to being an active sea captain, he was also a merchant in Newark, owning a ship chandlery business, which supplies all manner of goods to ships including groceries, equipment, and other provisions.⁹ The author was unable to determine just when Abraham decided to establish permanent residency in Savannah. He retained his business in Newark until 1812, when he sold it to Barna MCKinne and his wife Anne, who were said to be from Augusta, Georgia.¹⁰ The property he sold is described as bounded by the River Persa, westwardly by the property of Charles Ogden, to the North by Dock Street, and to the southwest by the church ground.¹¹ The river called the Persa is probably the Passaic River, there being no river in the area called the Persa.¹² Also Dock Street does not appear on the map of that period.¹³ There seems to be very limited information on Nichols during his time in Newark (see attached letter from the New Jersey Historical Society). It seems apparent that he did not intend to completely dispose of this property. He sold the property and business to MCKinne and his wife for
one dollar in 1812.\textsuperscript{14} In November 1821, he bought the same property back from the McKinnies for one-thousand dollars. It is easy to assume that he was a silent partner in the business during these years.\textsuperscript{15} Nichols appears on the New Jersey tax lists in 1820 and 1821.\textsuperscript{16}

1811 was probably the year Nichols established permanent residence in Savannah. In November of that year he was named to the position of Port Warden for the port of Savannah by the Georgia legislature along with four others.\textsuperscript{17} Another source states that he was not given the post until 1813,\textsuperscript{18} but the 1811 date appears to be the correct one because in November 1811 an advertisement appears for sealed bids being accepted to "remove the buoys, piles, and sinkers between Savannah and the five-fathom to a place the south side of the river to be pointed out by Captain Abraham Nichols," and is signed by order of the Commissioner of Pilotage.\textsuperscript{19} This was a position Nichols would hold under various titles until 1827.\textsuperscript{20}

The year 1812 brought war with England and Nichols played his part in it. News of the outbreak of the war was received in Savannah on June 25, 1812.\textsuperscript{21} Savannah well remembered the Revolutionary War and the occupation of the city by the British. This new war revived fear that the city would once again be attacked. Proximity to the sea made Savannah an inviting and likely target. Vigilance Committees were formed to "detect idle, disorderly persons having no visible estate or employment."\textsuperscript{22} The city was in a constant state of alert.\textsuperscript{23}

On July 29, 1813, Nichols was assigned to take charge of a "lookout boat" off Tybee Island to act as an early warning system for the city. Two other ships were stationed off Warsaw Island commanded by Arron Ruckhill and Daniel Smith. A light system to warn the city had been arranged, whereby
information would be received at Tybee lighthouse, relayed to Fort Jackson, then Fort Wayne, then to the City Exchange tower, where a man with a telescope was stationed. The lookout boats were funded by a voluntary assessment on property in the city. After this original assessment, funds were provided by the Georgia state treasury, which on October 25, 1813 provided one thousand dollars. On January 31, 1814 another one thousand dollars was provided by the state. This money was used to pay officers and men aboard the "lookout" boats. 24

Another source states that Nichols was commander of a "mosquito fleet" fitted out in Savannah and sent to Tybee Island during the war to protect Savannah by invasion by the British fleet. 25 No information was found further on the subject of Nichols' activities during the War of 1812, and it seems apparent that the "lookout boats" and the "mosquito fleet" were one in the same. There is no information which revealed that Nichols' ships did more than watch and wait during the war.

By the time the Treaty of Ghent was signed Nichols was well established in Savannah. As Port Warden, he was the official having jurisdiction over channels, anchorages, moorings, etc., of the harbor and port. 27 He was appointed Harbor Master for the Port of Savannah by the Georgia legislature in 1817, 28 and held the post during 1818 29 and 1819. 30 The exact number of years he held the post as Harbor Master is difficult to determine because the functions of Harbor Master, Port Warden, and Commissioner of Pilotage overlap and sometimes seem to have been used interchangably. It is known that he held one or more of these posts until 1827. 31
In 1814 he was named Commissioner of Pilotage. In March of that year "the secretary laid before the board a letter from Anthony Porter, Secretary to the Governor enclosing a commission for Captain Abraham Nichols confirming his nomination as a Commissioner of Pilotage in the room of Zachariah Miller Esq, deceased." He attended his first meeting of the Commission on March 12, 1814, at which time he presented his commission from the Governor and was accepted.

The position Commissioner of Pilotage was a difficult one at the time. The Savannah River had submerged snags, trees, and hidden sand bars. It was not unusual for one of these submerged trees to ram a hole in the wooden hulls of the ships of the day. Additionally, boats had been sunk in the river during the Revolutionary War to block enemy ships from entering the harbor, and this added to the shoaling in the river. Because of the dangers, the channel was known as the "wrecks." The Commissioners of pilotage were responsible for harbor operations and maintenance, and Nichols, and the other Commissioners, struggled with this problem for a number of years. The harbor was maintained with funds they were able to get from the collectors of the port. The clearing of the river remained a problem throughout Nichols time as Commissioner of Pilotage. On February 27, 1827, the last year he served, he and Dr. W.C. Daniel, another commissioner, wrote to the Secretary of the United States Treasury, the Honorable Richard Rush, stating that with the help of an engineer, John Martineau, they had made a survey of the river and estimated that the work of removing debris would cost $30,389.60, and ask federal assistance in the project. Eventually close to $50,000.00 was received and spent with little improvement.
The jobs he held at the port involved a little more than simply maintaining it. In August, 1823 the ship Eagle was in port and a writ of attachment had been placed against it. The ship had been "tied up" by order of Nichols in his capacity as Harbor Master. The Eagle had six to seven hundred bushels of corn on board that had gone bad, and it was feared that the rotten corn would create a health hazard to the city. The ship was moved to Fig Island to lessen the chances of such a hazard. Soon after the ship was moved, in the dead of night, about about 11 P.M., the Captain and crew of the Eagle went to Fig Island in some "small sails," stole the ship, and made for open sea. Nichols manned his boat and tried to catch them, but the Eagle had "crossed the bar and escaped." This was Nichols testimony during a trial held in 1823, although the incident occurred in 1823.39

Nichols seems to have been an involved citizen of Savannah. Fire was always a great fear in the city, and in July 1814 the Savannah Fire Axe Company was formed. He was named assistant manager of fire engine number #4 in September 1817, and was named manager of the same engine in July 1819.40 Although no information was available Nichols might well have been the manager of engine #4 during the great fire in Savannah on January 11, 1820. This fire was, at the time, the worst to ever have occurred in the United States.41

Abraham was appointed to the City Board of Health in 1823 along with J.B. Herbert for Warren Ward.42 Yellow fever was a constant danger in the city, and following the fire of 1820 there was an yellow fever epidemic in September of that year which caused 695 deaths. Of a population of 7,523 citizens in 1820, nearly 6,000 left the city.43 Abraham also served on the
Board of Health in 1826 for Warren Ward along with John Balfour. There were in that year eighteen wards represented by members of the Board of Health.\(^{44}\)

There is substantial evidence that Abraham owned a home at lot three, Warren Ward. He paid taxes on that lot in 1815 and 1816,\(^{45}\) but there is no record of deed for the property recorded. This lot is now occupied by the Corps of Engineers' parking lot on Bay Street. It seems reasonable to assume that being on the Board of Health, and likely responsible for sanitation in that ward, he probably lived in it.

Nichols was an active member of several benevolent societies in the city. He was a member of the Union Society, becoming a part of that organization in 1812,\(^{46}\) and was still on the role as of April 1, 1826.\(^{47}\) This society was formed in 1750 by five men of differing religious backgrounds. It was first called Saint George's Club, but the name was changed to the Union Society. The date of the change is not certain, as records were burned by the British troops when they abandoned the city in 1782. The society was incorporated by State legislation in 1786. The purpose of the organization was charitable, and was directed at caring for orphan children and widows. The society eventually took over and operated the Bethesda School for Boys, an orphanage in Savannah.\(^{48}\)

He was also a member of the Hibernian Society, becoming a member on November 17, 1813.\(^{49}\) This society was formed on March 12, 1812. It also was a charitable organization and was made up of Catholic and Protestant members. The members were principally Irish, but not always, some were "just friends of the race." The major purpose of the organization was to aid Irish immigrants who had been transported to America by "unscrupulous ship owners." Many of these immigrants barely had the price of passage, and were
to be bitterly disappointed when they arrived in Savannah. They were in a strange land with no money, and found that that jobs were not available here as slaves did most of the common labor. The Hibernians aided them by paying their way to other areas of the country where their labor was needed.\textsuperscript{50}

He was a ranking member of the Masonic order, and was elected Deputy Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Georgia in December 1818 to serve for one year.\textsuperscript{51} Further information on his Masonic membership was not available because the Masonic records for Solomon's Lodge #1 of Savannah for the years from 1806 through 1836 have been destroyed.

Abraham must have been highly regarded in the city. The following appears in a local newspaper in 1817. "The following ticket for alderman it is believed will meet with the general support in the approaching election. By giving it support you will oblige many." The ticket consists of Nichols plus Dr. William R. Waring, James M. Wayne, and Dr. J.C.Habersham.\textsuperscript{52}

Abraham Nichols married Miss Ann Nungazer on February 4, 1819. They were married by the Reverend Goulding in Savannah.\textsuperscript{53} Another, less reliable, source claims that they were married on January 6, 1819. This source lists Abraham as the Harbor Master of Savannah and Miss Nungazer from White Bluff District.\textsuperscript{54} The Nungazer family were among the first settlers of Savannah. They were members of the Salzburgers who came to Georgia after being expelled from their homes in Europe for religious reasons. Ann was a fourth generation Georgia Salzburger. Her great-grandfather had come to Georgia in 1737 aboard the ship "Three Sisters." They settled in Vernonburg, also known as the White Bluff District or simply White Bluff, which was south of the city. Her father was Captain George Nungazer who was first married to Miss Anna Margaretha Sallner. Anna died and there were no children by
that marriage. George remarried to Miss Barbara Nichols, but I was unable to determine if she and Abraham were in any way related. Ann, Abraham's wife, was the only child of the second marriage.\textsuperscript{55}

Abraham and Anne had three children; George Nicoll Nichols, Edward Holdridge Nichols, and Catherine Ann Nichols.\textsuperscript{56} Abraham's wife Ann died in Savannah at 4 A.M. April 11, 1826, just seven years after their marriage. She was only thirty four at the time of her death. Her obituary in part reads, "To an indulgent and fond husband she was a most kind and affectionate wife - to her three little children who survive her she was indeed a MOTHER and may He who protects the shorn lamb, take these little ones into his holy keeping." She is cited for her charity to the needy. It is stated that her memory will be "revered" by the "worthy poor." She is described as "unostentatious in charity," and "unobtrusive in deportment."\textsuperscript{57} Another source states that her death took place on April 10, 1826, and that the funeral would proceed "from her residence on the bay."\textsuperscript{58} The newspaper account placing her death at 4 A.M. April 11, 1826 seems more reliable.

Nichols was left with three children, all under age four. He had purchased two female slaves as early as 1824.\textsuperscript{59} It is easy to conclude that they took over the major portion of the children's care.

In addition to his other jobs and obligations Abraham was also a merchant in Savannah. When he first appears in the Chatham County tax digest in 1814 he paid tax on stock valued at $1490.00.\textsuperscript{60} This is likely the first year that he operated a ship's chandlery business in the city of Savannah. He was first in partnership with James Hunter.\textsuperscript{61} It is unknown when this partnership was formed, but it was dissolved in 1818 and Abraham took on two new partners, O.L. Dobson, and James Hills,\textsuperscript{62} and the business was known
as Nichols, Dobson, and Hills. The author's conclusion that this was in fact a ship's chandlery business is based on Chatham County Superior Court records in which Abraham and his partners brought suit against owners of ships for unpaid debts on items such as "6 coils of cordage, pumps, 6 buckets, whiskey, wine, mast line, table and tea spoons, cups and saucers, molasses by the barrel, sugar by the barrel, and almost anything else that might be needed to outfit a voyage." It is not known how long this business operated, but there were a number of suits for debts during 1819 and 1820, but nothing after that time. One would have to assume that either people paid their debts or the business dissolved about that time.

Nichols owned and sold some property in the White Bluff District. The names White Bluff District and Vernonburgh are believed to be used interchangably. George Nungazer, for example, is described as being a resident of the White Bluff District in his daughter Ann's obituary, and is listed as from Vernonburgh when he signed the "Dissent to the Resolutions of 1774" in Savannah. There was, however, a White Bluff listed in Chatham County separately. I am assuming White Bluff District and Vernonburgh are one in the same, or at least that Vernonburgh was in the White Bluff District. Nichols sold to Mathew Salfner, a planter, a parcel of land in the White Bluff District of Chatham County. It was described as twenty-five acres bounded on the north by the land of Dorthy Salfner, to the east by the land of Nathaniel Nungazer, to the west by the land of the same Mathew Salfner. There was no south boundary listed in the deed. He sold the outhouses, houses, edifices, buildings, stable yards, and gardens. It seems highly unlikely that Nichols lived on this property regularly, if at all. It would have been a long journey to his work at the port daily.
When Thomas Jefferson and his great political rival John Adams both died within hours of one another on July 4, 1826, the city of Savannah declared a sixty day period of mourning. Citizens were to wear a band of crepe on the left arm for that period. On the "twenty-seventh day of July there was to be a day of public mourning declared," and all banks, stores, shops, and offices were to be closed. Guns were to be fired throughout the day, and the bells of the churches tolled. There was to be a great procession and the procession order called for the Republican Blues, followed by the Georgia Volunteers, the Savannah Volunteer Guards, the Georgia Hussars, the Chatham Artillery, and other military groups which were to be followed by a long list of city officials, clergy, various organizations, and Judges of various courts. Last in the procession Abraham Nichols was scheduled, leading Captains and officers of vessels in port, plus a unit of marines dressed in their blue jackets and white pants. The procession was obviously a great success because on the twenty-ninth of July there was a description of the events of the day published in the paper, stating that the event would "reflect the highest credit on our citizenry." It was described as a "grand event." Three columns were devoted to the description of the events of the day. Abraham was mentioned as a participant.

Abraham made at least one trip to New York during his residency in Savannah. He was listed as a passenger aboard the pilot boat Tattnall on October 2, 1827. It is quite easy to assume that he might have made these trips back to New Jersey to deal with the property he had in Newark.

Among his other jobs Nichols was an agent for R&J Bolton. During 1828 the following notice appeared, "Notice - All persons are forbid (sic) cutting
any trees, or shooting any deer on big Tybee Island as the law will be strictly put in." The notice is signed Abm Nichols, agent for R&J Bolton. 72

Another ad had him trying to rent a house on the "south commons" of Savannah, which had lately been occupied by a Mister John W. Stirk Esq., 73 but there is no record of a deed which would indicate that he owned the property, and he may have been acting as an agent for someone in this matter.

Some measure of his character and the trust people placed in him might be gleaned from the fact that one Alexander Bowman placed his property in trust to Abraham for the benefit of his wife and children. The property was on the northwest corner of lot four of Washington Ward. He was to manage the property for the benefit of Bowman's wife Hannah and her children. 74

Abraham Nichols died on State Street, Columbia Ward, Savannah, Georgia on February 6, 1829 at age 58. The record states that he was from New Jersey. 75 This age would have placed his date of birth sometime in 1771. Another source on his death simply listed the "customs house" as his employment. 76 The author could find no record which stated the cause of his death, or any record of his burial. All available Savannah cemetery records were checked throughly with no result, and there is no record of his being buried in Newark. Neither is there any record of his wife Ann's burial. One must assume that they are buried in some private cemetery in the area. 77 When he died he left three children seven and under.

George Nicoll Nichols was the oldest of the children. He was to become a prominent member of the Savannah community. He was a Savannah printer, and was noted for his assistance during the yellow fever epidemics of 1854 and 1876. He was a member of the Phoenix Riflemen before the Civil War.
During the War Between the States he was a printer for the Confederate government until he was transferred to the Quartermaster department. He was founder and director of the Citizens Mutual Loan Association, which later became known as the Citizens Bank. He was an alderman of Savannah from 1869-1871, and again from 1883-1891. He served in the state legislature from Chatham County in 1880 and 1881. He was born November 12, 1822 and died April 13, 1905. He was married first to Miss Maria E. Nungazer (a first cousin) on 9 May, 1848 by pastor N. Aldrich at Evangelical Lutheran Church, and after her death to Miss Mary Jane Mongin (b. 1839, d. 1921). Another source says only that he was a job printer and blank book manufacturer at 93 1/2 Bay Street, and resided at 110 Barnard Street.

Edward Holdridge (later Tatnall) Nichols was the second oldest of the children. Although I was unable to find hard evidence on it the author feels assured that both George and Edward became wards of Commodore Josiah Tatnall of Bonaventure plantation. This is stated in a genealogical chart prepared by Edith W. and T.R. Bainbridge in 1957 and revised in 1958. Another source states that Edward was the adopted son of Josiah Tatnall. The author was able to interview Mr. George T. (Tad) Nichols III, a great-great grandson of Abraham Nichols, who has a sincere interest in his family history, especially his namesake Edward Tatnall Nichols. He stated that he has evidence, although undocumented, that both sons were indeed adopted by Commodore Josiah Tatnall. Edward had a long and distinguished career in the United States Navy. Josiah Tatnall, his adopted father, joined the Navy of Georgia in 1861, but Edward remained with the Union, and was active in the Battle of New Orleans under Flag Officer D.G. Farragut who was commanding the Gulf Blockade Squadron West. Edward Nichols commanded
the U.S. Gunboat Winona at New Orleans, at Fort Jackson, and at Vicksburg. He was eventually promoted to the rank of Rear Admiral. In 1883 he was named Secretary of the Navy by President, Chester A. Arthur. Edward Tatnall Nichols died October 12, 1886 at Pomfret, Connecticut.

Abraham's third child was Catherine Ann. It is almost certain that Catherine became a ward of Mrs. Maria Pierce and Mrs. Eliza Osborn of Chatham County. In Abraham's last will and testament he left household items such as pitchers, plates, beds, bedding, carpets, and china to Catherine, and stated that they were, "for the comfort of my said daughter." He continued declaring that the women may do with them as they wish to further his daughter's comfort. A second bit of evidence pointing to Catherine as a ward of the above women is the 1830 Georgia census, which lists E. Osborn of Chatham County on the rolls. In the household are six males and five females, one of whom was five years of age, but not yet ten. This I believe to be Catherine. My interview with Mr. Nichols gave further evidence, in that he had papers, again undocumented, that agreed with the assumption that Catherine was indeed made a ward of Mrs. Pierce and Mrs. Osborn. On November 21, 1837 Catherine married William A. Lyons. They were married by Stephen Albion Mealy. Mealy was the pastor of Lutheran Church of Assension, Savannah Georgia.

Except for the items specifically given to Catherine Ann, all of Abraham's property, in Savannah or New Jersey, was to be divided equally among the three children. One revealing point in the will is that he states that he prohibits "under any circumstances the interference of any of my late wife's relations with my children or any part of my estate." This would certainly indicate a rift in the two families' relationship. John C. Nicoll and a
Nathaniel Olmstead were to be the executors of his estate. He left three slaves, Rose, Judy, and Louisa, or Lucy to the children. Abraham died with an estate which indicates that he was a moderately wealthy man for the period. In addition to the New Jersey property and his property in Savannah he had in the bank $1241.20, and other debts and money outstanding that brought his total cash on hand to $1414.20. He himself had several outstanding debts, amounting to $452.63. His balance was $951.60 to be divided among the children.

Abraham's estate was not completely settled until May, 1848. At that time a drawing was held by Nichols' three children for the slaves and their descendants that had been owned by Abraham. Edward and George each received two slaves valued at $125.00. Catherine drew the lot that "consisted of a negro girl by the name of Mary Margaret, and a boy by the name of William Ezekiel," valued at $700.00.

The question of the two acres that Nichols owned in New Jersey had not been settled as late as November 1837. At that time Catherine was preparing to marry William Lyons, and the property was placed in trust of one William Bee to sell for the Abraham's children.

There is some indication that Nichols was ill for some time before he died. During the April 1828 term of the Chatham County Grand Jury he was summoned to attend, but obviously failed to do so. Unless he could show "good and sufficient cause of excuse" he was to be fined forty dollars. It is hard to imagine someone who appears as civic minded as Nichols avoiding a civic duty. Additionally his will was dated July 15, 1828, six months before his actual death, and the tone of the will seems to indicate that he knew that he might soon die.
There is little doubt that Abraham Nichols had an impact on this community. He was in Savannah during an important time in its history. One can easily imagine that he was at the port when the Savannah departed this city on the first trans-Atlantic crossing by a steamship in 1819, or that he watched and possibly was involved when the great fire of 1820 ravaged the city. He was here to watch the rise of "king cotton" which in 1861 would play the major role in leading the nation into a bloody civil war. He, and men like him, contributed their efforts to make the city and the country what they were to become.
Notes

1 Ruby A. Rahn, River Highway for Trade the Savannah (Savannah: Corps of Engineers, 1968), p. 17.
5 Ibid, May 19, 1808, p. 3, col. 3.
7 Columbia Museum and Savannah Advertiser, Apr. 19, 1810, p. 2, col. 1.
8 New Jersey tax lists 1772-1829, p. 2397.
9 Chatham County Superior Court, Deed file 20291, 3 Jan. 1812.
10 Ibid.
11 Ibid.
13 Ibid.
14 Chatham County Superior Court, Deed file 20291, 3 Jan. 1812.
15 Chatham County Superior Court, Deed file 2158, 28 Nov. 1821.
16 New Jersey Tax Lists 1772-1829, p. 2397.
17 Republican and Savannah Evening Ledger, Nov. 26, 1811, p. 3, col. 1.


19 Republican and Savannah Evening Ledger, Nov. 30, 1811, p. 3, col. 3.

20 Gamble, p. 500.


22 Gamble, p. 100.

23 Jones, p. 333.

24 Gamble, pp. 100-103.


26 Republican and Savannah Evening Ledger, Nov. 26, 1811, p. 3, col. 1.


31 Gamble, p. 500.
Minutes of the Commissioners of Pilotage, Mar. 5, 1814, p. 360.


Rahn, p. 24.


Ibid, p. 11.


Gamble, pp. 118-119.

Ibid, p. 115.

The Georgian Apr. 15, 1823, p. 2, col. 3.


The Savannah Georgian, May 12, 1826, p. 2, col. 1.

Chatham County Tax Digest, 1816-1817.

Minutes of the Union Society, p. 59.


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Ibid, p. 5.


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Ibid, Judgement #4255, 4312, and 4297.

Savannah Georgian, Apr. 11, 1826, p. 2, col. 6.
66 Historical Collections of Georgia (New York: Putney and Russell, 1855), p. 49.


68 Chatham County Superior Court Records, Deed File 20 (Oscar) 319, 3 Jul. 1827.

69 Savannah Georgian, Jul. 22, 1826.


72 Ibid, Sep. 30, 1828, p. 3, col. 3.

73 The Savannah Republican, May 6, 1825, p. 2, col. 5.

74 Chatham County Superior Court Records, Deed file 460, 14 Jun. 1824.

75 Department of Health, Chatham County Georgia, death record Abraham Nichols.


77 (No direct source, the information is in the biographical file at Georgia Historical Society under Nichols, George N. with source of information).

78 Chatham County Probate Court Marriage Records, 1806-1851, p. 153.

79 Same as note #77.

80 Savannah City Directory 1871, p. 161.

82 Donald B. Sayner, The Battle of New Orleann (Tucson: Donald B. Sayner, 1976), preface.


84 Sayner, preface.
85 Ibid, p. 20.
86 Ibid, p. 20.
87 Ibid, p. 23.


90 Sayner, preface.

92 Will of Abraham Nichols. Chatham County Probate Court file #27, dtd. 20 Mar. 1829.

93 1830 Georgia Census, 1830, p. 252.

94 Interview E.T. Nichols

95 Chatham County Probate Court Marriage Records 1806-1851, p. 131.

96 Mildrid Gartelmann, A Compiled Chronological History of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Assension, Savannah,
Georgia (No publisher listed, private effort, not dated, available at Georgia Historical Society)

97 Abraham Nichols' will.
98 Ibid.
99 Ibid.
100 Inventory of estate, Abraham Nichols, File 27, Chatham County Probate Court.
101 Disposition of property Abraham Nichols, File 27, Chatham County Probate Court.
102 Chatham County Superior Court Record of Deeds, file 2D291.
104 Abraham Nichols will.
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*Last Will and Testament*

*Property Inventory*

*Property disposition*


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Mr. Art Wilson  
208 East Point Drive  
Savannah, Georgia 31410

Dear Mr. Wilson:

I'm afraid Abraham Nichols remains somewhat of an enigma, at least as far as his years in Newark go. I spent the better part of two days trying to "pin him down", but could find only one record (enclosed) which might refer to him. I attempted to find a family connection through the lines of Nichols who were active in early Newark, but he does not seem to be related to them. Nor could I find a marriage record, nor a burial record, or any record of him in the early genealogical publications. Tracing him through his business proved just as futile.

I am enclosing a copy of an 1806 map of Newark, showing some property lines. For Persa I would read Passaic, for there is no Persa river connected with this area. Note that house #5 (my arrow) is listed as "the old Ogden house", but does not define a specific property. Incidentally, on no maps of Newark, early or recent, could I find a street referred to as Dock St. Even the earliest Newark directory (1835) does not list one. I would be interested in the source your information - does it possibly provide any additional clues?

Without listing them individually, I can honestly state that we checked virtually every early source that we were able to - even early Newark town records, and newspaper abstracts. I'm sorry we cannot tell you more - and wish you good luck with your search!

Very truly yours,

Rosalind Libbey  
Reference Librarian