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ABSTRACT

John Reedy was born early in the 19th century in Ireland. He came to the United States in 1837 and to Savannah, Georgia shortly thereafter. He and his wife, Jane Sheahan, were the parents of four children. Mr. Reedy became a property owner in 1849; he was elected to his first political office as a Justice of the Peace in 1853. He remained active in politics until he was found guilty of malpractice of office in 1871. He died in 1882 and was buried in Catholic Cemetery. Surviving him were four children and numerous grandchildren. The last of the Reedys, Stella Mary Strong, died in 1974.
Preface

One often hears and reads today of the "good old days" when life supposedly was less complicated, less troubled, less uncertain, and far more simple. It is not uncommon to speak of the past as being "good" while the present more often has the opposite connotation. Because time has mellowed the traumatic moments of the past to give this rosy concept, it is wasted effort to remind those who believe this fallacy that those living in the past did not find life to be so simple, uncomplicated, nor less traumatic than it is presently.

A close examination of the lives of the John Reedy family, however, will give supporting evidence that life was just as difficult, if not more so, in the past as it is now. Unfortunately, the dead cannot speak to tell of their experiences. If so, then perhaps this paper would have been written more fully, more completely and with greater compassion. As it is, the paper is based entirely upon the few bits and pieces of evidence that they left behind as a record of their existence. Consisting mostly of documents of births, marriages, deaths, burials, property transactions, and judicial involvements, these documents have left only a cold, stark history of people who were neither cold nor stark. The reader, then, as has this writer, must depend upon speculation, assumption, and conjecture as to the sorrow, joy, fear, hurt, anger, disappointment, frustration, anticipation, love, hate and all the other various human emotions experienced by these people in the course of
the events of their lives.

It is only through such assumption that one can relate to John and Jane Meady in the joy experienced upon the birth of their first child, to the sorrow of Ellen Meady Dillon when she had to bury two daughters within 24 hours, to the humiliation felt by his family when John Meady was arrested and jailed for breach of the peace, to the remorse upon the declaration by a jury that declared him incompetent as a trustee for the property of his wife and children, and to the many other events that occurred in their lives—lives that were not so simple, so uncomplicated, and surely no less traumatic.

In addition, there is almost no evidence as to how these people felt about and reacted to the various social, political, and economic situations that existed locally and nationally during their lifetime: how they regarded slavery; whether they favored or opposed secession; their experiences during the Civil War, particularly their fear and anxiety as they awaited General Sherman's invasion in 1864; their experiences during the period of reconstruction. While these events affected them, at least indirectly, the only documentation is that previously mentioned. The reader, then, will better understand the problems of the family if imagination is used to place them in historical perspective.
JOHN REEDY AND FAMILY

In 1810 John Reedy was born in Tipperary, a county in Munster province in the south of Ireland known principally as an agricultural region. Nothing more is known of his childhood and early adulthood. For reasons also unknown and like so many thousands of his fellow Irishmen, he chose to leave his homeland, arriving in New York May 1, 1837. His arrival in Savannah as well as his reasons for selecting this southern town are uncertain; the first record of his residence in Savannah is December 26, 1841.

Prior to that date, John Reedy married Jane Shehan who was born in 1815 in Limerick, Ireland. The time and place of their marriage remain obscure. Perhaps they knew each other and married before leaving Ireland, as Limerick is only some 25 miles from Tipperary. Then again, they may have married after arriving in the United States, but there is no record of their marriage in Chatham County.

Only the barest of facts of their first years in Savannah were uncovered, but these were important years during which the family expanded and John became an American citizen and perhaps a respected and trusted member of society. As there was no property purchased prior to 1849 it is assumed that the Reedy's rented a dwelling or boarded during their first few years in Savannah.

On August 11, 1842, John was sworn in as an American citizen but there is an indication that his ties with his native Ireland were not entirely broken. On July 31, 1843, he made a $5.00 subscription
to the Irish Repeal association of Savannah. This was an organization composed of native Irishmen whose major goal was to obtain the repeal of the act of Union. By this law the British government had disposed of the home-rule Irish Parliament in an attempt to unite Great Britain under the rule of the singular British Parliament.

John Reedy's standing in the eyes of his community is indicated by his selection by Patrick Lee to act as trustee of the Lee's property for his wife Hannah Lee and their children in the event of Patrick's death. This deed of trusteeship was made June 2, 1848. However, Reedy never received the opportunity to demonstrate his trustworthiness in this act of faith because the Lees sold the property, thus releasing him of legal responsibility as of March 27, 1849.

The first of four, possibly five, children of John and Jane Reedy was Catherine, born December 29, 1841. A second daughter, Margaret Jane, made her appearance December 14, 1843. It was not until six and one-half years later that a son, Joseph Benedict, was born on March 21, 1850. And the last of the Reedy children, Annie Jane, was born February 19, 1853.

John during this time was earning a livelihood as a grocer. Whether he was self-employed or not could not be determined. However, in 1853 he ceased to be a grocer. Instead, he became a politician, earning his living thereafter, for the most part, either as an elected or appointed civil servant. His first office was that of Justice of the Peace of the 4th District to which he was elected January 3, 1853. He received the overwhelming majority of 338 of the 404 votes polled. His popularity may be attributed to the fact that he was a sergeant of the old city watch. This organization had been formed when Savannah was merely an
infant. It continued well into the 1850's until it was reorganized into a police department with salaried personnel to patrol both day and night. Until that time, the members of the city watch patrolled the streets of their ward after 9:00 pm. Their duties included lighting the street lamps, maintaining law and order, sounding the fire bells in case of fire, and reporting violators of the city ordinances to the Mayor who acted as judge when these cases were heard. The reporter received a percentage of the fines levied and this led to corruption which, in part, caused its demise. So perhaps on his nightly beat, John Reedy got to know and to be liked by the constituents in his district.

Evidence indicates that he held the office of Justice of the Peace for three years (1853-1856). In June 1855, and again on January 1, 1856, he advertised in the local paper that he was a candidate for the office of Receiver of Tax Returns and respectfully asked for support. He won the January 7, 1856 election beating out his closest opponent, 534 to 494. Apparently this was a county-wide office because he was thanked by the newspaper on July 29 for a list of the taxable property of Chatham County that amounted to $23,255,128. Reedy obviously enjoyed his work for on August 12, 1856, he advertised his candidacy for re-election as Receiver of Tax Returns. It was the sole political advertisement that appeared in that issue on the page containing news of the national presidential election campaign involving John C. Fremont and James Buchanan. Surely Reedy paid dearly for that placement!

Was Reedy re-elected? Yes, but not as Receiver of Tax Returns. He was re-elected as a Justice of the Peace of the 4th Militia Beat according to a Daily Morning News report on January 5, 1857. What became of his candidacy as Tax Receiver is not known. There is a possibility that he was more likely to win the election as Justice of the Peace than Tax Receiver
since the last election had been so close. However, there was no notice of a withdrawal nor an advertisement other than that previously mentioned. The newspaper probably used the term "re-elected" because he had held that office before and/or was in office at the time of the election.

Again it is assumed that he served as Justice of the Peace for the next three years; there were no items in the local newspapers of his candidacy or election during this period. His profession in the 1858 Savannah City Directory was that of Magistrate, a term often used interchangeably with Justice of the Peace. He was also listed in that publication among the officers of the city government as a magistrate in the 4th District, the Magistrate Courts having jurisdiction of $100 and under. Many of the cases he heard were included in the daily newspapers; often the offenders were fined and/or jailed while others were bound over to the higher Superior Court. Included also was a notice that he had married Miss Caroline Sheftall to Mr. William T. Reedy July 16, 1857. Reedy also added to his income during this time by performing the duties of a Notary Public advertising in the 1858 Savannah City Directory that his office was at 1 Price Street. In 1859 and 1860 it was located at 127 Bay Street.

As for his political affiliation, Reedy was first associated with the Whig Party. He was among the 21 appointed to a committee of that organization to report to the membership on the expediency of nominating Whig candidates for the 1854 municipal election and to select a ticket to run for Mayor and Aldermen if necessary. What his affiliation was after the demise of the Whigs is not known, but more than likely it was Democratic since no issue was made in the newspaper publication of his political advertisements and subsequent elections.
John Reedy was somewhat involved in the civil affairs of Savannah, serving on the local Board of Health in 1857. He was elected Vice-President of the Irish Union Society in March 1858. Also, he was an officer of the First Regiment, the Georgia Militia, presumably of some importance because in an election held in July 1856, held to fill the vacant office of Colonel of that regiment, Reedy, along with two fellow officers, publicly endorsed a candidate to fill the vacancy.

On the first Tuesday in January 1849, John Reedy made provision for his expanding family by purchasing at public auction for $2600 Lot 1 and 1/3 of Lot 2, Washington Ward from the Reverend Jeremimh F. O'Neill, the executor of the estate of the deceased James McDonald. This transaction was confirmed by deed on March 1, 1849:

... as the trustee of Jane Reedy, his wife and Catherine Reedy and Margaret Jane Reedy children of the said John Reedy and Jane Reedy now living and for such child or children the issue of John and Jane as may hereafter be born ... to have and to hold the said Lot Number One (No. 1) and one third of Lot Number Two Washington Ward ... and all and singular the rents issues and profits thereof and for the sole use, benefit and behoof of Jane Reedy ... for and during her natural life but in no way or manner to be subject to any of the debts contracts or liabilities of him the said John Reedy past present or future and from and immediately after the death of the said Jane Reedy to have and to hold the premises and improvements rents issues and profits, to and for the sole use benefit and behoof of such child or children the issue of the marriage of the said John Reedy and Jane Reedy as shall be living at the time of her death share and share alike if more than one; but if only one then for that one his or her heirs and assigns forever. ... It was apparent that Reedy was not a wealthy man for on that same day he mortgaged the property just purchased, not with one, but with two deeds of mortgage. The first, for $1100, was to Rev. Jeremiah F. O'Neill from whom he had just bought the property. The second, for $630, was to Michael Sheahan of Richmond County, Georgia. Because both these men played important roles in the life of John
Reedy, some explanation is warranted. Rev. O'Neill was the rector of the Catholic Church who had baptised the first three Reedy children. He was also the treasurer of the Irish Repeal association of which Reedy was a member. Michael Shehan was the brother of Jane Reedy. At his death on July 15, 1863, Shehan left the bulk of his estate to "my beloved sister Jane Reedy for kind services rendered to me ... and to my beloved nieces and nephew, children of John Reedy and Jane Sheahan...

His funeral invitation included Mr. and Mrs. John Reedy and it was held at the Reedy home.

The property Reedy purchased was included in a description of Washington Ward that appeared in the 1848 Savannah City Census:

Washington Ward was laid out soon after the revolution. Its square contains three-fourths of an acre and bears the same name, and has in its enclosure one engine house with engine No. 9 and other useful apparatus of the fire department, also a public cistern for its use.--population 422 whites, 223 colored. Number of dwellings houses 107, all of wood; number of stores 6, all of brick; private wells of water 5.

Washington Ward, Lot 1 and 1/3 of Lot 2, known then as 1 Price Street, located of the southeast corner of Price at Bay Street, definitely became the residence of the Ready family in 1850. Unfortunately the dwelling cannot be described since this site today is a vacant lot. However, from the description above it is assumed that it was a wooden-frame house. Hopefully it was a large house because at this time the Reedys earned extra income by boarding six additional adults making a total of eleven people residing at 1 Price.

Apparently his income was such that Reedy expanded his property interests by purchasing for $605 from the Mayor and City Aldermen of Savannah Lot 36, Crawford Ward on May 22, 1851. He paid twenty percent ($121) of the purchase price and agreed to pay $29.04 as annual ground
rent on the remaining balance of $484.00. Had he been financially able to purchase the property outright (or fee simple) he could have avoided this ground rent payment but apparently he was unable to so so.

In 1850 the southern boundary of Crawford Ward formed the city limits of the city of Savannah:

Laid out in 1843 and named after William H. Crawford, a distinguished son of Georgia, its square bears the same name and is contained in its three-quarters of an acre. Population 101 whites, 98 colored; Number of dwelling houses 38, of brick 3, of wood 35; private wells of water 5.

Lot 36 did not contain one of those 38 dwellings; it was a vacant lot when first purchased by Reedy, but he immediately proceeded to take steps to build on it. In order to obtain the necessary funds he mortgaged the property for $1,000 on December 2, 1851 to the Chatham Mutual Loan Association. Apparently this was insufficient for his needs; on February 20, 1852 Rev. Jeremiah F. O'Neill endorsed a note for $500 for Reedy. This note was transferred to the Savannah Institute for Savings as a secured deed of mortgage.

Still Reedy was in financial difficulty making it necessary to again mortgage 36 Crawford Ward, which he did with another deed of mortgage to the Chatham Mutual Loan Association on May 8, 1854 for an additional $1,000. Perhaps a portion of this sum was used to pay off the $1,000 mortgage held by Rev. O'Neill on the Washington Ward property, as it was marked cancelled and satisfied October 28, 1854.

The building that Reedy had constructed still stands at 505-507 East McDonough Street situated in the middle of the block between Price and Houston Streets. It is a large three-story wooden frame duplex, presently unoccupied. It is in very poor condition and for sale. Previous research reveals that this dwelling was built in 1851 on the eastern half of the
lot while the western portion remained vacant until long after Reedy had
sold the property; the present structures, at 501-503 East McDonough,
were not erected until 1873.⁶⁷

The Reedy family was living at the McDonough Street residence when
it was struck by lightning between one and two o'clock in the morning on
July 20, 1856:

... The fluid passed through the upper story of the eastern
end of the house adjoining Mr. Reedy's and thence through the
wall into the upper room of Mr. R's house. Its course after
that was down through the center of the building passing off
sparsely into the ground through the floor of the kitchen. The
plastering in and above the corner of the house was torn off in
every room. A small clock standing on the mantelpiece in the
basement was shivered to atoms. The eastern end of the house
adjoining Mr. R's was completely demolished.

A most remarkable circumstance is the fact that two little,
daughters of Mr. R's, asleep in the upper room through which the
lightning passed were uninjured. One of them lying on a mattress
upon the floor, had a table hurled by the shock directly over her
head, and yet escaped unhurt.

There were in the house fourteen persons, and it is almost
miraculous that all should have escaped unhurt. The shock was a
terrific one and was heard in several parts of the city. Directly
after the rain poured down in torrents.⁶⁸

From this description it is obvious that the residence was unfit for
human habitation making it necessary for the Reedys to seek other accom-
modations. Even at the time of the storm Mr. Reedy did not own the prop-
erty, having sold it three month previous, as will be subsequently explained.
The Reedy address in 1858 was 16 State Street⁶⁹ and it all probability they
also lived there the next year when their address was the "cor of State and
Houston."⁷⁰ However, the family probably moved back to the McDonough
Street house when Reedy regained the property, because their address in
1860 was the "S & cor Price and McDonough."⁷¹ It is assumed that this
remained their home for the next three years.⁷²

On April 11, 1856 Lot 36, Crawford Ward was sold by Reedy to Michael
Sheahan for $4,000 in a warranty deed. However, the transaction was complicated when on that same date Sheahan mortgaged the property to Ready for $2,437.48 with a purchase money security interest deed. Shortly thereafter on April 16, 1856 the $630 mortgage deed held by Sheahan on Lot 1 and 1/3 of Lot 2, Washington Ward was marked "canceled and fully satisfied," the likelihood being that some of the funds from the sale of 36 Crawford Ward was used for this purpose.

Sheahan and Ready continued their real estate involvements with Sheahan paying off the mortgage held by Ready on 36 Crawford as of October 19, 1857, thus giving Sheahan clear title to that property. However, his clear ownership was short-lived; he mortgaged it for $2,601.11 July 6, 1859 to Ready as "trustee for Jane Ready" with Ready holding a promissory note for that amount, with the stipulation that if Sheahan paid the note by September 1, 1859, the sale would be null and void. Sheahan did not pay the note, in fact he again mortgaged the property, first to Thomas Daniels for $1,849 on May 3, 1861 and again to John Greavor for $2,000 on January 13, 1863. Presumably, he used this second mortgage to pay off the first for it was marked "canceled and satisfied" on that same date. In the meantime Ready took the necessary steps of foreclosure. As trustee of Jane he petitioned the Superior Court, which in a temporary order (Rule Nisi) May 31, 1860 ordered Sheahan to pay into that Court on or before the first day of the next term of court the principal and interest due on the promissory note and mortgages and the cash of that application. If he failed to do so then the property would be foreclosed. It was further ordered that a copy of this order be published once a month for four months in a public gazette or that Sheahan or his special agent or attorney be served with a copy of the order at least
three months prior to the date of requested payment.\textsuperscript{81}

Shehan did not make the payment; on January 14, 1861, the rule nisi was made absolute when Reedy, as trustee for Jane, appeared before the Court, which ordered the property foreclosed and allowed Reedy, as trustee, judgment against Sheahan for the sum of $2,601.41 plus interest in addition to the costs of foreclosure in the amount of $8.25 as well as attorney's fees. It furthered ordered that the property be sold "as is prescribed in cases of execution and that such further and other proceedings take place as are forescribed by the laws of Georgia, in such case made and provided."\textsuperscript{82}

In conjunction with this property, Reedy paid off the two mortgages, each in the amount of $1,000; both were held by the Chatham Mutual Loan Association on 36 Crawford Ward. Each deed was marked "cancelled and satisfied" July 9, 1860.\textsuperscript{83}

The legal action taken on the court order regarding the sale of 36 Crawford Ward was not clear. Presumably, Reedy did not press the issue since there was no deed of sale as there should have been even in a foreclosure sale.\textsuperscript{84} And, as previously mentioned, Sheahan mortgaged the property twice after the foreclosure proceedings had begun, the latter of these two mortgages transacted more than two years after the Court had ordered it to be sold. Perhaps the matter was settled when Reedy sold 36 Crawford Ward to Sheahan for $4,000 on March 18, 1863.\textsuperscript{85} It must be noted, however, that no mention was made in this warranty deed that John had owned the property as trustee for Jane. Legally, he should have petitioned the Court for permission to sell it. Had he done so he would have been instructed to reinvest the proceeds in the best interest of the trust. Maybe this was not done because Sheahan had an anxious buyer; he
sold the lot to Winifred Maher for $5,000 the same day he had purchased it from Reedy. 86

On paper Shehan was a wealthy man and probably had the time and circumstances been otherwise he may have been wealthy in reality. When he died on July 15, 1863, he was under the impression that his sister Jane and her children would be well provided for according to the terms of the will he had written May 22. He did not know then that the Confederacy was doomed and that the value of his estate, which consisted almost entirely of land holding in six southwestern Georgia counties, would depreciate to be practically worthless. By the terms of the will he ordered that his lands be sold to the best advantage with the proceeds distributed to provide Jane Reedy $10,000 and to her four children $5,000 each; another $6,000 was delegated to specific Catholic organizations, with the remainder to be shared by these same and other Catholic organizations. He did not name an executor. 87 The administration of the estate dragged on for the next six years running into one problem after another. The estate was appraised in 1864 at more than $28,000 but when it was finally settled and disposed of in 1869, the estate netted only $1,385.45. 88 Of this amount Jane and the children probably received very little, if any. However, one of the purchasers of the property in Mitchell, Miller, and Decatur Counties was John A. Power 89 who had married Catherine Reedy in 1867. 90

Be that as it may, Reedy, as trustee of Jane and their children, petitioned the Superior Court for permission to sell Washington Ward Lots 1 and 1/3 of 2. This was granted March 20, 1863. The judge ordered that the funds from the sale be invested in "Confederate bonds, securities, or in such other property as shall seem to him most conducive to the interests
of the trust estate, the same to be held by him upon the same uses and trusts and for the purposes mentioned in the deed of trust in the foregoing petition mentioned and set forth. . . ."91

Four days later, March 24, 1863, John Reedy as trustee for Jane and children sold the Washington Ward lots to Issac D. LaRoche for $10,000 with a warranty deed that virtually repeated the above court order.92

Shortly thereafter on April 17, 1863, Reedy purchased from Anna Elizabeth Mayer and her husband—Trustee John A. Mayer—Lot 17, Washington Ward for $6,000. It is assumed that he used a portion of the $14,000 he had received from the two recent sales to make this purchase. The transaction was made in trust

... to the sole use, benefit and behoof of Jane Reedy... for and during the term of her natural life, not subject to the debts contracts or liabilities of the said John Reedy, or of any future husband with whom the said Jane Reedy may intermarry and from and immediately after the death of the said John Reedy and Jane Reedy for the sole separate use benefit and behoof of the said Ann Reedy not subject in any manner to the debts contracts or liabilities of any husband with whom the said Ann Reedy may intermarry. And it is mutually covenanted understood and agreed upon by and between the parties of to these presents. That it shall and may be lawful for the said John Reedy... Trustee... or his successors in the trust at any time upon the written consent of the said Jane Reedy or after her death of the said Ann Reedy, to mortgage pledge sell or convey any or all of the property herein described and hereby conveyed reinvesting however the proceeds arising from such sale, pledge, or mortgage upon the uses and trusts and for the purposes herein mentioned and upon none other...93

With this deed thus worded it was unnecessary for Reedy to petition the Court for authority to dispose of this property as he had had to do with Lot 1 and 1/3 of Lot 2.

Lot 17, located at the northeast corner of Price and St. Julian Streets, is bordered on the north by Bryan Street and on the east by Lot 18. These are the only two lots in that block as Washington Square is situated on their east. At the time of the Reedy purchase, the property
consisted of two clapboard frame dwellings. Previous research reveals that the small cottage-type house presently located at 510 East St. Julian Street may have been built between 1797 and 1800 while the other at 504 East St. Julian was probably constructed about 1841.\footnote{94} Today, these two, as so many others in Savannah's historic district, have been beautifully restored. The Keedy family resided in the larger house on the corner while renting out the other.\footnote{95}

What of Keedy during the years of the Civil War? The record here is sketchy revealing only minimal information. As previously mentioned he was a member of the Georgia Militia. In an election held September 12, 1861, at the office of Justice John Vaughn, he was elected a captain of Company G of the Georgia Militia.\footnote{96} The next year, on March 9, 1862, he was drafted along with many others into Confederate services, according to special orders from the First Regiment of the Georgia Militia.\footnote{97} Whether or not he was judged fit for active military duty was not certain; however, in early August, 1863, he was one of several men appointed to a committee to organize the arms-bearing residents of the Third and Fourth Militia Peats of Savannah.\footnote{98} This appointment seems to indicate that Keedy remained a civilian; there were no additional clues as to his activities nor occupation for the remainder of the war.\footnote{99}

In the first year after the war, Keedy worked as a laborer while residing on the northeast corner of St. Julian and Price Streets.\footnote{100} Presumably the role of laborer did not suit him. In an advertisement he announced his candidacy for the office of coroner of Chatham County through the \textit{Daily News Herald} July 20, 1866. He was not elected even though he was endorsed by "A Voter" according to a letter to the editor on August 16. The letter writer stated that Keedy had been a faithful
and efficient Justice of the Peace and it was hoped that the citizens would show their appreciation by giving him an opportunity to serve them as coroner. 101

Also in 1866 Reedy’s second daughter, Margaret Jane, became the first of the Reedy children to marry. On November 25, she married John H. Strous. 102 Six months later Kate (Catherine) Reedy married John A Power on May 25, 1867. 103

In the meantime Reedy re-entered the world of civil service; he was appointed a bailiff by Judge Chisholm in early January, 1867. 104 Apparently he was dissatisfied with that position, because the next month on February 13, he sought office as Justice of the Peace in an election held at the Washington Fire Department. He was defeated by seven votes. 105 This loss, however, did not deter him. In an October, 1868 newspaper article, he was listed among the candidates for the office of magistrate of the 4th District. This election was to be held the following January for one Justice of the Peace and two county constables in each Militia District. 106 Even though no election results appeared in the newspaper regarding the outcome of his election, it is assumed that he was elected since the November 8, 1869 newspaper referred to him as Justice Reedy. 108

This article also showed some of the political turmoil in which Savannah was caught during the time of Reconstruction. According to the news item headline “Who Are Justices of the Peace?”, Justice Reedy had issued a warrant for the arrest of Robert Charlton, a Negro, charging him with cheating and swindling. When the case was heard, a J. H. Thomas acted as counsel for the defendant, arguing that Justice Reedy had no jurisdiction in the case, since there were two justices of the peace in the 4th Militia District, one having been elected by the people and the
other appointed by the governor. The gubernatorial appointment had been made according to the provisions of the newly written state constitution. The article went on to say that the case would be made a test case that would be carried to the Superior Court. Unfortunately the outcome of this case and its interesting circumstance could not be ascertained because there was no follow-up to it in the newspapers and no record of it in any of the court records.

Reedy once again became an authorized Notary Public receiving his commission from the Court of the Ordinary on July 11, 1869. His political association at this time was with the white wing of the Radical Party. As a representative of the Judiciary John Reedy attended a meeting held by the "lights" of this organization, September 3, 1869, "to take into consideration the political position and to discuss the candidates for the various offices in the upcoming election."

As before, a few of the cases that came before Justice Reedy were reported in the local newspaper. One involved the hearing of Peter Ford who was charged with the murder of a Negro, Anthony Gordon. Another, in September 1870, was an interesting case in which a Boston Brig, the Mystic, loaded with mahogany from Mexico and bound for England, had dropped anchor near Tybee on the pretense of being short of water and provisions. The sailors aboard her filed an affidavit stating that they be discharged from her service as she was unseaworthy. Justices Reedy and Oliveira acted as a court of inquiry hearing arguments of both sides; they determined from the evidence that the vessel was indeed unseaworthy. They ordered that the seamen be discharged with pay and that the costs of the hearing be paid by the vessel unless the captain should submit the ship to a survey by the port warden of the City of Savannah. If the survey proved
the vessel sound, then the sailors would be required to continue the voyage as well as pay the court costs. In a follow-up to the article it was reported the next day that the seamen had been paid off and had received their final discharge.

News reports of Keedy appeared in the following year; however, they were of his activities as the offender, rather than the enforcer, of the law. The first of these articles, entitled, "ILLEGAL ARRESTS," and sub-titled, "Unjust and Unlawful Conduct on the Part of Officers of the Law," was published on March 10, 1871, as follows:

Yesterday morning Solicitor General A. B. Smith had an examination of the conduct of an ex-officio Justice of the Peace, John Keedy, and his constable in causing to be brought before him four negroes but just arrived from Tattnall County with a raft of timber and having money in their possession, and upon the oath of Julia Wallace, charging them with a crime unknown to the law of Georgia, viz: "False accusation." The said Keedy required each one of the negroes to pay to him the sum of five dollars and to enter into bond of fifty dollars each for their appearance at the March term of the City Court each one of the negroes signing the bond of the other. Finding themselves the unfortunate victims of the parties who arrested them, they looked around them for information and assistance, and in their extremity they were sent up to Solicitor General Smith, who readily and willingly came to their assistance, and called on the Justice for an explanation of the case and for the papers. He told the Major that the constable had them, and on going to the constable, he said he knew nothing about them, that the Justice had them. And in this way they attempted to evade the Solicitor and throw him off the track, but he was not to be so easily foiled, and informed those worthy officials that if they did not have the papers in his office on the next morning at 9 o'clock, that he would have them put in jail, if he possibly could. Intimidated by this threat, they appeared in the Solicitor General's office yesterday morning at the time required, and quite an exciting scene occurred, the Justice attempting to throw the responsibility on the constable who was loin to make any disclosure at all, and it was with the utmost effort that Maj. Smith compelled them to disgorge about fifteen of the twenty dollars which they mulcted out of the poor darkies, which amount he immediately returned to the lawful owners, and informed the gentlemen of the law that he would reinstate proceedings against them for malpractice in office, and he thinks that he has a good and plain case against them. He also had warrants issued against the woman, Julia Wallace, and on default of two thousand dollars bond, over and above the homestead and all other exemptions she was sent to
jail to answer at the next term of the Superior Court of Chatham County, the charges of perjury and robbery. The names of the negro men thus victimized are George Amos and Aberdeen Easton and Peter Patterson, and the whole case arose out of a disposition on the part of certain notorious tenants of that exceedingly notorious locality known as Canuet's Row. Julia Wallace and Lizzie Young, two enterprising negro wenches, who finding these ignorant fresh arrivals, like lambs, had strayed unwittingly into the lion's den, and that they had money about their persons, devised a plan of relieving them of some, and they seized one of the boys, and pulled his money from his pants pocket. Not happening to be of the same opinion as Shakespeare in regard to the matter, and considering the "trash" as really worthy of his efforts to recover it, he made known his grievances to city authorities, and our readers already are informed as to the fate of Lizzie Young, who is comfortably provided for at Mr. Russell's boarding house. Her partner in crime, Julia Wallace, indignant at the manner in which "dese country niggers" had treated her friend and accomplice, carried her complaint to a magistrate appointed by Bullock. Reedy, who learned in the technicalities of the law, and catching instinctively the smell of green backs, explained to the offended Julia that her case was one of "false accusation," and thereupon he issued his warrant and the result, so far, is before our readers. The case will undergo a thorough investigation before the proper Court. Solicitor Smith deserves much credit for the prompt and efficient manner in which he protected the rights of these helpless colored men, and they as well as the community should feel thankful that they are fortunate enough to have in the position of Solicitor General a man who knows his duty and dares to discharge it.  

The reference to Lizzie Young was to her conviction the previous day of larceny for which she was fined fifty dollars or six months imprisonment. Mr. Russell's boarding house was the City Jail; Mr. Russell was the Justice of the Peace under whose warrant she had been arrested.

On May 16, 1871 the Grand Jury returned a true bill of indictment against Reedy. Two days later, in the State vs. John Reedy, he pleaded not guilty to the charge of malpractice in office and "put himself upon country." Reedy was defended by Judge P. N. Russell, his fellow Justice of the Peace, and Captain J. H. Thomas. John Reedy was found guilty by the jury which recommended him to the mercy of the Court. Whether he received that mercy and what his sentence was remains unknown; only the briefest court records exist and they give no clue as to what presiding
Judge Schley decided as to his punishment. It is assumed that it was a light, or even a suspended, sentence since there is subsequent evidence of Reedy's continuance in Savannah. In her case, Julia Wallaxw was found not guilty; the constable, F. A. Camust, who had been charged with extortion, was found guilty and also recommended to the mercy of the Court. Solicitor General Alfred B. Smith prosecuted all three cases for the State.\textsuperscript{120} John Reedy was apparently dissatisfied with the outcome of his case; he entered a motion for a new trial which was granted by Judge Schley on September 2, 1871.\textsuperscript{121} However, careful scrutiny of the court records did not reveal any record of a new trial in this matter. He may have been persuaded by his attorneys and acquaintances not to pursue a new trial for by this time, defendant Reedy was no stranger to the courts of Chatham County.

As early as January, 1852 the Grand Jury had indicted him for assault with intent to murder.\textsuperscript{122} The case of \textit{State vs. John Reedy} was continued at the request of the defendant on January 26, 1852.\textsuperscript{123} The trial was continued again on May 17, 1852 at the request of the State;\textsuperscript{124} but in this instance, John Reedy, through his counsel, William B. Gaulden, demanded a trial since a competent and lawful jury had been impenelbled to try him.\textsuperscript{125} On January 25, 1853 the State continued the case once more.\textsuperscript{126} Finally on May 16, 1853 the case of \textit{State vs. John Reedy} was dismissed and the charges against him dropped.\textsuperscript{127} None of the court records indicate any of the details of this case: whom he allegedly assaulted, when or where or the reasons for the dismissal. It should be remember, however, that it was during this period of time that Reedy was elected to his first public office. Perhaps the notoriety, even though there was no newspaper coverage, won him the landslide vote that swept him into office.

Reedy, perhaps unwittingly, made himself a defendant in the next case
in which he was involved. On August 6, 1866 he, along with John McGowan and John Tearney, posted a recognizance bond of $4,000 with McGowan being responsible for $2,000 of it and Reedy and Tearney the remaining $2,000. The bond was to be forfeited if McGowan failed to appear at the next term of the Superior Court to answer the charge of larceny. McGowan did not appear for his trial on February 20, 1867. The Court ordered the bond be forfeited unless the defendant appeared at the next term of the court on January 13, 1868. A copy of this court order was served on Reedy and Tearney, but McGowan was not to be found. On February 7, 1868 a jury decided for the plaintiff (the State of Georgia with Solicitor General A.B. Smith acting as prosecutor) against Reedy and Tearney in the sum of $2,000 plus court costs of $14.25.128

The last court appearance of Reedy as defendant was that of Jane Reedy, et al vs. John Reedy on August 17, 1871. But by no means was this the first time that he had been to court over the issues involved in the final adjudication of this case. Court records that were collectively recorded in conjunction with this trial revealed a history of more than four years of legal procedures involving Reedy and various members of his family.

The first of these procedures was a bill on September 23, 1867 that was submitted to Superior Court Judge William B. Fleming by Margaret Reedy's new husband, John H. Strous who acted as the "next friend" of Jane and Ann Reedy. The bill of complaint explained how Lot 17, Washington Ward had been purchased by Reedy as trustee and the legal requirements of that trusteeship. A copy of a portion of the deed pertaining to the purchase and trusteeship was attached to the bill as "Exhibit A." The complaint explained that the Reedy family occupied one of the houses
on the lot while renting out the other, using the rental income for the support of Jane and the children; but that John, forgetful of his duties as husband and trustee, had violated the trusteeship by

1. treating Jane so cruelly that she was compelled to leave him and take shelter elsewhere in order to prevent bodily harm to herself at his hands;

2. for a long time John had been indulging in the use of intoxicating liquors to excess and still continued to do so;

3. all money in his possession he squandered and spent in drinking and gaming;

4. the course of vice in which he engaged wholly unfitted him for business or the care and control of money or property;

5. she and the children were entirely dependent upon the rental income and their own labor for support because John was insolvent and for years earned nothing for their support;

6. without her consent he had taken control of both houses applying the proceeds to himself while depriving Jane of her right to it.

The bill went on to state that the income from the property was unsafe in the hands and control of Reedy but that he could not be compelled to give it up by a court judgement on his property because of his insolvency. It asked (1) that an injunction be granted restraining him from the collection of the rental income and from the management and control of the property; (2) that the Court appoint a receiver to take possession and control of the property and apply its income according to the terms of the trust until further Court orders were made; (3) that Reedy be removed as trustee and that some fit and proper person be appointed in his stead; (4) that Jane and Ann be granted "any and further relief in the premises"
that the judge deemed agreeable to equity and good conscience; (5) and, finally, that Reedy be served a subpoena for a court appearance to answer the charges made against him in the bill and to be required to abide by any further court orders.\textsuperscript{129}

Attached to the complaint was an order of injunction submitted by the plaintiff's attorney that required Reedy to appear before the judge the following January 13, 1868 to answer the charges and to abide by the orders of the Court. If he failed to do so he was to be fined $500.\textsuperscript{130}

Judge Fleming granted the injunction; it restrained Reedy from controlling and managing the property and from collecting and receiving its rent and income. He was also ordered to come before the Court on October 1, 1867 to show cause as to why a receiver should not be appointed as requested to act until the Court ruled further on the matter.\textsuperscript{131}

Sheriff Benjamin L. Cole personally delivered a copy of the court order to Reedy on September 24 according to his written oath included in the court records.\textsuperscript{132}

Did Reedy keep his appointment with the judge on October 1? That question cannot be answered; the court records only indicate that a receiver, Matthew Spain Verdery, was appointed by Judge Fleming on October 7. Two days later, on October 9, Verdery, as principal and John H. Strous as security, posted a $1,500 security bond.\textsuperscript{133}

The duties of the Receiver were not too well taken by Reedy. He refused to vacate the portion of one of the buildings of which he was in possession and he refused to deliver its control to Verdery. A bill of complaint was filed with Judge Fleming by the Receiver through his attorney requesting that Reedy be "attached" for contempt of court.\textsuperscript{134} On December 10, Judge Fleming issued a rule nisi from his chambers that required Reedy
to appear before him on December 16 to show cause as to why an attachment
against him should not be issued. A copy of the rule nisi, dated
December 14, 1867, was served on Heedy on that date according to the
sworn statement of the county sheriff.

As before, it is not known whether Heedy made his required appearance
on December 16 or not. The court records have a lapse of more than four
years with no new legal activities recorded until 1871. However, John
Heedy was arrested for committing a breach of the peace on February 22,
1868. He remained jailed for three days. He was released on February 24
after a Superior Court appearance before Judge Fleming in which he was
required to enter into a $200 bond to keep peace for six months. Spec-
ulation alone offers an explanation of the circumstances of his arrest.
Perhaps he was involved in a fracas with John McGowan over the loss of
the $2,000 bond that he and John Learney had been forced to forfeit just
two weeks before. But, then again, he may have taken his wrath out upon
his son-in-law, John H. Strous, for causing his recent displeasure with
the law. Or, simply, he may have been merely drunk and disorderly since
the court records indicated that he was constantly in a state of intox-
ication.

It was not until July 20, 1871 that Heedy finally answered the charges
filed against him by his family. This was accomplished in a legal dispos-
ition that was part of the court records. In it he stated:

1. that Exhibit A showed only a portion of the deed used to purchase
   Lot 17, and he demanded that the original be produced so that the
   other portions and clauses could be shown;

2. that the deed was written and executed contrary to his wishes
   and agreement;
3. that the portion of the deed pertaining to the trust was prepared and executed contrary to his wishes, his agreement and against his understanding;

4. that he never consented to or knew that the deed gave him no interest in the property;

5. his emphatic denial of any cruel treatment of his wife Jane and he avowed that he had discharged all duties and pursued a course of conduct incumbent upon him as her husband;

6. that Jane was not forced to leave him as charged; instead she left him because of the instigation of other persons who sought to make discord between them;

7. his denial of the use, then or in the past, of intoxicating drink to excess nor had he squandered the income from the property on himself for liquor;

8. that the income from the estate had been used to support Jane and the children and that he had added to their support by his own labor and earnings;

9. by the terms of the deed he was entitled to the control of the property—that he had strictly applied its proceeds to the use and benefit of its beneficiaries.

In conclusion Reedy denied all "fraud combinations" and asked to be discharged from the Court as entered by his attorneys, Hartridge and Chisholm.139

Discharged he was but not in the manner he had requested. The case was heard and submitted to a jury on August 17, 1871 in Superior Court with Judge Schley presiding.140 The jury found that "John Reedy was not a fit nor proper person to act as trustee for the property."141
On August 22, 1871, Judge Schley issued an order and decree that removed John Reedy was trustee of lot 17, Washington Ward and in his stead appointed his son, Joseph H. Reedy. Matthew Spain Verdery was ordered to give account to the new trustee and thereafter to be discharged from his duties as the court appointed receiver. John Reedy was ordered to pay the costs of the case. 142

There is very little known of the remaining eleven years of John Reedy's life. The malpractice and incompetency trials, occurring only three months apart, appear to have marked the end of the social, political, and family influences that he had exerted for so long. That these humiliating experiences resulted from his own weaknesses and folly was probably of little consolation as he spent the last years, old, getting older, presumably estranged from the members of his immediate family.

That assumption is not so presumptuous if a careful examination is given to the evidence on which it is based. According to the Savannah City Directories of 1867, 1870, 1871, and 1874-75, the residence of John Reedy was 32 St. Julian Street. 143 Thus it appears that his family did not force his eviction as it had the legal recourse to do, particularly after the 1871 competency trial. Perhaps the fact that Ellen Hogan, believed to be John Reedy's sister, had moved in with him caused his family to delay their eviction proceedings.

There are many bits of information that link Mrs. Hogan and John Reedy as siblings. First, like him, she was born, according to the various federal censuses, in Ireland except that she was one year older. 144 Her maiden name, Reedy, was recorded in the Cathedral baptismal and marriage records and on the marriage license of her second marriage. She and her first husband, Phillip Dillon, who was born in Tipperary, circa 1802, came
to Savannah from Ireland, circa 1847. They brought their four children, Ellen Mary, John P., James, and Patrick with them. A fifth child, Margaret Jane, was born in Savannah on March 28, 1849. Baptized by the Reverend J. F. O'Neil the next day, she was sponsored by Denis Ryan and Johanna Reedy who is also believed to be a sister to Allen and John. Little Margaret Jane Dillon, however, lived only five days; she died of spasms on April 3. At that time the family lived on Habersham Street in Warren Ward.

In the 1849 Savannah City Directory, Mrs. Phillip Dillon was listed as a midwife at 116 State St. E. The next year she was listed as Mrs. Allen Dillon, Midwife, 38 Bryan Street. In 1850 another daughter, Catherine, was born. The following four years of Allen Reedy's life were marked with tragedy. Her son, James, died September 4, 1853, at the age of ten. There was no cause of death given on his death certificate. He was buried in the then recently opened Catholic Cemetery but the site of his burial remains unknown. Less than a year later Allen lost her husband when he died of bilious fever at the age of 52 on August 16, 1854. Perhaps it was on the occasion of his death that she purchased Section B, Lot 12 in Catholic Cemetery, where she buried him as she would bury so many others of her family. Death continued to stalk her; only nine months later it took both her daughters within 24 hours of each other. Ellen Mary, 18, died of scarlet fever on May 3 and her baby sister, Catherine, 5, died May 4, 1855, of spasms. Invitations to their separate funerals, each held on the day of death of each and at the home of their mother on Broughton Street across from the Marshall House Hotel, included "the friends and acquaintances of Mrs. Allen Dillon, and of Mr. John Reedy." Their mother buried them beside their father in Catholic Cemetery.

Hopefully, the tragedy of all those deaths was somewhat abated when
she married Michael Hogan on April 16, 1856. One of the two witnesses to the ceremony performed by Father James Parry was Margaret Hoar (Hore), who, according to the 1880 Federal Census was John Reedy's sister. The residence of the newly married couple could not be determined exactly because the 1858 City Directory listed two Michael Hogans, one at 10 St. Julian Street and the other at 109 Broughton Street. The latter was probably the correct address since it correlates with the former Mrs. Dillon's address at the time of her daughters' deaths. The Hogans were not listed in the 1859 nor 1860 Directories.

Death again struck Ellen Reedy Hogan after a six year abstention. This time it took young Patrick. Sixteen years old, he died of convulsive fever on June 16, 1861. The funeral invitation indicated that his mother lived on the corner of St. Julian and Price Streets. This house, located on the northwest corner, would come to be across the street from the house of the John Reedy family when it was purchased by her brother two years later. Patrick Dillon was laid to rest in Catholic Cemetery near his father and sisters. The following year Ellen Hogan was widowed a second time with the death of her husband. Michael Hogan died of pneumonia April 13, 1862. He was buried in a single grave in Section D, Lot 29 across from the Dillon gravesites.

The following year John Reedy purchased Lot 17, Washington Ward and he, Jane and their four children moved into the house on the corner, opposite from Ellen Hogan. Only she and the surviving child, John P., remained of her immediate family. He was in his twenties during the Civil War and most likely, he was a member of the Confederate forces. If so, how his mother must have prayed for his safe return. Return he did and within a year of the war's end, he married Anna Burke on February 6,
How happy Ellen must have been upon the birth of her grandchild, Philip Dillon, almost ten months later on December 1, 1866. John F. Dillon and his family lived with his mother on the northwest corner of St. Julian and Price Streets in 1867 while he earned his living as a printer. How long they continued with these living arrangements is not known, but it should be recalled that Jane Meedy left her husband sometime shortly before March 23, 1867. Mrs. Hogan moved across the street to 32 St. Julian after that because that was her address in her advertisement as a midwife in the September 23, 1869 edition of the Savannah Morning News, perhaps her move was an economically expedient one; or a benevolent one. More than likely, it was a combination. The 1870 federal census taker recorded John Meedy and Ellen Hogan at the same address, he as Justice of the Peace and she as keeping house. According to the 1870-75 Savannah City Directory their address remained 32 St. Julian Street.

It is believed that Ellen's son spent his last years with his mother. She had to bury him, too, when he died of consumption (tuberculosis) on October 7, 1873, at the age of 35. His illness may account for the fact that there were no separate listings for him in the City Directories after 1867. His death certificate gave his address as Price and St. Julian streets; therefore, it cannot be determined if he had remained in the house on the northwest corner or moved with her into the house of John Meedy on the northeast corner. John F. Dillon was buried by his mother near her other loved ones. She was to soon join them.

Ellen Hogan moved from 32 St. Julian Street to the corner of Bryan and Abernathy Streets some time before April, 1875. This corner, 48 Bryan Street, was located across the street from Meedy's daughter and
son-in-law, Margaret and John H. Strouss, who were living with John H.'s mother, Mrs. Clara Strouss, at 50 Bryan Street. Since John Reedy's address in the 1877 City Directory was 48 Bryan Street, it is assumed that he moved with Ellen Hogan into the new residence. Whether they were forcibly evicted or moved of their own accord is not known. Possibly his family had not forced him to move earlier because of their concern for Ellen; she had suffered so much already.

Ellen Reedy Dillon Hogan died April 26, 1875, of chronic bronchitis, at the age of 66. The funeral invitation included the friends and acquaintances of her family and those of John Reedy and family. Finally she was laid to rest near her children and her first husband. In death, as in her later life, she attempted to care for her brother, leaving him the bulk of her meager estate. To Reedy she left the $405.00 cash in her bank account and to "John Reedy and sister, Mrs. Tahey" her worldly goods that consisted of household furnishings that were appraised at $50.00. To her grandson Philip she bequeathed the five shares of stock she owned as well as a bookcase that had belonged to his father.

So, the circumstantial evidence leans heavily towards Ellen Hogan and John Reedy being brother and sister. As stated previously, there may have been other siblings in this family. One of these could have been Mary S. Reedy who married Denis Ryan on May 11, 1847. When Mr. Ryan died February 17, 1671, the friends and acquaintances of John Reedy were included in the funeral invitation as they were also when Mrs. Ryan's son, Francis, died on February 13, 1850. Also included in that latter invitation was James Dea who married Johanna Reedy October 16, 1850. One of the Reedy "boarders" of the 1850 Federal Census was an Irishman, James Dea, who may very well have been this man. John Reedy was included in the invitation
to Johanna Dee's funeral in 1879. Both Mr. and Mrs. Dee were buried in Ellen Hogan's cemetery plot as was Margaret Hoar in 1893. But insufficient clues were left behind that made it impossible to pinpoint the Mrs. Pahey of Ellen Hogan's will. She may have been Mrs. Bridget Pahey who boarded at 32 St. Julian Street in 1880 and in 1881. If not, the coincidence is amazing.

And what was John Reedy doing other than attending all of these funerals? He still had political aspirations. Even though he was not re-elected to any office after his trials, he campaigned for the office of County Coroner in both 1877 and 1879. He was one of four who sought the office of Justice of Peace of the 4th Militia District in a campaign advertisement in November, 1880, but withdrew his name in an announcement in the Savannah Morning News on the morning of the election. The voters were asked to support the only other Caucasian of the four.

The evidence is quite conclusive that Jane and John Reedy remained separated after March, 1867. She never again lived at 32 St. Julian Street. Where was she then? In all probability she, Annie Jane, and Joseph B. may have lived with one or the other of her married daughters. If so, then perhaps this was the circumstance which drove John H. Stros to act as his mother-in-law's next friend in the bill of complaint filed March 23, 1867 since he was also at that time living with his mother.

After her brother's death in 1865, there was probably no one to whom Jane Reedy could turn to for protection from her husband until her daughters married. Michael Sheahan, knowing his brother-in-law only too well, and in order to protect his sister's interests, may have refused to lend John Reedy the money to purchase the Washington Ward property in 1849 unless he did so as trustee of Jane and the children. Where Jane and her minor children
lived immediately after she left Mr. Keedy is unknown. But, in 1870, they were probably living with Kate and John A. Power at 16 Houston Street, one block east of the house she was compelled to leave three years before. This conclusion was based on the 1870 City Directory which showed Joseph B. Keedy with the same address as his sister and her husband. In 1874 Joseph was boarding at 50 Bryan Street, which was the home of his sister, Margaret Strous. It is assumed that his mother and younger sister also resided there.

Tragedy struck the Keedy family directly in 1874 when on September 12, John A. Power died unexpectedly leaving his wife, Kate, with three young children and pregnant. Thereafter, presumably Kate, her children, her brother, their mother and younger sister, Annie Jane, lived either next door to each other or together in various places. In 1879 and 1880 Kate resided at 160 Doughton Street while Joseph and perhaps Jane and Annie Jane were living at 166 Doughton. In 1881 they resided in a single large four-story brick dwelling on the northwest corner of State and Habersham streets. Known then as 50 State Street, today it is 324 East State Street better known as the famous restored Davenport House. Jane Keedy, 65, died of heart disease June 19, 1881 in that now beautiful mansion. The invitation to her funeral, held there the following afternoon, included the friends and acquaintances of her husband. She was buried adjacent to her son-in-law, John A. Power, in Catholic Cemetery.

It is the belief of this writer that Jane and John Keedy were never reconciled before her death despite the fact that his address in 1881 was 50 State Street. Compilation errors were, and are, common in the City Directories; in addition, it was customary to drop the Mrs. from a married woman's name as both a social courtesy and protective device if she was
living apart from her husband. Moreover, the federal census taker carried out his responsibilities much more astutely than his predecessor in 1870. Jane Keedy was listed as living with her son and daughter at 166 Broughton while Kate and her children were located next door at 168 Broughton Street but John Keedy along with his sister, Margaret Hoar, were listed as boarders at 7 Price Street. 196

A little more than a year after Jane's death, John Keedy finally reconciled with his wife, achieving in death that which could not be accomplished while living. He died, age 72, at the Price Street boarding house of old age on October 4, 1882. 197 The last funeral invitation in which the name of John Keedy appeared was that of his own; his relatives and friends and those of his family were invited to attend his funeral at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Perpetual Help the morning of October 5. 198

Today his body lies next to that of Jane in Catholic Cemetery in quiet peaceful surroundings that are so unlike the man that he apparently was. His children perhaps forgiving after his death what they may not have forgiven during his life erected a simple single monument that reads: 199

Our Father and Mother

Jane Keedy
Died June 19th 1881
Aged 65

John Keedy
Died Sept. 5th 1882
Aged 72
Included in the assignment of the biography of John Reedy were instructions to locate and interview one of his living descendants. Even though this proved an impossibility it is the belief of this writer that this paper would be incomplete without the inclusion of the major facts pertinent to the lives of the Reedy children and grandchildren. Their history recorded here is limited basically to the facts uncovered in the attempt to do this.
The legal woes of the Reedy family members did not end in August, 1871, when the jury declared John Reedy incompetent to act as trustee of Washington Ward, Lot 17. They were to be involved for years with the courts because of their joint ownership of that property.

Joseph B. Reedy was required to post a $5000 security bond when appointed the substitute trustee; this he did August 22, 1871. Early the next year he was once again back in court; this time he was the defendant in a case instigated by his brothers-in-law, John H. Strous and John A. Power. As far as could be determined, this was a lawsuit that was conducted on the friendliest of terms—a lawsuit made necessary by the terms of the law. The husbands of the two older Reedy sisters, acting as the "next friend" of their wives, filed a bill of complaint in Superior Court. They stated that Ann Reedy, a minor, and Jane Reedy, living apart from her husband, lacked a guardian to protect their interests; and that John Reedy, either by mistake or design had excluded Catherine, Margaret Jane, and Joseph B. Reedy from the deed of trust used to purchase Lot 17 in 1863. This had been done in violation of both the original deed of trust of 1849 and the court order of 1863 that had instructed John to reinvest the proceeds from the sale of Lot 1 and 1/3 of Lot 2 in the same manner as that of the original deed. They also pointed out that the second deed allowed John to sell the property upon the written request of Jane, or of Ann after her mother's death—a provision not included in the original deed. The brothers-in-law said that they had requested Joseph and "the other parties to reform the deed so that it would comply with the original." The request had been refused because "they had no authority so to do without
the decree of the . . . Court." Attached to the bill were copies of the deeds of 1849 and 1863 and the court order of 1863, marked Exhibit A, B, and C. 202

The bill asked that Jane, Ann, Joseph P. Reedy and Ann E. and John Mayer be subpoenaed to court an answer the bill, to abide by the decree of the court and to answer the following questions:

1. Whether Exhibit A was a valid copy of the deed used to purchase the original trust property in 1849;
2. Whether Exhibit B was a true copy of the court order of 1863 that had instructed John Reedy to reinvest the proceeds from the sale into the "same trusts as the property mentioned in Exhibit A;"
3. Whether John Reedy had used a portion of the $10,000 sale proceeds of Lot 1 and 1/3 of Lot 2 to pay the $6,000 for Lot 17 in 1863;
4. Whether Exhibit C was a true copy of the deed used to purchase Lot 17;
5. and why John Reedy did not have the use of the second deed expressed as he had been instructed by the court decree of Exhibit B?

Finally, the bill asked the Court to appoint a guardian for Ann and Jane and that the deed of 1863 be reformed to comply with the original deed of trust. 203

On March 19, 1872, Judge Schley appointed Joseph guardian of his sister Ann. 204

In their answer to the Court, the Mayers swore that Exhibit C was a valid copy of the deed in which they had sold Washington Ward, Lot 17 to John in 1863. They knew nothing of the former trust held by Reedy and they "supposed" that he had had the deed prepared to suit himself when he had purchased Lot 17 from them. 205

Joseph's answer stated that all three exhibits were valid copies and that his father, as far as he knew, had used $6,000 from the $10,000 sale of Lot 1 and 1/3 of Lot 2 to purchase Lot 17 in 1863. He said the
trust deed of 1863 was worded differently from that of 1849; it was contrary to the court order, thus defeating the interests of his sisters and was done either by the design of his father or a mistake in the wording of the deed. He knew of the error but felt it necessary to leave it to the Court to correct it. 206

Jane, too, swore that the exhibits were valid copies and that the terms of the trusts had been changed by her husband. Whether by his design or by mistake she could not say but that John did not have the authority to make that change. 207

On May 28, 1872, a jury returned a verdict that all the exhibits were valid and that the original deed of trust had been violated either by mistake or design. Judge Schley decreed that same day that the deed from the Mayers be reformed to comply with the original deed. The Mayers were ordered to execute a new deed to Joseph that was to contain the same provisions of trust as the original. 208 A deed dated December 21, 1872 carried out this court order; Joseph was substituted in its wording for John as trustee and the four children were named the beneficiaries of the trust estate to share equally upon the death of Jane. No mention was made of the trustee's right to sell the property. 209

Was the family aware of the fact that John had once held Lot 36, Crawford Ward as the trustee, of Jane? That he had disposed of it with no mention of the trusteeship? If so, the logical time to have taken legal recourse would have been at this time. Since no action was taken, more than likely they never knew about it or surely they would have acted to protect the interests of their mother.

When the deed of trust was rewritten, it included the original provision that the needy children were to inherit the trust estate at
Jane's death. In a deed dated April 20, 1862, some ten months after she
died, the responsibility of her son as trustee of Lot 17, Washington Ward
was dissolved.\footnote{210} Four months later the property was sold, the western half
on August 15, 1862, for $3500 to Mrs. Anna Walsh,\footnote{211} and the eastern half
on August 23 for $1500 to Mr. Cornelius Ryan.\footnote{212}

The sale of this property ended the legal disputes of the Reedy fam-
ily over that property, but by this time much had happened that had greatly
altered their lives. Each of the girls had married and begun families.
Evidence indicated that they maintained close ties with each other and
with their brother, ties with which only death interfered.

Catherine Reedy, known as Kate to her family and friends, was a
schoolteacher before her marriage. A lovely description of a class picnic
that she gave at Thunderbolt in May, 1866, was written into the society
section of the local newspaper.\footnote{213} John A. Power whom she married a year
later was also a schoolteacher.\footnote{214} According to his tombstone he was born
in Roscommon County, Ireland, May 30, 1838.\footnote{215} If so, he was almost thirty-
years old and Kate twenty-six when they married May 25, 1867. Perhaps
their marriage was delayed because of the War in which he served the Con-
federacy as a member of the Georgia Hussars.\footnote{216}

Their first recorded address was 16 Houston Street in the 1870 City
Directory; John was listed as a bookkeeper.\footnote{217} He had probably left the
teaching profession because it did not pay enough to support a family. In
that same publication, Kate was separately listed as a teacher. If this is
correct, it was out of the ordinary because women were not usually allowed
to work in that profession after marriage or before widowhood. In addition
Kate had given birth to the first Reedy grandchild, Edward Strauss (sic)
Power, April 29, 1869. The sponsors for his baptism were Margaret Jane and
John H. Strous, presumably for whom he was named. Kate's second son, Francis Gartland Power, was born September 30, 1870. Joseph B. Reedy and Helen McGowan, possibly related to Power's employer, were the baptismal sponsors.

John A. Power continued to work as a bookkeeper, listed in 1871 as an employee of the mercantile business of J. J. McGowan. Jacob and Eleanor McGowan had witnessed the Powers' marriage in 1867. Also in 1871 the address of the Power family was "Broughton nr Boundary." According to a deed dated October 26, 1868, Power had purchased "the eastern half of lot 1, Magazine Ward... on the southside of Broughton Street, one door east of East Boundary Street." They were living at this address when Kate's third child and her husband died.

A third son, George Jennings Power, was born July 12, 1872. His death eleven months later of cholera, (sic) June 13, 1873, was probably a great loss from which his parents never recovered. He was buried the next day in Catholic Cemetery, Section L, Lot 76, a plot his parents most likely purchased for his burial; his gravesite was unmarked.

Kate was pregnant at the time of his death. Her only daughter, Jane Hammond Power, was born October 30, 1873; Annie Jane Reedy was one of her sponsors. John A. Power, 36, died September 12, 1874, after a short illness, of "inflammation of the bowels." A newspaper article that reported his death told of how much he was liked and admired by the Savannah community and what an "industrious, efficient businessman and clever gentleman" he was. His funeral was widely attended particularly by his late comrades of the Georgia Hussars. He was buried in Catholic Cemetery in the plot with his infant son. On December 29, 1874, Kate gave birth to the last of her children, John Augustine Power.
John A. Power wrote his will upon his deathbed the morning he died. He left his estate to Kate, and upon her death, it was to pass to their children. He named Joseph B. Keedy as his executor and instructed him to keep the estate intact. It was to be managed in such a way that Kate and the children could draw yearly support from it.232 The estate consisted of the eastern half of Lot 1, Magazine Ward, the 2,000 acres of wild lands in Mitchell, Miller, and Decatur Counties purchased from the Michael Shehan estate, and an undivided half part interest in a 188½ acre tract of land lying in Fourth Tything, Anson Ward that he had purchased on August 14, 1868.233

Kate and the children did not fare well financially after the death of her husband. She became involved in a legal dispute with her brother; it involved his role as executor of the Power estate. She filed a bill of complaint in Superior Court against Joseph in December, 1883, acting for herself and as the next friend of her children. The bill stated that on June 9, 1882, she had applied to the Court of Ordinary for the annual year's support from the estate. The court-appointed appraisers had erroneously described, in their return, a portion of the property of the estate as "one-half interest" in the Anson Ward property rather than the correct description, "undivided half part interest." Their return had been accepted by the Court and made part of its judgment in setting aside the year's support. According to that judgment she was fully vested with the title to the half interest and with it, the authority to sell that half interest. She was instructed to apply the proceeds to the maintenance and support of the Power children. However, when she attempted to sell it, the prospective buyer refused to accept her deed because of the error in the appraisers' return. The buyer said
it was an illegal deed because the title to the Anson Ward property still remained with Joseph B. Reedy because of this error. She requested her brother to join her in selling the land in order to provide a valid title, but he had refused to do so because he was not authorized by the will or the Court to dispose of the Power estate property.

The bill also stated that none of the estate property yielded sufficient income for the support necessary for her and the children. She was forced to use its income to pay the taxes, insurance, and repairs for the estate property. In addition, she needed money for the education, maintenance, and support of her children. The bill asked that the error be corrected and that the half interest be sold and its proceeds be invested in such a way that would provide more income. It asked also that Joseph be subpoenaed to answer the complaint.

In his answer Mr. Reedy admitted that the facts in the bill were true and he submitted himself to the Court's decree. On December 14, 1883, the judge ordered that Catherine Power had not been authorized by the Court of Ordinary to sell the undivided half part interest in the Anson Ward land, and its title still remained with the executor. But since the property was a liability, yielding no income, Reedy was instructed to sell the undivided half interest and invest its proceeds in something that would provide an income.234 Joseph, as trustee and executor, sold the undivided half part interest for $1000 on December 17, 1883.235

Despite their legal disputes, Kate and her brother maintained a close relationship for the remainder of his life. He apparently assumed the responsibility of helping her raise her children while, together, they helped to care for Jane and Annie Jane Reedy.

Evidence indicated that Kate and Joseph lived near or with each
other until he died. Where they lived in the years immediately following
the death of John A. Power could not be determined. But in 1879 and 1880,
Joseph resided presumably with his mother and younger sister at 166 Brout-
ton Street while Kate and her children lived next door at 168 Broughton.236
Annie Jane left this family circle when she married in June, 1880.237 In
1881 Kate and her children, Joseph and Jane Reedy moved to 50 State
Street238 (now 324 State Street, the Davenport House). They lived there
the year following Jane's death.239 In 1883 they moved back to 168
Broughton Street240 where Kate and the children continued to reside until
the Powers moved from Savannah.241

During this time Kate Power had become an enterprising businesswoman.
In 1877 she was the proprietor of a "fancy goods" shop at 157½ Broughton
Street.242 How this business fared is not known but Kate, in 1879, returned
to the classroom as a teacher at Fairlawn School.243 But teaching
apparently did not satisfy her needs; in 1880 she operated a millinery
shop at 168 Broughton Street.244 She continued that business for the re-
mainder of her stay in Savannah.245 It should be recalled that Kate, her
brother, and her children also resided at that address after 1882.

The death of Joseph B. Reedy probably affected Kate very deeply
after their close association of so many years. He was an outstanding
young man in both the community and business world of Savannah. He first
earned his living as a clerk in 1870 while residing with Kate and John A.
Power at 16 Houston Street.246 The following year he lived at 51 Broughton
Street, presumably with his mother and younger sister while working as a
clerk with the firm of Alex Doyle.247 In 1874 he was listed as a clerk
and salesman while boarding at 50 Bryan Street, the address of Margaret
and John H. Strous.248 In June of 1874 he announced that he had purchased
the stock of groceries and liquors from the firm of John Hogan and Company, and he was "prepared to offer an assortment of goods at low prices."  

The firm of J. B. Reedy's was located at 21 Barnard Street from the time of this purchase until it was relocated in 1880, to more extensive and spacious quarters on the southeast corner of Bay and Whitaker Streets. An announcement of the move appeared in the Savannah Morning Telegraph on October 16. An explanation of his relocation appeared three weeks later:

SAVANNAH ENTERPRISE

J. B. REEDY, Importer of Fruits and Groceries

Leconic allusions have appeared in these columns anticipating the progress of the successful young merchant, whose name heads this notice, and a tour of his new and extensive premises corner Bay and Whitaker streets, immediate opposite the Morning News building, has revealed the fact that but half has been said, and to obtain a thorough impression of his own wonderful and rapid advance, a visit to the new establishment is necessary. Commencing business only a few years ago with small capital and the numerous disadvantages that encompass a beginner, J. B. Reedy has by energy and hard work built up a trade second to none in this section of the South. With a clean insight into Savannah's importance as a seaport and trade centre, Mr. Reedy has been inclined to give the fruit business his serious attention, and through importing cargoes regularly for the past few years he found his limited quarters on Bernard street and the retail trade a barrier to the proper development of his ideas, hence the move alluded to. At a very great expense he has merged the three stores into which his present building was sub-divided into one, making a very large and splendid store house, which with a modern front and other conspicuous improvements, give him ample room from cellar to attic and facilities for the proper storage and display of his immense stocks. Mr. Reedy has from the start exercised great influence in the control of the fruit trade as well as the market for kindred commodities and shipments to St. Louis, Chicago, Cincinnati, and other Western markets are frequent occurrences. A fleet of vessels, charters and consignments, are now engaged in the West India fruit trade supplying our market with an avalanche of bananas, cocomuts, oranges, pineapples, conch shells and other tropical products, and the short space of time occupied by a vessel from port to port gives Savannah many advantages over any other American port, a fact that is growing daily in the appreciation of interior dealers. "Reedy has taken all the business from Barnard Street to the Bay, and it looks like Sunday (illegible) his way now," said a Barnard street merchant to us a few days ago, and the bustle and business activity in the vicinity of Bay and Whitaker streets now, seems to verify our acquaintance's observation. With his experience and noted push, Mr. Reedy has taken a very prominent
place in the front rank of our wholesale Bay street merchants, and his many friends certainly wish him all the success that the spirit of progress deserves and will surely win.

The schooner Sarah E. Douglass arrived yesterday with a cargo of over one thousand bunches of red bananas and thirty-eight thousand coconuts for Mr. Reedy, thus ensuring a liberal supply of fruit for his numerous patrons.251

Perhaps J. B. Reedy's was such a popular business because of its extensive advertising. Numerous advertisements appeared in the local papers which often included catchy phrases such as "The Cheapest House in the South"252 and "The only Importer of Fresh Fruits in the State of Georgia."253

Mr. Reedy purchased his own vessels that operated from the ports of Honduras, the West Indies and Savannah.254 One of these, the schooner White Wing, was reported in March, 1860, by the Baltimore Gazette as lost at sea after having mysteriously disappeared. Its crew included six Savannahians.255

J. B. Reedy's was one of the first business firms to have a telephone installed when Mr. Reedy became a subscriber to the Savannah Telephone Exchange in October, 1879.256 Three years later he expanded his business interests by becoming one of the promoters of the newly formed Burglar Alarm and District Telegraph Company of Savannah. Its object was to provide night security for "business houses and buildings of all kinds" through the installation of an "electric clock in stores desiring standard time." The service included a central station where special policemen were on duty during the night to, presumably, respond to the alarms.257 Mr. Reedy was both an officer and director of this company.258

According to numerous newspaper reports, Joseph B. Reedy was very active in the civic and government affairs of Savannah. He was, as his brother-in-law, John A. Power, a member of the Youngmen's Literary Association.259

Reedy was one of the founders of the Savannah Skating Club that was formed in 1879.260 His name appeared among the list of contributors to relief funds for
both the "distressed and afflicted people of Ireland" and yellow fever sufferers of Pensacola, Florida. Mr. Reedy served jury duty countless times. He was summoned to serve on the May Term grand jury on April 16, 1885 and more than likely, he was serving on it at the time of his death.

Joseph Benedict Reedy died from enteritis at the age of thirty-five on June 9, 1885. According to the news article that reported his death, he had been ill for two years and had the year before taken a trip to Europe "spending his vacation at Carlsbad, a noted watering place in Bohemia. He had returned in the fall considerably improved but the beneficial effects proved to be only temporary." After a serious illness of about ten days he died about three o'clock in the morning at his residence at 159 York Street where his funeral was held the next day. He was buried in the Power lot in Catholic Cemetery adjacent to his mother and father.

Appreciatingly, Joseph had taken up separate residence from Kate and her children after his return from Europe even though both their addresses in the 1885 Savannah City Directory was 168 Broughton Street. Perhaps it was necessary for him to live apart from them because of his poor health. They may have lived with him at 159 York Street before his death but that could not be determined. However, Kate's address after his death continued to be 168 Broughton Street.

Joseph's will, written from his deathbed the day before he died, left everything he owned to his three sisters in equal shares. He named Kate Power his executrix. He left to her discretion to carry on my present business for such time after my decease as she may see fit... His estate consisted of stock of merchandise in the store, cash in banks, debts owed him, shares of stock, life insurance policies, and real estate; it was appraised in August, 1885 at $45,256.70. On September 4, Kate filed a petition with the
Court of Ordinary for permission to sell the real estate; it consisted of Lot 34, White Ward, and Lots 18, 19, and 20, in the section of Savannah known as Swannville, located along West Boundary Street south of Louisville Road. She was granted permission one month later. On July 2, 1866, Kate, as executrix and heir, sold her interests for $4300 in these lots to her two sisters. Kate presumably used her share of the inheritance to gain sole title of her late brother's business which she continued to operate. Annie Jane may have used hers to help pay for her newly constructed home.

On June 15, 1880 Annie Jane Reedy married Lawrence Eugene McCarthy. She was twenty-seven years old and he was thirty-four. They had known each other at least two and one half years because they had been the sponsors for the third child of Margaret Jane and John H. Strous when it was baptized January 7, 1878. Mr. McCarthy was an engineer, one of the few employees of the Bartow Fire Company, since 1877. When he resigned in April, 1884 to take another job the fire company presented him a "fine silver pitcher as a token of their esteem and regard for faithful service rendered them as their engineer." His new employment was as a machinist with the South Florida and Western Railroad where he continued to work through 1896. From 1897 through 1902 he worked as a machinist for the City of Savannah's Plant Department. Mr. McCarthy's last employer was Atlantic Coastline Railroad where he continued to work as a machinist until his retirement.

Annie and Lawrence McCarthy first lived at 103 York Street. One month after the death of her mother Annie gave birth to her first child, Anna Gore McCarthy on July 7, 1881. Joseph B. Reedy was one of the sponsors for his niece's baptismal. Fifteen months later and only five days after the death of his grandfather John Reedy, Joseph Reedy McCarthy was born on October 9, 1882. But he lived only five months; he died March 12, 1882.
mенингитис. He was buried in the Power family lot in an unmarked grave. Lawrence Eugene McCarthy, Jr. was born November 17, 1884; his baptismal sponsors were his first cousin and his aunt, John A. Power and Kate Power. Annie and Lawrence moved from their York Street home living for a time at 46 Lincoln Street in 1885. She purchased Lot 77, White Ward of 4700 on May 9, 1884; she then mortgaged it for $2000 to the Savannah Mutual Loan Association. April 11, 1885. Presumably this mortgage money was used to construct their new house which, according to previous research, was completed for Mrs. McCarthy in 1885. It was a two-story wood frame duplex dwelling that still stands, in poor condition and unoccupied, on the southwest corner of Henry and Habersham Streets; it was numbered 55 and 57 Henry Street. McCarthy address in 1886 was "Henry n w cor Habersham" but this was likely another compilation error in the 1886 Savannah City Directory. They were living at 57 Henry Street when Annie gave birth to a stillborn child October 3, 1886. Infant McCarthy was buried the same day in an unmarked grave with his older brother, uncles, cousins, and grandparents in the Power lot. Had Lawrence McCarthy known then that his Annie would die only four years later he probably would not have buried the unnamed child in that plot of from its mother.

Annie Jane Keedy McCarthy died October 7, 1886; she was thirty-five years old. According to her death certificate she died of remittent fever more than likely her death resulted from the complications of childbirth she experienced a few days before. The notice of her death in the Savannah Morning News described her as "a young and estimable lady and her death has cast a gloom over a large circle of friends." She was buried in Catholic Cemetery in Section H, Lot 53 which was probably purchased by her husband at the time of her death. It is located only a few yards from the Power lot.
After the death of his wife, Lawrence was left with two small children to rear. He filed a petition for the administration of his wife's estate and for guardianship of his children; both were granted. Annual letters for the children's support were filed by their father with the Court of Ordinary until the children reached the age of majority. With the Court's permission the one half interest in Swollville Lots 18, 19 and 20 were sold for $10000 in order to pay debts and support of the two minor children. But one month later McCarthy re-purchased the estate's interest in that property.

The McCarthy family greatly increased in 1898 when William A. McCarthy, believed to be Lawrence's brother, moved to 57 Henry Street. He, his wife, Anna E. McCarthy, and their three children, Helen Agnes (also called Nellie), Mary M., and William L. McCarthy, were probably of great comfort to their kin. After the death of her husband in August, 1898, Anna E. McCarthy and her children continued to live with her brother-in-law and his children. Their address changed in 1890 from 57 Henry to 55 Henry Street which indicated that they either moved upstairs or downstairs in the duplex. When the numbering system of Savannah's streets was changed in 1896 this became 313 East Henry.

Eventually the McCarthy cousins grew to adulthood. Loretto started to work in 1901 as a stenographer, and the next year Lawrence, Jr. worked as a clerk. Their cousins worked at various jobs also. In 1904 Lawrence, Jr. was employed as an apprentice with the Central of Georgia Railroad, and Loretto entered the teaching profession where she remained the rest of her life. In 1907 her brother worked as an apprentice in the L.A. McCarthy and Sons plumbing business. He remained with that firm until his death on December 16, 1916. age thirty-five, he died, as had his uncle, William, of chronic nephritis. He was buried near his mother in Section M, Lot 53. Six months later, on June 16, 1919, his father died of arteris sclerosis at
the age of 73. He was buried beside his wife and son. Ironically, he bequeathed his watch and chain as well as one half interest in Lot 34, White Ward and one half of the death benefit from his Atlantic Coastline Railroad relief department fund to his son. The remainder of his belongings including 313 Henry Street was left to his daughter whom he appointed executrix. The will had been written in 1909, nine years before his son's death. Eventually, as death took its toll, the only McCathys at 313 East Henry were Mary E. and Anna Loretto McCarthy. John Reedy's granddaughter died at St. Joseph's Hospital on March 17, 1952, age 70, from inoperable carcinoma. She was buried with her mother, father, and brother.

And what of Kate Power? After the death of her brother in 1885 she continued to operate his business. But she made several important changes: she changed its name to K. Power; she moved it to 138 Congress Street; and she put her son, Frank G. Power, to work for her. At the same time she continued to operate the millinery store at 168 Broughton Street where she and her children continued to live. Additional changes were made either in 1886 or 1887. She moved the millinery shop to 137 St. Julian Street; she went into partnership with John Koloney changing the name of the fruit business to Power and Koloney. However, that partnership was of short duration because in March, 1887, she announced that the business henceforth would be conducted under the name of K. Power. On September 26, 1887, an advertisement in the newspaper announced that an auctioneer was to sell "the stock of groceries contained in the store belonging to Mrs. K. Power at 138 Congress Street facing Johnson Square" that day.

With that announcement Kate Reedy Power almost entirely disappeared from the Savannah scene. The sole Power listed in the 1888 City Directory was Edward S. Power, believed to be her eldest son, a clerk who boarded at 154
State Street. Frank Powers, clerk with the South Florida and Western Railroad, where Lawrence McCarthy, Sr. was employed at this time, was listed in the 1890 City Directory; he may have been Kate's second child since an "s" was often added to the Power name. The last account of Kate Power's activities was the sale of the Power interest in Lot 1, Magazine Ward, on January 20, 1890, the only remaining property in Chatham County belonging to that estate. But she was unable to sell it without going to court once again. Prior to this last court appearance she had attempted to sell the property only to learn that the deed in which John A. Power had originally purchased the property was incorrectly worded. It used the description "eastern half of Lot 1" rather than the correct description, the eastern portion of the western half of Lot 1. In 1889 Kate took the matter to Superior Court whose judge ordered the deed reformed to correctly describe the property.

With the disposal of that lot, Kate Power and her children disappeared without leaving a clue to their whereabouts or their reasons for leaving Savannah. Perhaps she grew discouraged after so many of her family had died or perhaps the business opportunities were better elsewhere. After the death of Annie Jane, Kate was the sole surviving Reedy child living in Savannah since Margaret Jane Hrous had moved away a few years earlier. Where Kate went or what became of her and her children remains a mystery. However, her body was returned to Savannah for burial in 1915. She died March 18, 1915 at 639 2nd Avenue, Columbus, Georgia from gangrene. She was seventy-three. Presumably her family accompanied her body on the train because her son, F.G. Power, was the passenger in charge. Kate was buried in Catholic Cemetery hopefully in her family plot next to her husband. If so, it is an unmarked grave; no record of her burial site was uncovered. Nothing more was learned of Kate Reedy Power or her four children.
Why did not Margaret Jane Strous place a market on her sister’s grave? Did she lack the funds or was there ill-feeling between them? These questions were unanswerable. By the time Kate died, Margaret had buried her husband, her mother-in-law, one of her three daughters, and her only son. Perhaps she could do no more.

Margaret’s husband, John H. Strous, was one of two sons of German immigrant, John H. Strous and his wife, Clara. According to his tombstone, the elder Mr. Strous came to Savannah in November, 1837. The Strous’ first son, John H., was born November 18, 1841; his brother, George William, was born two years later. In 1850 the elder Strous purchased Lots 13 and 14, Warren Ward located on the northwest corner of Bryan and Habersham Streets. Lot 13 contained a large, two-story house on its southern half, and in 1852 a smaller, two-story brick house on the northern half was completed for Mr. Strous. The addresses of these houses were 50 Bryan Street and 11 Habersham Street, respectively. The elder Mr. Strous died in 1854 and was buried in Laurel Grove Cemetery. His estate was left to his wife and two infant sons. The Strous brothers both served the Confederacy during the Civil War in which George Strous was killed. John H. Strous served with Hampton’s Legion; after the war, he was a member of the German Volunteer Guards of the Georgia Militia.

Following their marriage in November, 1866, Margaret Jane and John H. Strous made their home with his mother at 50 Bryan Street. It was located only one block west of the Reedy home at 32 St. Julian Street. Their first child, also named John Hubert Strous, was born July 22, 1872. His baptismal sponsors were Catherine and John A. Power whose third child had been born only ten days before. On November 6, 1875, Clara Mary Strous was born; one of her sponsors was her uncle, Joseph B. Reedy. Two years later, Annie Jane Reedy and Lawrence E. McCarthy were the sponsors for the baptism of Jane Lourdes Strous, born December 23, 1877. The last of the Strous children, Stella Mary, was born January 30, 1881.
The father of these children had an interesting service record as one of Savannah's volunteer firemen. Fire protection depended almost entirely upon volunteers, each fire house employing only a skeleton crew. Mr. Strous was a proud member of the Washington Steam Fire Engine Company. He was frequently named in the newspaper reports of fire company activities. He was elected foreman of his company in January, 1874. One of the issues concerning the fire department was the policy of exempting firemen from jury duty which the May term grand jury announced that it intended to investigate. Mr. Strous fired off a letter-to-the-editor, a practice reportedly followed by his daughter, Stella, years later. He stated emphatically that the Washington Fire Company "steadily refused to grant exemptions only to its active members.""335

John H. Strous apparently had a very volatile temper. On December 27, 1874 he was suspended for insubordination at a cotton fire. He was found guilty of that charge by a committee of the Fire Department the next month but not guilty of the charge of nonattendance.337

His hot-tempered nature probably prompted him to take John Reedy to court and to take legal action to reform the deed of trust in 1872. But it also apparently caused him difficulty in maintaining steady employment. He moved almost yearly from one job to another. In 1867 he worked as a clerk. No occupation was listed in the 1870 or 1871 City Directories. He may have been self-employed as a sink contractor during these years because that was his listing in the 1874-75 City Directory. He traveled to Baltimore in 1873 "with the purpose of returning to Savannah with a patent machine for cleaning sinks."339 On October 9, 1873, the Savannah Morning News reported that the health and cemetery committee recommended the use of his patent pump to clean sink holes and the City Council adopted the recommendation.
But apparently the sink-cleaning business failed because John H. Strous was employed as a salesman at 17 Whitaker Street in 1877. He worked for his brother-in-law as a clerk at J. B. Reedy's in 1879 and 1880. The following two years he was employed as a clerk with two different firms. Mr. Strous once again became self-employed when the firm of Miller and Strous began operations either in 1882 or 1883. In May, 1883, this grocery business was one of several that agreed to close at 6 o'clock from June 4th to September 1st, Saturdays excepted. But this partnership with C. H. Miller was dissolved by mutual consent the following November due to the retirement of Strous. Mr. Miller assumed the liabilities of the firm which he carried on in his name alone.

Before moving from Savannah, John H. Strous disposed of his property. On February 8, 1880, he advertised for sale "a fine two-story dwelling, in good order, with store and cellar; sold on easy terms." Presumably this was 11 Habersham Street but interested parties were told to apply at 50 Bryan Street. It was presumed to be the Habersham Street house because in a deed dated April 29, 1880, he and his mother sold the northern half of Lot 13 which contained this structure for $2000. He sold the southern half that contained their home to his wife for $500 on September 16, 1882. Perhaps this was done to raise the money for the grocery store he was to own and operate with Mr. Miller. Margaret probably used the funds she had received from the trust estate of the Reedy family to make this purchase. But this sale to his wife may have been prompted by John H. Strous' irresponsibility in paying the ground rent due the City of Savannah on his property.

His name was included among the list of owners whose property was to be sold at the City Marshal's sale for arrears of ground rent on March 20, 1876, again on January 2, 1877, and finally, on March 2, 1880. On each of these occasions he must have made a quick dash to the city treasurer's office to
pay up because there was no such sale of the property belonging to John H. Strous.

John H. Strous, his wife, children, and his mother moved to Florida in 1864 or early 1865. While living in Alachua County, Florida, Margaret Strous sold her southern half of Lot 15, Warren Ward for $3,500. The two Chatham County purchasers required her husband and Clara Strous to sign the deed, which was dated July 13, 1885. Perhaps Margaret later regretted selling that property because the next year, she lost her husband. John H. Strous, 45, died of dropsy of the heart in Gainesville, Florida June 25, 1886. His body was returned to Savannah and buried in the then new Magnolia Division of Catholic Cemetery in lot 406 where eventually Margaret and their children were also buried.

Margaret received $2,000 from the Catholic Knights of America, which presumably was a type of life insurance benefit. Perhaps she used this money to help purchase, for $2,500, Lots 17 and 20, White Ward. The deed, dated June 16, 1887, was transacted while she was still living in Florida. Apparently the Strous' remained there until the houses were constructed on those lots that were located on the southside of Henry Street between Abercorn and Lincoln Streets. However, they may have moved back to Savannah before the houses were completed. In 1891 Margaret's son, John H. Strous, boarded at 55 Henry Street with his uncle, Lawrence McCarthy.

The two structures that were completed in 1891 according to previous research were located just two blocks west of the McCaryhys. These structures still stand at 205-207, 209-211 East Henry Street. Even though time and neglect have worn their Victorian "gingerbread" the two two-story wood frame duplexes give a hint of their former beauty. Margaret apparently had them built for two reasons: to provide a home for herself and her family and to
provide an income by renting out the other three quarters.

In 1892 the address of Clara, Margaret, and John H. Strous was 79½ Mary Street which it remained until the city changed its number in 96-97 to 207 East Henry. The following year the family moved to the adjoining quarters, 205 East Henry where they lived thereafter.

In October, 1888, Margaret mortgaged her one-half interest in Swollville Lots 18, 19, and 20 to the Savannah Mutual Loan Association apparent to pay for those houses she had constructed. On February 17, 1893, she sold her one-half interest in Lot 34, White Ward for $750 to her brother-in-law Lawrence H. McCarthy. Two years later she purchased his one-half interest in the Swollville lots for $1250 which she sold including her one-half interest, the next day, April 16, 1895 to a third party for $2500. This sale left her owning only the two lots on Henry Street.

Five years after this sale, the Strous family lost two of its members. Clara Strous, 83, died of chronic endocarditis on April 17, 1900. She was buried with the Power-Reedy families in Catholic Cemetery in an unmarked grave. However, at some time either then, before or after, the tombstone for body of her husband was transferred from Laurel Grove Cemetery to the Reedy lot. Only two months after her grandmother's death, Clara Mary Strous, 24, died and like her grandmother, her death was also caused by chronic endocarditis which she had had for several years as well as cerebral embolism of a weeks duration. She was buried in Lot 406, Evernia Division near her

John H. Strous apparently assumed the responsibility of earning a livelihood for his mother, sisters, and grandmother before her death. Upon their return to Savannah he entered the ranks of the employed in 1891 as a clerk at Southern Bank where he remained for the next seven years.
after that, he, like his father, held a variety of jobs. In 1899 he began to work for Solomon Drug Company as a bookkeeper. In 1901 he was a secretary for that firm, a job he held until 1904. In 1903 he also worked with the A. L. Ford Company where he continued to work in 1904. He held another job in 1904 thus holding three jobs at once: Solomon's Drugs, A. L. Ford Company, and the Red Cross Pharmacy. In 1907 he was secretary and treasurer at Savannah Trust Company. He worked as secretary and treasurer of the Bartfield-Garbutt Company from 1908 through 1912. In 1909 he was also employed as secretary and manager of the Seaboard Lumber Company which was his sole employment in 1913 and 1914.

John H. Strous remained a resident of 205 East Henry Street until he married Miss Annie Coette. She was the sister of Henry A. Coette, the publisher of the Savannah City Directories for many years; she was also the sister-in-law of Mr. Hartfelder for whom Mr. Strous worked from 1908 to 1912. They were married in 1912 or 1913 probably in Atlanta since there is no record of their marriage in Chatham County. In her youth Miss Coette had been engaged to marry Mr. Golden, president of the Savannah Gas Company, but her family interfered and their engagement was broken. As a wedding gift Mr. and Mrs. Strous received a silver flatware service from one of the banks that had formerly employed him. They were both in their forties when they married and no children were born to them. For a short time the newly wedded couple lived at 917 Abercorn Street but when Mr. Strous became seriously ill, they returned to 205 East Henry Street where he died October 29, 1914, age 42, of typhoid fever. He was buried in the Strous family lot in Catholic Cemetery. After his death Mrs. Annie Strous moved to 321 York Street where she died of cancer on January 2, 1919 at the age of forty-nine. She was buried
in the Goette family lot in Bonadventure Cemetery. She left her estate to her sister, Mrs. Kate Hartfelder, whom she also named as executrix of her will. There was no provision for her mother "as she is amply provided for." 

Margaret Jane Strous, 74, died May 8, 1917 of carcinoma hepatitis which she had had for three years. This last child was buried by her two surviving daughters in Catholic Cemetery beside their father, sister and brother. Margaret named her daughters the executrices of her will which she had written in 1912. She also left them all of her property because her son had requested that he be excluded from her will and that his mother leave her belongings to his sisters.

Margaret's real estate property consisted solely of Lots 17 and 20, White Ward where Jane and Stella Strous continued to live together until Miss Jane's death. Apparently Jane Strous was never employed since each City Directory listed her name and address without an occupation. She died, age 62, from chronic myocarditis on January 6, 1943. She was buried beside her mother and father in Catholic Cemetery.

Jane Strous left her sister all of her real and personal property with specific instructions as to the disbursement of the proceeds of her estate when Stella Strous died. These included various sums of money to the Sisters in St. Joseph's Home in Washington, Georgia in memory of her cousin, Sister Mary of the Cross; to Sacred Heart Church in Savannah; to the Little Sisters of the Poor in Savannah; to the Ladies Aid Society of the Cathedral of St. John the Baptist in Savannah; and smaller sums to fourteen individuals, one of whom was Anna Loretto McCarthy. She named a neighbor and friend, William P. Lynes, as the executor of her will and if he could not act as executor then her lawyer, Andrew J. Ryan, Jr., was to act as his successor.
Left alone, Miss Stella Mary Strous continued to live at 205 East Henry Street until her retirement. She had entered the working world in 1901 as a cashier for the Savannah Morning News. She worked there until 1918 when she became a clerk at the Hibernia Bank. When it ceased operations in 1922, she began employment with the Savannah Bank and Trust Company. She worked there as a teller until she retired either in 1943 or 1949. Following her retirement Miss Stella moved next door to 209 East Henry Street into the upstairs duplex of the house which she also owned. She lived there until her friends and benefactors, Mr. and Mrs. William F. Lynes, Jr., arranged for her to move near them.

According to Mrs. Lynes, Mr. Lynes had been more or less "adopted" by the Strous sisters as an infant when his parents rented 207 East Henry from the Strous family. Miss Jane and Miss Stella became very fond of the younger and had watched his maturity with love and pride. When the Lynes family moved "out to the country," young William would come into town and spend weekends with the Strous sisters. Besides enjoying each other's company, these visits saved expenses during the years of the Depression by allowing Mr. Lynes to participate in the various social events with his friends and classmates. It was he whom Miss Jane named as the executor of her will.

After Miss Stella's retirement William Lynes, Jr. and his wife, Constancia (Bickey), kept a watchful eye on her until Lynes' death. After this Mrs. Lynes continued her vigilance until her friend and the woman to whom her husband was obviously devoted also died. Mrs. Lynes today has many fond memories and vivid recollections of her friend whom she called Stella. She recalls that Stella continued to lead an active, full life and was in no way a recluse. She served as a scout leader of a large troop of Girl
She frequently wrote letters to the editor that were published in the *Savannah Morning News* on various topics of local, state, and national interests. Quite often upon hearing or reading of some accomplishment by a younger, Stella would write a letter of commendation and would include a one dollar bill that she could ill-afford. After Stella's death Mrs. Lynes fell heir to her possessions. Among these possessions are several letters from notable public officials, including Presidents Eisenhower and Nixon, to whom Stella had written.  

In her memories of her youth Miss Stella recalled that her family was poor. In order to help make ends meet, her mother would send Stella and her brother John to the "big park" (Forsyth) with cakes that Mrs. Strous had baked for them to sell to the soldiers stationed there.

According to Mrs. Lynes, Stella had a no-nonsense type of personality. If a child was misbehaving in a public place, Miss Strous would not hesitate to speak to the parents, even if strangers, requesting that something be done to quieten the culprit. On one occasion one of her acquaintances telephoned her saying that she was a friend and to "Guess Who?" Miss Stella tartly replied that "All my friends are in the cemetery!" and she immediately hung up the phone.

As the years passed Stella found it more difficult to move about; her ventures outside her home became less frequent. After a long period of absence she attended Confession and in the course of her confessional she explained that it had been some time since her last session. The priest replied that surely she could make the effort to reach her church; after all, Christ had traveled to Calvary for her. She retorted, "Yes, but He was not eighty-five years old at the time He did it, either!"

Mr. and Mrs. Lynes continued to worry about Miss Strous living alone
in her upstairs apartment on Henry Street. Her health had begun to decline and the frailties of her age caused them concern in addition to the fact that her neighborhood was rapidly deteriorating physically and socially. In 1961 the Lynes who then lived at 319 West 46th Street purchased a small one-story house at 318 West 49th Street for $10,000 for Stella, giving her a lifetime right to it. She asked if Miss Stella had expressed any regrets about leaving the only home she had known for seventy years, Mrs. Lynes explained that she had not. Mr. Lynes had told Stella that it was for her own good, and since she trusted him implicitly, she was delighted to leave Henry Street behind her.

In her mid-eighties, Miss Stella became desperately ill and entered the hospital. She did not immediately improve, and, seemingly, was near death. When the Lynes were called to the hospital the doctor told them she had only a few hours to live. When they got to her, Mrs. Lynes said that the warmth had left her body and they believed her to be already dead. The Last Rites were administered but suddenly and miraculously, Miss Stella revived. Upon regaining consciousness, she told them that she had gotten to the gates of Heaven, but Heaven just was not ready for her yet. Following that close brush with death, Miss Stella made a complete recovery which she celebrated by going to Europe for a vacation. She made the trip unaccompanied by any companion. Upon her return she took great joy in telling of her experiences "over there" and of how much pleasure she had received. No one had dared to tell her that eighty-five-year-old women just simply do not travel alone to Europe.

After her European trip Miss Stella's health slowly but drastically began to fail. The death of her friend, William F. Lynes, in September, 1965, whom she loved as a son, was a cause of great sorrow to her. In order to
insure that she received the proper supervision and care, arrangements were
made for her to live at Chatham Nursing Home which she entered on January 11,
1972. The remaining two-and-one-half years of her life were spent in that
facility. Miss Strous, age 93, died on July 8, 1974. She was laid to rest
in a presently unmarked grave in the Strous family lot in Catholic Cemetery. Miss Stella did not intend that her gravesite should go unmarked.
The second item of her will which was written March 26, 1971, contained the
following provision:

I direct that a headstone similar to those now located in the
family cemetery lot to be erected to mark my resting place be
secured from Leggett Marble Company, the cost of which I have al-
ready paid in full. (Receipted bill for $175.00 on file with my
executor, Savannah Bank and Trust Company of Savannah.)

But at the time of her death, Leggett Marble Company had filed for
bankruptcy; both Mrs. Lynes' and Savannah Bank's efforts to have this
company furnish the marker proved fruitless. As the matter stands at present,
Mrs. Lynes has the good intention of seeing that Miss Stella's wishes for her
marker are carried out. Until that time, Miss Strous' presence will be
unknown except to a very few.

Miss Stella Mary Strous, third generation from John Ready, the last
of the Heedys, lies quietly beneath the soil that provides a blanket for her
as it does for so many members of her family.
EPILOGUE

According to my friend, fellow classmate in Historical Method, and former fellow faculty member at Johnson High School, Mary Frances Mopper, I was pre-destined to research and write the history of the John Reedy family. In retrospect, I must agree with her. The coincidences that I encountered in conducting my research have, at times, both amazed and astounded me. For this reason I decided to conclude this paper with their account.

The history of Lot 36, Crawford Ward was written by my friend and my former assistant principal at Johnson High, Mr. Pernie Stills. At present, this property is partially owned by Mr. Richard Mopper, the former husband of the above named Mary Frances (Frankie) Mopper. An interesting circumstance is that Mr. Stills and Mrs. Mopper dated each other following her divorce.

The site of J. B. Reedy's wholesale grocery business on the corner of Ray and Whitaker Streets is today the location of the office of Attorney Howard McClasson who assisted me greatly in reading and comprehending the web of "legalese" of the legal documents and involvements of the Reedys.

It was especially meaningful to me that Jane Reedy lived and died at one of my two favorite Savannah spots, the Davenport House where I did volunteer horsetraining for more than a year sometime ago.

As a child my husband lived in the St. Joseph's Home For Boys in Washington, Georgia; it was to this institution that Miss Jane Strous bequeathed a sum of money in her will. Prior to our marriage, my husband also lived in a boarding house on Henry Street, directly across from the Strous home.

The last of these major coincidences (there were some minor ones that I will not relate here) is one that did not affect me as personally but amazed me nonetheless. In the Martin/Tattnall 1976 publication, At Home in
Savannah G. Interiors, a pictorial account of 510 East St. Julian Street is given on pages 14-15. This house was formerly owned by John Needy as trustee for his wife Jane. It is followed by an account of 324 East State Street which is better known as the Davenport House (pp. 16-20) where Jane Needy died in 1881. It is most unlikely that the book's compilers knew of the connection between these two historically important homes but the accidental arrangement was just another one of the many incidents that I found to be no astonishing. 'Tis a small, small world indeed.