WILLIAM REMSHART

A Biographical Sketch

History 500: Historical Method

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WILLIAM REMSHART

ABSTRACT: William Remshart (b. February 7, 1805, d. February 24, 1878) was a merchant who later became involved with real estate. He had the residences of 102-112 West Jones Street (also called Remshart Row) built. He was active in business and community affairs.

William Remshart was first married to Julia E. Cooper on January 17, 1833 and they had nine children. After the death of Julia, William married Mrs. Rebecca C. Oliver on July 18, 1866. He died February 24, 1878 and was buried in Laurel Grove Cemetery, Savannah, Georgia.

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William Remshart was born on February 7, 1805 and died February 24, 1878 at the age of 73. \(^1\) The cause of death was given as "heart disease" which indicated that William probably died of a heart attack. \(^2\)

The first indications of William Remshart as a resident of Savannah came from the petition made by the heirs and distributors of the estate of Daniel Remshart. \(^3\) In the will William Remshart, a minor and whose petition (dated February 4, 1832) was being made by J.C. Helverstine (spelling may be incorrect), received the lot and buildings of Number 12, Carpenters Row, "a Negro fellow named Jethro", and a "Negro fellow named Monday". \(^4\) The will and information from the family records of Mrs. A. Oemler established that Daniel Remshart and his widow, Elizabeth Remshart, were the parents of William.

In all probability William's grandfather was John Remshardt, (note spelling) a tanner of Effingham County,
who drew up his will August 15, 1782 and willed to his "only son Daniel Remshart" all of his real estate, except for one hundred acres of land in Effingham County, plus one share of the money from the sale of his personal property. 5

The next news of William indicated that he was a member of the First Company but that he had not been performing all of his obligations to the company as the following illustrated.

Fines were assessed against the following persons for default at the Regimental Parade and Drill of Officers on the 21st and 22nd of April last. Executions will issue against all failing, [to pay] John F. Lloyd, Esq. Paymaster, on or before the 16th May inst... The list of persons included William Remshart, who was fined three dollars. Then, on March 27, 1827, a notice again appeared in the paper stating that fines were assessed against a number of persons for"default at the parades of the 1st, 2nd, and 9th March, inst." and again William Remshart's name appeared as one of those persons. 7

Although William could not or did not attend to his obligations to the First Company, he was given other civic duties as shown by his being "drawn [as one of the] City Constables, [for Elbert Ward and] ... required to attend at the Police Office on Monday morning to be qualified." 8

By 1830 William had begun to establish himself in business when George Newhall took him into co-partnership of the firm of George Newhall and Company. 9

The year of 1832 seemed to have been a busy one for William. Beginning in January William was elected as a coroner
in the county election.¹⁰ Then in August at a meeting
held at the Exchange he was appointed secretary "at a meeting
of citizens of Savannah . . . for the purpose of taking
into consideration the present state of the money market. . . ."¹¹

The following year William Remshart and Julia E. Cooper
were married in a ceremony performed on January 17, 1833
by Stephen A. Mealy, Lutheran Minister.¹² Julia and
William had nine children. They were

William Wallace Remshart (b. 1835 d. ?)
Caroline C. Remshart (b. Nov 28, 1836 d. 1842)
Gertrude Newhall Remshart (b. Feb. 12, 1841, d. 1856)
Robert Bruce Remshart (b. Sept. 20, 1843 d. Nov 10, 1868)
George Horace Remshart (b. May 3, 1846 d. ?)
Thomas Clay Remshart (b. Feb 8, 1849 d. Nov. 9, 1860)
Henry Roswell Remshart (b. 1850 d. July 27, 1896)
Julia Wilhelmina Remshart (b. Oct. 19, 1853 d. ?).¹³

(A gap in the Savannah Newspaper Index for the years
1841-1849 caused a gap in the available information about
William Remshart.) In the 1850 Census William's occupation
was listed as a merchant whose real estate was valued
at $10,000. In addition to his wife and five children,
a Lydia Cooper, female, age 63, was listed as a member of
the Remshart household and owned real estate valued at
$6,500.¹⁴ It seems possible that Lydia Cooper might have
been Julia Cooper Remshart's mother.
William seemed to be prospering by the 1850's. In 1852 the real estate owned by Remshart was valued at $9,400; the next year his real estate was valued at $13,100; in 1854 the value on his real estate was $39,600, and by 1855 his real estate value had increased to $42,100.\textsuperscript{15}

It was during this time (1853) that Remshart built the houses known as Remshart Row at 102-112 West Jones Street, lots 31 and 32 Pulaski Ward.\textsuperscript{16}

In the same year that William was building Remshart Row he was listed on the registry list of voters and when the Savannah Fire Department underwent reorganization he, along with twenty-eight other persons, was appointed a member of the Savannah Fire Company.\textsuperscript{17}

Not much was found about William for almost a decade. A brief newspaper advertisement here and there were some of the indications that Remshart was in Savannah doing business during this period.\textsuperscript{18} There is the strong possibility that the events leading up to the Civil War and the war itself may have affected the activities of the merchants and businessmen in Savannah.

In July of 1865 a death occurred in the Remshart household when Julia E. Remshart, William's wife, died. She was buried on July 23, 1865 at Laurel Grove Cemetery, Savannah, Georgia.\textsuperscript{19}

Later that year it seemed William had friends or supporters who felt he should run on a slate of Aldermen
for the City of Savannah. However, one month later on December 4, 1865 William apparently had the newspaper print a statement to the effect that the use of his name as a candidate on one of the tickets was unauthorized. 20

The next year William was married to Mrs. Rebecca C. Oliver in a marriage ceremony performed on July 18, 1866 in Effingham County by the Rev. John W. Remshart. 21

Beginning in 1867 and continuing until a month prior to his death, William was elected as a director of several businesses in Savannah, often being re-elected to the same positions. For example, during this time (1867-1878) he was elected as director to the following companies: 1) Savannah-Ogeechee Canal Company, (re-elected twice); 2) Atlantic and Gulf Railroad (nominated in 1867, later elected in 1875); 3) Savings Department of the Oglethorpe Insurance Company of Savannah; 4) Oglethorpe Insurance Company of Savannah; 5) Savannah Skidaway and Seaboard Railroad (re-elected three times). 22

During the last ten years of his life William remained active in civic and business affairs. His involvement in business can be seen from the number of directorships he held as indicated above. In addition, although William had retired as a merchant, 23 he seemed to have taken an interest in real estate. 24

From 1870 through 1875 a number of references are found showing Remshart being involved in different court
cases. Several of the cases were handled by City Court, one was taken to Superior Court, and one to the Supreme Court of the State.²⁵ Possibly, these cases might have been a result of actions involving property.

Indications of the involvement of William and Mrs. Remshart in civic affairs can be found in the fact that William was appointed by the Mayor as one of five freeholders to a committee to "assess damages to open Huntigdon st., Gordon st. lane; and Gaston st. to Price street".²⁶ In the laying of the corner stone of the Wesley Monumental Church, Mrs. Remshart had deposited in the stone Confederate notes ranging in denominations from $10 to $500.²⁷ Also, William made at least one contribution to the Savannah Benevolent Association.²⁸

After a long, active, and prosperous life William Remshart died on February 24, 1878 at the age of 73 of "heart disease".²⁹
ENDNOTES

1 Oemler, Mrs. A., Family records. interviewed July 22, 1975.
2 Chatham County Health Department, Office of Vital
3 Chatham County Wills, File #86, Estate of Daniel
4 Ibid.
5 Record of Wills, 1777-1787, File #3, Chatham County,
6 Savannah, Georgian, May 7, 1825, p.2. c.5.
7 Ibid. March 27, 1827, p.3. c.3.
8 Ibid. October 13, 1827.
9 The Georgian (Savannah) January 5, 1830, p.3.c.1. No
10 Ibid. January 4, 1832, p.2. c.4.
11 Ibid. August 11, 1832, p.2. c.1. The Exchange
12 Marriage Record Abstracts, 1805-1852, Chatham Co., Georgia.
13 Records of the Lutheran Church of the Ascension, Savannah,

For a number of years the business of the Custom-House was
transacted in it." from Historical Collections of Georgia by
Publishing Co.; 1969. p.313. This information would tend to
indicate that the above mentioned Exchange is not the same
building as the old Cotton Exchange.

Although there were only eight children
listed in the church records, Mrs. A. Oemler provided the
name of a ninth child from the family records. That child
was Henrietta M. Remshart (b. Mar. 13, 1845, d. Aug. 30, 1846);
Henrietta probably died before being baptized and so would not
have been included in the church records. Also, some of
the dates given for the children were different from those
in the family records. See the appendix for comparisons.

Germain ancestry. A check in the Ebenezer Record Book, translated
by A.G. Voight, 1929, pp.32, 36, 50, 82, 99, 107, gives a good
deal of information about the family of John Remshardt and
his wife Anna (or Hanna) Margaret.
14. 1850 Census, Chatham County, District 13, #37.
Mrs. Lydia Cooper was to remain in William's household
until her funeral on January 3, 1873. Savannah Morning News, 1873.

15. Savannah Tax Digests, 1852, p.92; 1853, p.47; 1854,
p.93; 1855, pp92-93. Housed at the Georgia Historical Society,
Savannah, Georgia.

16. Previous paper on the houses at 102-112 W. Jones
Street. Paper is on deposit at the Georgia Historical Society,
Savannah, Georgia.

17. Daily Morning News, April 7, 1853 and November 18,
1853. William's membership was to continue for a number
of years as the Savannah Morning News, May 30, 1874, p.3, c.2
indicated by the following: "The members of the Savannah
Fire Company and their invited guests proceeded yesterday
to Fireman John Ryan's place at White Bluff where they
spent a most pleasant day. Two of the oldest members of the
Company were present for the first time in several years--
Ex-Chief Fireman Robert Lachison and Mr. William Remshart."

18. Ibid. March 2, 1865, p.2, c.6 is an advertisement
which simply states, "William Remshart, Commission Merchant,
Battle Row." Two months earlier a newspaper ad ran as
follows, "William Remshart--opposite old steamboat yard.
Brick." Daily Morning News (Savannah) January 22, 1855,
p.2, c.5.

19. General Index to Keeper's Record Book, 1852-1938,
Vol. III, N-Y, Laurel Grove Cemetery. In the report of
interments for Laurel Grove Cemetery from July 1, 1865 to
July 31, 1865, the Savannah Daily Herald, August 3, 1865
lists Julia E. Remshart as having died of paralysis.

20. Savannah Daily Herald, November 4, 1865, p.2 c.5;
December 4, 1865, p.3. c.1.


22. Ibid. January 16, 1867, p.3. c.2; February 1, 1867
p.2. c. 3; August 2, 1867, p.2. c. 7; April 20, 1868, p.3.
c. 1, and Savannah Morning News, May 14, 1870, p.3. c.2;
May 15, 1871, p.2. c.2; May 21, 1872, p.3. c.1; May 24, 1874,
p.3. c.2; February 11, 1875, p.1. c.3-4; January 11, 1876,
January 15, 1876, p.3. c.3.

23. Daily News Herald (Savannah), August 2, 1867, p.2. c.7.

24. Savannah Morning News, October 3, 1871, p.2. c.6 is
an advertisement which simply reads "William Remshart-Real
Estate". Also, in the 1877 Savannah City Directory, p. 176,
William Remshart was listed as a real estate agent.
25 Judgment Docket 10091-11634, #10453, min. 219; Superior Court, Chatham County, Georgia; Savannah Morning News, November 18, 1873, p. 3 c. 6; Judgment Docket 10091-11634, #11085, min. 207; Civil Minutes, July 31, 1873-December, 1874, n. m. folio 83; Superior Court, Chatham County, Georgia; Savannah Morning News, February 23, 1874, p. 3 c. 4; July 22, 1874, October 16, 1874, p. 1 c. 5; December 11, 1874, p. 3 c. 6; May 4, 1875, p. 3 c. 7; December 27, 1875, July 11, 1878, p. 3 c. 6.

26 Savannah Morning News, April 17, 1896, p. 3 c. 3.

27 Ibid. August 17, 1875, p. 3 c. 7.

28 Ibid. September 16, 1876.

29 Chatham County Health Department, Office of Vital Statistics, Death Records, 1878.
REFERENCES CITED

Census of 1850, District 13, #87, Chatham County, Georgia.


Civil Minutes, July 31, 1873-December, 1874, n.n. folio 83, Superior Court, Chatham County, Georgia.

Court of Ordinary, Chatham County, Georgia, Wills. File #86, estate of Daniel Remshart.

Daily Morning News (Savannah), July 23, 1866, p.2.c.4; January 18, 1867, p.3.c.2; February 1, 1867, p.2.c.5; August 2, 1867, p.2.c.7; April 20, 1868, p.3.c.1.

Georgia Historical Society, Savannah, Georgia. Unpublished paper on 102-112 W. Jones Street, known as Remshart Row.

The Georgian (Savannah), January 5, 1839, p.3.cl; January 4, 1832, p.2.c.1; August 11, 1832, p.3.c.1.

Judgment Docket 10091-11634, #10453, min.219, Superior Court of Chatham County, Georgia.

Judgment Docket #11085, min. 207, Superior Court of Chatham County, Georgia.


Marriage Records Abstracts, 1805-1852, Chatham County, Georgia.

Oemler, Mrs. Augustus. 229 E. 50th Street, Savannah, Georgia. Interviewed on July 21, 22, and 25, 1975.

Records of the Lutheran Church of the Ascension, 1823-1926, Savannah, Georgia.

Record of Wills, 1777-1787, Chatham, County, Georgia.

Savannah Daily Herald, August 3, 1865, p.3.c.1-2; November 4, 1865, p.2.c.5; December 4, 1865, p.3.c.1.

Savannah, Georgian. May 7, 1825, p.2; March 27, 1827, p.3.c.3; October 12, 1827.
Savannah evening news, April 17, 1869, p. 3.c.3; May 10, 1870, p. 3.c.2; May 15, 1871, p. 2.c.2; October 3, 1871, p. 2.c.6; May 21, 1872, p. 3.c.1; January 5, 1873, November 16, 1873, p. 3.c.6; February 23, 1874, p. 3.c.4; May 21, 1874, p. 3.c.2; May 30, 1874, p. 3.c.2; July 22, 1874; October 16, 1874; p. 1. c.6; December 11, 1874, p. 3.c.6; February 11, 1875, p. 3. c.3-4; May 4, 1875, p. 3.c.7. August 12, 1875, p. 3.c.7; December 27, 1875, January 11, 1876; Sept. 16, 1876; January 15, 1878, p. 3.c.3, July 1, 1878, p. 3.c.6.

Tax Digests, 1852, 1853, 1854, 1855. Savannah, Georgia.

Other References Consulted

Census, 1820, 1830, 1840, Chatham County, Georgia.

Court of Ordinary, Chatham County Wills, File # R-249(a)
   December, 1878, Estate of William Remshart.

**Daily Morning News** (Savannah), June 25, 1853, p.2.c.1;
   December 17, 1853, p.2.c.4; July 10, 1855, p.2.c.6;
   September 21, 1863, p.2.c.1.

**Daily News Herald** (Savannah). June 23, 1866, p.3.c.1;
   November 20, 1867, p.2.c.5; March 26, 1868, p.2.c.6.

Dougherty, Mrs. William H. Belted Kingfisher Rd, Hilton, Head
   South Carolina. Interview, July 10, 1975.

**Ebenezer Record Book**. A.G. Voight, translator, 1929.

**General Index to Wills, Estates, Administrations, etc. in**
   Chatham County, Georgia, Court House, Savannah, Georgia, 1937.

**Georgian** (Savannah). May 26, 1821, p.3.c.5; June 11, 1821
   p.2.c.5; April 5, 1822, p.2.c.1; November 12, 1822,
   p.2.c.1; October 4, 1832, p.5.c.1.

**Judgments 2, 1869-1911. Superior Court, Chatham County, Georgia.**

**Index to Deeds, Mc to R, Grantors, 1785-1910, Superior Court,**
   Chatham County, Georgia.

**Savannah City Directories**, 1867, 1871, 1874, 1888.

**Savannah, Georgian**. May 7, 1825, p.2.c.5; March 31, 1827,
   p.2.c.2.

**Savannah Morning News**. December 10, 1870, p.2.c.7; October
   6, 1873, p.2.c.5; May 3, 1876, p.3.c1.

Strong, Mrs. Walter. Dancy Avenue, Savannah, Georgia.

Superior Court Records. Case #8099, May term, 1851.
APPENDIX

FAMILY OF WILLIAM REMSHART

Grandfather- John (Johannes) Remshardt married to Anna Margarett ?

Their children:
1. Daniel   b. 26 October 1765   d. 29 October 1767
2. Catharine b. 20 February 1767   d. ?
3. Judith    b. 10 December 1768   d. ?
5. Christine b. 30 January 1773   d. 31 January 1773.

John's wife Anna(Hannah) Margaret died 31 January 1773 along with the twin Christine.

John Remshardt married Christina Elizabeth ?

Their child
1. Elizabeth b. 22 March 1778   d. ?

Children of John Remshardt mentioned in his will of 15 August 1782:
1. Daniel
2. Catherina
3. Judy
4. (name illegible)
5. Hannah

It is believed that John Remshardt must have named later children with the same names of his earlier children who had died.

Parents- Daniel Remshardt (b. 20 November 1767, d:20 October 1820) married Elizabeth Waldhoor on 17 December 1797. She was born 10 June 1773 and died 16 November 1842.

Persons listed in Daniel's will and assumed to be his children. (Evidence supplied by Mrs. A. Oemler from family records confirms that Daniel and Elizabeth Remshart were the parents of William Remshart.)

1. John(Ellegible) W. Remshart
2. Daniel ? Remshart
3. Eliza Remshart
4. William Remshart
5. Margaret (Remshart ?) Bittenback
6. Jane Remshart
7. John Remshart

Two other children are mentioned on the gravestone of Daniel and Elizabeth Remshart located in Laurel Grove Cemetery. They were Sarah and Esther.
WILLIAM REMSHART (b. 7 February 1805, d. 24 February 1878) 
moved Julia E. Cooper (b. 23 June 1815 d. 23 July 1865) 
on 12 January 1833.

Their children:
1. William Wallace Remshart (b. 27 September 1834 
d. 1 June 1866) married Mary L. Snead (b. ? d.?) 
on 17 November 1859. 
   Their child 
   1. Thomas Clay Remshart b. 23 May 1863 
      d. 20 May 1873

2. Caroline C. Remshart (b. 28 November 1836 d. 1842) 
as listed in the Records of the Lutheran Church of 
the Ascension. According to Mrs. Oemler and family 
records William Remshart had a daughter named 
Cornelia Cooper Remshart born 28 November 1836 
and died 29 September 1841. I believe that probably 
Caroline/Cornelia were the same person and the 
differences in names and death date were due to a 
transcription error either in the family records 
or the church records.

3. Gertrude Newhall Remshart (b. 12 February 1841 d. 21 
   March 1856).

4. Robert Bruce Remshart (b. 20 September 1843 d. 10 
   November 1868 "at 6 a.m."

5. Henrietta M. Remshart (b. 13 March 1845 d. 30 
   August 1846). This information was supplied by 
   Mrs. A. Oemler from family records. Henrietta 
   was not mentioned in the Lutheran Church of the 
   Ascension Records.

6. George Horace Remshart (b. 3 May 1846 d. 11 November 
   1907) married Alice Floyd Box (b. ? d. 31 November 
   1912) on 19 January 1871 in Lynn Massachusetts by 

   Their children:
   1. William Elliott Remshart (b. 12 November 1873 
      d. 13 February 1931) Not married.

   2. George HJ Remshart (b. December 1875 
      d. March 7, 1884).

   3. Alice Floyd Remshart (b. 31 May 1877 d. 17 
      August 1958) married Robert Harrison 
      Roux (b. February 25, 1872 d. 30 December 
      1937) on 6 April 1906.
4. Esther Marie Remshart (b. 21 October 1879 d. 22 May 1953) married Francis Robinson Clarke in 1901.

7. Thomas Clay Remshart (b. 8 February 1848 d. 9 November 1860).

8. Henry R. Remshart (b. 21 April 1851 d. 27 July 1896)

9. Julia Wilhemina Remshart (b. 19 October 1853 d. 11 July 1931 ?) married David Yulee Dancy on 26 April 1876. Mrs. A. Oemler's family records give Julia's middle name as Williams.

WILLIAM REMSHART married Rebecca C. Oliver (b. 8 January 1825 d. 4 July 1882) on 18 July 1866.

Much of the vital statistics for this appendix came from the sources already cited. Where dates were not given in the body of the report or where there was a contradiction, the information given was obtained from Mrs. A. Oemler and her family records.