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EMMA CHEVES WILKINS

BY

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HIS 450

HISTORICAL METHOD

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EMMA CHEVES WILKINS

Emma Cheves Wilkins was one of eight children born to Gilbert A. Wilkins of New York and Emma Cheves of South Carolina. Her grandfather, Langdon Cheves II, owned Delta Plantation in South Carolina on the Savannah River and Southfield Plantation in Chatham County on the Ogeechee River. Emma attended school in Baltimore, studied art in Paris, and had a long successful career as an artist and teacher in Savannah. She was a woman of strong opinions who worked to improve the quality of life in her community. Emma never married or had any children. At her death in 1956, she was survived by a sister, brother and nephew. She is buried in Bonaventure Cemetery.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
EMMA CHEVES WILKINS	ii
CHAPTER 1. CHEVES FAMILY BACKGROUND	4
CHAPTER 2. EMMA CHEVES WILKINS	6
CHAPTER 3. ART	15
CHAPTER 4. TELFAIR	24
CHAPTER 5. COMMUNITY	28
CHAPTER 6. APPENDIX	31
CHAPTER 7. AFTERWORD	33
BIBLIOGRAPHY	35

CHAPTER 1
CHEVES FAMILY BACKGROUND

Langdon Cheves I (1776-1857) was Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives from South Carolina in the early 1800's. He was married to Mary Elizabeth Dulles.¹ (see appendix 1) His son, Langdon Cheves II, married Charlotte L. McCord and had three children: Mary Cheves, Emma Cheves, and Langdon Alexander Cheves.² (see appendix 2)

Langdon II, member of the Confederate Army, died in 1863 as a result of wounds received in the War Between the States.³ At his death he left a sizable estate, which included two plantations, stock in railroads and a steamship line, and other personal property. In 1865 his estate

¹Georgia Historical Society, Manuscript Collection #144 Box 1, Charlotte McCord Cheves.

²Chatham County Court House, Probate Court, Estate Records, Langdon Cheves, #308, 1864.

³GHS, MS #144.

received "\$5,000.00 for rice . . . captured by General Sherman's forces in Habersham's Rice Mill."⁴

Langdon A. Cheves (1854-1878) became a doctor and at twenty-four years of age died in an epidemic in Memphis, Tennessee in 1878.⁵ Mary Cheves, born 1842, married Charles N. West on November 29, 1869.⁶ They had four children: Charles J., Langdon C., Alice, and Mary C. West.⁷ Mary Cheves West was living with her niece, Emma C. Wilkins, in 1920. Mary was 78 years old at the time.⁸

⁴CCCH, Probate Ct., L.Cheves.

⁵GHS, MS #144.

⁶CCCH, Probate Ct., Marriage Records, Mary Cheves.

⁷CCCH, Probate Ct., Estate Records, Charles N. West.

⁸United States Census, Georgia Soundex 1920, Emma C. Wilkins.

CHAPTER 2

EMMA CHEVES WILKINS

Emma Cheves (1844-1916), daughter of Langdon II and Charlotte McCord, married Gilbert A. Wilkins on July 25, 1865.¹ Their first child, Emma Cheves Wilkins, was born December 10, 1870.² The family was living in Savannah at that time. In 1871 Gilbert A. Wilkins and W. W. West were partners in G. A. Wilkins & Co., commercial merchants and agents.³

In 1872, their second child, Robert Morris was born.⁴ On March 21, 1873, Robert Morris died from meningitis and was buried at Laurel Grove Cemetery.⁵ The same year, 1873,

¹CCCH, Probate Ct., Marriage Records, Gilbert A. Wilkins.

²Bonaventure Cemetery, Tombstone, Sec H Lot 13.

³Savannah City Directory, 1871.

⁴Bonaventure Cemetery, Sec H Lot 13.

⁵Chatham County Health Department, Death Records 1873, Robert M. Wilkins.

another son, Gilbert Aspinwall, was born.⁶ By 1874 Emma's father, Gilbert A. Wilkins, had a new business partner, Darwin B. Hull, and they operated Wilkins & Hull, cotton and commercial merchants.⁷ This business didn't last long because in 1876 Gilbert A. Wilkins had moved his family to Beaulieu and he was trying his hand at being a rice planter.⁸

The exact date of birth of Emma Cheves' and Gilbert's fourth child, Edgar Morris, cannot be determined from the available resources--it was probably between 1874 and 1877. This assumption is based on letters written to Edgar from his sister Emmie [Emma Cheves Wilkins] while she was in school in Baltimore in the 1880's.⁹

⁶Bonaventure Cemetery, Sec H Lot 13.

⁷Savh City Dir., 1874.

⁸Ibid., 1876.

⁹GHS, MS #868 Box 1, Emma Cheves Wilkins.

On September 15, 1877, Gilbert Aspinwall, age four, died from diphtheria and was buried at Bonaventure Cemetery.¹⁰ The second daughter, Bessie Alston, was born in January 1878 and died seven months later of congestive fever in Jonesville, South Carolina. She was buried with her brother at Bonaventure Cemetery.¹¹ It wasn't until 1879 that the family moved Robert Morris from Laurel Grove to the family lot at Bonaventure Cemetery.¹² In 1878 Emma's uncle, Dr. Langdon A. Cheves, died in a yellow fever epidemic in Memphis, Tennessee.¹³

Rice planting at Beaulieu proved to be unproductive and Gilbert moved his family back to Savannah. Emma Cheves' mother, Charlotte McCord, died in 1880. In October of 1880,

¹⁰Chatham County Health Dept., Death Records, 1877, Gilbert A. Wilkins.

¹¹Ibid., 1878, Bessie A. Wilkins.

¹²Bonaventure Cemetery General Index to Keepers Record Books 1850-1938, Vol 1, Compiled by Workers of the W.P.A. Official Project No. 465-34-3-148 1939, Robert M. Wilkins.

¹³GHS, MS #144.

¹⁴Mary Granger, ed. Savannah River Plantations.
(Savannah Writers Project GHS Savannah, 1947), 379-380.
¹⁵Savh City Dir., 1881.
¹⁶U.S. Census, Georgia Soundex 1910, Emma C. Wilkins.

was working a job that kept him away from his family.
had two business failures, bought and sold a plantation and
buried three. She lost her mother and brother. Her husband
In thirteen years Emma Cheves had eight children and

Wilkins, born in August 1883.¹⁶ (see appendix 3)
Martin Lorrain, born in November 1882; and Minna Cheves
children: Langdon Cheves Wilkins, born in January 1881;
Pulaski House.¹⁵ Over the next three years they had three
In 1881 the Wilkins family was living at the

to Joseph Clay.¹⁴
planting there because in 1881, Gilbert conveyed Rae's Hall
to Rae's Hall, or that Gilbert actually pursued rice
Banks. There is no indication that the Wilkins family moved
Gilbert purchased Rae's Hall plantation from Charles H.

Emma Cheves wrote to her sister "Mamie" from somewhere outside Savannah in 1884 or 1885, "I do not like you to talk so uncertainly of coming up for the day." It could not have been far if Mamie could have made a round trip in a day. In the letter she asks Mamie to buy clothes for Minna and Emmie. The Wilkins family was boarding with a Mrs. Rahn who "is a kind and generous landlady, constantly seeing that her guests have what they want." Emma Cheves was impressed with the affluence of the people in the area. She told Mamie, "The people seem to be rich and have nice houses." There is no mention of how long the family had been there, but Emma Cheves had "seen Gillie [husband Gilbert ?] once since we came."¹⁷

At age sixteen Emma Cheves Wilkins, daughter of Gilbert A. Wilkins, was living with her Grandmother Wilkins and Uncle Dwight in Baltimore and going to school. Judging from

¹⁷GHS MS #868.

her letters to her family, Emma was a conscientious student and did not like being away from her family. She kept her mother informed about her studies and social life in Baltimore. Among her other studies she describes her art classes in detail and some of the letters contain small drawings.¹⁸

Emma was a stutterer. Evidently it was quite a problem because she wrote to her mother from Baltimore that she went two days without speaking. Emma was in Baltimore about four months when she wrote "my stuttering is completely and forever cured" by a Mr. Aldrich who she describes as "a very pleasant man, a New Yorker, but a democrat. He does not speak like a yankee at all. These Baltimore people speak very much like Southerners."¹⁹

¹⁸Ibid.

¹⁹Ibid.

In one of her letters to her brother Edgar, Emma described a trip to Washington. Of special interest is a comment she made relating her feelings about standing on the floor of the House of Representatives. "I don't know which state I belong to." [She didn't mention any states.] The U. S. Census Records of 1910 show her place of birth as South Carolina. In a memo Emma wrote for Southern States Art League, outlining her art career, she said she was born in Savannah.²⁰

Many of Emma's letters sound as if she was writing to a friend instead of to her mother. She expressed sympathy for her mother's problems with the children. "What a dreadful time you must have with the children all sick with that horrid sore throat. I only hope it is not caused by so much dirt and [shops ?] around the hotel, because if it is you

²⁰Ibid.

ought not to stay there. I wish Papa could get a lot of work in Alabama. It would be a nice place to stay."²¹

Even though Emma had problems adjusting to living in Baltimore and she was aware of the family money problems, she exhibited a maturity beyond her years. "I am so sorry that you are so much worried about money. I know it is dreadful, but since I have been here I have seen worse trouble than poverty. We ought to be used to being poor by this time and not afraid to face it. I know I am not, if I can only get back to you all."²²

Through all the "hardships", Emma had a positive attitude about life. More than once she wrote to her mother "Please do not worry over things. They will almost certainly come out right at last and if they don't worrying can not help it. [sic] Do take the Irishman's advice and

²¹Ibid.

²²Ibid.

'Be Aisy; and If ye can't be aisy, why be as aisy as you
can.'²³

²³Ibid.

CHAPTER 3

ART

Both Emma's mother and grandmother were talented artists of miniature paintings. At an informal reception in 1899 for Emma's students the newspaper reported, "A great deal of interest was taken in a collection of miniatures painted by Mrs. Wilkins' mother, Mrs. Langdon Cheves, whose work is well known here." (see appendix 4) There is some evidence that "after the Confederate War Mrs. L. Cheves made her living by painting miniatures".¹ (see appendix 5) It must have been very pleasing to them that Emma followed their path and became an artist. Evidently she received encouragement for her artistic abilities because even with the family money problems Emma was able to continue her art studies.

¹GHS, MS #868, Box 2.

Few women of Emma's time became successful artists. The fact that her work was in demand by so many underscores her ability as an artist and her business acumen. Her grandmother's reputation as an artist and her grandfathers' military and political backgrounds probably helped to open doors for her. In the 1890's, Emma and her mother taught art from a studio in Savannah and Emma spent several summers studying in Paris. (see appendix6) She sold some of her work to a "Sanfrancisco man" [sic] while on one of her trips to Paris. On one of these trips, which extended to November, she wrote asking her mother to place an announcement in the newspaper outlining art classes that would start in the fall.²

Emma had definite opinions as to what good art was. On one of her trips to Paris, she wrote to her father comparing two salons--the "Champs Elysus and the Champs de

²Ibid., Box 1.

Mars". She and her friend had enjoyed the first show so much that they were eager to go the "New Salon." "We went & I never saw such horrible drabs such frightful colors such landscapes!! green horses-red clouds or navy blue." [sic] Emma did not like or appreciate the "new" art.³

By 1898 the market for Emma's work had extended to New York; the New York Herald paid her \$20.00 for some sketches.⁴

After Emma's father, Gilbert A. Wilkins, died in 1902,⁵ she and her mother moved from Jones street to Park Avenue where Emma lived until her death in 1956.⁶

By 1912, Emma had gained a widespread reputation for her portrait work. The mayor of Savannah and other local citizens wrote to Governor Joseph Brown, extolling her

³Ibid.

⁴Ibid.

⁵Bonaventure Cemetery Record Book 1850-1938 Vol.1.

⁶Savh City Dir. 1900-1956.

ability as an artist and asking that she be given the important assignment of painting the picture of General McIntosh Kell to be hung in the state capitol.⁷ Emma received the commission and the painting was well received.

When Emma's mother, Mrs. Emma C. Wilkins, died in 1916⁸ she was survived by five children: Minna and Langdon, who were living in New York; Edgar in Veracruz, Mexico; Martin in Henderson County, North Carolina; and Emma, here in Savannah.⁹

In 1917 Emma received Power of Attorney from her sister and brothers for Delta Plantation in Beaufort County, South Carolina.¹⁰ Without further investigation, the assumption can be made that Emma sold the property and distributed the profits among her brothers and sister.

⁷GHS, MS #868.

⁸Bonaventure Cemetery Record Book 1850-1938 Vol.1.

⁹CCCH, Superior Court, Record Room: Index to Deeds Grantee 1911-1926 R-Z, Emma Wilkins, Book 12S Folio 434.

¹⁰Ibid.

Like other members of her family, Emma was very active in property transactions. Between the years 1910 and 1952 I found 100 listings in her name in the Chatham County Court House, Superior Court, Index to Deeds. The reason is not clear but the facts are that during her lifetime Emma held large amounts of property. Without further investigation one can only speculate that she may have had some desire to regain the community standing her family lost after the War Between the States.

Emma was a smart business woman. As a woman of the Victorian era she took advantage of her artistic ability and connections with community leaders to make her mark. Unlike her mother and grandmother, who painted miniatures, Emma painted portraits. Although her portraits of women are interesting works, from the information available, they are fewer in number when compared to the other subjects she covered. The main subjects of her early portraits were

judges, doctors, bankers, politicians, and military figures. The painting style of the day portrayed the figure seated, turned slightly left or right, showing waist and up without the hands visible. The background was usually dark, indicating a curtain or drape of some kind. In photographs of the paintings I have seen it is difficult to distinguish the background. Many of Emma's portraits use a variation of this style. A good example is her portrait of Dr. R. D. Arnold, one of the founders of the Georgia Historical Society.¹¹ (see appendix 7) This painting is currently on loan to the Georgia Medical Society.

Three of her portraits differ from this style. The painting of Judge Walter Charlton is a right side profile. A note on the photograph of this painting states, "in the Chatham County Court House".¹² Initial inquiry at the

¹¹GHS, MS #868, Box 2.

¹²Ibid.

Chatham County Court House has not determined the location of this painting. The second painting, of Thomas Gamble, done in 1944 is also different from her standard style.

(see appendix 8) Gamble is shown in an informal pose seated in a wicker chair facing the viewer. The background contains detail not usually found in her other works: there is a table with two books and a vase with flowers. Emma painted him "as the historian, not as the businessman".¹³

This painting is hanging in the lobby of Gamble Hall at Armstrong State College. The third painting, of Mr. Freeman, father of Dora Freeman of Greenville, Georgia, is a small full figure, side view facing left.¹⁴ If the background was sharper in detail it could be classified as a landscape. Emma Cheves Wilkins and Dora Freeman were friends and corresponded for a number of years.¹⁵

¹³Ibid.

¹⁴Ibid.

¹⁵Ibid., Box 1.

The subjects of Emma's landscapes are mostly palm trees or moss-laden oaks. There are some interesting paintings including some with reflections in water. Her still life paintings of camellias are varied. Some of them have a strong focus on the camellias and in other paintings the camellia is just a part of an interesting arrangement. On the back of an undated photograph of a camellia painting she wrote, "one of my best pictures of Camellias. Bright blue & white background. Sold to Mrs. Bartow, McPhersonville."¹⁶ In 1952, Emma's camellia painting "Ancient and Modern" was a prize winner at the Art Club Show held at Telfair Academy.¹⁷

Emma Cheves Wilkins was 60 years old, in 1930, when she had her first one man show in New York at the studio of Guy Amaden. (see appendix 9) Her primary reason for being in New York was to visit her sister, Dr. Minna C. Wilkins. The

¹⁶Ibid., Box 2.

¹⁷Ibid.

show, which was a side issue to the visit, was well received. Most of the paintings in the show were scenes in and around Savannah.¹⁸

Emma participated in art shows around the Southeast and served on their various committees. For a number of years she was active in and exhibited with Southern States Art League, Society of Washington Artists, Three States Exhibition, Association of Georgia Artists, and Savannah Art Club.¹⁹ (see appendices 10, 11, 12)

¹⁸Ibid.

¹⁹Ibid.

CHAPTER 4

TELFAIR

Emma was doing restoration work as early as 1900.¹ She used her talent to restore at least three of Jeremiah Theus' paintings: "Alice Hayne" (?) [sic], a young girl about seven years old; "Mrs. Abraham Hayne;" and "Abraham Hayne", in a Neapolitan pose.² There is no indication when this work was done. The before photo of Abraham Hayne shows a painting in such bad condition that the face is almost unrecognizable. The eyes are missing and the mouth and nose are half gone. Results of the restoration in the after photograph attest to her skill. There is a possibility that Emma Cheves Wilkins was related to Jeremiah Theus.

¹GHS, MS #868.

²Ibid.

Telfair owns two of Theus' paintings, "Peggy Warner", given to Telfair by Emma Cheves Wilkins in 1946 and "James Habersham", purchased with a bequest from Emma's estate.³

Emma had a one man show in 1942 at Telfair Academy. (see appendix 13) The oil paintings represented a wide range of subjects, "Some portraits, some studies of negro types, several landscapes, flower studies and still life." Her portrait of "Jerry", the janitor at Telfair, attracted much attention and was purchased later by Telfair Academy.⁴ (see appendix 14)

Over the years Emma Cheves Wilkins made several donations to Telfair Academy: a 1925 dress; her collection of fashion prints, [a fashion print is like a fashion magazine]; and a brass fender, which was bought in England in the early 1900's.⁵

³Pamela King, curator Telfair Museum, interview by author 14 May 1993, Savannah, Telfair Museum, Savannah.

⁴GHS, MS #868.

⁵Ibid.

Telfair owns three paintings by Emma Cheves Wilkins.⁶ Two of them are currently in storage: "Jerry", an interesting departure in subject for her portraits; and an untitled landscape of azaleas in bloom. The third, "Playing with Reds", is hanging at Telfair Academy in the library in the business office.

Emma Cheves Wilkins was active in the life of Telfair for many years. She served on the Nominating Committee in 1930; the Membership Committee, which she chaired in 1936; and she was elected as a Trustee of Telfair Academy in 1947.⁷

Two of Emma's paintings were published in *La Revue Moderne*, A French art magazine: the portrait of Judge Walter Charlton; and a landscape, "Around the Pool."⁸ see appendix 15)

⁶Pamela King, curator Telfair.

⁷GHS, MS #868, Box 2.

⁸Ibid.

In January 1948, Emma Cheves Wilkins presented to the trustees of Telfair Academy a list of 350 old portraits owned by individuals in Savannah.⁹ The compilation was made by Emma who was chairman in charge of the undertaking of this census. (see appendix 16) The Frick Art Reference Library of New York expressed special interest in the project and in 1953 an eleven page list of paintings photographed in Savannah in February and March of 1953 was presented to Telfair.¹⁰

⁹Ibid.

¹⁰Ibid.

CHAPTER 5

COMMUNITY

Emma's interest in and love for her community is evidenced by her vocal response to community problems. In 1930 Emma wrote a letter to the editor in defense of trees.¹ There was a movement underway in Savannah to cut down trees along Drayton because, according to some members of the community, they were a traffic hazard. She was also concerned about saving Savannah's squares, "our ancient landmarks." (see appendix 17) In a letter to the editor in 1940 she wrote, "Anyone who wishes to destroy our squares is old fashioned and short sighted. It is most modern to cling to and preserve historical remains, and long may our squares remain."² She was very concerned about the destruction of Savannah's squares on Montgomery Street and used her

¹GHS, MS #868.

²Ibid.

influence and money to prevent the same thing from happening on Habersham Street. In 1952 Emma made a contribution to the Park and Tree Commission for improvement and beautification of the Habersham Street Squares.³

Emma was elected a member of the Colonial Dames of America in 1926. She made a presentation to the local Historical Research Association held at the Colonial Dames house in 1940. (see appendix 18) That presentation included twenty-two portraits of Eighteenth Century citizens who played a leading role in Savannah and national affairs. Emma outlined the biographies of the subjects or technique of the artist for the presentation.⁴

Emma Cheves Wilkins died eight days after her 86th birthday in December 1956.⁵ (see appendix 19) She was survived by a sister, Dr. Minna C. Wilkins, of New York; a

³Ibid.

⁴Ibid.

⁵Chatham County Health Dept., Death Records 1956, Emma C. Wilkins.

brother, Martin L. Wilkins, of Lakeland, Florida; and a nephew, Edgar Morris Wilkins, of Mexico City, Mexico.⁶ Emma enjoyed the admiration of art lovers from Savannah to New York and Paris. The following is an excerpt from the editorial that ran the day after she died.

"In life, just as in her painting, "Miss Emma" was always direct and honest. She faced life squarely, but with a refreshing sense of humor and an innate kindness which endeared her to all who knew her well. And above all, she was always the perfect example of what a Southern Gentlewoman should be."⁷

⁶CCCH, Probate Ct., Estate Records, Emma Cheves Wilkins, #2094 12-18-56.

⁷GHS, MS #868.

CHAPTER 6

APPENDIX

1. Family tree - Langdon Cheves I
2. Family tree - Langdon Cheves II
3. Family tree - Wilkins
4. E.C.Wilkins Artist & Her Studio - Newspaper Article
22 February 1914 GHS MS 868:2:17
5. Charlotte Cheves - Handwritten note
author unknown GSH MS 144:1:6:79
6. E.C.Wilkins Art Exhibition - Newspaper Article
23 April 1899 GHS MS 868:2:17
7. Portrait--Dr. R.D.Arnold - Newspaper Article
Savannah Morning News GHS MS 868:2:17
8. Portrait Mayor Thomas Gamble - Newspaper Article
6 August 1944 GHS MS 868:2:17
9. New York Show - Newspaper Article
10 July 1930 GHS MS 868:2:17
10. Art Show at Delgado - Newspaper Article
GHS MS 868:2:17
11. Southern State Art League - 27 April 1931
12. E.C.Wilkins - Handwritten memo
13. Telfair Show - Newspaper Article
21 February 1942 GHS MS:868:2:17
14. "Jerry" - Newspaper Article
March 1942
15. La Revue Moderne - Newspaper article
GHS MS 868:2:17

16. List of Portraits, Telfair - Newspaper Article
Savannah Morning News 16 January 1948
17. Save Our Ancient Landmarks - Typewritten Letter
GHS MS 868:1:15
18. Portraits Bring Back Days of Old - Newspaper Article
Savannah Morning News 2 March 1940
19. Photographs - Bonavendure Cemetery

SHs MS 1277 38:310
 Chavez Papers

Christening _____ Place _____
 Marriage _____ Place _____
 Death 1857 _____ Place _____
 Burial _____ Place _____
 Father _____ Mother (Maiden Name) _____
 Other Wives (if any) _____

WIFE Mary Elizabeth Dulles

Birth _____ Place _____
 Christening _____ Place _____
 Death _____ Place _____
 Burial _____ Place _____
 Father _____ Mother (Maiden Name) _____
 Other Husbands (if any) _____

Search No. _____
 Date of Search _____
 Document File No. MS 1277 38:310
Chavez Papers

No.	Sex	CHILDREN (In order of Birth)	BIRTH (Date and Place)	MARRIAGE (Spouse, Date and Place)	DEATH (Date and Place)
1		<u>Langdon II</u>		<u>Charlotte McCord</u>	<u>1863</u>
2		<u>Alexander</u>			
3		<u>Joseph Andrew</u>			
4		<u>John Richardson</u>		<u>Rachel</u>	
5		<u>Charles</u>		<u>Isabella Middleton</u>	
6		<u>Sophia</u>		<u>Charles T. Haskell</u>	
7		<u>Louisa S.</u>		<u>David McCord</u>	
8		<u>Anna</u>		<u>Pinekey Huger</u>	
9					
10					
11					
12					
13					

Appendix

Birth _____ Place _____
 Christening _____ Place _____
 Marriage 1863 _____ Place _____
 Death _____ Place _____
 Burial _____ Place _____
 Father Langdon Cheves I _____ Mother (Maiden Name) Mary Elizabeth Dalles
 Other Wives (if any) _____

WIFE Charlotte L. McCord
 Birth _____ Place _____
 Christening _____ Place _____
 Death 1880 _____ Place _____
 Burial _____ Place _____
 Father _____ Mother (Maiden Name) _____
 Other Husbands (if any) _____

Search No. _____
 Date of Search _____
 Document File No. CCCH, Probate Ct.

No.	Sex	CHILDREN (In order of Birth)	BIRTH (Date and Place)	MARRIAGE (Spouse, Date and Place)	Estate Records (Date and Place)
1	F	Emma	3-15-1844 South Carolina	Gilbert A. Wilkins 7-25-1868 Chatham Co. GA.	DEATH Cheves 2-12-1916
2	M	Langdon A (doctor)	1854	Sophia Robert Hasket 3-2-1889	Savannah, GA Memphis, TN - epidemic 1878
3	F	Mary	1842	Charles N. West Savannah	
4					
5					
6					
7					
8					
9					
10					
11					
12					
13					

Appendix

Christening 7-23-1868
 Marriage 5-26-1902 A. 56
 Death 12-18-1956
 Burial Savh, GA
 Father Emma C. Wilkins
 Other Wives (if any) None

WIFE Emma Cheves
 Birth 3-15-1844
 Christening South Carolina
 Death 2-12-1916 A. 74
 Burial Bonaventure Cemetery
 Father Langdon Cheves
 Other Husbands (if any) L. McCord

No.	Sex	CHILDREN (In order of Birth)	BIRTH (Date and Place)	MARRIAGE (Spouse, Date and Place)	DEATH (Date and Place)
1	F	Emma Cheves	12-10-1870 SC	Never married	12-18-1956 Savh, GA
2	M	Robert Morris (Robert W.)	1872	—	1877 (3-21-73) A.
3	M	Gilbert Aspinwall	1873	—	1874 A.
4	F	Bessie Aspinwall (Bessie W.)	1878	—	1878 A.
5	M	Langdon C.	Jan 1881 SC	M.	Jonesville, SC
6	M	Martin L. Wilkins	Nov. 1882 SC		
7	F	Minna-C. Wilkins	Aug. 1883 SC		
8	M	Edgar Morris Wilkins (will)	? 1874 - 1877		
9		Lisa: Gilbert Claude			
10					
11					
12					
13					

Appendix

CHAPTER 7

AFTERWORD

There is a multitude of information on the Cheves and Wilkins families at the Georgia Historical Society in the Manuscript Collection. My research to this point reveals little of the family background of Gilbert A. Wilkins.

Research accuracy in the Emma Cheves Wilkins Manuscript Collection was difficult because none of the family letters are year dated, they have only the month and day.

I have completed this project with more unanswered questions than when I started. There is a vast amount of information that I have not had time to cover--sources I have not explored.

Questions I would like to see answered:

1. Are there any relatives of Emma Cheves Wilkins in the Savannah area? (I have not located any relatives.)

2. Does Emma's nephew Gilbert Claude have any family in Mexico?

3. Where is Judge Walter Charlton's portrait?

4. Who was A. S. Waller? (He committed suicide in 1878 at the Delta Plantation and was buried on the Wilkins family lot at Bonaventure.)

5. What happened to Delta Plantation?

6. Was Gilbert A. Wilkins in the military during the War Between the States?

The most important lessons I learned this quarter are:

1. There are resource materials I never knew existed and I now have some information available on how to use them.

2. I have learned the importance of recording the location of source information the first time I find it!

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