BIOGRAPHY OF

HENRY FREDERICK WILLIAMS (1785-1873)

Martha Coolidge
History 300
July 29, 1977
I. ORIGIN, IMMIGRATION AND FIRST RECORDS OF HENRY FREDERICK WILLINK IN SAVANNAH

Henry Frederick Willink was born in Germany on September 13, 1785.¹ The area in Germany in which he was born and lived before immigration to the United States is unknown. However, in a will of 1870 he left sums of money to a niece living in Wolhusen in the Kingdom of Hanover and to a nephew living in Pinneburg in the duchy of Holstein.²

The date of Henry Frederick Willink's arrival in Savannah is also unknown. There is no mention of his name in the naturalization records of Chatham County,³ but he evidently did become a naturalized citizen because he is recorded as paying poll tax in the 1819 tax records.⁴ It would not have been unlikely for Willink to have entered the United States in some area other than Chatham County. His first wife, Lydia, was a native of South Carolina; perhaps he lived in that state before moving to Savannah.⁵

The earliest reference to Henry Frederick Willink seems to indicate that he had been established in Savannah for a while before its appearance in an 1812 newspaper: "The co-partnership of Driscoll and Willink ship carpenters in this city, expired on Saturday the 19th inst. of which all concerned will take due notice. Frederick Willink."⁶

Other newspaper references, land records, and tax records give proof that the Frederick Willink who placed this advertisement and Henry Frederick Willink are one and the same person. Henry Frederick Willink died in 1873; the funeral was held from his home at the corner of South Broad and Habersham.⁷
which was in lot 36 Columbia Ward. Lot 36 Columbia Ward was purchased in 1827 by Frederick Willink. In 1834 Henry Frederick Willink took a mortgage on lot 36 Columbia Ward. There is no deed between 1827 and 1834 transferring lot 36 Columbia Ward from Frederick Willink to Henry Frederick Willink. There is no will of a Frederick Willink in which the property might have been given to Henry Frederick Willink. Furthermore, the tax records list lot 36 Columbia Ward under the name F. Willink in 1828 and under the name H. F. Willink in 1829. Two newspaper advertisements, both placed in June 1822 and both concerning the sloop John Henry, are placed under the names Henry Frederick Willink and F. Willink. All of these records give evidence that Frederick Willink and Henry Frederick Willink were the same person and that the names were used interchangeably.

By 1816 Willink was wealthy enough to buy a Negro girl for $475.00; this girl is also recorded as the first piece of property bought by Willink. The first piece of land in Savannah which Willink bought was the eastern half of lot 27 Greene Ward, which he purchased in 1820 for $1,500.00.

SECTION I - FOOTNOTES

1. Information on tomb, lot 156, Laurel Grove Cemetery

2. Chatham County Probate Court, Wills and probate proceedings of Henry Frederick Willink, file W-356

3. For information on the immigration and naturalization of Henry Frederick Willink, I checked the following sources: Otto, Naturalization Records Index, indexes records of Chatham County beginning in the 1790's through the 1860's; Chatham County Superior Court, Alien Declarations, 1825-1841; Chatham County Superior Court, Alien Declarations, 1825-1895
4. Savannah Tax Digest, 1819
5. Chatham County Vital Statistics, Death Records
6. Republican and Savannah Evening Ledger, December 22, 1812, p.3, c.4
7. Savannah Morning News, March 14, 1873, p.2, c.6
8. Office of the Clerk of the Superior Court, Land Records of Chatham County, 2-0, p.651
9. Office of the Clerk of the Superior Court, Land Records of Chatham County, 2-T, p.3
10. Savannah Tax Digest, 1828 and Savannah Tax Digest, 1829
11. Georgian, June 18, 1822, p.3, c.4 and Georgian, June 25, 1822, p.2, c.5
12. Office of the Clerk of the Superior Court, Land Records of Chatham County, 2-F, p.413
13. Office of the Clerk of the Superior Court, Land Records of Chatham County, 2-X, p.161
II. FAMILY AND HOME

Henry Frederick Willink is buried in a tomb in Laurel Grove Cemetery, lot 156, with his three wives. His first wife, Lydia, who died in 1816 at the age of 23, was a native of South Carolina.14 On May 19, 1820, Miss Jane Bigle and Henry Frederick Willink, both of Savannah were married by Reverend Mr. Cranston in Christ Church.15 Jane Willink died January 8, 1832, at the age of 36;16 on June 27, 1832, Henry Frederick Willink married Miss Isabella Hawkins in the Lutheran Church of the Ascension.17 Isabella Willink died on January 2, 1872, at the age of 71.18

At the time of Henry Frederick Willink's death in 1873 he was survived by seven children. Of these children Henry Frederick Willink, Jr., John H. Willink, Julia Maria Willink Guillemard, Anna S. Willink Donaldson and Thomas Willink were the children of Jane Bigle and Henry Frederick Willink. The surviving children of Willink by Isabella Hawkins were Joseph D. Willink and Susan Emily Willink Gardner.19 Two daughters of Henry Frederick Willink and Jane Willink died in October of 1831; Sarah Jane, age 10, and Emily Hermene, age 18 months.20 Alexander Willink, son of Isabella, appears in the 1850 census as an eight year old boy.21 This son, who became a machinist, died in 1866 when he fell from a crane.22

In 1827 Willink purchased lot 36, Columbia Ward, the northeast corner of South Broad (today Oglethorpe Avenue) and Habersham, from Joseph Davis for $1200.00 plus annual ground rent of $15.52½.23 His death and funeral in 1873 took place in his house at this location.24 An inventory of Henry Frederick Willink's possessions compiled in April of 1873, after his death, describes the house as a two story wooden house with brick additions and stables.25 A list of household items named in the inventory is at the end of this section.
In the Savannah Tax Digests lot 56, Columbia Ward, with its buildings was valued at $1,000.00 from 1828 until 1834, when the value went up to $1,500.00 because of improvements. However, Willink must not have lived in this house continuously from 1827 until 1873 because this add appears in the newspaper in January 1832: "To Rent, My house in Columbia Ward on the corner of South Broad and Habersham sts. at present occupied by me... M. F. Willink." The house is advertised for rent again in November of the same year.

Where Henry Frederick Willink lived before 1827 is unclear. The first piece of property he bought in Savannah was the eastern half of lot 27, Ward Green in 1829, but Willink was established in Savannah by 1812 as newspaper references indicate. No place of residence is given on the 1816 death record of Lydia Willink.

SECTION II - FOOTNOTES

15. Warren and Bondurant, Marriages and Deaths 1820-1830, p. 138
16. Information on tomb, lot 156, Laurel Grove Cemetery says Jane Willink was in her 37th year at the time of her death; Chatham County Vital Statistics, Death Records give her age as 34.
17. Records of the Lutheran Church of the Ascension, Savannah, Georgia, 1823-1906, Marriages, Book I, p.4
18. Chatham County Vital Statistics, Death Records
19. Calculated from comparing the birth dates of the children with the death dates of Henry Frederick Willink's wives. Also baptismal records found in Records of the Lutheran Church of the Ascension, Savannah, Georgia, 1823-1906 name Henry F. and Jane Willink as the parents of Henry F. Willink, Jr., p.1; and Isabella and Henry Frederick Willink as the
parents of Susan Emily Willink, p. 6

20. Information in graves, lot 156, Laurel Grove Cemetery


22. Savannah Newspaper Digest, January 1, to December 31, 1866, p. 6

23. Office of the Clerk of the Superior Court, Land Records of Chatham County, 2-0, p. 651


25. Chatham County Probate Court, Wills and probate proceedings of Henry Frederick Willink, file W-366

26. Georgian, Jan. 14, 1832, p. 2, c.6

27. Georgian, Nov. 5, 1832, p. 2, c.6

28. Republican and Savannah Evening Ledger, Dec. 1812, p. 3, c.4
Map of Columbia Ward, showing Lot 36, location of the home of Henry Frederick Willink.
LIST OF HOUSEHOLD GOODS AND TOOLS OF HENRY FREDERICK WILLINK, COMPILED FROM AN
INVENTORY OF HIS ESTATE

8 mahogany tables
1 marble top table
5 sofas
4 looking glasses
2 side boards
16 chairs
7 rocking chairs
5 arm chairs
1 pair ottoman
3 spittoons (white)
2 spittoons (tin)
1 pair vases
2 pair silver candle sticks, sniffer, and tray
2 pair shovels and tongs
3 entry chairs
26 window shades
1 book case
2 small benches
4 fine Brussels carpets
3 three ply carpets
1 stair carpet and rods
4 rugs
4 door mats
1 extension dining table
2 clocks
2 boot stands
1 safe
3 pine tables
2 bedsteads
1 roll matting
2 hair mattresses
2 feather beds
2 bolster
1 pair pillows
2 wardrobes
3 bureaus
2 andirons
3 trunks
1 chest
1 carpet bag
1 cot and mattress
2 buckets
12 upstairs chairs
1 towel rack
2 coal scuttles
6 waiters
2 lanterns
2 lamps
1 wine case
oil cloth
1 stove furnished
1 plated tea set including tray
1 lot glassware
1 horse
1 carry all
1 buggy
1 colts (word illegible)
1 lot blankets and bed cloths
1 easy chair
7 tablespoons silver
1 butter knife silver
5 teaspoons silver
1 small opera glass and case
1 pair gold spectacles
1 pair silver spectacles
1 iron pump
1 grindstone
1 vice
1 old turning lathe
1 lot of old tools
III. BUSINESS ACTIVITIES

In the 1812 newspaper notice of dissolution of partnership Henry Frederick Willink's occupation is mentioned as being a ship carpenter. Advertisements in the newspapers in 1818 and 1822 show that Willink built sloops and schooners for sale and for rent to carry freight and passengers. In 1825, Willink was ordered by the Judge of Superior Court to pay Robert Habersham $246.95 for peas damaged aboard his sloop during shipment.

Willink purchased in 1835, at a public sale held by Sheriff John J. Dews, Wharf Lot 19, Trustees Gardens which had formerly been in the possession of Richard Richardson and Company. The wharf on this lot, which is shown in the map at the end of this section, came to be known as Willink's Wharf. By 1840 Willink was paying taxes on Wharf Lot 19 together with Back Lots 15, 16, 17 and 18 in Trustees Gardens.

After Willink purchased the wharf and back lots he operated a shipyard and lumber yard on this property. In 1840 he petitioned the City Council to allow him to extend his wharf twenty feet out into the river and build a railway which would allow him to haul up vessels of 350 tons and steamboats. Apparently this request was granted for in 1850 this advertisement appeared in the paper: "To Rent, for one or more years, all that wharf lot situated east of the Union Ferry Dock, fronting on Savannah River, 350 feet, together with the railway, engine and fixtures attached thereto. H. F. Willink." In 1851 Henry Frederick Willink, Jr., began working in his father's shipyard. Willink, Jr., continued in the shipbuilding trade from this time on, beginning at his father's shipyard and later at this own shipyard; he became well known as the builder of ironclads and gunboats for the Confederate States government.

In January of 1852 Henry Frederick Willink was wounded and suffering
considerable pain, according to a newspaper account which does not say how he was wounded.37 Perhaps as a result of this accident he turned the running of his shipyard over to his son because throughout the later 1850's newspaper references to Henry Frederick Willink, Jr., occur in increasing numbers. In 1860 Willink sold his wharf and back lots to Gazaway B. Lamar for $50,000.00.38

An advertisement in the paper in 1855 lists "H. F. Willink Real Estate Agent."39 Willink owned a great amount of property in Savannah. He may have ended his shipbuilding career to devote all his time to the management of this property. At the end of this section are lists showing references in the Land Records of Chatham County to the property that Willink bought and sold. According to the Tax Digests of Savannah, Willink owned the most property in 1860, although he continued to own a substantial amount in later years. A list of the property he owned in 1860 is at the end of this section.

Willink must not have been an ideal landlord. In 1865 one of his tenants was ordered by the Judge of the Second Provost Court to be allowed one and a half months' rent in consideration of repairs she made on Willink's property.40

One house which Henry Frederick Willink owned and rented is at 426 St. Julian Street. This house originally stood on Price Street on lot 28, Crawford Ward. Henry Willink bought this lot, a portion of the Southeast Common, from the mayor and alderman of Savannah in 1844 for $328.00. Instead of paying the full sum at the time of purchase he elected to pay $65.20 plus an annual ground rent of $15.68;41 he built the cottage on the lot in 1845.42 In 1869 Willink sold this lot and cottage to Henry H. Rowland for $2,500.00; the lot was still subject to annual ground rent of $15.68 after the time of sale.43 A map showing the original location of this cottage and a photograph of the cottage are included at the end of this section.
29. Republican and Savannah Evening Ledger, Dec. 22, 1812, p. 3, c.4
30. Columbian Magazine and Savannah Daily Gazette, Feb. 3, 1818, p.2, c.3; Georgian, Aug. 4, 1822, p.4, c.2; Georgian, June 19, 1822, p.3, c.4
31. Chatham County Superior Court Judgment of June 2, 1835.
32. Office of the Clerk of the Superior Court, Land Records of Chatham County, 2-V, p. 175
33. Savannah Tax Digest, 1840
34. Georgian, Sept. 26, 1840, p.2, c.3
35. Savannah Newspaper Digest for 1850, p.7; and originally in Savannah Daily Morning News, April 13, 1850, p.3, c.2
36. Henry Frederick Willink, Jr., manuscript collection at the Georgia Historical Society
37. Savannah Newspaper Digest for 1852, p.1; article originally in Savannah Daily Morning News, Jan. 23, 1852, p.1, c.1
38. Office of the Clerk of the Superior Court, Land Records of Chatham County, 3-7, p.24
39. Savannah Newspaper Digest for 1855; refers to an advertisement originally in Savannah Daily Morning News, Feb. 26, 1855, p.2, c.6
40. Savannah Newspaper Digest for 1865, p.282; refers to article originally in Savannah Daily Herald, May 2, 1865, p.2, c.5 and 4
41. Office of the Clerk of the Superior Court, Land Records of Chatham County, 4-D, p. 39
42. Nichols, The Architecture of Georgia, p.69
43. Office of the Clerk of the Superior Court, Land Records of Chatham County, 4-D, p.45
PROPERTY OWNED BY H. F. WILLINK LISTED IN SAVANNAH TAX DIGEST OF 1860

3 Gilmerville

4 Gilmerville

7 Berrien Ward

8 Berrien Ward

Part 15, 16, 17, 18, Trustees Gardens (sold in 1860)

s. § 7 Trustees Gardens

19 Wharf Trustees Gardens (sold in 1860)

34 Columbia Ward

35 Columbia Ward

28 Crawford Ward

37 Crawford Ward

9 Columbia Ward

10 Columbia Ward

LOCATION OF DEEDS SHOWING PROPERTY BOUGHT BY H. F. WILLINK, COMPILED FROM LAND RECORDS OF CHATHAM COUNTY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Record Book</th>
<th>Page Number</th>
<th>Name of Seller</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2F</td>
<td>413</td>
<td>Barton Hamilton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2X</td>
<td>161</td>
<td>William Ross</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2O</td>
<td>551</td>
<td>Joseph Davis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2F</td>
<td>302</td>
<td>L. S. Delyon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2V</td>
<td>175</td>
<td>R. and J. Bolton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2V</td>
<td>186</td>
<td>John H. Haupt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2W</td>
<td>571</td>
<td>Wm. B. Gaulden</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2W</td>
<td>572</td>
<td>John F. Lloyd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2Y</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Michael Dillon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2Z</td>
<td>143</td>
<td>Bertheilot &amp; Santini</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3D</td>
<td>165</td>
<td>John R. Russell</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3G</td>
<td>174</td>
<td>Robert Est Scott</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3G</td>
<td>175</td>
<td>Margaret Scott</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3H</td>
<td>416</td>
<td>Ann M. Pinder</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3T</td>
<td>151</td>
<td>Samuel Palmer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3T</td>
<td>151</td>
<td>George W. Adams</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3T</td>
<td>151</td>
<td>Solomons Lodge #1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>F. A. M.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Record Book Page Number Name of Seller

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Record Book</th>
<th>Page Number</th>
<th>Name of Seller</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3Y</td>
<td>304</td>
<td>Mary A. &amp; Eliz.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3Y</td>
<td>416</td>
<td>B. Barstow</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3H</td>
<td>416</td>
<td>Henry Becktell</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3H</td>
<td>417</td>
<td>Ann M. Pinder</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4P</td>
<td>129</td>
<td>&amp; Joseph W.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3L</td>
<td>413</td>
<td>Thomas M. Turner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3V</td>
<td>377</td>
<td>Geo. S. Appleton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4G</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>William Kine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4Y</td>
<td>183</td>
<td>Joseph Ribero</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2W</td>
<td>263</td>
<td>Mary Ann Barstow, et al</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3E</td>
<td>572</td>
<td>Mayor and Alderman CS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3E</td>
<td>260</td>
<td>H.J. Dowell, et al</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3E</td>
<td>98</td>
<td>John Johnson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3E</td>
<td>313</td>
<td>Samuel Turner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3E</td>
<td>301</td>
<td>W.R. Norrise</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3E</td>
<td>417</td>
<td>Wyly F. Willis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3Y</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>Elizabeth Helmken</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4D</td>
<td>183</td>
<td>Mayor and Alderman CS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4P</td>
<td>199</td>
<td>Geo. Cumming, et al</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4N</td>
<td></td>
<td>Joseph Cumming, et al</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### LOCATION OF DEEDS SHOWING PROPERTY SOLD BY H.F. WILLINK, COMPILED FROM LAND RECORDS OF CHATHAN COUNTY

### Record Book Page Number Name of Buyer

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Record Book</th>
<th>Page Number</th>
<th>Name of Buyer</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2G</td>
<td>539</td>
<td>Geo. Schick</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2H</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>A.S. Bulloch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2K</td>
<td>193</td>
<td>Park Duffy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2V</td>
<td>442</td>
<td>J.P. Henry et al</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3T</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>Cassaday B. Lamar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3V</td>
<td>451</td>
<td>Tobias Brown</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3W</td>
<td>203</td>
<td>Harry Haym</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3Y</td>
<td>114</td>
<td>Henry Beckett</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3Y</td>
<td>427</td>
<td>Elizabeth Helmken</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3Z</td>
<td>531</td>
<td>Wm. Dunn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4B</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>Francis McAuliffe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4F</td>
<td>418</td>
<td>Geo. S. Appleton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2T</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>A.A. Smuts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2T</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>Planters' Bank</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3V</td>
<td>434</td>
<td>Jacob Rosenband</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4G</td>
<td>247</td>
<td>A.S. Hartridge</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4N</td>
<td>201</td>
<td>Jeremiah McGrohan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4N</td>
<td>212</td>
<td>Eugenia E. Barfe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4S</td>
<td>383</td>
<td>Joseph Croette</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4X</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>John R. &amp; Jos. W. Wilder</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
HOUSE BUILT BY HENRY FREDERICK WILLINK IN 1845

ORIGINALLY ON LOT 28 CRAWFORD WARD

TODAY AT 426 ST. JULIAN STREET
IV. CHARACTER AND CIVIC ACTIVITIES

Although it is impossible to find enough information about Henry Frederick Willink to know what his personality was like, there are some advertisements he inserted in the newspaper which reveal something of his nature.

Willink inserted this ad in the paper July 18, 1833: “Five dollars reward, runaway, yesterday noon, a Negro man named Sam, about 20 years of age . . .”44 On August 24, 1833, Willink advertised for sale: “A prime Negro boy, Sam, nineteen or twenty years of age, a ship carpenter of sober habits and no runaway.”45

Two other newspaper advertisements show that Willink had enemies, or at least thought he did: In 1833 he placed this ad: “The subscriber respectfully returns thanks to his few friends who assisted him on the morning of the fire . . . The subscriber is not unmindful of those who took a flourish on the same morning around the ruins with laughter and scorn. The few that assisted me on the above occasion will ever be remembered with heartfelt gratitude.”46 Unfortunately, I could find no reference in the newspapers around this time concerning the fire. In 1836 Willink offered ten dollars reward for proof leading to the conviction of the person or persons who wantonly cut the subscriber’s gate in two on Monday night last.”47

When the Street and Lane Committee of the City Council talked to Willink about extending Bay Street through his property he told them “that under no circumstances should the street pass through his lots with his consent.”48

I found only a few references to Henry Frederick Willink’s civic and community activities. He was a member of Solomon’s Lodge, and a masonic
symbol is carved on his tomb. On the day of his funeral a special meeting
of Solomon's Lodge was held and the members went in a "procession to the
residence of the deceased and thence to Laurel Grove Cemetery where the
remains were interred with the usual masonic ceremonies". 49

In Willink's will of 1870 he left Solomon's Lodge some stock in the
Central Railroad and Banking Company; however, in his final will of 1872
he cut the Lodge out. 50 He also left stock in the will of 1870 to the
Lutheran Church of the Ascension, but the church is not mentioned in his
final will. However, in both wills he requested his funeral be performed
according to the forms of the Lutheran Church.

In 1839 Willink was appointed at a public meeting held at the Exchange
to a committee to select candidates for the ensuing election of alderman,
and in 1840 he was appointed Secretary of the Mechanic's Benevolent Society. 51

SECTION IV - FOOTNOTES

44. Georgian, July 18, 1833, p.3, c.4
45. Georgian, August 24, 1833, p.3, c.3
46. Georgian, December 17, 1833, p.2, c.6
47. Georgian, April 9, 1836, p.2, c.6
48. Savannah City Council Minutes, June 22, 1837. The City Council later
resolved to extend Bay Street in spite of Willink's answer as is shown
in the Mayor's Correspondence Book, 1817-1851, letter of December 23,
1837.
49. Minutes of Solomon's Lodge No. 1, F.A. M, March 14, 5873 (1873).
50. Chatham County Probate Court, Wills and Probate proceedings of Henry
Frederick Willink, file M-366
51. Georgian, Aug. 17, 1839, p.2, c.3; Georgian, Oct. 27, 1841, p.3, c.2
V. DEATH, WILLS AND DESCENDANTS

Henry Frederick Willink died on March 13, 1873. The day before he died a commission of twelve citizens had declared him an imbecile from old age and recommended the appointment of a guardian for him. The commission was subpoenaed to perform this task by the sheriff in compliance with an order issued by the Ordinary's Office of Chatham County on March 10, 1873. The Court of the Ordinary issued the order to subpoena the citizens in acting on a petition submitted in February of 1873 by John H. Willink, son of Henry Frederick Willink.

Before he died Henry Frederick Willink wrote two wills, one in 1870 and one in 1872. After his death Willink's children made an appeal to the Superior Court of Chatham County to keep the 1872 will from being admitted to probate. The 1870 will was more generous to the children, who apparently felt that by 1872 their father's memory was deficient and he could not remember the property he owned. In 1874 an agreeable settlement was reached and the appeal was withdrawn.

After looking for information in the marriage, will and administration records of the Chatham County Probate Court, I can find no living descendant of Henry Frederick Willink in Savannah today. After Daisy Willink, granddaughter of Henry Frederick Willink died in 1966, there were no remaining Willinks in Savannah. There is a great granddaughter of Henry Frederick Willink, named Catherine Willink Craighill, alive and living in Virginia. She is the only living Willink descendant I could find. A list of descendants with notes indicating records of wills, administrations and marriages is attached to this section.
SECTION V - FOOTNOTES

52. Savannah Morning News, March 13, 1873, p.1, c.1

53. Chatham County Probate Court, Wills and probate proceedings of Henry Frederick Willink, file N-366.
List of Descendants of Henry Franklin Willink (1785-1873) compiled from
Probate Court Records, Cemetery Records and Vital Statistics

I. Henry Frederick Willink, 1785-1873

First Wife – Lydia, c. 1792-1816, maiden name unknown, date of
marriage unknown, no record of will

Second Wife – Jane Egle, c. 1795-1832, married 1820, no record of
will

Third wife – Isabella Hawkins, c. 1799-1872, married 1832, no record
of will

II. Children of Henry Frederick Willink

1. Henry Frederick Willink, 1824-1906, married Alethea Scruggs
   Kennedy in 1858

2. Julia Maria Willink, b.c. 1825, married John F. Guilmartin in
   1859

3. Anna S. Willink, b.c. 1829, married Weston S. Donaldson in
   1855

4. Joseph D. Willink, c. 1834-1880, married Carrie S. Haywood in
   1861

5. Thomas Willink, c. 1831-1882, married Isabella S. Kennedy in
   1859

6. Susan Emily Willink, b. 1842, married Frederick A. Garden in
   1866

   and Anna Eliza Withington in 1872

II. 1. Children of Henry F. Willink and Alethea Scruggs Kennedy

   a. Jennie A. Willink, d. 1935, unmarried

   b. Mary Eugenia Willink, d. 1957, unmarried
c. Daisy B. Willink, d. 1966, unmarried

d. Emma D. Willink, d. 1905, unmarried

e. Bessie Willink, d. 1906, unmarried, no record of will

f. Harry Willink, d. 1911, unmarried

g. Edward Willink, married Mabel Bartholomew in 1897, no record of will

h. John H. Willink, no record of will, no record of marriage

II. 2. Children of Julia Maria Willink and John F. Guilmartin

a. John Guilmartin, no record of will, no record of marriage

b. Julia Guilmartin, no record of will, no record of marriage

II. 3. Children of Anna S. Willink and Weston S. Donaldson

a. Charles West Donaldson, no record of will, no record of marriage

b. Frederick Willink Donaldson, no record of will, no record of marriage

c. Walter Donaldson, no record of will, no record of marriage

II. 4. Children of Joseph D. Willink and Carrie S. Haywood

a. Charles Willink, no record of will, no record of marriage

b. Norton Willink, no record of will, no record of marriage

c. Lydia Willink, no record of will, no record of marriage

II. 5. Children of Thomas Willink and Isabella S. Kennedy

a. Thomas Willink, no record of will, no record of marriage

b. Annie M. Willink married William W. Howard in 1896, no record of will for her or her husband

c. Henry F. Willink, no record of will, no record of marriage

II. 6. Children of Susan Emily Willink and Frederick A. Garden

a. Elia Garden, died unmarried, no record of will
b. Bessie L. Gorden, died unmarried, no record of will

c. Frederick W. Gorden, d. 1911, unmarried.

II. 7. Children of John H. Willink and Anna Eliza Withingtonz
   a. Mary E. Willink, d. 1966, married William M. Coolidge in 1909, no children**
   b. James Edward Willink, d. in 1933, married Caroline C. Woodall in 1900***

III. Child of James Edward Willink and Caroline C. Woodall**

   1. Catherine R. Willink married Francis H. Craighill in 1929 and is still alive today, living in Virginia**

LIST OF DESCENDANTS - EXPLANATORY NOTES

a. Chatham County Vital Statistics, Death Records; information on tomb, lot 156, Laurel Grove Cemetery
   b. Chatham County Vital Statistics, Death Records; information on tomb, lot 156, Laurel Grove Cemetery; Chatham County Probate Court, Index to Marriages 1806-1851, p. 263, file 703
   c. Chatham County Vital Statistics, Death Records; information on tomb, lot 156, Laurel Grove Cemetery; Chatham County Probate Court, Index to Marriages 1806-1851, p. 267, file 1312
   d. Chatham County Probate Court, Wills and probate proceedings of Henry Frederick Willink, file W-366
   e. Chatham County Probate Court, Index to Marriages 1851-1866, p. 280
   f. Chatham County Probate Court, Index to Marriages 1806-1851, p. 87
   g. Chatham County Probate Court, Index to Marriages 1851-1866, p. 44
h. Chatham County Probate Court, Index to Marriages 1851-1866, p. 282; information on tomb, lot 158, Laurel Grove Cemetery

i. Chatham County Probate Court, Index to Marriages, 1851-1866, p.282; information on tomb, Laurel Grove Cemetery, Lot 1348

j. Chatham County Probate Court, Index to Marriages 1866-1873, p. 91

k. Chatham County Probate Court, Index to Marriages 1851-1866, p. 280; Chatham County Probate Court, Index to Marriages 1866-1873, p. 253

l. Compiled from Chatham County Probate Court, Will of Henry F. Willink, file W-763; Chatham County Probate Court will of Emma D. Willink, file W-796

m. Chatham County Probate Court, Will of Jennie A. Willink, file W-1432

n. Chatham County Probate Court, Will of Mary E. Willink, file W-2099

o. Chatham County Probate Court, Will of Doey E. Willink, file W-2545

p. Chatham County Probate Court, Will of Emma D. Willink, file W-796

q. Information on tomb, lot 1614, Laurel Grove Cemetery

r. Chatham County Probate Court, Will of Harry Willink, file W-850

s. Chatham County Probate Court, Record of Marriages, Book L, p.434

t. Mentioned by name in the 1870 will of their grandfather Henry Frederick Willink, file W-366; will of their father John F. Guilmartin, probated 1855, devises estate to a trustee for his wife and children, but does not mention wife or children by name, Chatham County Probate Court, Will of John F. Guilmartin, file G-159

u. Mentioned by name in the 1870 will of their grandfather Henry Frederick Willink, file W-366; Chatham County Probate Court, Estate of Charles West Donaldson, minor and Frederick Willink Donaldson, minor, file D-269, shows that these children lived in Louisiana with their father and that their mother Anna Willink Donaldson died before the final will of 1872 of her father, Henry Frederick Willink, was probated in 1874, file W-366

v. Mentioned by name in the 1870 will of their grandfather Henry Frederick
Willink, file W-366

w. Mentioned by name in the 1870 will of their grandfather, Henry Frederick Willink, file W-366 and listed in Chatham County Probate Court, Estate of Annie M. Willink, et al, file W-373

x. Chatham County Probate Court, Record of Marriages, Book K, p. 420

y. Elia Garden and Frederick W. Garden are mentioned by name in the 1870 will of their grandfather, Henry Frederick Willink, file W-366; Bessie L. Garden and Elia Garden are mentioned as heirs in the administration of the estate of their father, Frederick A. Garden, who died in 1909, Chatham County Probate Court, file G-552; and also mentioned as heirs in the administration of the estate of their brother, Frederick W. Garden, who died in 1911, Chatham County Probate Court, file G-570; Mrs. Harold Coolidge supplied me with the information that Bessie and Elia Garden died unmarried

z. Chatham County Probate Court, Administration of the Estate of John H. Willink, file W-411

aa. Chatham County Probate Court, Record of Marriages, Book V, p. 172; Herman W. Coolidge, Sr., nephew of William M. Coolidge, told me that Mary Willink and William M. Coolidge had no children; grave of Mary Willink Coolidge, lot 237N, Bonaventure Cemetery

bb. Chatham County Probate Court, Record of Marriages, Book N, p. 428

c. Chatham County Probate Court, Will of James Edward Willink, file W-1506;
Chatham County Probate Court, Will of Caroline W. Willink, file W-1838

d. Chatham County Probate Court, Record of Marriages, Book 2-S, p. 69; Frank A. Chisolm, attorney for Caroline W. Willink supplied the information that Catherine Willink Craighill was alive and was living in Williamsburg, Virginia. Directory assistance in Williamsburg informed me there was no Craighill listed in Williamsburg, but a C. Craighill was listed in Newport News. I was unable to make contact with this person by telephone.
SOURCES

Alex Abrang and Co. Directory for the City of Savannah for 1870. Savannah, 1870.


Bonaventure Cemetery. Grave of Mary Willink Coolidge.

City Council Minutes. Savannah, Ga., June 22, 1837.


General Index to the Contents of Savannah Georgia Newspapers, 1763-1845.

General Index to the Keeper's Record Books, Laurel Grove Cemetery, Savannah, Georgia 1872-1938. Savannah, 1939.

Georgian. Issues in Years 1822-1841.


Laurel Grove Cemetery. Lots 156, 1548, 1814.

Mayors Correspondence Book 1817-1851. Savannah, Ga. Correspondence of December 23, 1837.


Probate Court. Chatham County, Ga., Estate Files.

Probate Court. Chatham County, Ga., Index to Marriages. (cumulative)
Probate Court. Chatham County, Ga., Index to Marriages. 1806-1851, 1851-1865, 1866-1873.

Probate Court. Chatham County, Ga., Index to Wills and Administrations.

Probate Court. Chatham County, Ga., Record of Marriages.


Republican and Savannah Evening Ledger, Dec. 22, 1812.

Solomon's Lodge No. 1 F.A. M. Minutes for March 14, 1873 (1873).

Tax Digests. Savannah, Georgia. 1815-1873.

Superior Court, Chatham County, Ga., Alien Declarations 1823-1841, 1825-1895. (at Georgia Historical Society)

Superior Court, Chatham County, Ga., Judgment Index. (at Georgia Historical Society)

Superior Court, Chatham County, Ga., Judgment of June 2, 1835. (at Georgia Historical Society)

Superior Court, Chatham County, Ga., Office of the Clerk. Land Records. Deed Books.

Superior Court, Chatham County, Ga., Office of the Clerk. Land Records. Grantee Index.

Superior Court, Chatham County, Ga., Office of the Clerk. Land Records. Grantor Index.


Vincent's Subdivision Map of the City of Savannah, Chatham County, State of Georgia, 1850.

Vital Statistics, Chatham County, Ga., Death Records.