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HISTORIC AUGUSTA

*A Brief Description of the Monuments and Places
of Historical Interest in and around Augusta, Ga.*

BY
AUGUSTUS WILFRID DELLQUEST

PRICE 25 CENTS

A. W. DELLQUEST BOOK COMPANY
AUGUSTA, GEORGIA
1917

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Mme. Octavia Walton Le Vert
(1810-1877)

SEP 22 1917

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PREFACE

"*HISTORIC AUGUSTA*," has been written in response to the demand for a concise historical sketch of Augusta. Its purpose is to describe the landmarks, monuments, and points of interest, in such a way that a stranger will feel that *Augusta* is something more than a name—a live, up-to-date Southern city, rich in historical associations.

It is the hope of the author that these pages will help awaken a further interest in the history of Augusta, and that her citizens may fully appreciate the significance of the part she has played in the history of our country.

Augustus Wilfrid Dellquest.

Settlement

THE city of Augusta, Ga., was named in honor of the royal Princess Augusta. It was laid out in 1735 by direction of General Oglethorpe. About 135 miles above the mouth of the Savannah River was the colonial Fort Augusta. Under the protection of the garrison, the rude cabins of the pioneers were built. Fifteen years later, after St. Paul's Church was erected, the town became an important trading post.

Augusta was a strategic position throughout the American Revolution. When the war was over, and a free and independent nation declared, Augusta once more settled down to peaceful pursuits.

Development

For more than half a century the town enjoyed an increase in population and prosperity; and being so favorably located, rapidly grew into one of the largest and most important cities of Georgia. In 1861, upon the outbreak of the Civil War, Georgia joined her sister states and fought for the cause of the Confederacy. During the four years of the Civil War, Augusta, though herself unscarred by the ravages of war, played an important part among the cities of the South. After struggling through the effects of so desolating a war, Augusta began her period of reconstruction.

Henceforth the city had many years of uninterrupted peace, and experienced great industrial and commercial growth. Augusta is to-day the second largest inland cotton market in the world, and has a national reputation as a winter resort.

Playing so significant a rôle in the history of her country, Augusta possesses many monuments and historic places which are reminders of the glorious events of past years.

Old Twigg's Burial Ground

About ten miles from Augusta is the private burial ground of the Twiggs family. In this historic cemetery lie buried two distinguished soldiers—General David Emanuel Twiggs, a hero of the Mexican and Civil wars, and General John Twiggs, a valiant Revolutionary officer. General David E. Twiggs was awarded a jeweled sword by Congress for his bravery in the war with Mexico. At the beginning of the Civil War he joined the Confederate Army, and fought for the

cause of the South. A short inscription appears on each tombstone.

Old Dueling Ground East of Augusta, near Sand Bar Ferry, is the Old Dueling Ground. Duels were fought here during the ante-bellum days. The place is now of interest as the reminder of a custom long since gone.

First R. R. in America Just across the Savannah River is the village of Hamburg, S. C. In 1833 the first steam railroad in America was completed, and in operation between Hamburg and Charleston, S. C. During the Civil War the road was used for the transportation of troops and supplies.

Fort Cornwallis Monument At the lower end of Reynolds Street, in the rear of where old St. Paul's Episcopal Church stood, is a monument which marks the site of the colonial Fort Augusta, known throughout the Revolution as Fort Cornwallis. When the colonies were fighting for independence, many sharp skirmishes ensued around Fort Cornwallis. The monument consists of a large Celtic cross, made of granite. At the base lies an old cannon, probably the most historic relic in Augusta, which was part of the original armament of the fort. About this site the town of Augusta was settled, and eventually developed into the beautiful and flourishing city of to-day.

Old St. Paul's In front of the monument stood historic St. Paul's Episcopal Church, erected in 1750; rebuilt in 1786, and again in 1819. St. Paul's was the oldest edifice in Augusta. Around it were enacted stirring events of the Revolution. It was used alternately as a barracks and hospital for the British and American troops. At one time the interior of the church was nearly destroyed by the fire of an American cannon. Lieutenant-General Leonidas Polk, Bishop of Louisiana, and "soldier-priest of the Confederacy," is buried beneath a sanctuary of St. Paul's. This historic old landmark was destroyed when the conflagration of March 22, 1916, left a large part of the city in ashes. Since the destruction of Old St. Paul's, a new church has been erected, modeled after the design of the original one.

The burial ground of St. Paul's was once a blood-stained battlefield, but is now a peaceful city of the

**St. Paul's
Burial
Ground**

dead. The remains of many famous persons lie buried there. An interesting grave is that of Marshall Forsyth, a Revolutionary soldier. He was a member of the Order of Cincinnati, a famous patriotic society, founded in the latter part of the eighteenth century. The insignia of the society are on his tombstone. A nephew of George Washington lies buried in this cemetery. Here also are the graves of Oliver Bowen and William Longstreet. Bowen was a commodore in the American Navy of the Revolution. Longstreet is said to have operated successfully a steamboat on the Savannah River prior to the launching of the "Clearmont" by Robert Fulton.



"Old Saint Paul's"

**Mayhan
Tower**

Near the present location of the Cotton Exchange once stood the old Mayhan Tower. When Fort Cornwallis and St. Paul's Parish were in possession of the British, the Americans built the tower of logs, and upon the summit mounted a six-inch cannon. By this means, they were able to rake the interior of the enemy's garrison with a deadly fire.

Old Market Site At the corner of Broad and Center streets stands a large stone column, once part of the Old Market. After the Civil War, the market was destroyed by a tornado, leaving but a single pillar to mark the site.

Confederate Cenotaph In front of St. James Church, at the lower end of Greene Street, is a cenotaph erected to the memory of those members of the Sunday school who were slain in the Civil War. The shaft of the cenotaph is of granite. The cost of erecting the memorial was over \$5,400.

Signer's Monument Directly in front of the court house, on Greene Street, is a tall stone obelisk in honor of George Walton, Lyman Hall, and Button Gwinnett, the Georgia signers of the Declaration of Independence. It was erected by the State in 1848. Beneath it are interred the ashes of George Walton and Lyman Hall.

Court House Opposite the Signers' Monument is the Richmond County Court House, built in 1820. Henry Clay delivered an oration there, and many prominent men have practiced within its walls. In 1896, the court house was remodeled and enlarged, thereby making it one of the handsomest and largest court houses in the State.

Academy of Richmond County The Academy of Richmond County, on the 500 block of Telfair Street, is the oldest institution of learning in Georgia. It was founded in 1783, by order of General Oglethorpe. When George Washington made his memorable visit to Augusta on May 18, 1791, a ball was given in his honor at the Richmond Academy. He afterward attended a public examination held there. So impressed was the great chieftain by the excellence of the work, that he gave autographed books to the students as prizes. When the Civil War broke out, the Academy was converted into a hospital by the Confederate Government. Former Governor William H. Crawford was a member of the faculty. Few high schools or colleges can boast of a greater number of distinguished members of their alumni than can the Richmond Academy. The school now covers nearly an entire block and embraces, besides the original structure, a technical building and a dormitory. Plans for the erection of a new auditorium building have been made.

**Old
Medical
College**

The old Medical College, a branch of the University of Georgia, is at the corner of Washington and Telfair streets, not more than half a block from the Academy. This medical school had the distinction of being the oldest in Georgia. It was founded in 1828 by Dr. Milton Antony, an eminent physician, whose grave is in front of the college building. After the completion of the new University Hospital, the old Medical College and the former hospital building became a part of the Richmond Academy.

**First
Presbyterian
Church**

A block to the west of this edifice is the First Presbyterian Church, founded in 1804. During the Civil War, it was utilized as a military hospital. For twelve years Dr. Jos. R. Wilson, father of President Woodrow Wilson, was pastor of the church. During that time, President Wilson spent a part of his boyhood days in Augusta. In front of the Sunday school building is a life-size statue of Rev. Robert Irvine, a noted divine, for many years pastor of the First Presbyterian Church. Rev. Irvine lies buried in front of the church which he so faithfully served.

**Capital
Site**

From 1786-1796, Augusta was the capital of Georgia. The state house was situated on the east side of McIntosh Street, between Broad and Ellis. Four governors held office in Augusta. The State Legislature met there at irregular intervals during the period of the Revolution.

**Confederate
Monument**

One of the finest monuments in the South is the monument to the Confederate dead, at the middle of Broad Street between McIntosh and Jackson streets. This beautiful tribute was erected in 1878 by the Ladies' Memorial Association at a cost of over \$17,000. The shaft is of Italian marble, and towers to a height of about eighty-five feet. On the corners of the shaft are the life-size statues of Generals Robert E. Lee, "Stonewall" Jackson, William Walker, and Thomas Cobb. Above the statues and upon the pinnacle is the figure of a Confederate sentinel leaning upon his musket and gazing ahead. Appropriate inscriptions are on each side. The monument is a model of excellent workmanship. It is admired by all as a fitting tribute to the soldiers of the Confederacy, and stands as an evidence of the untiring efforts of the women of the South.

Hammond Monument Colonel Samuel Hammond, member of Congress, and a distinguished officer of the Revolution, is honored by a small monument located on the 700 block of Greene Street, between Washington and McIntosh. It was erected by the Daughters of the American Revolution. A bronze bust of Colonel Hammond is on the top.

Four Poets' Monument On the 800 block of Greene Street, near Jackson Street, stands the Four Poets' Monument. It was presented to the city of Augusta in 1913 by Anna Russell Cole. This monument was erected in memory of James R. Randall, Sydney Lanier, Father Ryan, and Paul Hamilton Hayne, four noted poets of Georgia. They will always be remembered as gifted contributors to American literature. A selected verse from their poems appears on each side of the monument.

Monument to Patrick Walsh In the beautiful Barrett Plaza, in front of the Union Passenger Station, is a statue of Hon. Patrick Walsh. Patrick Walsh was one of Augusta's greatest citizens. He was United States Senator, Mayor of the city, and for many years editor of the *Augusta Chronicle*.

At the east side of Barrett Plaza is the new Post Office Building, one of the finest in the country.

Richard Henry Wilde Monument On the 1200 block of Greene Street is a handsome monument, erected in honor of the famous poet, Richard Henry Wilde. His poem, "My Life is Like the Summer Rose," has been considered one of the most beautiful poems of our literature. Had Wilde written but this one poem, it alone would be sufficient to perpetuate his name, and secure for him a place in the galaxy of immortal poets. He was noted for the purity of his verses, their ringing rhythm, and striking literary merit. The memorial is very fitting indeed, and stands as a reminder of the excellency of the literary productions of the South. A verse from "My Life is Like the Summer Rose," is on one side of the monument:

"My life is like the summer rose
That opens to the morning sky,
But ere the shades of evening close
Is scattered on the ground to die."

Meadow Garden

There is probably no place in Augusta of greater historical interest than the Meadow Garden, former home of Governor Walton. George Washington used the Meadow Garden for his headquarters while in Augusta. The Daughters of the American Revolution have preserved this old landmark, cared for it, and converted it into a museum of colonial relics. George Walton, signer of the Declaration of Independence, and Governor of Georgia, lived there for many years. Meadow Garden is located west of Thirteenth Street, near the canal, surrounded by mills and factories.

White House

“Although Georgia was not represented in the First Continental Congress, yet her children were not less alive to the teachings of liberty.” The spirit of independence flourished in the vicinity of Augusta. The building known as the “*White House*,” still standing on upper Broad Street, was the scene of a fierce skirmish between the colonial patriots and the British.

In 1780 both forts at Augusta were in possession of the British. Colonel Elijah Clark and Major Samuel Taylor, with a force of about four hundred plucky Americans, made an attempt to drive the English troops from Augusta. Major Taylor surprised a party of Indians, who promptly retreated to the “*White House*,” supported by a detachment of British troops.

Unaware of the presence of Clark, the English officers, Brown and Grierson, left the two forts and hastened to the “*White House*” to capture Taylor. In the meanwhile Colonel Clark took possession of the forts. Leaving a guard at those places, Clark hurried to the “*White House*” to assist Taylor. The American troops began to storm this building in an attempt to dislodge the enemy.

Siege of the White House

For nearly three days a steady fire was trained upon the stronghold. At length the Indians assisting Colonel Brown were repulsed, and it appeared that the British would be compelled to surrender due to lack of water. Just when a victory for Clark seemed imminent, a force of 500 British regulars arrived at the scene. The besiegers were soon forced to retreat to the mountains, Brown taking over twenty-five American prisoners.

**Massacre
of the
Prisoners**

He and the Indians then proceeded to gratify their desire for revenge upon the unfortunates. Captain Ashby and twelve wounded Americans were mercilessly hanged upon a stairway of the "*White House*," while Brown and the Indians looked on. Other prisoners were turned over to the Indians to torture. "Terrible were the demoniac acts at Augusta on that beautiful autumnal day, when the white and the red savage contended for the meed of cruelty."

**Old Powder
Chimney**

In front of the John P. King mill, near the canal, is an old brick powder chimney, once part of one of the largest powder plants in America. During the Civil War, this factory mainly supplied the Confederate Army with powder. A tablet has been placed in the side of this chimney which tells its history.

**Site of
Ft. Grierson**

Not far from the old chimney, near the Riverside mills, is the site of the colonial Fort Grierson, of which no vestige remains. This fort, together with Fort Cornwallis, composed the revolutionary defense of the city.

**Butt
Memorial
Bridge**

When the steamship "Titanic" was sunk, with over a thousand men, women, and children on board, many of the men stepped aside in obedience to the unwritten law of the sea. Among these was Major Archibald W. Butt, military aide to President Taft, and a citizen of Augusta. In his honor a splendid memorial bridge has been built by his fellow citizens. The bridge spans the canal at Fifteenth Street, near Greene Street.

**Cahill
Monument**

In the immediate vicinity of the Butt Memorial Bridge is a monument erected in honor of Dennis Cahill. Dennis Cahill was drowned in the canal while attempting to save the life of another.

**Meriwether
Monument**

In North Augusta, S. C., east of Carolina Avenue, is a monument erected in 1916 in memory of Thomas McKie Meriwether. Young Meriwether was slain in the Hamburg riot. He died defending the principles of the South, during the tumultuous period of reconstruction.

**U. S.
Arsenal**

On the Hill, or Summerville, is the United States Arsenal, established in 1827, during the administration of President Adams. When Georgia seceded from the Union, the Arsenal was seized by the Confederate

authorities. The site was chosen by the Government for an arsenal because of the dryness of the atmosphere, and the great advantage with which guns and powder can be stored. The Augusta Arsenal is the only arsenal south of Philadelphia and east of San Antonio.

**Chateau
Le Vert**

A short distance from the arsenal, on Monte Sano Avenue, is the large mansion known as Chateau Le Vert. It was the home of Mme. Octavia Walton Le Vert, a famous traveler and authoress. Madame Le Vert was granddaughter of Governor George Walton, signer of the Declaration of Independence. She was a woman of extraordinary abilities; a learned linguist and widely known throughout America and Europe by famous persons. Her body lies buried in the private cemetery at the arsenal. A modest tombstone with a short inscription marks her grave.

**McKinley
Marker**

To the rear of Wheless railroad station, on the road, running through Camp Hancock to the Hill, is a granite marker, placed by the citizens of Richmond County, at the spot where President McKinley alighted from the train, upon his visit to Augusta.

**Gen. Joseph
Wheeler**

Among the famous persons born, or formerly residing in Augusta, it is appropriate to mention General Joseph Wheeler. General Wheeler was distinguished for his undaunted bravery and remarkable military career. He was born a few miles west of the city, in the territory now known as Aumond.

**Old Whitney
Place**

The old Whitney Place is a short distance from Augusta. It is a monument to the industrial progress of the nation. It was there where Eli Whitney operated the first cotton gin. By the invention of the cotton gin he revolutionized the chief factor in the upbuilding of the Southern States. A memorial tablet in memory of Whitney has been placed within the walls of the Richmond County Court House.

South of Augusta is Richmond Hill, the former home of William Schley. Schley was governor of Georgia and a noted statesman.

Copse Hill

The former home of Paul Hamilton Hayne, the distinguished poet, is known as Copse Hill, about fourteen miles from the city, near Grovetown. Here he com-

posed his delightful verses, which have since made him famous as "America's greatest lyric poet." His son William Hamilton Hayne, now residing in Augusta, is also a poet of national reputation.

Cemeteries of Augusta

The cemeteries of Augusta contain many historic graves. In the City Cemetery lie buried James R. Randall, Richard Henry Wilde, and Paul Hamilton Hayne. Randall wrote the stirring poem, "Maryland, My Maryland." Richard Henry Wilde, poet, orator, statesman, and author of "My Life is Like the Summer Rose," is spoken of above. Paul Hamilton Hayne lies buried near Randall and Wilde.

In the Summerville Cemetery, on the Hill, two former governors of Georgia lie buried—Charles Jenkins and John Milledge. The grave of Charles C. Jones, Jr., the learned historian, is also here.

In the private cemetery at the United States Arsenal, rest the remains of Madame Octavia Walton Le Vert and General William H. T. Walker. General Walker was a distinguished Confederate officer. He was killed in the Battle of Atlanta, at the head of his division.

William Glascock, a revolutionary patriot, is buried on his plantation, a few miles east of Augusta. He was a member of the First Provincial Congress and one of the founders of the Richmond Academy.

William Glascock's son, Thomas Glascock, lies buried at his home, known as the "Mills," some few miles north of Augusta. Thomas Glascock was a brigadier-general in the Colonial Army.

These historic landmarks are a source of interest to every visitor of Augusta. But there are still other places which add to the charm of the city.

Tourist Hotels

Two of the large tourist hotels of Augusta are located on the Hill—the Bon Air Hotel and the Partridge Inn. These hotels are splendidly located and each winter attract many tourists, who annually choose Augusta as their winter home.

University Hospital

The new University Hospital at Augusta is considered as ranking among the finest in the United States. The medical department of the University of Georgia is conducted in connection with the hospital.

The cotton mills and factories of Augusta are mainly supplied with power by the Augusta canal system. The Augusta canal is seven miles long and is owned by the city.

Schools and Churches

There are many elegant churches in Augusta, embracing nearly every denomination. The public school system of Augusta is classed among the best in the South. Over fifteen schools, for both white and colored pupils, are included in the educational system of Richmond County.

In the early fall, two handsome new school buildings will be ready for occupancy—the Houghton Grammar School and the Tubman High School. The former buildings were destroyed by the conflagration of March 22, 1916.

The Augusta Chronicle, established in 1785, is the oldest newspaper in the South. Many prominent men have filled its editorial chair.

The fame of Augusta as a health resort has increased yearly. Without a doubt, advantages enjoyed by few cities, are found in the "Tourist City of the South."

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