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B R O O K E S

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"THE BROOKES FAMILY"

- Pioneers of the Old South -

Researched

and

Assembled by

Camille Lawton Cunningham Sharp

1976-77

Dedicated to my husband, Don, whose vision,
determination and fortitude made the restoration
of Roselawn a reality.

1 B. JONATHAN BROOKES - Immigrated from England circa 1700,
Married: A Miss Iverson of Virginia.

Son(2 B) JONATHAN BROOKES - Revolutionary War Soldier,
Married: Anne Lewis of Virginia - Daughter of Iverson Lewis and
Frances Bird of Virginia.

Son(3B) IVERSON LEWIS BROOKES - Lt. War of 1812. B 11/2/1793,
D 3/14/1865.
Married: Lucina Walker - B 9/22/1822, Eatonton, Ga., Putnam County.

Son(4B) WALKER IVERSON BROOKES - Hamburg, S.C. B 10/21/1826,
D 6/30/1886.
Married: Harriett Sarah Estes - B 7/5/1835, D 10/17/1860.

Dau.(5B) HARRIETT ELVIRA ANN ESTES BROOKES. B 9/30/1860, D 11/14/1927.
Married: Samuel George Lawton - B 11/21/1838, D 8/9/1919.

1 B There is no specific data on this first Brookes to come to America circa 1700.

2 B Jonathan Brookes was a Revolutionary War soldier. He married Ann Lewis in Virginia and settled in Rockingham County, N. C. Ann Lewis' grandfather was a lawyer in Virginia and a contemporary of Patrick Henry. Her grandmother was Sarah Iverson of Virginia. Jonathan Brookes had a brother George Thomas Brookes who died of suffocation in the hold of a British prison ship in the Revolutionary War.

3 B Iverson Lewis Brookes was a Lieutenant in the War of 1812. He graduated from the University of North Carolina. Iverson Lewis was an educator and a Baptist Minister. He married Lucina Walker, daughter of William Walker of Eatonton, Georgia, Putnam County. They were married in 1822. Lucina Walker was given two gold coins - a Five Dollar coin and a Ten Dollar coin - as an heirloom of the Revolutionary War of 1776. These two coins have been passed down through generations and are now in the possession of Camille Lawton Cunningham Sharp.

4 B Walker Iverson Brookes - planter - attorney. Walker Iverson was graduated from Colgate College and Harvard Law School. He married Harriett Sarah Estes, only daughter of Rev. Elliott Estes and Elvira Ann Estes on November 12, 1851 at Orange Grove Plantation, Barnwell District (now Allendale County). The Reverend Iverson Lewis Brookes, his father, performed the ceremony. Harriett Sarah inherited Orange Grove and there Walker Iverson and Harriett Sarah

lived with their three sons and two daughters - all born at Orange Grove.

Harriett Sarah died in 1860 when their baby, Harriett Elvira Ann Estes Brookes was eighteen days old.

On April 29, 1863 Walker Iverson Brookes married a second time. This wife was Miss Martha Harper Cooley of Rome, Georgia. The Reverend Iverson Lewis Brookes again performed the marriage ceremony of his son.

After the war, with the destruction of property and the changed conditions that came upon the South during the terrible days of reconstruction, it seemed that Georgia offered fairer prospects for the Brookes family than did South Carolina. Walker Iverson had kept a diary of his farming operations from 1848 until the last entry, which reads: "From Jan. 1861 have taken only a day book entry. The close of the war in 1865 found me broken up - lost all slaves (95) under the emancipation act (hope to get paid for them by a just administration) and lost much of the above monied capitol (\$38,448.00) most of which was for notes gold loaned."

In 1870 Walker Iverson Brookes and Martha Cooley Brookes moved to Rome, Georgia where he began his law practice.

In 1865 Eugene Cooley Brookes, age 1 year, first son of Walker and Martha, died.

In 1871 Mary Lucina, age 15 years, first daughter of Walker and Harriett Sarah Estes died.

In 1873 Iverson Lewis - age 21 years, first son of Walker Iverson and Harriett Sarah, died.

In 1882 Elliott Estes, age 28 years, second son of Walker Iverson

and Harriett Sarah, died.

In 1886 Walker Iverson Brookes died. He and his first wife Harriett Sarah are buried at Concord, Allendale County. So are infant son Eugene Cooley of Walker Iverson's second marriage and Iverson Lewis and Elliott Estes, of the first marriage. Mary Lucina of this first marriage and Rosa Harper and Cornelia Brookes Turnbull of his second marriage, along with his second wife, Martha Harper Brookes, are buried in Rome, Georgia.

Walker Iverson Brookes' first wife, Harriett Sarah Estes, was the only daughter of Rev. Elliott Estes and Elvira Ann Hagood McPherson. Harriett Sarah had one brother to live to manhood. He was the Reverend Andrew Broadus Estes, first pastor of Concord Church (founded in 1855) and he and his wife, Cornelia Willingham Estes, are buried at Concord, Allendale County.

Reverend Elliott Estes' great-grandfather came from Wales to Virginia circa 1683-6 with six sons. His grandfather, Phillip Estes and his father, Jonathan Estes, lived in Virginia. Reverend Elliott Estes himself (1795-1849) was a native of Caroline County, Virginia. He was educated in Virginia and in New Orleans under the Reverend Doctor Cooper. He was ordained to the Baptist ministry in Natchez, Mississippi in 1820; returned to Virginia in 1827, and came to South Carolina in 1829.

In 1830 Reverend Estes assumed pastorate of Smyrna (the Kirkland Church) in Barnwell District, where he married Elvira Ann Hagood McPherson, widow of General John McPherson in that same year. They resided at Orange Grove Plantation on the Savannah.

During a trip to Europe he preached twice in London, once in Salter's Hall Chapel, and once in Dr. Rippon's pulpit. While in London, his portrait was painted by Roon, who painted only members of the cloth. A copy of this portrait, done by Camille Vivian Lawton Cunningham, is in the possession of Mrs. Don C. Sharp, Jr. (Camille). The original is in the chapel at Shorter College, Rome Georgia.

After this trip to London, he returned to South Carolina and became pastor of the Black Swamp Baptist Church at Lawtonville and also served Beech Branch, Smyrna, Springtown and Mount Arnon Churches. He is buried at Concord, Allendale County.

Reverend Estes married Elvira Ann Hagood McPherson in December, 1830. She was the daughter of Harriett Younge Hagood and Major Gideon Hagood of Charleston. She was the grand-daughter of Colonel Francis Younge of Charleston and his second wife, Susannah.

Francis Younge had an original King's Grant of Younge's Island, Charleston, and it is from him that Younge's Island got its name. Elvira Ann's grandmother, Susannah Johnson Younge, came to Barnwell district with her brothers William and Richard Johnson from Wadmalaw Island, South Carolina. Johnson's Landing on the Savannah River, not far distant from Orange Grove Plantation, is named for this family.

Elvira Ann Hagood McPherson Estes married first General John McPherson (War of 1812) and second, Reverend Elliott Estes. Elvira Ann is also buried at Concord, Allendale County.

Harriett Elvira Ann Estes Brookes ("Miss Hattie") was the youngest child of Walker Iverson Brookes and Harriett Sarah Estes Brookes. She was born September 30, 1860, and on October 17th, eighteen days later, her mother passed away. A black woman on the plantation who had recently given birth was brought into the house as a "wet nurse" for "Miss Hattie", in addition to caring for her own child.

"Miss Hattie" started a journal when she was fourteen years of age and the one page which is still in existence, dated April 6, 1874 comments, regarding the time of the war: "We were very busy at that time you may be sure. Mother got a good many of the servants and went packing up the things; she burried barrels of sugar and sirrup and she and Father burried the gold in a hole where the tree had blown up. Then Father got together all of his cattle and had them driven to Jasper and went there himself. Well, it was not long before the Yankees made their appearance. They came in the morning after we had eaten breakfast and went to mother and commanded her" And that is all we have of the journal!

"Miss Hattie's" brother, William Walker - born in 1858 - had written that as a little boy of six he stood on the verandah at Orange Grove and looked out into the night and saw flames as they leaped aloft, devouring many homes upon neighboring plantations that vied with Orange Grove in beauty. Sherman and his men were on their march to the sea.

(Orange Grove Plantation is situated on quite a high point between Augusta and Savannah, and the visibility range would have been quite extensive).

In 1896 Iverson Lewis Brookes, oldest brother of "Miss Hattie", entered the University of Georgia at Athens to study for the ministry.

A Mr. J. J. Darlington, a young graduate of a South Carolina college (probably Furman), was engaged to come to Orange Grove as tutor to the younger children.

Orange Grove was left empty when Walker Iverson Brookes moved his family to Rome, Georgia in 1870. The only other time it was occupied was when William Walker Brookes spent four years (1874-1878) there on advice of his doctor. He was ready to stand his legal examination at sixteen years of age when physicians told his father that his son could not live unless he had a radical change of life and ceased such close study; that it was absolutely essential that he live in the open for a time.

William Walker returned to Orange Grove from Rome, Georgia and assumed management of the large plantation. His life in the open air with physical labor strengthened his body. He was alone on the 2000 acre plantation except for the negro servants who had remained after the war. Many of them had been born on the place and all were faithful and devoted. William Walker spent his solitary nights reading in the extensive library which his father had left at Orange Grove. William Walker was admitted to the bar in 1878 when he was twenty years of age.

He married Shatteen Mitchell in 1912 (his only marriage) when he was fifty-four years of age, moved to Atlanta, Georgia and retired. The diamond engagement ring which he gave to Shatteen Mitchell he had purchased in Europe and had Tiffany in New York to mount. At the time he bought the ring, he was not interested in any particular female and

gave the ring to his only niece, Camille Vivian Lawton, to wear until the time when he met someone whom he intended to marry. It is singular that Camille herself was married the same year that her Uncle William Walker was married (1912). When William Walker's widow, Shatteen Mitchell Brookes died, she willed the ring to Camille Vivian's daughter, Camille Sharp, because of the earlier sentiment connected with the diamond.

"Miss Hattie" and William Walker, her brother, were the only children of Walker Iverson Brookes and Harriett Sarah Estes Brookes to live. Cornelia Brookes Turnbull was the only child of Walker Iverson Brookes' second marriage to live. Cornelia married Judge Turnbull of Rome, Georgia. He preceded her in death and toward the end of Cornelia's life, "Miss Hattie" brought her to Allendale. This trip was made on a stretcher in the baggage car of a Georgia Pacific train. Cornelia was accompanied and attended to by Gwendolyn Lawton, wife of "Miss Hattie's" son, Iverson Brookes. Gwendolyn was a trained nurse. Cornelia died at Roselawn in 1925 and is buried in Rome, Georgia.

After "Miss Hattie" and Samuel George Lawton were married, "Miss Hattie" continued to farm the "Brookes Place", i.e. Orange Grove. At her death the property was divided among her three children, Camille, Brookes, and Malcom, and their children.

Now only the four stately pillars of Orange Grove's plantation home are standing in mute tribute and testimony to her era of gracious living, splendid courage, and people of integrity and valour.