

**History of the James Parker Plantation,  
Talbot County, Georgia**

**LAMAR Institute Publication Series,  
Report Number 83**

**Savannah, Georgia**

**2014**



# **History of the James Parker Plantation, Talbot County, Georgia**

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*By Daniel T. Elliott*

*The LAMAR Institute, Inc.*

*Savannah, Georgia*

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## History

Rocquemore is the name given by the present owner to a former 19<sup>th</sup> century cotton plantation complex in Talbot County, Georgia. Rockmore Creek is a minor tributary of Upatoi Creek, which is a tributary of the Chattahoochee River. The original owner of the plantation was James Parker, Sr. This short monograph provides a preliminary history of the plantation, which is also recorded in the Georgia Archaeological Site File as archaeological site 9Ta128. Before it was a plantation, this land was home to groups of Cusseta Creeks that were organized into a dispersed upland community known as Upatoi.

The land containing the James Parker Plantation was part of Muscogee County, 10<sup>th</sup> District, which was created in 1826 following the 1825 Treaty of Indian Springs. The following year Talbot County was created from portions of Crawford, Harris, Marion, Macon, and Muscogee County. The Treaty of Indian Springs was declared null and void, but a similar treaty agreement was completed in Washington, D.C. in 1926, removing the Creeks from Georgia and clearing the way for Euro-American settlement.

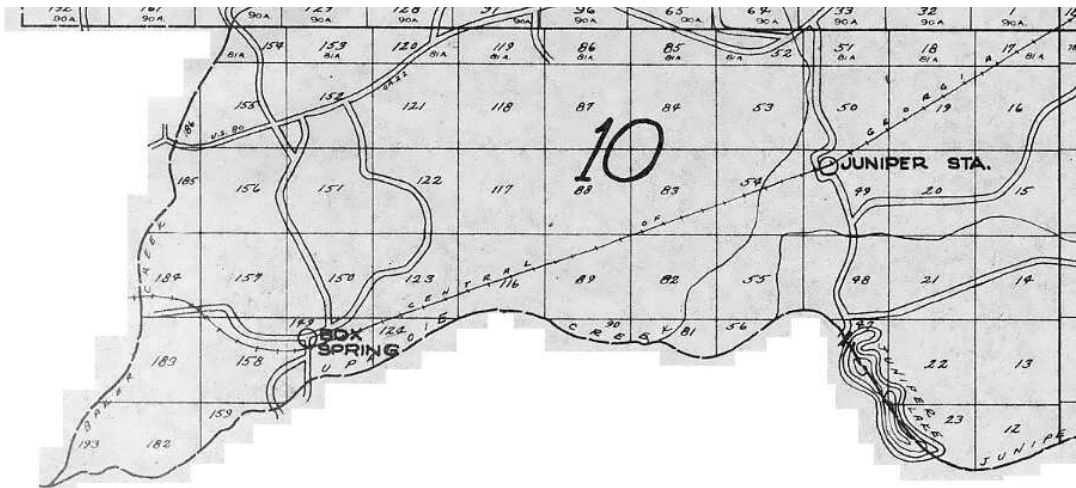
Land lots in the 10<sup>th</sup> District were awarded by a lottery in 1827 and winners of these lots moved onto their land soon afterward. Talbot County included the eastern portion of the 10<sup>th</sup> District of original Muscogee County where the Parker Plantation is located, particularly Land Lots 86 and 87.

The community that developed and surrounded Lots 86 and 87 was an agrarian, slave-holding one. This area was located several miles north of the Federal Road. The area was along a Creek Indian path, known as Tom's Path. By the late 1820s this same

path was improved for wagon traffic and then known as Moore's New Road. Moore was a trader who lived near the Cussetas at Upatoi. His identify remains largely unverified by historical research.

The original plat of Lot 87, which was surveyed the same day as Lot 86, shows it contained two minor tributaries on its southern one-half, and consisting of 202.5 acres of first quality pine land (Georgia Plat Book LLLL: 245). This lot was originally awarded to Allen Waters of Humphreys District, Screven County (Houston 1976:112). Allen Waters was not enumerated in the 1830 census of Talbot County and it is unlikely that he ever resided on this property. No record was located to indicate how James Parker acquired the property from Allen Waters. He may have purchased the land from Waters immediately after the lottery, when the property was in Muscogee County. The Muscogee County courthouse burned later in the 1830s, which may have destroyed any record of this transaction.

The Parker plantation house is located on the northern end of Lot 87 near its boundary with fractional Lot 86. A short distance north of the house was Moore's New Road (considered "new" in 1827), which later evolved into the Columbus to Macon Road. This early route can be traced by examining original land plats from Talbot County. From the Parker Plantation Moore's New Road continues westerly to Moore's New Store in the Upatoi locale of Muscogee County, Georgia. The existing route of U.S. Highway 80 parallels the course of Moore's New Road north of the old road for a portion of its route and along some sections it may have destroyed portions of the early road.



**Figure 1. Land Lots in District 10, Muscogee County, Georgia.**

The original plat of Lot 86, surveyed on December 9, 1826, shows it bisected by the New Road, consisting of 87 acres of first quality pine land. Lot 86 was a fractional lot that adjoined the southern boundary of the 17<sup>th</sup> District. Notes added to the margin of this 1826 plat indicate that it was granted to James Parker of Muscogee, although no original grant for the same was located (Georgia Plat Book LLLL: 245). A review of the winning lottery recipients, which was published contemporary with the lottery revealed that James Parker was not the

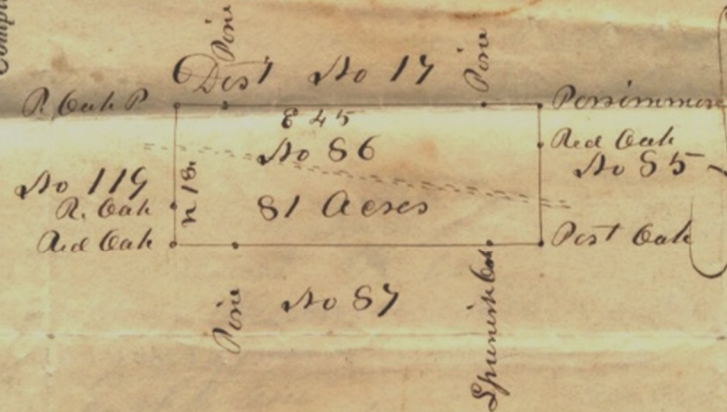
original lottery winner for this lot (Houston 1976).

An 1850 land grant for Lot 86, in the possession of the author, indicates that this fractional lot (comprised of 81 acres) was granted to James Parker in January 1850 (Towns 1850). Parker received the grant from Georgia Governor George Towns. This lot consisted of 81 acres. An original copy of this grant was in the possession of P.W. Richardson, III, who entrusted it to Daniel Elliott and Rita Elliott. Photographs of the obverse and reverse of this historical document are show below.

Magnetic Variation 5 Deg. 45 Min. East.

Entered *Edw. Anderson*  
Comptroller General.

Received *Three* Dollars.  
*Wm. J. Gresham* Treasurer.



Scale of 20 Chains to an inch.

**STATE OF GEORGIA.**

The above Plat is a representation of that Fractional Tract or Lot of Land granted to *James Parker* of the County of *Muscogee* agreeable to the provisions of an Act passed the 26th January 1850, situate in the *10<sup>th</sup>* District in the County of *Muscogee* containing *Eighty one* Acres which is known and designated in the Plan of said District, by the number of *Eighty six*

Surveyed on the *9<sup>th</sup>* day of *December* 18*26*

BY *James Whalley* Dist. Surveyor.

*Jubian Green*  
*Zach<sup>r</sup> Mathews*

} C. C. *James R Butts*

*Gross*



*Town*

Figure 2. Obverse of 1850 Grant to James Parker for Land Lot 86, 10th District, Muscogee County, Georgia.

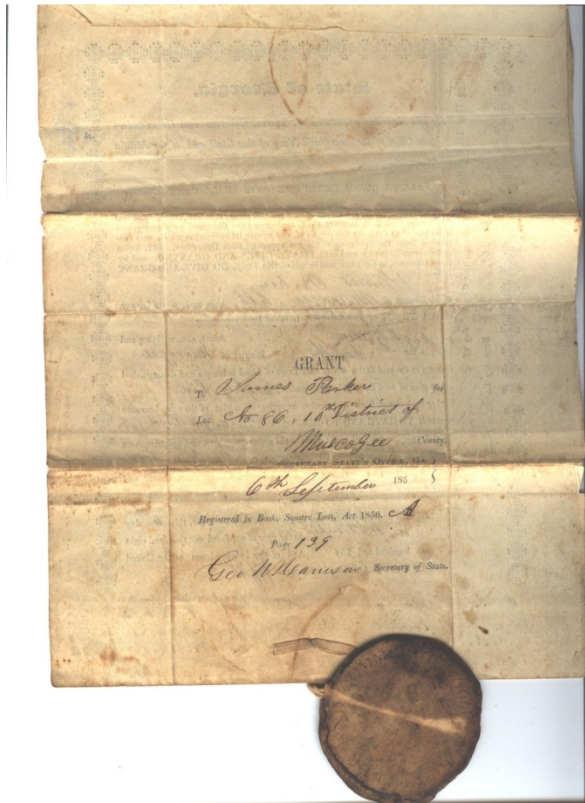


Figure 3. Reverse of 1850 Georgia Land Grant to James Parker for Lot 86, 10th District, Muscogee County, Georgia.

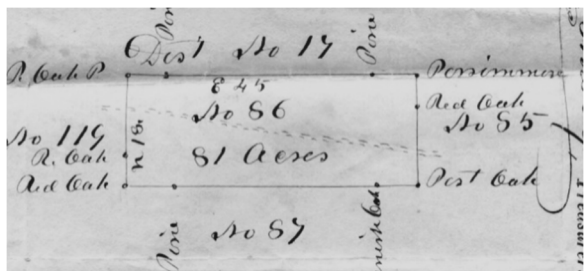


Figure 4. Detail of 1850 Plat of Land Lot 86 (Towns 1850).



Figure 5. Commissary and Smokehouse, Prior to Restoration, Facing East in 2001.



Figure 6. Commissary/Smokehouse Restored in 2003.





**Figure 7. South View of Rocquemore House (2003).**



**Figure 8. Southwestern View of Rocquemore House (2003).**

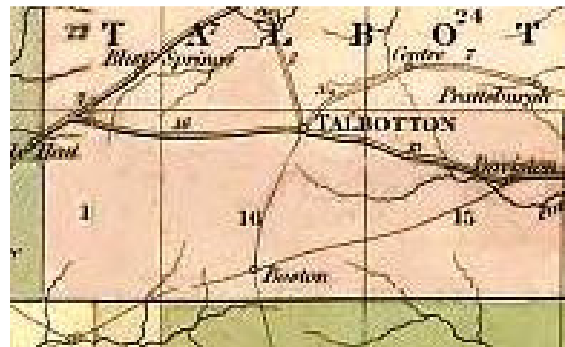


**Figure 9. Southeastern View of Rocquemore House (2003).**



**Figure 10. North View of Rocquemore House (2001).**

Finley's 1830 map of Georgia shows no features in the study vicinity. By 1839 a settlement in the general vicinity was known as Boston. Very little is known of this village, other than its existence on two early maps (Burr 1839; Mitchell 1846). Another town by that name, developed further south in Georgia and continues to bear that name.



**Figure 11. Portion of 1839 Map Showing Boston in Southwestern Talbot County (Burr 1839).**

Another early settlement in the general vicinity was known as Pine Hill. Early maps show Pine Hill along a road that parallels the railroad (Colton 1855; Lloyd 1864). Lloyd's map shows Pine Hill south of the railroad and it also shows another village named Bellefonte in the general study vicinity.

Construction of a railroad linking Columbus to Macon began in 1847 by the Muscogee Railroad. By 1853, when the Muscogee

Railroad experienced financial problems, the line was incomplete. The railroad segment that passed by Rocquemore had been completed by 1853. The railroad between Columbus and Macon was completed by 1856 by the Southwestern Railroad, which had consolidated with the Muscogee Railroad in 1856 (Storey 2012).

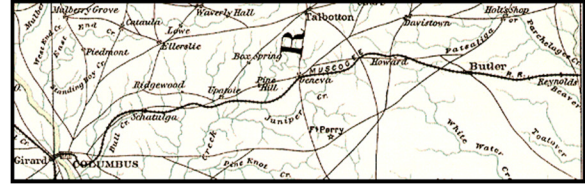


Figure 15. Civil War Atlas Map, Showing Railroads, Roads, Communities, and Streams in the Study Vicinity (Davis et al. 1891:Plate CXLVIII).

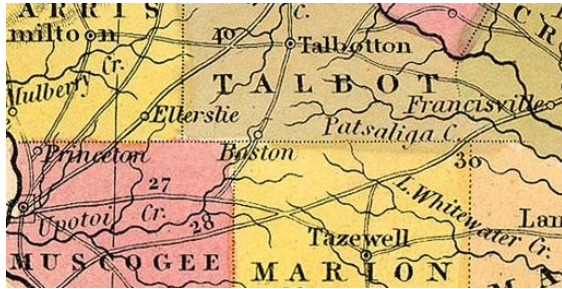


Figure 12. Portion of 1846 Map of Georgia (Mitchell 1846).



Figure 13. Portion of 1855 Map of Georgia (Colton 1855).

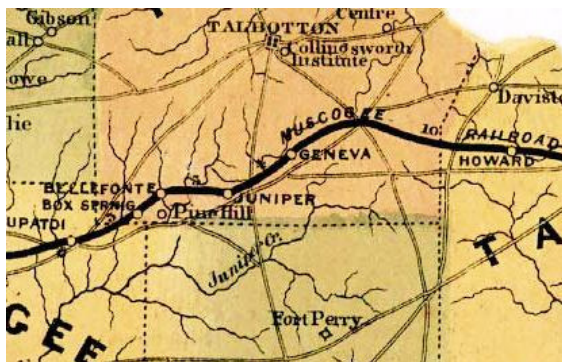


Figure 14. Portion of 1864 Map of Georgia (Lloyd 1864).

The Southwestern Railroad was acquired by the Central Railroad of Georgia before 1870, although it continued to operate under the name Southwestern Railway (Official Guide of the Railways 1870). Stations in the vicinity of Rocquemore included (from east to west) Geneva, Juniper, Belle Fonte and Upatoi. By 1882, this railroad line was part of the Central and South-Western Railroads of Georgia (Travelers' Official Railway Guide for the United States and Canada 1882). In 1882 the station stops in the Rocquemore vicinity included (from east to west) Geneva, Juniper, Box Springs and Wimberly.

298 SOUTHWESTERN RAILWAY.																					
Operated by Central, Ga., Railroad.																					
W.M. WADLEY, President.						W.M. RODGERS, Gen. Superintendent.															
Leave.			STATIONS.									Arrive.									
Mail	Mail	Mis										Frs.	Mail	Mail	CONNECTIONS.						
A. M.	A. M.											P. M.	P. M.								
7 25	8 00	0	.....	Macon <sup>1</sup>	.....	4 50	6 05														
7 51	8 30	8	.....	Seago	.....	4 24	5 41														
8 05	8 45	12	.....	Echeconnee	.....	4 10	5 29														
8 20	9 03	17	.....	Jackson	.....	3 54	5 15														
9 04	9 52	28	.....	Fort Valley	.....	3 05	4 37														
9 24		35	.....	Everetts	.....		4 15														
9 46		41	.....	Reynolds	.....		3 54														
10 18		50	.....	Butler	.....		3 30														
10 30		60	.....	Howard	.....		2 59														
11 29		70	.....	Geneva	.....		2 23				1 Connects with Central (Ga.) Railway.										
11 44		74	.....	Juniper	.....		1 55				1 Connects with Macon and West'n Railway.										
11 58		77	.....	Belle Fonte	.....		1 44														
12 10		80	.....	Upatoi	.....		1 32														
12 53		91	.....	Schatulga	.....		12 55														
1 22		100	.....	arr. Columbus <sup>2</sup> lve	.....		12 25				2 Connects with Mobile and Girard Railway.										
P. M.	10 20	35	.....	Marshallville	.....	2 18	P. M.														
	10 29	38	.....	Winchester	.....		2 06														
	11 09	48	.....	Montezuma	.....		1 30														
	11 56	56	.....	Anderson	.....		12 44														
	12 40	70	.....	Americus	.....		11 59														
	1 13	80	.....	Sumter	.....		11 21														
	1 44	83	.....	arr. Smithville	.....		11 10														
	1 46	83	.....	lve. Smithville	.....		11 00														
	3 11	106	.....	arr. Albany	.....		9 35				1. Cuthbert & Fort Gaines Trains.—Leave Cuthbert for Coleman and Fort Gaines at 3 57 p.m. Returning, leave Fort Gaines at 7 05 a.m.										
	2 37	98	.....	Dawson	.....		10 13														
	2 53	102	.....	Graves	.....		9 58														
	3 55	118	.....	Cuthbert	.....		8 58														
	4 04	120	.....	Junction	.....		8 48														
	4 34	128	.....	Morris	.....		8 16														
	5 21	141	.....	Georgetown	.....		7 29														
	5 30	142	.....	Chattahoochee	.....																
			.....	Eufaula	.....		7 20														
	P. M.			[ARRIVE]			[LEAVE]														

Figure 16. 1870 Timetable for the Southwestern Railway (Storey 2012).

Jordan (1996) stated in his Talbot County history that James Parker moved to the Box Springs vicinity in 1836 and built a house. Jordan placed the construction date of the Parker house circa 1850, whereas Davis (1983) stated in his history that the Parker

house was constructed circa 1835. The reference for both of these date assignments was not specified in either county history. Real estate records at the Talbot County Tax Assessor's office place the construction date of the house in between these two estimates at 1842. The fact that the Parkers were living in Muscogee County in 1840, when they were enumerated in the federal census, supports the thesis that the house was constructed in the late 1830s to early 1840s.

At the time of the Treaty Indian Springs (1825), James Parker already married his second wife, Elizabeth Sasser Parker, and had an infant son, John. His second son by Elizabeth, Joseph, was born the following year in North Carolina. James Parker may have arrived in Talbot County as early as 1827. He was not listed in the 1820 Georgia census but he did appear in the 1830 census for Talbot County, Hemphill's District. James Parker was listed in the 1850 census for Talbot County, but he was enumerated with the 17<sup>th</sup> District, the southern boundary of which was located immediately north of Land Lot 86.

James Parker, Sr. was not the original grantee of Land Lots 86 and 87, as evidenced in the Georgia Grant Books or in the published lottery winners lists (Houston 1976). In fact, the original grants for these two lots in the Georgia grant books were not located. Three separate James Parkers received land grants in Lee County in the 1827 lottery. One James Parker, from Pennington's District in Newton County, received Land Lot 152, 25<sup>th</sup> District, Lee County (Houston 1976:16). Another James Parker, from Christian's District in Morgan County, received two grants in Lee County: Lot 132, 9<sup>th</sup> District, and Lot 147, 33<sup>rd</sup> District (Houston 1976:80, 92). James Parker, Sr., from Scarbrough's District in Pulaski County, received Lot 218, 26<sup>th</sup>

District, Lee County (Houston 1976:115). One of these may be the same James Parker who was later of Talbot County. The nearest one would have been James Parker from Morgan County would have been in closest proximity to Parker's Talbot County land.

Genealogical records suggest that our James Parker, Sr. was from Magnolia plantation in Duplin County, North Carolina where he was born to Hardy Parker, Jr. and Susana Mary Bowzer Parker about 1789. He was married to Polly Everton in Surry County, North Carolina in 1805 but she died in 1819. Polly Everton Parker was born in 1787. 1821 had married Elizabeth Sasser. Elizabeth Sasser Parker was born in 1796. Genealogical sources further note that James died on September 10, 1846 in Georgia and that his (second) wife Elizabeth Sasser Parker died two years later in 1848 (Ancestry.com 2014). Federal Census records contradict the death dates for James and Elizabeth Parker, however, as noted in the following discussion for the 1850 Census.

The 1830 population schedule for Talbot County, Georgia, Hemphill District lists James Parker, which suggests that James Parker was already living in the area by 1830. James Parker would have been 41 years old in 1830. Those in his household include:

- 1 free white male, under 5 years of age
- 1 free white male, 40 to under 50 years [probably James Parker]
- 1 free white female, aged 5 to under 10
- 1 free white female, aged 40 to under 50 years [probably Elizabeth "Eda" Parker]
- (U.S. Census 1830:332).

The 1840 population schedule for Talbot County contains no listing for James Parker. However, James Parker is listed in the 1840

census for Militia District 675 in Muscogee County, Georgia (U.S. Bureau of the Census, Population Schedule 1840:316).

Those in his household include:

- 1 free white male, aged 10 to 15 years
- 1 free white male, aged 50 to under 60 years [James Parker]
- 1 free white female, aged 15 to under 20 years
- 1 free white female aged 50 to under 60 years [Elizabeth “Eda” Parker]
- (U.S. Census 1840:4).

Three African-American slaves also were listed in Parker’s household in 1840, including two males (aged 24 to 36) and 1 female (aged 24 to 36). Five other slaves also may have been present since the total number of persons in Parker’s household was listed as 13. Three people in Parker’s household were listed as employed in agriculture. The Parker’s may have moved to Columbus while their plantation house was being constructed.

According to the 1850 population schedule for Talbot County, 17<sup>th</sup> District, James Parker, aged 61, was a native of North Carolina. Parker’s land holdings were in the 10<sup>th</sup> District but the 17<sup>th</sup> District was located immediately north of his property. Perhaps he owned land in the 17<sup>th</sup> District, north of his original plantation. James was listed as the head of household, which included:

- James Parker, aged 61, male, farmer, \$200 from North Carolina
- Eda Parker, aged 63, his wife from North Carolina
- John Parker, aged 25, a male son from Georgia
- Joseph Parker, aged 24, a male son from North Carolina
- Catherine Kealing, aged 26, a female from Georgia
- Francis M. Cheny, aged 29, a male physician from Georgia
- James Alvis, aged 23, a male laborer from Georgia

(U.S. Bureau of the Census, Population Schedule 1850:169, 235).

One of James Parker’s sons, either John or Joseph Parker, was not listed in the 1830 or 1840 census. The 1850 census for the Parker household presents a typical picture of a husband, wife, and two male offspring, but who were these other people that were listed under the same household?

So, who was Catherine Kealing and what was she doing in the Parker’s household? Catherine was born about 1823 or 1824. Was she the daughter of James Parker who was listed in the 1830 and 1840 censuses? Her age would place her as a likely candidate. Perhaps she was married and either widowed or separated from her husband. Was she possibly the companion of Dr. Cheny, who was only slightly her elder? Or was she simply a boarder in the Parker household? A woman by that name, who was born in 1823, arrived in New York City, from Glasgow, Scotland and Cork, Ireland aboard the Eagle on June 8, 1844. Could this newly arrived immigrant be the same Catherine Kealing in the Parker household?

And who was Dr. Francis M. Cheny (Chany) and what was he doing in the Parker’s household? Francis M. Cheny was born about 1821. He was a physician who apparently boarded with the Parker family. Dr. Cheny was not listed in the 1830 or 1840 Georgia census, nor was he listed in the 1860 census for Talbot County. He does appear in the 1870 census in Covington, Newton County, Georgia, where he heads a household that includes:

- Francis M. Cheny, aged 49, male, physician
- Eliza Cheny, aged 34, female, keeping house
- John P. Cheny, aged 17, male, apothecary apprentice

- Lucy Ann Cheny, aged 13, female, at school
- Frank M. Cheny, aged 11, male, at school
- Fannie Lee, aged 8
- Joseph T. Cheny, aged 6, male
- Herschel V. Cheny, aged 3, male
- Jane McClendon, aged 18, female, at school
- Bessie Walton, aged 18, female, at school
- Julia Cheny, aged 15, female, black, domestic servant
- (U.S. Census 1870, Newton County, Georgia; Ancestry.com 2007).

So, who was James Alvis and what was he doing in the Parker's household? James was born about 1827. He served as a laborer in 1850 and lived with the Parker family. James Alvis was not listed in the 1830, 1840, or 1860 Georgia census, which may indicate that his association with the Parkers and his time in Georgia was relatively brief.

The 1850 slave schedule lists James Parker, of the 17<sup>th</sup> District, Talbot County, as the owner of 10 African-American slaves (U.S. Bureau of the Census, Slave Schedule 1850: Schedule 2). This enumeration was taken on August 21, 1850. Although they were not listed by name, their ages and sex were recorded, as follows:

Age	Sex
59	Female
38	Male
36	Male
32	Female
18	Female
12	Male
10	Male
9	Female
6	Female
1	Female

(U.S. Census 1850)

James Parker was not listed in the 1860 slave schedule for Talbot County, which was taken in June of that year (U.S. Bureau

of the Census, Slave Schedule 1860). This probably indicates that James was no longer in Talbot County and was possibly deceased by that time. His son, John Lewis Parker had assumed the role of head of household. James Parker does not appear in the 1836-1845 grand juror lists for Talbot County. James Parker apparently died intestate since his will was not recorded in Talbot County (Austin 1985).

The 1860 census entry for John L. Parker in the Lower 17th District of Talbot County includes John, his mother Elizabeth (Eda). The 1860 Talbot Co. Slave schedule, Militia District 688, Lower 17th, John L. Parker's slaves living in three slave houses:

- 60 [yr old] black female
- 45 black male
- 43 black male
- 24 black male
- 23 black male
- 35 black male
- 15 black female
- 40 black female
- 12 black female
- 10 black male
- 5 black female
- 6 black female
- 10 month old black male (U.S. Census, Slave Schedule 1860: 30).

In 1870, the John Parker household in the Wilkinson District (Box Springs, Post Office) of Talbot County included eight people, who were:

- John Parker, 45 year old white farmer and head of household \$4500 real estate; \$700 personal estate
- Also, Nancy 35 year old white female, occupation keeps house
- Cicero, 18 year old white male, works on farm
- Wilber, 14 year old white male, works on farm
- Sarah, 13 year old white female, at school
- Lela, 6 year old white female

- Walter, 4 year old white male
- Arthur, 2 year old white male (U.S. Bureau of the Census, Population Schedule, Talbot County, Georgia 1870:30).

The absence of his mother, Elizabeth Parker in John Parker's household in Box Springs may indicate that she had died prior to 1870.

James Parker, Jr., who was not enumerated in the any of the censuses for Talbot County, died in 1886 (Ancestry.com 2014).

Apparently, he was not an active manager of the Parker plantation affairs in Talbot County. James, Jr., who was born in 1811, would have been about 29 years old when his father established his Talbot County plantation.

The Henry Parker household, a black family and neighbor of John Parker in the 1870 census included eight people, who were:

- Henry Parker, head of household, a 30 year old black male, works on farm
- Adline, 26 year old mulatto female, keeping house
- Jane, 11 year old mulatto female, works on farm
- Jacob, 7 year old black male
- Dixon, 5 year old black male
- Robert, 3 year old black male
- Infant, 6 months old black male
- James Mauna, 10 year old black male, works on farm
- (U.S. Census 1870:30).

By 1880 Henry Parker and his family had relocated to the Valley district (District 902) of Talbot County, where the household included:

- Henry, a 50 year old farmer born in Georgia (his parents were from Alabama)
- Adline, his 40 year old wife and house keeper
- Jane, a 20 year old daughter who worked on the farm

- Jake, a 17 year old son who worked on the farm
- Dixon, a 14 year old son who worked on the farm
- Robert, a 12 year old son who worked on the farm
- John, an 11 year old son who worked on the farm
- Babe, an 8 year old daughter
- Emmet, a 4 year old son
- (U.S.Census 1880:26).

The evidence would suggest that Henry Parker, his wife Adline, and their children Jane and Jacob were former slaves of the Parker plantation. After securing their freedom, they continued to reside on the John Lewis Parker's land until at least 1870. By 1880, however, the family had moved off of the Parker place to another section of the county, where they maintained their own farm. Thus, Henry and Adline may represent three of the 13 slaves enumerated in the John Parker household in the 1860 census. Henry is possibly one of three black males, aged from 23 to 35. Adline is possibly the 15 year old black female listed. Jane's age does not correspond to any of Parker's slave's ages. The identity of the others remains undetermined.

The 1880 population schedule for Militia District 688, Talbot County, includes the John Parker household, which consisted of nine people who were,

- John Parker, 55 year old white male from North Carolina, head of household and farmer
- Nancy, wife, 48 year old white female from Georgia, occupation keeping home
- Cicero, son, 28 year old white male, occupation \_
- Wilber, son 24 year old white male, occupation trucking agent
- Leila, daughter, 16 year old white female, at school
- Walter, son, 14 year old white male, at school

- Arthur, son, 12 year old white male, at school
- Clarence, son, 9 year old white male, at school
- John, son, 3 year old white male, at school (U.S. Census 1880).

The records of the 1890 Federal Census for most of the United States, including Talbot County, were destroyed by fire. Consequently, no census statistics are available for that period for the Parker plantation.

James Parker apparently died intestate since his will was not recorded in Talbot County (Austin 1985). The death date of Elizabeth (Eda) Parker has not been determined. The final resting place for James and Eda Parker also remains unknown. A review of historical data on cemeteries in Chattahoochee, Muscogee and Talbot counties failed to locate their tomb records (Torbert 2000; Hight 1981). The death dates for the children of James and Elizabeth Parker were partly determined. John Lewis Parker, who was born November 6, 1825, died July 18, 1899. No marriage record of John Lewis Parker in Talbot County. John Lewis Parker married Nancy Rebecca [last name undetermined]. Both husband and wife were buried in a small family cemetery in northeastern Chattahoochee County, Georgia, which is now part of the Fort Benning Military Reservation (Hight 1981). Death dates recorded on their tombstones are: Nancy Rebecca Parker, 1898, and John Lewis Parker, 1899. John Lewis Parker apparently died intestate.

DNA evidence for the Parker lineage provides interesting family connections and corroboration pertaining to the descendants of James and Elizabeth Parker. DNA samples P228 and P146 within the Parker Family Group 22, who trace their descent

from James Parker (owner of Rocquemore) (Parker Family DNA Project 2014).

The ownership of the Parker property passed by an unknown device to Martha A. [Pate] Wall. Martha A. Pate was born about 1865 to John and Martha Pate, who were farmers living in the Pine Knot district of Chattahoochee County, Georgia. In 1880 Martha A. Pate was listed as a 15 year old white female living in the John Pate household in Pine Knot district of Chattahoochee County, Georgia. Her occupation was listed as “works in farm” (U.S. Census 1880).

Martha A. [Pate Jenkins] Wall’s first husband was Rufus Hampton Jenkins, a prominent citizen of Box Springs. Rufus, a farmer from the Halloca district of Chattahoochee County, Georgia who was born about 1858 or 1859, married Martha Pate in 1880 (Ancestry.com 2004). In the 1880 census Rufus was living at his parent’s home in Chattahoochee County and Martha was listed as a 16 year old boarder attending school in Talbotton (U.S. Census 1880).

Rufus and Martha Jenkins established a home near downtown Box Springs and that residence remains standing (Davidson 1988). Following Rufus H. Jenkins’ death in 1898, his widow remarried another prominent citizen of Box Springs, John S. Wall. In the 1900 population census John S. Wall was listed as the head of a household but with his previous wife Emma S. Wall.

In the Talbot County Census taken on June 14, 1900, the John S. Wall household included:

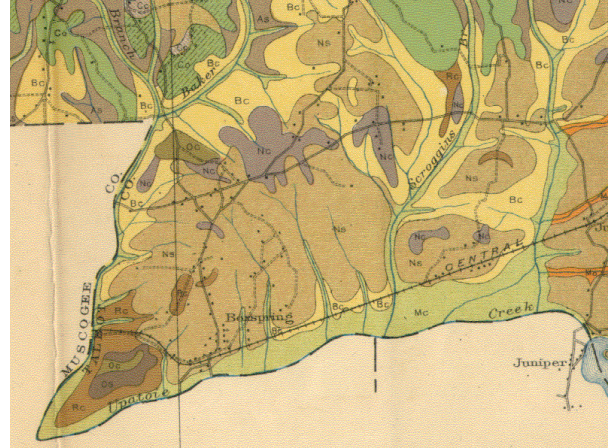
- John S. Wall, head of household, occupation Farmer, 50 year old, born 1849, married white male
- Also, Emma S., wife, 48 year old, born 1847, married white female

- Mary, daughter, 25 year old, born 1875, single white female
- Arthur, son, 21 year old, born 1879, single white male, occupation painter
- Hattie, daughter, 18 year old, born 1882, single white female, \_ laborer
- Grover, son, 14 year old, born 1886, single white male, at school
- Maggie, daughter, 13 year old, born 1887, single white female, at school
- Susie, daughter, 11 year old, born 1888, single white female
- Josephine, daughter, 6 year old, born 1894, single white female
- [ ] Fieldens[?], servant, 20 year old, born 1880, \_ black \_(U.S. Census 1900:94).

The 1910 population census for Talbot County, Militia District 688 (Wilkerson's) lists the household of John S. Wall to contain six people:

- John S. Wall, head of household, occupation of farmer, 60 year old white male from Georgia
- Martha, his wife, a 45 year old white female, no occupation
- Charlie H., son, a 19 year old single white male
- Hattie L., daughter, a 16 year old single white female
- Roy H., son, a 14 year old single white male
- May F., daughter, a 12 year old single white female (U.S. Census 1910:2401).

A 1913 soil survey map of Talbot County shows features in the Rocquemore vicinity (U.S. Bureau of Soils 1913). A portion of this map is reproduced below.



**Figure 17. Portion of 1913 Soil Map of Talbot County Showing the Rocquemore Vicinity, West of Scroggins Branch (U.S. Bureau of Soils 1913).**

By 1928 Martha A. Wall(s) had moved to Columbus, Georgia when she deeded 80 acres of Lot 86 and all of Lot 87 for \$600.00 to R. H. Jenkins (Talbot County Deed Book MM: 159). This deed, which was originally recorded in Muscogee County, was recorded in Talbot County in 1930. The deed mentioned, “[Lot 87] on which is situated the residence of Grantor [Martha A. Wall].” This document is confusing since R. H. Jenkins, Martha A. Wall’s first husband, had died more than 30 years earlier in 1899. The person in question is Roy H. Jenkins, who was probably Martha Wall’s son by her first marriage. According to Jordan, Roy H Jenkins owned the property until it was sold in 1944 (Jordan 1996). A death certification for Martha A. Walls [sic Wall] was recorded in Talbot County, Georgia on July 25, 1935 (Ancestry.com 2004). Martha Wall was not located by a search of the 1920 or 1930 federal census, although she appears in a 1928 Columbus city directory residing at 3139 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue (Ancestry.com 2014).

A 1934 plat, entitled “Plan of Land Belonging to R. H. Jenkins, was recorded in the Talbot County Superior Court in 1944, where it accompanied a deed conveying Lot 87 and 80 acres of Lot 86 from R. H. Jenkins (of Muscogee County) to J. W.



Lavender (of Muscogee County) and P. W. Richardson, Jr. (of Talbot County) for \$2,500.00 (Talbot County Deed Book RR:225).

A U.S.D.A. 1938 aerial photograph of the property, taken a few years after the Richardson's acquired the property, shows the house, 2 outbuildings, 1 barn, two large pastures or fields, and yard. The wooded area on the ridge slope, east of the house is shown in heavy hardwoods as it remains today (U.S.D.A. Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service 1938). A portion of this map is reproduced in the following.



**Figure 18. Portion of 1938 Aerial Photograph of Rocquemore Vicinity (USDA, ASCS 1938).**

The Richardsons made many minor alterations to the interior of the house. The ceilings in two rooms were lowered; cabinets and fixtures in the kitchen were added; the dining room was paneled with sheet rock; and a bathroom was added to the central hallway.

In 1978, Emma Hall Richardson served as Executrix in the execution of the Last Will and Testament of Philip W. Richardson, Jr., who died in 1977 (Talbot County Deed Book 29:418; Will Book I: 429-430). Emma continued to live in the Parker house until her death in 1993.

In 1983 Emma Hall Richardson deeded 10.124 acres to her son Philip W. Richardson, III (Talbot County Deed Book 42:539; Plat Book G: 109). This tract was carved from a portion of Lot 86, and was located immediately north and west of the Parker Plantation house, which is shown on the plat on Lot 87. P. W. Richardson, III, and family, continue to reside at this location.

P. W. Richardson, III and Eugene Richardson, the two surviving heirs of Emma Hall Richardson and P. W. Richardson, Jr., were named executors of the estate of Emma Hall Richardson. Following Emma's death in 1993 the land that comprised the original Parker estate was divided between them. The Parker-Wall-Richardson house went to P. W. Richardson, III. The other real estate was inherited by Eugene Richardson.

On December 28, 1994, the Parker-Wall-Richardson house and four acres was sold for \$10.00 by P. W. Richardson, III by a Warranty Deed to his son, Terry Stuart Richardson, as shown in Talbot County Deed Book: 97:64-65; Plat Book J: 47). The property, identified as Route 1, Box 600,

Box Springs, Georgia, included a minor portion of Land Lot 86 but was mostly in Land Lot 87, 10<sup>th</sup> District, Talbot County, Georgia. Terry S. Richardson mortgaged the property to Parkway Mortgage, Inc. by Security Deed that same day (Talbot County Deed Book 97:66). Terry S. Richardson defaulted on the mortgage and the property fell under foreclosure.

On the first Tuesday in November, 1997, the Parker-Wall-Richardson house and four acres were sold at public auction on the Talbot County Courthouse steps by the County Sheriff. The property was purchased by the ContiMortgage Corporation, Horham, Pennsylvania for \$40,000 (Talbot County Deed Book 130:26-28). In May, 1998, the house and four acre lot was sold by ContiMortgage Corporation to another mortgage company.

On June 5, 1998, the Parker-Wall-Richardson house and four acres were sold for \$51,000 to Daniel T. Elliott and Rita F. Elliott, residents of Hart County, Georgia. The house became the Parker-Wall-Jenkins-Richardson-Elliott house, or, as the Elliott's called it, "Roquemore" for short. The name Rocquemore was taken from a small branch,

Rockmore, which was located northeast of the plantation house.

In July 1998 the Elliott's began an extensive project to renovate and restore the house to more of its 19th century flavor, while updating the utilities. The dropped ceilings in the living room and kitchen, the bathroom in the central hallway, and a small closet were removed. Noted Columbus historical architect and a native of Iran, Sia Etemadi designed a second story to the house. Master builder, Michael Aderhold was hired to implement this design, which was completed in 2004. The wood shingle roof was removed and replaced by a steel roof. Mr. Aderhold also renovated the commissary outbuilding during this period.

Eugene Richardson divided his inherited property in a subdivision in the early 2000s. That division involved a large portion of the 300 acres of the original James Parker plantation. Other portions of the original plantation property, which surround the Elliott's 4.0 acre tract, had been purchased by the Dan Robinson family and are currently owned by three members of that family.

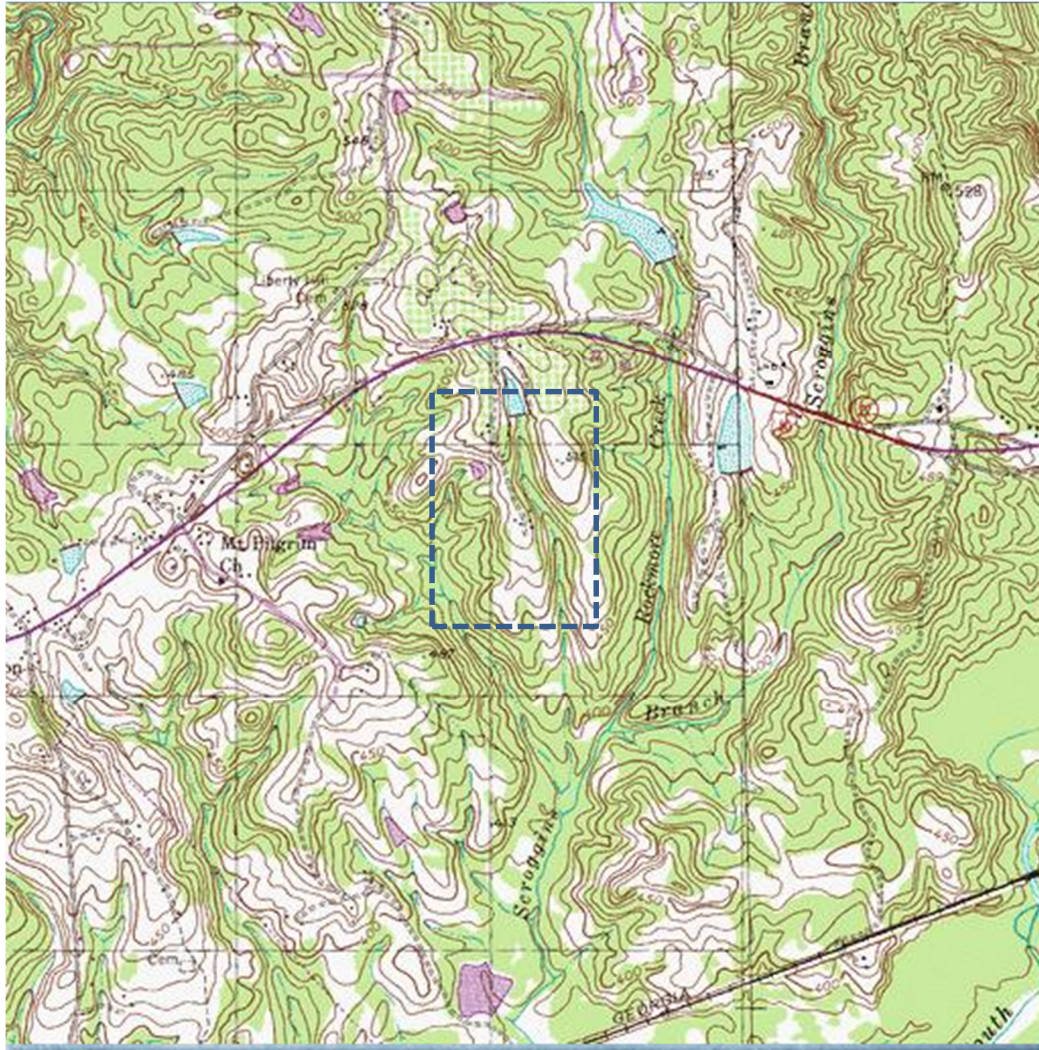


Figure 19. Topographic Map of Parker Plantation (USGS 1985).

### ***Historical Recognition***

The Parker Plantation is featured in two Talbot County histories (Jordan 1971; Davidson 1988). The plantation was recorded as Survey Site 34 (Jenkins Richardson house) during a Historic Resource Survey of Talbot County conducted by the Historic Preservation Section, Georgia Department of Natural Resources in 1976. Two photographs were taken at that time—one showing the main house and one showing the smokehouse outbuilding. The site was recommended the

surveyor (known only by the initials, E.B.C.) for additional study. The 1976 Talbot County survey identified the Parker plantation, then owned by Mrs. Richardson, as potentially eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP).

Limited archaeological exploration of the plantation was conducted by the Elliotts. Limited “archaeology” was done in the process of renovation of the two historic buildings. Other archaeological discoveries

were made at various times from 1998 to 2005.

The Parker Plantation was officially recorded in 2003 by Dan Elliott in the Georgia Archaeological Site file as Site 9Ta128, or the 128<sup>th</sup> recorded site in Talbot County (Elliott 2003a). The archaeological remains of Moore's New Road cross the Parker Plantation, several hundred meters north of the main house. This old road trace and an adjacent scatter of ironstone, stoneware, and nondiagnostic quartzite tools and debitage were recorded as site 9TA127 (Elliott 2003b). Both sites are located on the Upatoi, GA., 7.5 minute quad sheet (USGS 1985).

The smokehouse contained a variety of junk pieces and a few historical artifacts. Objects of particular interest that were found within this building included: an wood plane, a tin cup, and a woman's cast iron bar bell. Two pieces of intact depression glass were recovered from the ground surface beneath this building.

Two glass bottle fragments were unearthed by Mr. Aderhold from beneath the main house during the installation of a pier support. Both were medicinal bottles. One was a small, light green panel bottle with the raised lettering, "Dr. Smith's Worm Oil".

The immediate back yard of the dwelling house remains largely unexplored archaeologically.



**Figure 20. Southwestern Portion of Rear Yard of Rocquemore in Late Winter, 2005, Displaying Flower Planting Pattern with a *Vinca minor* patch Further South.**

A few interesting objects were recovered from the front yard. These included a small gold-plated collar stay and a wrought iron ring and attachment piece. The latter may be from an early hitching post.

The Elliott's plowed up portions of the fields south of the main house for uses as a garden. One area in particular, south, southwest, and west of the commissary/smokehouse, yielded a concentration of mid-19<sup>th</sup> to early 20<sup>th</sup> century artifacts. These were collected from the surface on several occasions and kept as a single provenience.

The Elliott's planted a series of crepe myrtles in their front yard, north of the main house. These crepe myrtles were taken from a severely disturbed house site, which was located on the opposite side of the road from Richardson Road on U.S. Highway 80. These ornamental shrubs were bulldozed into a pile during the highway widening project. The soil from the planting holes for these plants was screened by Rita Elliott to recover any historic artifacts. This exercise yielded little results. The yield from these shovel tests was meager.

The Elliott's removed the decrepit cement front walkway and replaced it with a brick walk, which remains today. As part of this project, most of the area to be disturbed was excavated archaeologically. The bricks used in this construction were manufactured in

Phenix City, Alabama. The excavations were completed by a volunteer crew consisting of fellow employees at Southern Research Historic Preservation Consultants, Inc., Ellerslie, Georgia.

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