

# George Daniel Patterson

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**G**eorge was born October 23, 1864, the sixth child of John Edward Patterson and Margaret Codgell Patterson. His father was a sergeant in the Confederate Army when George was born. He had fought in the battle of Chickamauga where his brother Archibald had been killed. He contracted pneumonia, and his wife came to Selma, Alabama, where he was stationed to help nurse him and others in his unit. She apparently nursed

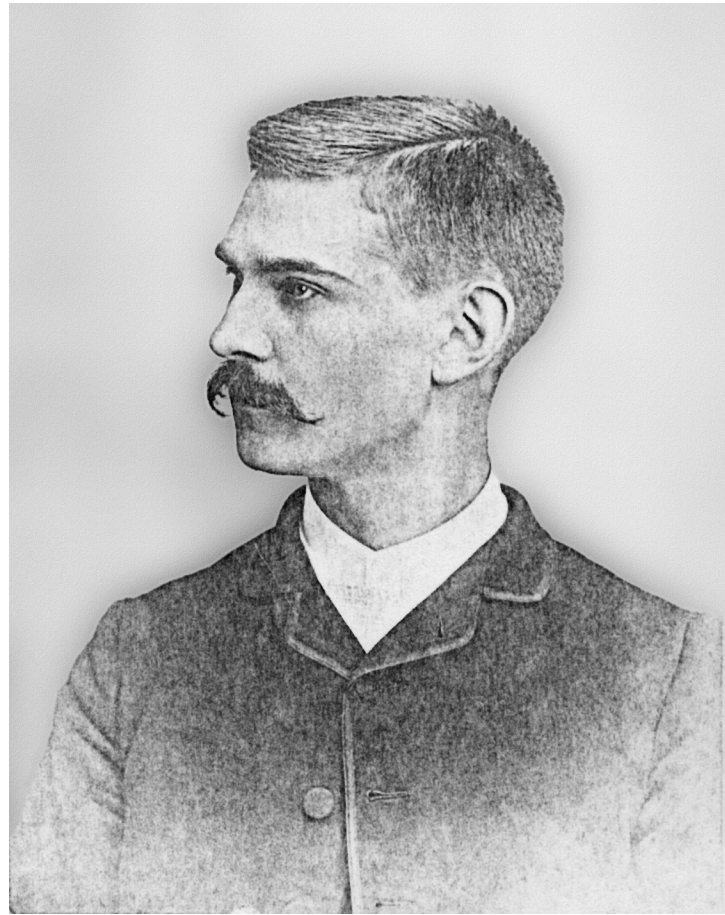
him well enough to conceive a child before she returned to Tallassee where George was born.

Growing up during Reconstruction George had little formal education, leaving school at the age of 14 to learn to keep books for a retail drygoods store, Sistrunk and Jordan. After becoming chief bookkeeper and a sales person, he was offered a partnership in the store. Within a few years the older partners died and George bought their interest in the store from their heirs. About 1902 he moved the store to a different location and brought in two new partners so that the business was known as Patterson, Cox and Herren.

In 1903 George sold his share of the store to his partners and became the vice-president of People's Savings Bank. The new bank was the first to be established in Tallassee. In 1912 when People's Savings Bank moved to a new location, George started The Bank of Tallassee in the old bank building. Apparently the town could not support two banks, and in 1914 the People's Savings Bank was folded back into the Bank of Tallassee with George as president.

The bank was hit hard by the Depression, and an article in the local newspaper described how he responded:

*When Mr. George D. Patterson sacrificed his position to strengthen the Bank of Tallassee, he was doing what he had been doing for the last quarter of a century. Mr. Patterson has loved the banking business. He would rather see his last dollar go than to see one depositor in his bank lose his money. A number of years ago he organized the Bank of Tallassee which he ran in the little nook just north of J.M. Herren's store. The Bank was small, but it operated on a sound basis. The load got too heavy for the other bank in town, the Peoples Savings Bank, so Mr. Patterson and his Bank of Tallassee, in order to save the deposits of the patrons of the Peoples Savings Bank, took over that Bank, but soon found that the job was too big for the resources available and the Bank of Tallassee, which had moved to its present location,*



*A photo taken in Montgomery in 1887 when George was 23*

*closed its doors. Before many days Mr. Patterson had scouted around among his kinsmen and raised sufficient cash to enable him to open the bank, issuing time certificates covering the deposits, which were finally paid to the last dollar, and no depositor lost a penny. Mr. Patterson worked faithfully for five years without pay to accomplish this, and the people of Tallassee should feel very proud of the services he has rendered. In relinquishing part of his holdings and his control of the Bank of Tallassee, Mr. Patterson does it with the best of feelings and will continue to support the bank under its new leadership. Mr. Robert Blount, the new president is a very able man, and is ably assisted by Mr. B.G. Stumberg, Vice-president; Mr. A.J. Noble, Vice-president and Cashier; Mr. A.S. Noble, Chairman of the Board; and two other directors, Harley Dobbs and R.L. Hebson.*

George was an active member of the Methodist church; and in 1900 he met Myrtice Wilson of Anniston, Alabama, at an Epworth League annual conference where she was serving as the Conference Treasurer. They were mar-





*George in June 1936 with his first grandson, George Daniel Patterson III*

ried on June 7, 1904 when he was 39 and she was 27. Myrtice and George lived with his parents until John Patterson died in 1905, at which time they bought a house on King street where they lived the rest of their lives.

George and Myrtice had four children: Margaret (b. July 20, 1905), George Daniel Jr. (b. March 2, 1907), Joseph Wilson (b. December 22, 1911) and Myrtice Wilson (b. February 14, 1914).

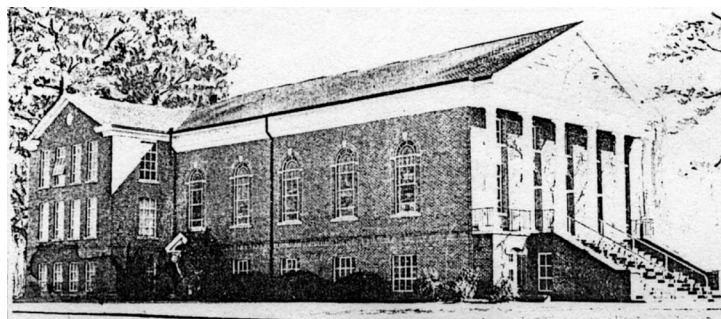
George never smoked or drank and is said never to have had a serious illness during his 76 years. He was Church School Superintendent of the Tallasse Methodist Church for 35 years and active in the building of two churches in Tallasse.

A letter to the Tallasse Times in 1917 described George as

*Generous to a fault, no case of need escapes his notice; his hand is extended to the helpless. The full scope of his benevolence may never be known to the world at large. His one desire seems to be to shun adulation and praise, but his sunny smile and hearty handclasp are an index to the sweetness and nobility of his soul. His is not the cold, practical charity of the world, but the outpouring of a gentle, lovable nature. His ears are ever open to the cry of distress and his genial smiling face and open hand never fail to respond, eagerly, gladly—the aged, the infirm and poverty-stricken, those driven into the by-ways and hedges of life, are his chief concern and care.*

He died May 18, 1941 at the age of 76.

*The two Methodist churches in Tallasse which were such an important part of George's life: The first was built in 1898 and the second in 1929.*







*The Family in 1914: Myrtice,  
Wilson, George, Myrtice, Margaret  
and George*

*George and Myrtice in front of their house on King Street*



*The three George Daniel Pattersons*





THE  
Hemples Savings Bank

FOUNDED 1854

CAPITAL STOCK \$ 50,000 00

Tallahassee, Ala. Apr 11<sup>th</sup> 1904Mr. J. C. Wilson  
Anniston Ala.

My Dear Sir:

You have doubtless surmised the object of my oft-repeated visits to Miss Myrtice. After long and patient wooing I have the honor and pleasure of telling you that she has consented to become my wife - We await, and I respectfully ask, the approval of Mr. Wilson and yourself to our engagement.

I quite appreciate the seriousness of this request, and the sacrifice to you, that it involves - but through the coming years I will endeavor to be a son, worthy of the trust confided in me, and it shall ever be my highest aim to promote the happiness of the noble woman who has honored me with her heart and hand.

Hoping to have your kindly consideration, I am with great respect,

Yours Very Truly

Geo. D. Patterson