

## Dennis Wetherington



No Picture Available

Born: 1 Oct 1807

Married: 1831 to Sarah Carter

Died: 28 May 1878 Valdosta, GA

Parents: Peter Wetherington & Jane Emerson

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*WETHERINGTON, Dennis*

1807-1883

*Lowndes*

Dennis Wetherington, an early settler of Lowndes County, was born in South Carolina, Oct. 1, 1807, a son of Peter Wetherington. He was married in 1831 to Sarah, daughter of Capt. Jesse Carter (q.v.) and his wife, Molsy. She was born in 1815 in Colleton District, S. C., and died about 1850. By her were born eight children. After her death, Mr. Wetherington married Rebecca, born 1838, daughter of John C. Roberts, who lived on Cow Creek in present Echols County. Two sons were born by her, and she died, and he then married her sister, Elizabeth Roberts, Oct. 12, 1851. She was born April 14, 1831. The children by the three marriages were:

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|---------------------|---|
| 1. Rachel           | b. Oct. 5, 1931, m. .... Farr.  |
| 2. Nancy            | b. April 20, 1833, m. (unknown).  |
| 3. Mary             | b. Dec. 5, 1934, m. .... Fletcher.  |
| 4. Jesse            | b. Sept. 23, 1836. never married; killed in C. S. A.                      |
| 5. Serena           | b. .... 1838, m. Charles Rentz.   |
| 6. Molsy            | b. Oct. 1, 1840, m. Washington Allred.                                    |
| 7. Elizabeth        | b. Aug. 22, 1842, m. William J. Shaw.                                     |
| 8. Sarah Ann Martha | b. Aug. 3, 1843, m. Isbin Green of Echols County.                         |
| 9. Job Elbert W.    | b. Feb. 1, 1846, m. Ann, daughter of John D. Zeigler.                     |
| 10. Matthew         | b. Dec. 19, 1844, m. (unknown). Moved to Hillsboro County Florida.        |
| 11. Isham A.        | b. Oct. 30, 1852, m. Marian M. Zeigler, Dec. 3, 1874, daughter of John D. |
| 12. Hansell (A. H.) | b. April 13, 1855, m. Margaret Blanton, dau. of Tim.                      |
| 13. Dawson Webb     | b. Feb. 10, 1857, m. .... Wetherington, daughter of Berry.                |
| 14. George Powhatan | b. Nov. 30, 1858, m. .... Blanton, dau. of J. N.                          |
| 15. Dennis Bartow   | b. May 9, 1861, m. Emily Zeigler, dau. of John D.                         |
| 16. Perry Andrew    | b. May 28, 1867, m. (unknown).  |

Dennis Wetherington moved to Lowndes County with his parents between 1825 and 1830, and after marriage he settled on a farm in the present Naylor district. He died about 1885.

He was baptized into the membership of Union Church, Feb. 11, 1832, and was dismissed by letter to join in constituting Unity Church nearer his home, about 1842. He and his last two wives are buried in a family cemetery south of Naylor, Ga.

The son, Isham A. Wetherington, became a very able and prominent Primitive Baptist minister, serving many churches in this section over a long ministry.

CENSUS REFERENCES: 1830, 1840, 1850, *Lowndes*; 1860, *Echols*.

<http://history.ucan.us/valdostaga.htm>

## **Early History of Lowndes County and Valdosta , Georgia**

Lowndes Countians had long anticipated the coming of a railroad and many had invested in railroad stock believing that their investment assured the construction of a rail line through Mill Town and Troupville. However, when the new Atlantic and Gulf Railroad did extend its right of way from Savannah toward Pensacola, it was on a line which ran four miles south of Troupville. In the Georgia of 1859 location on a rail line was vital to the progress of a town, and Lowndes Countians determined to benefit from the trade that a railroad would bring. Therefore they had the legislature appoint commissioners William H. Goldwire, James Harrell, John B. Stapler and Dennis Worthington to choose a location on the rail line and in the center of the county for the place of county business and to call it Valdosta.

In choosing a name for their county seat, the citizens of Lowndes did not wish to transfer the name of Troupville to the new town; yet, they wished to retain the association with the admired Governor Troup. Several names were suggested, but it remained for Col. Leonoren DeLyon, editor of the "South Georgia Watchman," to have the honor of suggesting the name finally selected. Col. DeLyon suggested that the place be named for one of Governor Troup's plantations, Val de Osta, in Laurens County. The source of the name was a town, valley and district in northwestern Italy. De Lyon modified the spelling to Valdosta. Throughout the years, Valdostans have maintained that the phrase meant Vale of Beauty.

Commissioners Worthington, Stapler, Harrell, and Goldwire procured the property for the new town. On the 12th of December 1859, for \$1,250, they purchased 140 acres in the northeast corner of Lot No. 62, District 11, from William Wisenbaker, who did not like the railroad coming so near his farm. Mr. Wisenbaker later moved to the Lake Park section of the county. William Wisenbaker reserved fifteen acres of the parcel of land as a donation to the Atlantic and Gulf Railroad Company for a right of way and for depot purposes. If the Railroad Company did not require the entire fifteen acres, the County Commissioners were to acquire the un-needed property at a cost of \$10.00 per acre. William Wisenbaker's home was the only residence when Valdosta became the county seat. The one-story frame house stood on what came to be Wells Street and faced the new Central Avenue. John T. Roberts later purchased the home for his large family, and he added a second floor.

The commissioners set aside one acre, Block No. 15, for the court house, and the town included the land within one mile of Block 15. They made the blocks of the business district one acre in size and divided them into small lots. For the residential area they marked off lots of either two acres with two home sites or four acres with four lots each. On January 19, 1860, the commissioners sold at public auction each lot to the highest bidder. For example, Charles H. M. and William D. Howell bought Lot No. 1, Block 32, for \$100. The lot, which was the southeast corner of Crane Avenue and Stephens Street, came into possession of the M. M. Caswell family. In the business district, Dr. William Ashley secured Lot No. 7, Block 9, 45 x 90 for \$175. His was the first lot south of the alley on the west side of Patterson Street between Hill and Central avenues. Powhatten B. Whittle and Henrietta Goldwire bought property in the business section, James W. Patterson purchased for \$170 Lot No. 20, Block 20, which was the property across from the court house bounded by Patterson, Valley and Ashley streets. Subsequently Patterson sold two acres outside the downtown area to Albert Converse for \$100 and ten acres to Richard A. Peebles for \$300.

The day the deed was signed by William Wisenbaker granting the railroad six acres of land south of Hill Avenue on which to build the first station, "Uncle Billy" Smith tore off the wing of his hotel in Troupville and moved it to Valdosta, where he operated a small hostelry for several years. In a few weeks Troupville, as a town, was no more. A few families, however, remained in Troupville for some time.

At the time of the June 1860 census approximately 120 whites and 46 blacks lived in Valdosta. James Goldwire served as postmaster, and Rufus Phillips was a lawyer. Richard Peebles was both a lawyer and a farmer and James Patterson also was a lawyer and a planter. Editor L. D. DeLyon emphasized politics in his weekly Watchman, which had a circulation of 1,300. The Pattersons and DeLyon's resided with John May, who was a merchant. R. T. Roberds was one of the nine other merchants in Valdosta, as was George Roberts. Living in town was farmer Albert Converse and family. Other inhabitants of Valdosta were physician John F. Trippe, clerk of superior court John Goldwire, and Daguerrian Wilson Boyd. Armistead Hewitt was a mason, and Thomas Conner was a blacksmith who lived with hotel keeper Nelson Connor. David McCall was also a hotel keeper. Two laborers and twelve carpenters had households in Valdosta. Among them were Christopher Grace, John Woods, William J. Knight and Jacob Ezell whose brother Thomas resided with him.

According to tradition, on July 4, 1860, the first train came over the new road to Valdosta. The event had been announced for weeks in advance and extravagant preparations had been made to make the day a gala occasion. A barbecue dinner had been prepared and crowds gathered from the entire section to take part in the demonstration. As the crowds watched and waited the train came puffing down the track and many a spectator felt his or her knees give way and an almost irresistible desire to run seized them, for this was the first train most of them had ever seen. The engine was called Satilla No. 3, and it was the wonder of the hundreds who had gathered for the occasion. After the Satilla had served its full number of years of usefulness as an engine on the railroad it was purchased by the Wall Mill, which was located about two miles east of Valdosta. It was used to pull a logging train and many a load was hauled by the faithful old engine. For a few years the Satilla worked faithfully when something went wrong inside and the old engine blew up. Report of the explosion was heard for some distance away.

STATE OF GEORGIA, }  
LOWNDES COUNTY. }

WHEREAS, the Legislature of the State of Georgia, by an Act passed on the 23<sup>rd</sup> day of November, eighteen hundred and fifty-nine, appointed John R. Stapler, James Harrell, Dennis Witherington, and William H. Goldwire, Commissioners to select and lay out a County Site for said county, to be known and called Valdosta; and whereas, the said Commissioners did select and lay out a site for said County, situated immediately on the Atlantic & Gulf Rail Road, and having laid the same off into lots numbered according to a plan thereof, made and executed for the said Commissioners; and whereas, the said Commissioners gave due notice in a gazette of said County, on the twentieth day of December, eighteen hundred and fifty-nine, that they would offer for sale, at public outcry, on Thursday, the nineteenth day of January, eighteen hundred and sixty, the lots so laid off in said town of Valdosta, and in pursuance of said authority and advertisement, the said Commissioners put up and exposed to sale at public outcry, all that lot or parcel of land, containing ~~one acre~~ <sup>one acre</sup> ~~feet in length, and~~ <sup>feet in length, and</sup> ~~ten or less feet in depth,~~ and known in

the plan of said town of Valdosta by the number, in the County aforesaid, at which sale ~~John R. Stapler~~ <sup>Harrell</sup> became the highest and best bidder, and the said lot, Number ~~4~~ <sup>Four</sup> ~~Block~~ <sup>Block</sup> ~~32~~ <sup>32</sup> was knocked off to him for the price or sum of ~~ninety~~ <sup>ninety</sup> dollars.

Now, this indenture witnesseth, that the said John R. Stapler, James Harrell, Dennis Witherington, and William H. Goldwire, Commissioners as aforesaid, for and in consideration of the sum of ~~ninety~~ <sup>ninety</sup> dollars, to them in hand well and truly paid by the said ~~Harrell~~ <sup>Harrell & Harrell</sup>

at or before the sealing and delivery of these presents, the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged, have granted, bargained, sold, aliened, remised, released, conveyed and confirmed, and by these presents do grant, bargain, sell, alien, remise, release, convey and confirm unto the said ~~Harrell~~ <sup>Harrell & Harrell</sup> and to his heirs and assigns, all that lot of land in the town of Valdosta and County aforesaid, known and distinguished in a plan of said town by the Number ~~4~~ <sup>4</sup> ~~Block~~ <sup>Block</sup> ~~32~~ <sup>32</sup> containing ~~one acre~~ <sup>one acre</sup> ~~feet in length, and~~ <sup>feet in length, and</sup> ~~ten or less feet in depth,~~ with the appurtenances thereunto belonging or in anywise appertaining: To Have and to Hold the said Lot, Number ~~4~~ <sup>4</sup> ~~Block~~ <sup>Block</sup> ~~32~~ <sup>32</sup> with the appurtenances, situated as aforesaid, and all and singular the premises, hereby granted, bargained, sold, aliened and confirmed, with the hereditaments, unto the said ~~Harrell~~ <sup>Harrell & Harrell</sup> his heirs and assigns, to the only use and behoof of the said ~~Harrell~~ <sup>Harrell & Harrell</sup> his heirs and assigns forever: And, lastly, the said John R. Stapler, James Harrell, Dennis Witherington, and William H. Goldwire, Commissioners aforesaid, and their successors in office and assigns, the said lot of land and premises unto the said ~~Harrell~~ <sup>Harrell & Harrell</sup> his heirs and assigns, against them and their successors in office, and against all and every other person and persons whatever, shall and will warrant and forever defend by these presents.

In witness whereof, the said John R. Stapler, James Harrell, Dennis Witherington, and William H. Goldwire, Commissioners aforesaid, have hereunto set their hands and seals this ~~sixteenth~~ <sup>sixteenth</sup> day of ~~February~~ <sup>February</sup> one thousand eight hundred and sixty.

SIGNED, SEALED AND DELIVERED }  
IN THE PRESENCE OF

*J. R. Goldwire* *John R. Stapler*  
*Moses Harrell* *Dennis Witherington*  
*James Harrell*  
*Wm H. Goldwire*



*James Harrell*

Information from the book, "Pines and Pioneers" by Jane Shelton, pg 132





Dennis Wetherington buried along side his 3<sup>rd</sup> wife, Elizabeth in the Wetherington family cemetery in Lowndes County, GA