

GEORGIA FLETCHER COLE



Left to Right: Louise, Eliza
and Georgia Fletcher,
c. 1855

Georgia Fletcher Cole was the daughter of Dix and Louisa Fletcher. She moved to Marietta with her family in 1849 and grew up in and around her parent's hotel, The Kennesaw House (this building). Growing up in a southern town with parents who supported the Union, Georgia could have rebelled against them and become a Confederate (like her sister Eliza). She did not support the south, however, and instead married a man so Pro-Union that he was imprisoned during the war for being a spy! Henry Greene Cole owned the Marietta Hotel and was known around town for being outspoken about his political persuasions. When he was finally imprisoned in 1864, he left Georgia and their three children at home to run the family affairs and businesses. Georgia frantically tried to contact every military commander, politician and pastor that she knew who might help in releasing her husband. While Henry was imprisoned in Atlanta, she would travel down to the jail once a week to take him food and supplies in hopes of making him more comfortable. When he was transferred to a prison in Charleston, it was all she could do to not lose her mind from worry. She was so desperate to see how he was, she left her children in the care of her mother and took a month long trip to find him.

When she returned home, she found that their hotel had been burned to the ground by Confederate supporters. As the war came to an end, Georgia found the strength to nurse her sickly husband, raise her children and help manage what was left of their family's business accounts. She lived a long life in Marietta and despite her "Yankee" convictions became a much loved citizen until her death in 1932.