

Septima Sexta Middleton Rutledge  
October 15, 1783 – June 12, 1865

Section 4 # 40065

On October 15, 1783, Septima Sexta Middleton was born at “Middleton Place,” outside Charleston, South Carolina. Her unusual name refers to her being the sixth daughter and seventh child in the family. Her father Arthur Middleton was a Signer of the Declaration of Independence from South Carolina. On October 15, 1799, Septima Sexta, aged 16 years old, married Henry Middleton Rutledge whose father Edward Rutledge was also a Signer of the Declaration from South Carolina. The bride and groom were first cousins since Edward had married Arthur’s sister Henrietta. Today Middleton Gardens is known for its beautifully landscaped formal gardens.

In 1816 Henry Rutledge and his family left the comforts of the Charleston area and relocated to the frontier on the Elk River in Franklin County, Tennessee. Their plantation “Chilhowee,” was a portion of the Revolutionary War grant of over 50,000 acres given to Henry’s father and inherited by Henry. In 1821 they moved to Nashville. They bought a small town house from Joseph Coleman with 20 surrounding areas. This house was located on College Hill and overlooked the town of Nashville and the Cumberland River. “Rose Hill” was well known for splendid entertainments and for beautiful rose gardens.

Henry and Septima Sexta Rutledge and their daughter Mary with her husband Francis B. Fogg helped to establish Christ Church, first Episcopal parish in Nashville in 1829. Two years later they were present when the first Episcopal church in Tennessee was dedicated. This Gothic Revival church was located on the corner of High (now Sixth Avenue North) & Church Street, just across the street from the Fogg’s residence.

Major Rutledge died in 1844. During the Civil War, Mrs. Rutledge moved to Mary’s home, where she died on June 12, 1865. Following her funeral at Christ Church, she was buried beside her husband in the Rutledge lot at City Cemetery. An announcement in the local newspaper alerted readers that the Rutledge estate, “a valuable property on College Hill” would be sold at auction on December 21, 1865. The Rutledge house had been damaged by fire during the last few months of the Civil War. The lots were purchased and handsome residences, including a Queen Anne house for Captain Tom Ryman, were built. The original Rutledge kitchen and its lot were bought by Mr. and Mrs. Edmund Baxter who constructed a house with a distinctive octagonal tower. This house and tower have been restored as well as other historic houses on what is today known as Rutledge Hill.

#### Sources

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