ByGone Berkeley
Adventures in History

Berkeley County

Historical Stories

Volume 3

T. Keith Gourdin

Berkeley County Historical Stories
Volume 3

"5 Berkeley Brothers"


his house, he

Contents

The Historical Stories
Volume 3
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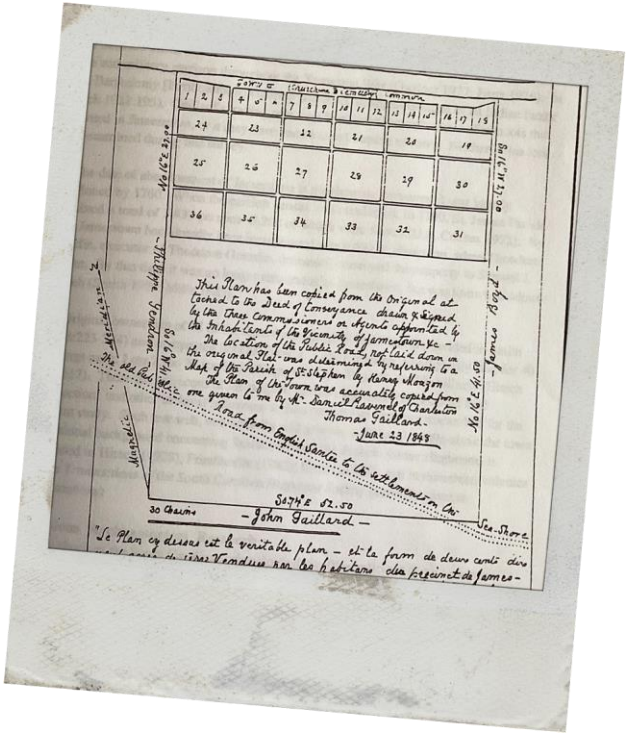


ByGone Berkeley
Adventures in History

1 – Historic Village of Pineville

As many of you know by now, my desire to locate historic markers for all places relevant to our county's historic sites is very strong. Places and events throughout the county need to be recognized and signage placed for telling the story of our rich history.

Several years ago, on March 28, 2008, one such place identified with a marker was the Village of Pineville. After over two years of struggles, my wife, Betty, and I (and mostly Betty) were able to determine the best and most accurate wordage defining the historic village.

Our Berkeley North Historical & Cultural Association group felt that local folks should be given the opportunity to help in sponsoring the marker, after all, about $2,000.00 had to come from somewhere, just to get the marker ordered.

Planning for the installation and unveiling of the historic marker was going to be an interesting feat to conquer: who should be the keynote speaker for the event? Many names were discussed, should it be a politician, a historian, someone local to the village, who would be the most interesting for the friends, family, and villagers who were to attend? Much discussion followed . . . for almost two weeks. Then, all of a sudden, it came. The answer was on the marker wordage. Three of six first families of "Pinevillians" were from the Porcher family. Richard Dwight Porcher, Jr. (my 3rd cousin) was the ideal candidate for speaker. Question: would he do it?

"Richard, we're planning an installation and unveiling of the Village of Pineville historic marker, as soon as the marker comes in and we get it installed. Will you consider being our keynote speaker?" "Yes, be glad to. Just let me know the date and time and what you want me to talk about," was his reply, "and make sure you remind me a couple of days in advance of the event." Great! That's taken care of.

In the meantime, we'll get our list together and get the word out to all of the villagers. Who else is needed. We determined three others for the program: S.C. Senator Larry Grooms, S.C. Representative Joseph Jefferson, and Father Jeffrey Richardson, Vicar for the Pineville Chapel and St. Stephen's Episcopal Church. I would moderate the program.

The marker came in. The date was set: Friday, March 28, 2008. Richard was notified and briefed (on Wednesday) on the presentation topic most desired. "Fine!, no problem," was the reply. "I'll be there." The marker was erected.

Beautiful start to a day of excitement and joy. The event was organized and moderated by Keith Gourdin. Father Jeff Richardson was to give the opening prayer. He's here. Senator Grooms is here. Representative Jefferson is here. Where is Richard? It's ten minutes to start time. Now it's five minutes 'til! He drives up, gets out his truck and calls for Keith. "What do you want me to talk about?" "Richard!!! I told you Wednesday evening! How your ancestors and the others started the village, how they lived in that day and time, what was life like in 1793, etc." "OK, gotcha!"

Historians, friends, and many families gathered at the Pineville Chapel to witness the event. Berkeley North Historical & Cultural Association Chairman Keith Gourdin set the stage, welcoming everyone. "Two hundred fourteen years ago, our village of Pineville was founded. This village was one of the first to be formally laid out after the American Revolution, and subsequently evolved into a permanent village with over sixty houses. The village had the Pineville Academy (1805), a public library, known as the Pineville Library Society (1810), the existing Pineville Chapel (1810), and a racecourse (established in 1791). Only three of the buildings and the church survived the passing of the of the Union armies in April of 1865, the others were burned or abandoned," said Gourdin.

After Gourdin's welcome, Father Jeff Richardson gave a beautiful, and most appropriate, opening prayer. Special remarks were given by Senator Larry Grooms, where he told of when he and his father tested an ultralight airplane at the Gregg Gourdin Airstrip (actually the Pineville International), just across the road here. Groom's small plane reached an altitude of 300 feet, and he soared over Pineville from St. Stephen to Eutawville and back.

S.C. Representative Joseph H. Jefferson, Jr., whose grandfather Isaiah Jefferson was postmaster in Pineville from 1926 to 1945, reminded the audience of the importance of honoring the past.

Dr. Richard D. Porcher, Jr., gave a most interesting and defining history of Pineville, the first "summer village,", or sometimes called the "summer retreat," where the early settlers, who had settled near the river, went to avoid "the fevers" from May through October (trying to avoid the mosquitos; though at that time they didn't know that was the cause of the (Malaria) fever. He talked about some of the famous scientists who live and/or worked in Pineville. Thomas Walter wrote Flora Caroliniana, a major catalog of plants in the Lowcountry, in 1788. Henry William Ravenel, a renowned botanist, attended the Pineville Academy. Dr. James McBride, a physician and scientist in Pineville, as a classmate of John C. Calhoun at Yale. Frederick A. Porcher, historian, attended the Pineville Academy.

Porcher said with pride that his ancestor, Philip Porcher, of Oldfield Plantation, gave money for the establishment of the Pineville Chapel in 1810.

The unveiling of the marker was performed by the historic marker benefactors: Ron and Iris Neal, Henrietta and Alfred Acton, Larry and Nina Gilbert, David and Scottie Hoffman, David and Pat Scarsella, and Keith and Betty Gourdin.

The historical marker unveiling event came to a close with the benediction, given by Rev. Alfred Acton, and refreshments prepared by Betty Gourdin were served in the churchyard.

Gourdin shared with those in attendance a drawing of the Pineville Historic District, as defined by the National Register of Historic Places, and provided by South Carolina Department of Archives and History.

The Pineville Historic District was named to the National Register on February 10, 1992, and includes 15.2 acres, four historic buildings, and three outbuildings, constructed between 1810 and 1925. It includes the Pineville Chapel (1810), the Gourdin House (1820), the Robert Marion, Sr., House (1905), and the J.K. Gourdin House (1925).

History of pineland villages indicate that Pineville (originally spelled Pine Ville) was the first established, followed by villages i.e., Cainhoy, Eordesville, Eutawville, Honey Hill, Pinopolis, and yes, Summerville and others.

Photos made at the unveiling of the Village of Pineville Historic Marker

2 – Baronies, Plantations, Bonneaus

I'm hoping that by putting out some 'History Bits and Pieces' I will get more information about each mentioned. Seems much of early history (on some subjects) is getting increasingly harder to uncover. Presently, with these bits and pieces, I'd welcome additional information you might be willing to share.

The following are the principal grants to the Colleton family: Fair Lawn Barony, 12,000 acres; Wadboo Barony, 12, 000 acres; Cypress Barony, 12, 000 acres; Mepkin Plantation, 3,000 acres; Pimplico Plantation, (called Mepshew), 2,000 acres; and Okatee Barony, 12,000 acres.

A grant for 12,000 acres on the western branch of Cooper River was issued September 7, 1677, to Sir Peter Colleton, son and heir of Sir John Colleton, a Lords Proprietor. This estate, called Fair Lawn, was also a seigniory (the authority remaining with the grantor after the grant of an estate in fee simple), but was called Fair Lawn Barony. In 1679, Sir Peter Colleton was granted another tract of land containing 4,423 acres immediately south of Fair Lawn, afterwards known as Mulberry Plantation.

Fair Lawn remained a seigniory as defined in the Fundamental Constitutions for about sixty-five years. In 1742, a tract of low land was cut off the southern part and sold to Nathaniel Broughton. This reduction in the acreage of the tract granted to Sir Peter Colleton was followed by transfers of two larger tracts in 1767. One thousand acres, known as **Little Landing Plantation**, was sold to Sedgewick Lewis, who changed the name to **Lewisfield**, and then there was 988 acres, called **Exeter**, that was sold to Mary Broughton. Other parcels were sold off from time to time and by 1839, when **Stony Landing** was sold, the entire estate had passed from the Colleton family.

Exeter, which is on Cooper River, is a few miles south of Moncks Corner. It has been, erroneously, identified as having been the country home of Sir Nathaniel Johnson. However, examination of the records fails to reveal any evidence to support such a claim. The plantation, consisting of 988 acres, was sold off from Fairlawn Barony in 1767 to Mary Broughton.

In past years, and even today, people passing by the Berkeley County Club admire the beautiful live oaks along the entrance road and often fail to realize that the county lost one of its historically important houses when Exeter was burned.

In the Stoney notes to A Day On The Cooper River, we are told that the late D.E. Huger Smith had access to extracts of old records showing that Hugh Butler leased this land from Sir John Colleton in 1726 and mortgaged it with the house he had built thereon in 1738 to John Colleton. This Hugh Butler married Anna Colleton, a daughter of Major Charles Colleton of Fairsight Plantation and the owner of large tracts of land on the Santee, Cooper, and Wassamassaw.

Some persons have claimed that the Exeter house was built as early as 1700, but Samuel Gaillard Stoney, in his Plantations of the Carolina Low Country, gave the house the probable date of 1726, during the ownership of Hugh Butler.

Butler was one of the Justices of the Peace for Berkeley County for 1737 as published in the South Carolina Gazette of April 2, 1737. He was a witness to the will of the Hon. Thomas Broughton of nearby Mulberry, and on June 19, 1719, Butler was one of the twelve persons appointed by the Palatine (possessing royal privileges) to serve on the last Grand Council under the Proprietors whose government of the province was overthrown by the people in December of that year.

From records that are available today, we know that the tract was called Exeter Plantation when left to son, John (under 21), in the 1749 will of John Colleton (dated 26 Sept 1749) and when it was sold to Mary Broughton on 15 Sept 1767. When Irvin wrote his Day On The Cooper River, he listed T.O. Dawson at Exeter and stated that the tract included the pine land exchanged by the Broughton's for the Colleton land on which Mulberry Castle had been built by Broughton. The house was owned by Colonel Isaac Motte, who married a Broughton. In 1902, J.S. Jones, Sr., of Moncks Corner bought Exeter from the Motte estate and made it home. It was later the home of J.W. Jones and then was subsequently owned by Mr. and Mrs. Charles A. Jones, who annually hosted a supper for the Pinopolis and Friendship Methodist Church Board Members, along with the Methodist District Officers.

After the ownership of the Jones family, it became the site of the Berkeley Country Club.

The house is described as having been originally built in the shape of an H with a large central hall and steps entering this hall from the front and rear between the wings. About the middle of the eighteenth century, when new architectural styles were in fashion, the front portion of each of the two wings was enclosed to form a stair hall. The original brick work was laid in Flemish bond with glazed headers. This fine brick work was set off by white stucco at the base of the building and on the corner pilasters. Fire destroyed this historical and architectural treasure in December of 1967.

An old family cemetery occupies a prominent spot in the fine golf course that occupies the fields and former wooded areas around the avenue and the old house spot. Much of the surrounding property has become a rapidly developed subdivision, as people from the urban areas seek the beauty of rural Berkeley County.

Stony Landing – this plantation was the last part of the Colleton Fair Lawn Barony to be disposed of when, as a 2,319-acre tract, the Master in Equity sold it in 1839 to John H. Dawson.

The place took its name from two facts: the outcropping of Marl here, which caused the land to be called stony, and its function as the landing at the head of navigation on the Western Branch of the Cooper River. In 1751, it was referred to as "Stone Landing," and has since been incorrectly spelled "Stoney Landing."

In its early days of commercial importance, supplies for the interior were generally brought up the Cooper River by boat, unloaded here, and carried by Indian carriers or pack horsemen, and later hauled by wagons up the Cherokee Path and its feeder trails to the Congarees, the Cherokee Nation, the High Hills of the Santee, and the Waxhaws, and by western trails to the Mississippi.

The large volume of river traffic through Stony Landing practically ceased about 1800, when the Santee Canal and new roads to the back country destroyed the commercial importance that the Cherokee Path had previously enjoyed.

Dr. St. Julian Ravenel, who owned this property at the time of the Confederate War, experimented with the use of marl here to produce lime.

Stony Landing was the residence of State Senator Rember C. Dennis for a number of years. In a foreword to the Tricentennial publication, Senator Dennis stated that this tract now contained 622 acres and was purchased in July 1919 by his late father, Senator Edward James Dennis.

I've previously given you a bit of history on **Gippy Plantation** and the Roosevelts, so won't go into that again today.

Bonneau Ferry Plantation – takes its name from the Ferry and from the Huguenot family of that name. Numerous articles on this family are found in the Transactions of the Huguenot Society of South Carolina. In the "Liste" of French and Swiss who desired to be naturalized, we learn that Anthonie Bonneau was born at La Rochelle, France, the son of Jean Bonneau and Catherine Roi. It lists Anthoine's wife as Catherine

Du Blis, but in recent years, research in ancient archives at La Rochelle show that her correct name was Catherine “de Bloys.” Their sons Anthoine and Jean Henri are listed as born in France and the son Jacob as born in Carolina.

The Annals and Register of St. Thomas and St. Denis Parish gives some idea of the early branches of this family and its intermarriage with other early Carolina families. Much additional information on this connection is found in “Peyre Records” as published in Transaction No. 80.

Anthony Bonneau, Sr., whose will was proved in 1743, was really Anthony (Anthoine) 2nd., who came to Carolina with his father of the same name about 1690. This Anthony is described as a (barrel) cooper who was living and practicing his trade in Charles Towne at the time of his espousal to Jean Elizabeth Videau at the home of her father, Peter Videau, planter, in Berkeley County, September 24, 1702. At this time, the parents gave the bride her clothes, linen, two pairs of new sheets, a female slave, two oxen, two cows and their calves, two sheep and their lambs, a young colt, the value of colts born to three mares which belonged to her. The groom declared himself free of personal debt or debts on his tools and his one-third interest in the house and lands left by his deceased father.

He names a son, Anthony, in his will of 1742, which is also witnessed by an Anthony, who was probably the double first cousin of his children and the son of his brother Jacob.

Anthony was a member of the Grand Jury in 1722. In 1726/7 Captain Anthony was appraising the estate of Paul Trapier. Existing records show that Anthony was a Justice of the Peace for Berkeley County in 1728, 1734, and 1737, and possibly until his death.

In his will referred to above, he leaves to his sons, Samuel and Benjamin, 3,020 acres of land, including the plantation where he lived at the Ferry in St. John’s Parish, which included lands he had bought from Nicholas Mayrant. He names sons Henry and Peter and daughters Floride, Judith, and Ester.

Judge H.A.M. Smith, on a map accompanying his article on “Quenby and the Eastern Branch of Cooper,” shows the Bonneau Ferry at the river crossing, but designates the plantation itself as “Prioli.”

Bonneau Ferry Plantation, on the opposite side of and farther down the river from Pompion Hill Chapel, was the place where John C. Calhoun was married to Floride Calhoun, his cousin, on January 8, 1811. Near this place, on the same side of the river, was the plantation of Peter

Jacob Guerard, who invented the pendulum engine for husking rice. By an act of the General Assembly of South Carolina, September 26, 1691, he was granted a monopoly in the manufacture, erection, and operation of his invention for a period of two years, the act further stating that the said pendulum engine "doth much better and in less time and labor, huske rice than any other heretofore hath been used within the Province." Infringement of the patent rights of Guerard was subject to a fine of "forty shillings current money of this Province."

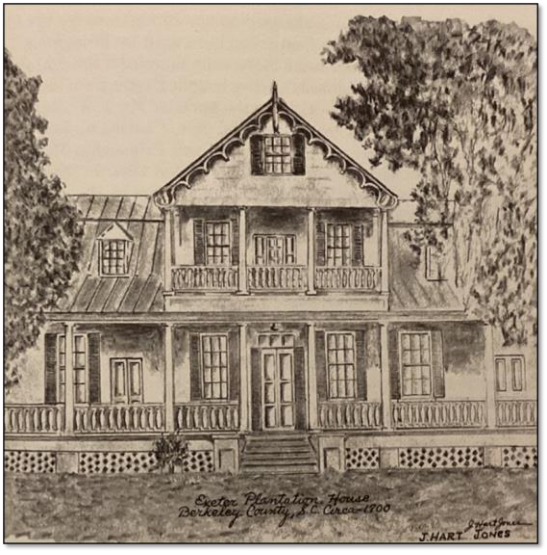
The Bonneau Ferry Plantation property was acquired by Mr. and Mrs. Hugh S. Robertson of North Carolina, who were active in Berkeley County affairs at the time they built the house on the place and again called it by the old Bonneau Ferry name, which went back to the days when the Ferry played an important part in the lives of the Cooper River people, in their going and coming to and from Charleston, the movement of produce and commerce and the movements of troops. The Bonneau name has also been perpetuated in the name of the town of Bonneau, which is located where the road from the ferry came to the railroad.

In an address made to the Black Oak Agricultural Society in 1858, Samuel DuBose stated that Captain Peter Gaillard and his Americans checked Col. Coates here when Coates was attempting to get to Charles Town by way of the Ferry after having burned Biggin Church.

The Auditor General's accounts for 1778-1780 list Anthony Bonneau and Josiah Bonneau. The Revolutionary file at the S.C. Department of History and Archives lists Jacob Bonneau in Continental Regiments 1 & 12, with service under Col. Charles C. Pinckney. Anthony Bonneau is listed in Stub Indents X-961, AA 600-A, 6623. As No. 629, Lib. W. Indent was issued 29 Aug 1785 to Josiah Bonneau (who was a Charleston merchant) for "Two hund'd & twenty two pound and two pence for 1/8 Sloop Sally &c per a/c from the Commissioners." South Carolina Colonial Soldiers and Patriots, by Leonardo Andrea.

Many descendants of this family live in South Carolina today, but none bear the surname "Bonneau."

References: *Historic Berkeley County South Carolina 1671-1900*, by Maxwell Clayton Orvin; *Historic Ramblin's Through Berkeley*, by J. Russell Cross; and Some Historic Spots in Berkeley, by Henry Ravenel Dwight.



Exeter Plantation, Drawing courtesy J. Hart Jones

Lewisfield Plantation, Drawing courtesy J. Hart Jones

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3 – Eutaw Springs

Since I've been putting together "history in Berkeley County", I'd be remiss if I didn't include Eutaw Springs in an article for our county. Why? Because up through the American Revolutionary War, Eutaw Springs was historically Berkeley County; now of course, it's in Orangeburg County. Several of the ole St. Stephen's and Upper St. John's Parish families had residences and farmlands in the Eutaw Springs areas. These families had, over a period of years, gradually moved upriver from the lower Santee.

Initially, the Cherokee Path was a trail coming out from Charles Towne, across Goose Creek, through the lands of the Wandos, along the high lands on the west of the Cooper River, by the vicinity of what is now Moncks Corner and Pinopolis, bordering the Seewee hunting grounds, through the area now covered by Lake Moultrie, which was then the land of the Eutaws (once spelled and pronounced Yewta), coming from the lake area into Highway No. 6 in Cross.

The stretch of this highway from Lake Moultrie to just beyond Eutaw Springs is part of the original Indian Path that became known as the Cherokee Path and also as the Congaree River Road. Various other Indian paths joined and crossed this main path, that went through the heart of what is now Berkeley County. This main path continued northwestward across the mountains, connecting the Cherokee Nation.

In addition to ordinary daily traffic, the Path was used by British soldiers and local militia in colonial days, governmental agents to negotiate peace with the Indian Wars and the American Revolution, and by troops during subsequent crises through the Confederate War.

In these early days and years, deerskins were pack-carried by the Indians down this path and its feeder paths, and the traders and pack horsemen carried back, to trade with the Indians, bullets and small shot, guns and power, looking glasses and colored beads, axes, hoes, hatchets, and other hand tools, English cotton cloth of bright colors, and often whiskey.

When arriving at Eutaw Springs, here's what one found: the springs consisted of limestone springs, the Big Springs, the Little Springs, and the Dead Springs, although, actually, there was only one main spring. A knoll (a small hill or mound) separated the Big Springs from the Little Springs, which dropped off sharply on the Big Springs side, for about thirty feet. A winding path with footholds led down to the springs.

The Big Springs looked much like cauldrons of boiling water, hence their names. They were, however, anything but hot! The water was like liquid ice. Children playing in the water came out shaking and blue lipped, folding their arms about themselves. The Big Springs and the Dead Springs were the chief source of the waters that fed Eutaw Creek.

The Little Springs were across the knoll from the Big Springs. The land sloped gently down to Little Springs. The road to Blue Hole passed through the waters from this spring, and people often stopped to wash and refresh in the cold water.

The spring flowed from a low cavern about three feet across to form a shallow stream about ten feet wide. This stream flowed about fifty feet to the base of the Knoll where it went back into the earth. There is no evidence of a connection between the two springs, as the waters from Big Springs were always fresh and clear, even when Little Springs had been stirred up considerably.

The Dead Springs was located some hundred yards to the north. The road to Blue Hole passed over the rock formation around this spring.

Blue Hole was a sink hole basin that may have been fed by a small spring. It was about thirty feet across and normally about ten feet deep. This varied some with the rise and fall of the Santee. (In later years, a *Blue Hole Plantation* was established several miles southeast of Eutaw Springs . . . no relation.)

Eutaw Plantation naturally derives its name from its location on Eutaw Creek, flowing from Eutaw Springs. The name Eutaw comes from the Indian tribe of that name, which used this section as a hunting ground. Dr. David Duncan Wallace, in his "*History of South Carolina*", says the Eutaws, sometimes known as the Etiwans, were of the Cusabo group, and were of the Muskogean stock.

"The Richardson family lived on the north side of the Santee River in what is now the Clarendon County / Sumter County border, while the Sinkler family lived most of the time on the south side of the river near Eutaw Springs", says cousin H.C. Sinkler Little in her book *Richardson-Sinkler Connections, Planting, Politics, Horses, and Family Life, 1769-1853*. She continues, "One account describes the roads as an "opening . . . cut through the woods, frequently following the route of a winding Indian trail, often barely wide enough for one vehicle to pass another, with trimmed pine saplings or other small trees laid across in boggy places."

Trips in the area also required the use of a ferry to cross the river – in this case Nelson's Ferry, originally called *Beard's Ferry*, which was near

the confluence of Eutaw Creek and the Santee River. This Eutaw Creek that flowed diagonally north-northwest to the river, names its origin as "Eutaw Springs". And ultimately, Eutaw Springs would separate Belvidere Plantation on the northeast and Eutaw Plantation on the southwest.

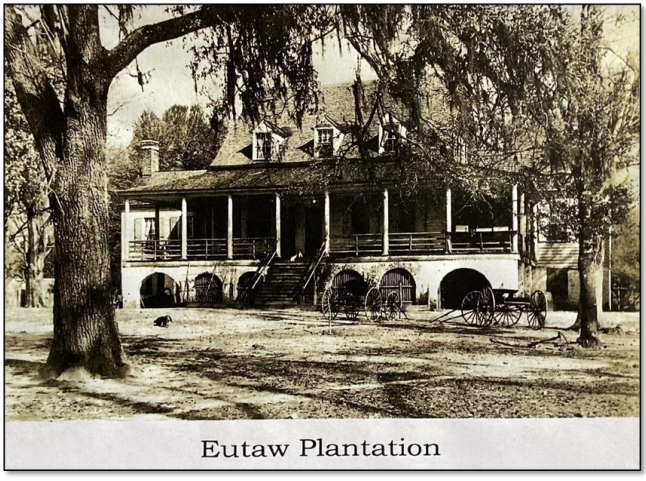
The normal route from the Sandhills (sometimes called the High Hills of the Santee) to Eutaw Springs, crossed the Santee River at Nelson's Ferry and involved crossing extensive swamplands.

The newer, more northwesterly, plantations sent down staves, shingles, beef, pork, rice, pitch and tar for British naval stores, candles made of Myrtle Berries or tallow and wax, some furs, peas, Indian corn, and leather from the plantation tanning vats. Much of this went from old Moncks Corner to Stony Landing and on to Charles Towne by water.

The "Springs" are described by Thomas W. Martin, Sr. (who grew up swimming in the springs) this way: Eutaw Springs, battleground turned playground, was for many years Eutawville's only claim to notoriety. The shade from tall pines and mossy cedars on green grass made an ideal picnic ground by the cool springs. Churches, schools, and other organizations have used it since the turn of the century, plantation owners for hundreds of years, and the Indians for thousands of years.

The Battle of Eutaw Springs was the last major engagement of the Carolinas in the American Revolutionary War. Both sides claimed victory.

Resources/references: *A Plantation Series*, by Francis Marion Kirk; *Historic Berkeley County 1671-1900*, by Maxwell Clayton Orvin; *Historic Ramblin's Through Berkeley*, by J. Russell Cross; *History in Your Own Backyard*, by Carol Poole, (Eutaw Springs, Forrest Lowe), and *Richardson-Sinkler Connections, Planting, Politics, Horses, and Family Life*, by H.C. Sinkler Little..



Collections from Library of Keith Gourdin

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4 – Chicora, Railroads, & Lumber

With the arrival of cotton in the early 19th century, the relatively remote South Carolina upcountry enjoyed a vast expansion in the value of its agricultural produce. Overland transport by wagon was slow and expensive, so this produce tended to go to Augusta, Ga., then down the Savannah River to the seaport at Savannah, Ga. The South Carolina Canal & Rail Road (SCC&RR) Company was chartered in 1827 to divert this commerce to Charleston by means of connections to Columbia, Camden, and Hamburg. Despite its novelty, the project was pursued by its Charleston leaders with aggressive method, public demonstrations encouraging support for the daring concept of a steam-driven railroad. Under William Aiken as the first president, six miles of line were completed at Charleston in 1830. The first run over the entire line was celebrated in October 1833.

The SCC&RR was fortunate in its chief engineer, Horatio Allen, who had already toured English railroads, and drove the Stourbridge Lion on its first and only run in America. Allen argued successfully before the SCC&RR directors for immediate adoption of steam locomotion, stating that the power of horses was known and would never increase, but the future power of locomotives was beyond imagination. The first locomotive was the Best Friend of Charleston of 1830; by 1834, the line had purchased a total of 15 locomotives and scheduled one daily run in each direction.

The way consisted of flat strap iron fastened to continuous timber sills. Much of the way passed through South Carolina's monotonously flat Pine Barrens. Elsewhere, the track was elevated - frequently over long distances - on timber pilings.

Timber pilings had allowed the SCC&RR to build their line quickly and cheaply, especially in comparison with northern lines, such as the Baltimore and Ohio that tended to overbuild. Nevertheless, by 1834 the pilings began to rot at the ground line, and were supplanted by earthen embankments made by dumping dirt over the side (encasing and preserving some of the longleaf pine structures to this day). Beginning in 1836, the flat strap rails were replaced with "T" rails. Wood rot was an early maintenance evil, and by 1841 a surface treatment called Kyanizing was found to be helpful, and shortly thereafter the cheaper (and less dangerous) Earlizing with copper and iron sulphates was adopted.

Novel and clumsily designed locomotives were a great expense, with generally half of the large fleet laid up for repairs, modification, or

breaking up. These early machines suffered from slightness in the drive wheels, axles, and valve gear, and from unequal distribution of weight, a serious problem give the questionable track they ran on. Inside actions were eventually converted to outside. The early eight-wheeled locomotives shared these problems along with overly weak frames, but otherwise were appreciated for greater power and less injury to the road. With limited facilities in an agricultural economy, all of these shortcomings resulted in long outages. Through 1834, locomotives had been purchased from six different suppliers.

The original line generally paralleled U.S. Route 78 and remained in service until the 1980's. The downtowns of many railroad towns such as Branchville, Bamberg, Denmark, and Blackville are still marked by railroad esplanades frequently with elevated causeways.

The proximity of the vast swamps with their millions of fine trees and the associated naval stores became one of the factors in turning Charleston into a great lumber center after the War Between the States and lasting until the Great Depression of the 1930s.

J. F. Prettyman operated a mill at Summerville since 1902. Needing a steady supply of timber, Prettyman built his own logging railroad north of town to the Cypress and Wassamassaw swamps. Beginning with a four-mile long railroad with one engine and twelve cars, two years later, the main line was extended to twelve miles long, then in 1917 had grown to 20 miles in length. One contemporary map shows the line extending as far north as Ferguson, SC, with a branch to the Santee River banks just north of Russellville, and the junction at Cross Mills. Cross was also the end of one of the tramlines out of Chicora on the Berkeley Railroad.

The Camps of Virginia were not to be left out of the timber cutting. They organized the Santee Timber Corporation with headquarters at Russellville where they built a large mill. They built a logging line from St. Stephen, on the Atlantic Coast Line main line, through Russellville and on to Halls, S.C. in 1919. Three years later, the company sold outright to Camp Manufacturing Company.

An alternate story tells of J.M. Camp coming to the area in 1922 where he found W.P. Russell operating a ground mill beside his cotton gin five miles west of St. Stephen. Camp bought part of Russell's farm and built his mill a half mile to the north of Russell's store, which had served as a post office since 1916.

Camp Manufacturing had the railroad chartered as the Carolina Western Railroad on November 17, 1923. It was to operate only as a logging line. Four months later, the Carolina Western was franchised as a common carrier on April 3, 1924, to operate between St. Stephen and

Russellville. The trackage beyond Russellville was to be operated by Russellville Lumber Company, another Camp creation, and was more commonly known as RULCO.

The RULCO operation was active and built a number of extensions beyond Halls, SC to reach the deeper woods. Over the years, these tracks ran to Eadytown and the upper Santee Basin. Several spurs reached the banks of the old Santee Canal that linked the Santee with the Cooper River, and one or two of these lines crossed the abandoned channel to log the opposite bank.

The impounding of the lakes ended the logging in the Santee Basin for the RULCO division of Camp Manufacturing. The trackage beyond Halls was abandoned after February 27, 1942, when the company found it could no longer cut the area economically.

Santee Cooper records building of 2.9 miles of entrance road from Highway 45 to Wilson's Landing and across the river to logging camps. This began July 14, 1939. Cornell-Young Company, of Macon, Ga., built and operated 18 miles of railroad from St. Stephens to Wilson's Landing. Right-of-way graded and track built by April 26, 1940. Building materials into the South Santee Dam site amounted to 578,485 tons and hauled out were 35,612,000 board feet of logs to Russellville Lumber; a total of 27,770 cars in 602 days, or an average of 46 carloads a day.

The Carolina Western was an interesting line despite its short length and limited variety of shipments. The ACL agent at St. Stephen was asked to handle some of the paperwork for the Carolina Western, but rules prevented him from representing another railroad. Mr. Klintworth suggested that his wife could handle the job, and she was hired on the spot. Mr. Klintworth was responsible for the position, and it turned out that their son, Ed, did much of the Carolina Western paperwork in later years. Yet, Mrs. Klintworth held the job during the 30s, 40s, and into the 50s. She received the $50 monthly check for the job - and cashed it.

At this point in the story, another player entered the stage. O.L. Williams began his career in both furniture and veneer in North Carolina. He built a plant at Camden, which was operated by his son, C. Frank Williams. He then moved from N.C. to Sumter where he set up Williams Veneer Company by purchasing the Sumter Veneer Company and another veneer plant there. At the same time, he added a veneer plant at Conway to the collection. Williams also operated the Williams Top & Panel Company in Sumter, but soon changed this to Williams Furniture Company in 1928. This was two years after Julian T. Buxton joined the firm as general manager.

Buxton brought the company through the Depression with only a single two-week closing that was a remarkable feat for this industry. he soon managed to obtain contracts with both Macy's and Gimble's in New York City. The company depended upon outside sources for the lumber until 1941 when it purchased some woodland on the Pee Dee River near Marion.

Buxton was still aggressively interested in expanding in 1942 at the same time that Camp wanted to get out of South Carolina. With his talent to "outsharp and outhaggle any gypsy horse trader that might wander down the road", Williams Furniture acquired Russellville Lumber Company.

The company now owned a double, eight-foot band mill with a capacity of 150,000 board feet a day, a series of dry kilns, a steam plant, and a well-equipped planing mill. Surrounding the mill was the village of Russellville. There were about 50 small houses, an office building or two, a well-stocked commissary, a little, one-window post office, and a two-room school operated by the county. The company got the seven mile Carolina Western Railroad with a steam engine, a few flatcars, and a red caboose.

There were also 20,000 acres of timberland that was partially cut over with a small logging village or camp, with a small store, and 20 miles of narrow gauge logging railroad that consisted of three Shay locomotives and over 100 narrow gauge logging cars. There were four old oxen that were once part of the logging crew, a machine shop, and all the parts that were needed to make the whole thing work.

Before the war, the company purchased 175,475 acres more and after the war, the company added 14,000 acres west of Charleston.

Looking back after all these years, the government's program of clearing the lake bottoms for the impoundment of Lake Moultrie and Lake Marion probably influenced Buxton to buy the Camp property. The timber was essentially free for the taking if it could be removed and Buxton's men did just that.

After the war, Williams began to work the timberland on the north side of the Santee River, east of the ACL bridge. He built a rail connection at Gourdin, near Lanes, and extended a rail line down into the swamp bank toweard the SAL main line. This propertywas owned by Atlantic Coast Lumber Corporation and was offered for a million dollars in the late 1930s. Williams Furniture bought the property and cooperated with the Santee River Hardwood Company of St. Stephen that worked the south side of the river as well as some of the north shore Gourdin line. The logs were cut, hauled out by Santee River Hardwood trains over the

10 miles to the junction with the ACL at Gourdin, then over the ACL bridge to St. Stephen with trackage rights and into the yards of Santee River Hardwood Company. The veneer timber was trans-shipped to Williams Veneer at Sumter by box car.

Some of the timber from this lower Santee River area belonged to Camp Manufacturing Company that was purchased land from the Hackley & Hume Lumber Company and from the Santee Timber Company. Camp also obtained trackage rights over the ACL from Heineman on the north bank of the Santee River to St. Stephen where the company could use the Carolina Western to reach the mill at Russellville. The Camp's trackage was built as a branch of the Williams-Santee River hardwood line and ran further east along the Santee. It passed the Wee Tee Lake, which had a reputation locally for the excellent fishing there, and passed a number of old Indian mounds near Charleston County. The Camp's tracks were removed in 1946.

With the former RULCO operation now in Williams' collection, he acquired the W.P. Bynum & Associates plant at Kingstree to manufacture pine boards and sent the hardware to his veneer plants at Sumter. Williams Furniture operated the Carolina Western until 1967, when it sold the line together with the Russellville Mill to Georgia-Pacific Corporation.

The Santee River hardwood Company was organized here in 1928 when the mill was built, and river bottom land was cut for 15 miles to the west. Located on what was locally known as the Hill of the Swamp, the mill was served by its own private logging line that ran into the Santee forests.

Frank Turner had formed the company, which ran steadily after the mill was opened except for those periods of high water that flooded the swamps and forced suspension of operations. In 1939, for example, the company shipped out 80 carloads of lumber each month.

When the government decided to impound the lakes and purchased the river bottom land, Santee River Hardwood was one of the successful bidders to remove the trees from this area. When the Atlantic Coast Lumber Company offered its Pee Dee Swamp area for sale, Santee River Hardwood joined with Williams Veneer to purchase the tract for $1 million. The Santee River Hardwood Company trains were also used to remove the timber on the north bank of the Santee below the Atlantic Coast Line's bridge. Finally, the company also operated an isolated section of track near Laurel hill School to the south bank of the Santee across from the former operation. The company closed about 1955, and several of its locomotives were sold to other lines.

* *South Carolina Canal and Railroad Company*, by Wikipedia

* *Logging Railroads of South Carolina*, by Thomas Fetters; photo pages from

* *Picture Progress Story, Santee-Cooper*, by S.C.Public Service Authority

The South Carolina Encylopedia shows that the Bank of Charleston applied for a charter of the South Carolina Railroad in 1834, led by investors, and headed by Henry Gourdin.

ByGone Berkeley
Adventures in History

5 – Village of Conifer & Lumber Co.

Last week I began giving you a bit of information about early railroads and lumber towns during the mid to late nineteenth century in Berkeley County. I found this interesting in that we have railroads presently in the county that many don't know whether or not they are being used, and if so, by whom. Me included! I guess you know by now that with the research that I do, I learn so much that I didn't know before. How many times have I said it, "there's so much to learn in Berkeley County!"

By the end of the nineteenth century, the center of lumber production was shifting from the Northeast to the vast southern pine belt which stretched in a crescent from Virginia to Texas. As the big industrial timber corporations began running out of forests in the north, they turned to areas with seemingly inexhaustible lumber resources. Though logging and lumber mills had occurred in South Carolina throughout the nineteenth century, the turn of the twentieth century marked the commencement of large-scale industrial logging in the coastal plain pine belt. Companies funded by northeastern capital, such as the Atlantic Coast Lumber Corporation, the E.P. Burton Lumber Company, the A.C. Tuxbury Lumber Company, and the North State Lumber Company, began building mills and buying up land and stumpage in the Lowcountry around the 1890's. Within a decade, these companies controlled most of the forest land in Berkeley County. By 1913, their mills had a cumulative annual production of over 300 million board feet of lumber, and the Atlantic Coast Lumber Corporation was considered one of the largest producers on the Eastern seaboard.

North State Lumber Company began its operations in North Carolina in 1890 and in 1900 built a large lumber mill on the banks of Shipyard Creek on the Cooper River. This allowed the company to use its tugboats to bring barges loaded with logs from the company's properties at Silk Hope (Silk Hope is very close to the upper most landing of the East Branch of the Cooper River). Their primary logging operation was located several miles north at Witherbee. There they founded a company town, much like the one Camp Manufacturing Company had in Russellville.

Another of the railroad companies serving this area in the early 1900's was Seaboard Air Line (SAL), a company who used former Charleston Northern rail tracks from Charleston through Cordesville. This track ran northwest from the West Branch of the Cooper River through Cordesville, Bethera, Hell Hole Bay, and towards Jamestown.

Tom Fetters' Logging Railroads of South Carolina tells us that "North State owned six locomotives and about twenty-five logging cars" at that time, with "six miles of three-foot-gauge railroad in operation with another mile under construction. By 1910, "seven miles of tracks were in operation. The mill at Charleston was cutting 50,000 feet per day." By 1917, North State's railroad lines had stretched to fifteen-miles in length.

It was at this time (as I told you last week), that much of North State Lumber Company's land was sold to the U.S. Government in 1936, about 65,000 acres, and became the *Francis Marion National Forest*.

Based on research from Charleston County, E.P. Burton Lumber Company came together from a group of Philadelphia capitalists, who over time, purchased forestlands near and adjoining the East Branch of the Cooper River. When initially established in 1890, the company operated on 5,000 acres between (what became) the Charleston Navy Yard and Goose Creek. As timber was cut and cleared, Burton sold the land and bought more forest lands. As with North State, Burton utilized, by design, the Cooper River for transporting logs down river to the sawmills.

In 1902, the E.P. Burton Lumber Company requested assistance with the U.S. Forest Service and South Carolina consisting of its 39,000 acres of pine and swamp land in Berkeley County. Determination was made that the cutover lands could be some of the most promising lands for reforestation, due to the fertility of the soils, and the readily adoptable forests. With cutover lands ranging from Limerick Plantation, north to Bethera and the Hell Hole Swamp area, lands were found to already be bouncing back with regrowth of loblolly pines . . . where wildfire could be kept out. This discussion and action marked more conversation about the formation of the Francis Marion National Forest in 1936.

Logging Railroads in South Carolina tells us (and please let me take this opportunity to encourage you to get this book, by Thomas Fetters) Burton built a permanent village (many called it a town) named Conifer, north of the landing on the Cooper River, primarily to accommodate their employees. Fetters describes the village as being five miles from the Cooper River and twenty miles east of Moncks Corner, which places it near Witherbee (today).

"There was one street with four-room houses on either side for the white foremen and their families. Because of the poor drainage, the houses were set on pilings. Near the center of the village was the company house where the two foresters lived. At the far end of the street, the railroad crossed between the last three buildings and the rest of the town. Here was the superintendent's office, company store, blacksmith's shop and the company boarding house. There were four other houses

along the railroad and some distance off was the stable and some cabins for the use of the black workers. Most of the unmarried men chose to live in the boarding house. Water for the village and for the steam engines was supplied by an artesian well.

“The commissary was well stocked as a country store. All in all, the store supplied the needs of some 500 people including the families of the workers. The store was run to make a profit, and prices were noted to be slightly higher than ordinary. Goods were purchased with aluminum checks that could be drawn at the store against the times sheets. The men were paid $1 per day for straight labor; the locomotive engineer collected $2 a day; and the foremen were paid $50 a month.

“A private telephone was built from Conifer to Charleston, thirty miles away, with four miles of cable that crossed below the Cooper River.”

The E.P. Burton Lumber Company was dissolved in 1927, and from that time through 1940, the Trustees in Liquidation filed corporation income tax returns which showed no taxable income. In 1941, the Trustees sold a part of the mill site for $30,000 and, in 1942, the remainder was sold for $75,000. This was E.P. Burton Lumber Company’s last remaining asset.

I feel certain there’s someone who knows more about the village of Conifer. Please give me a call and let me know what there is. And yes, there’s much more to learn about the logging railroads and lumber companies in Berkeley . . . another day.

Forest History Society Photograph Collection. RECK3_8A

Forest History Society Photograph Collection. RECK3_6B

ByGone Berkeley
Adventures in History

6 – Francis Marion National Forest

Us (real) Berkeley Countians know the National Forest got its name from our most famous Patriot son, Francis Marion. But, unfortunately, some of us don't know how the woodlands became the National Forest, so I thought I'd do some research and see what I can find.

But first, I have a bean to pick, and its about (the lack of) the name, Francis Marion, being recognized and honored here in Berkeley County. It is completely beyond my comprehension that we ONLY have the Francis Marion National Forest, no school(s), no town or village, river, highway, etc., etc. That, in my eyes, is plum sinful! (Well, yes, we do have the Swamp Fox Passage section of the Palmetto Trail.)

Let me tell you some landmarks found that are named after Francis Marion across our whole country . . . here's a Brigadier General in the American Revolutionary War, from South Carolina, who had more places named after him than any other Revolutionary War soldier, except George Washington: a Fort Marion in St. Augustine, Fl.; cities, communities, and/or townships in Alabama, Connecticut, Georgia, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Mississippi, Nebraska, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, South Dakota, and Virginia; and more than 30 townships in at least 13 states; Counties in Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Iowa, Indiana, Illinois, Kansas, Kentucky, Missouri, Mississippi, Ohio, Oregon, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, & West Virginia; counties in at least 17 states; Swamp Fox Highway in North Carolina; Lakes in SC, Minnesota, Oregon; Francis Marion Intermediate School in Marion, Iowa; Francis Marion High School and Marion Military Institute, both in Marion, Alabama; Francis Marion Military Academy in Marion County, Florida; Marion High School in Marion, SC and Francis Marion University in Florence, SC; the Swamp Fox 169th F-16 Fighter Wing of SCANG in McIntire, Eastover, SC; US Navy is home to the USS Francis Marion, a Paul Revere-class attack transport ship (APA249); Submarine Squadron Four at Charleston Naval Base called itself the Swamp Fox Squadron; bronze plaques, monuments, statues all over SC and many other states, numerous museums with Francis Marion artifacts; a public park in Georgetown, the Francis Marion Park; Swamp Fox festivals and parades, annually; the Francis Marion Hotel, Francis Marion Square in Charleston and the Swamp Fox Hotel in Myrtle Beach, SC; many paintings and murals all over Clarendon County; a movie and tv series, and well over 20 books. A pretty extensive list, I'd say. And

what does Berkeley County have? A national forest and a trail. What say ye people???

Al Hester tells us how the Francis Marion National Forest came about, when, in the end of the nineteenth century, the center of lumber production was shifting from the Great Lakes states and the Northeast to the vast southern pine belt, stretching from Virginia to Texas. The big timber corporations began running out of forests in the north, and logging and timber mills began moving into South Carolina, commencing with large-scale industrial logging in the coastal plain pine belt. Berkeley County was prime property, and companies such as E.P. Burton Lumber Company, A.C. Tuxbury Lumber Company, the North State Lumber Company, and the Atlantic Coast Lumber Corporation began building mills and buying land in the Lowcountry around 1899. We are told that within ten years, most of the forest land in Berkeley, Charleston, and Georgetown counties was controlled by these companies.

South Carolina landowners were a bit hesitant with turning over forestlands to these companies due to them having left hundreds of thousands of cutover timberlands up north, almost worthless, and without purpose. However, the U.S. Bureau of Forestry (predecessor to the U.S. Forest Service) assured landowners that with guidance of "scientifically trained professionals," logging operations could safely be accomplished, provided reforestation practices utilized, using fire breaks, and wise use of fire, wise conservation plans. Skepticism by landowners continued, due to the larger lumber corporation's clearcutting with seemingly no intent of reforestation, just buying up more land and moving there.

The Bureau of Forestry recommended that the company hire a trained forester and increase forest efficiency by leaving loblolly pines to act as seed trees and minimize woodland damage caused by the steam skidders. Also suggested was that stumps be cut lower to reduce waste and that fire be kept out of the woods completely, allowing the loblolly to reproduce to its full potential. Longleaf and hardwoods should be eliminated completely and replaced with loblolly. And even with this plan, many thousands of additional acreage (upwards of 53,000 acres) would be needed to provide sustainability.

The Burton Company quickly complied with most of the recommend-dations, hiring a German forester, Rothkugel, who had worked as an agent for the Bureau. He soon arrived at Conifer, the new company town in Berkeley County, and began work under the recommendations of the Bureau in the Hell Hole tract. Rothkugel was impressed with the potential of the land and in 1906, wrote the Bureau, "You ought to see the reproduction of loblolly, Limerick is colossal!"

Unfortunately, Burton was the only company who hired a forester and followed the Bureau's reforestation plan. However, the cooperation was a major failure in another regard. The company never purchased the additional land necessary for achieving sustained yield, and ceased its operations in 1916, holding the same acreage it had owned in 1903. Even with the best efforts of the Bureau, the Burton Company failed to implement the key ingredient of the Bureau's plan and as a result, long-term protection of South Carolina's coastal pine forests would have to wait for more direct intervention. Fortunately though, the seeds were sown for later national forest establishment.

Economic conditions favorable to lumber production during World War I caused logging activity in the southern pine belt to reach a crescendo by 1918. Demand for lumber and prices soared during the war. It had been predicted in 1903 that only enough forest to support logging for twenty-five years were available. All across the South, that was beginning to appear closer than desired. By this time the Forest Service was becoming aware that the forest problem was really part of a larger land use problem and that this concern was maybe bigger than the individual landowners could handle. Foresters saw the forest problem as a major land problem in which soil and water, agriculture and pastures, fire, labor, housing and industry were all interconnected. Yes, forests were suffering, but communities and timber industries were suffering also, as cutover timberland was shutting down mills and mill towns alike. Thousands of acres of cutover and burned timberland were available, but nobody wanted it at any price. By the mid1920's, most southern pine belt lands were completely cut over, fire-scorched, and dominated by millions of stumps. It was quite evident at this point that a larger and more definite forestry plan be implemented.

By the summer of 1927, Tuxbury and North State companies committed their own money for forest fire control, fifteen hundred dollars each, as did other companies as well. Commitment for purchase of a firetruck and building of a fire tower was implemented, though, once again, skepticism stepped into the picture as to whether or not the forest fires could be stopped. A one-hundred foot tall wooden tower was built on Tuxbury's land in Berkeley County (and is considered the first fire tower to have been built in South Carolina). Unfortunately, the tower burned shortly after it was completed.

The one thing that was determined was that "cooperation" alone couldn't solve the land problem, the Forest Service had to step in to solve the problem. Best solution: direct land acquisition. The one question: how much land would be needed? Chief of the Forest Service, William Greeley, announced that it was "possible to secure a National Forest for some part of the Coastal Section of the South, an area between 50,000 and 100,000 acres."

In the fall of 1927, the Forest Service sent staff to South Carolina to study and learn the most suitable areas for development, and in February 1928, the National Forest Reservation Commission approved two purchase units for South Carolina. First was the Black River purchase unit, located between Georgetown and Andrews on the Sampit and Black Rivers, approximately 75,000 acres. Second, was the Wambaw unit, located on the holdings of the North State and Tuxbury Lumber Companies in Berkeley and Charleston counties, about 100,000 acres. Both units included property of lumber companies as well as a number of small landholders.

Even though the National Forest Reservation Commission had approved the purchase of the units, acquisition didn't occur. During the next year, copying of original grants, plats, surveying tracts, negotiating prices and options were considered . . . but in five and a half years, no lands were actually purchased. Many obstacles, too hurriedly gathering too little information, as well as local prices becoming inflated when specific tracts were announced. Landowners held out for the highest possible sale price. Almost three more years passed without a purchase, this time because of lack of funding.

With the election of President Franklin Roosevelt, and the push to put the country back to work through the new Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) that the President approved in 1933, creation of the Francis Marion National Forest took on a new kind of urgency. Land was needed, and needed quickly! Men needed to go to work.

CCC Camps needed to be located on national forest properties, like the Wambaw and Black River. The pressure was on. By June 1933, two Wambaw camps were begun, one at Witherbee in Berkeley County and one at Awendaw in Charleston County. Appraisals were based on Depression era market conditions, and as a result, acreage pricing was affected from both sides. Companies drove a hard bargain and Forest Service and State were equally trying to get "the best" price per acre. Each holding out for 'his' price.

The lumber company managers were all close friends who had discussed together possible offers by the Forest Service, and finally, the first company, Dorchester Land and Timber Company, signed an option selling 48,000 acres at $4.00 per acre, on October 10th, 1933. A.C. Tuxbury Company followed, after stubborn negotiation, selling 44,000 acres at the same price in late December 1933. These two sales broke the deadlock that had existed since 1928 and during the two following years 1933, many remaining landowners sold their land to the government as well.

Despite local enthusiasm for the Black River unit, no land in Georgetown County was ever acquired, and in 1934, the Commission rescinded the unit.

Finally, in the spring of 1936, enough land was acquired to assure project success, and on July 10, 1936, a presidential proclamation designated the Wambaw purchase unit as the new Francis Marion National Forest.

Three days later, President Roosevelt formed the Sumter National Forest out of two Piedmont forest areas, Long Cane, and Enoree purchase units. In a little less than three years, and primarily due to the Depression, the Forest Service had acquired its desired acreage of almost 400,000 acres in South Carolina . . . although one must consider, this concept and establishment of the National Forest was begun almost thirty-five years before (in 1902).

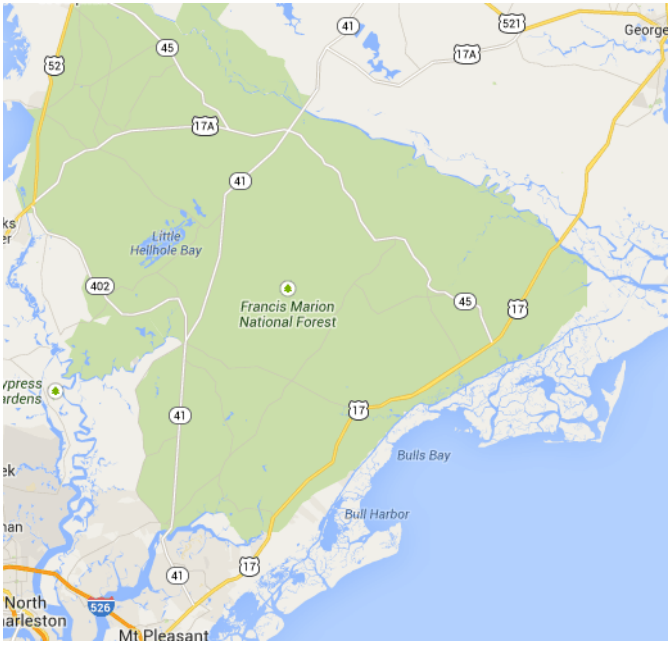
Former U.S. Forest Supervisor H.M. Sears is said to explain to Ranger W.A. Garber, in 1953, "I still believe that the old Francis Marion is one of the best pieces of property that the Forest Service ever bought." We believe him right!

Containing just under 259,000 acres, the Francis Marion National Forest contains 25 of the 200 pristine Carolina Bays in South Carolina. The 42-mile Swamp Fox Passage path, part of the 425 mile Palmetto Trail begins in Moncks Corner and ends in Awendaw. The Forest contains four "wilderness" areas: Hell Hole Wilderness, Wambaw Swamp Wilderness, Little Wambaw Wilderness, and Wambaw Creek Wilderness.

For more activities in the Francis Marion National Forest, stop in at the Berkeley County Welcome Center in Moncks Corner and get Diane to tell you about all the interesting places to see. There are too many for me to list here.

Resource: *History of the Francis Marion in Depth*, by Al Hester.


FRANCIS MARION
National Forest
HIKING TRAIL
SWAMP FOX


41
521
George
45
52
17A
17A
41
Little
Hellhole Bay
402
Francis Marion
National Forest
45
17
41
17
Bulls Bay
Bull Harbor
41
17
North
526
Mt Pleasant

ByGone Berkeley
Adventures in History

7 – Springfield Plantation & Its Carvings

When Joseph Palmer built his mansion at Springfield Plantation in 1817, he built for posterity. He constructed his house of hand-sewn black cypress, which defied the elements. Should the building have not met its fate with the incoming South Carolina Public Service Authority (SCPSA) project in the 1930's, it would most assuredly still be standing strong and as solid as the day it was built.

Construction of the house was underway about the time that stockholders were sadly realizing that the old Santee Canal Company was a financial failure, and none dreamed that a second 'Santee to Cooper' canal would be projected.

The old Santee Canal, completed after seven years' work, in 1800, probably helped Joseph Palmer. It gave him an opportunity to lease his slaves, during an agricultural depression, to the construction work of the canal. One has to consider his (Palmer's) tremendous responsibility to provide not only for his family, but all the men, women, and children living on his property; both a physical and mental burden many never stop to consider. Palmer did! If this second project (SCPSA lake) materializes, it will flood the fertile fields, displacing everything to provide a living for all! (And as we all know, it did.) And . . . it was to be the destruction of the magnificent mansion he built.

Springfield, in 1935, before its destruction, was the home of the widow of the last male owner, Edmund G. Palmer, grand-son of Joseph Palmer, and of her son-inlaw and daughter, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas S. McGuinness. Springfield was located in upper St. John's Parish, Berkeley County, six miles east of Eutaw Springs. The plantation was never passed out of the hands of the Palmer family until SC PSA claimed it.

At this point, I'd like to tell you a bit about my this, my 'Palmer' family's history. Thomas Palmer, who spelled his name "Pamor" (and pronounced it the same way it was spelled), was an English emigrant who left three sons: Joseph, David, and John, and a daughter, Elizabeth.

John was my emigrant ancestor, my fifth great-grandfather, and the ancestor of the Springfield line of Palmers. John Pamor, who made a fortune in the turpentine business on his plantation, Gravel Hill, in St. Stephen's Parish, commanded in his will that his sons forever spell their names "Palmer," rather than "Pamor," and that they pronounce it like it's

spelled, Palm-er. This last will and testament of “Turpentine John”, as he was known, has been rigidly carried out by his descendants in the spelling . . . but not always in pronunciation. (Many of you remember “Pamor” Gaillard, mayor of Charleston, and how folks pronounced his name.)

It was Turpentine John’s son, Captain John Palmer (my fourth greatgrandfather), who purchased the tract known as Springfield, some time before the American Revolution, from Isaac Couturier and Thomas Palmer, the latter being the Captain’s brother.

Captain John Palmer never lived at Springfield, choosing to settle Richmond Plantation in St. Stephen’s Parish in 1769, and he lived there until his death in 1817. Though his chief interests centered in St. Stephen’s Parish, his journal, once kept at Springfield, had many interesting entries regarding his activities on his “lands in St. John’s Parish.” As late as 1783, he mentions “planting indigo at Springfield.” Many planters were beginning to forsake indigo by that time.

Back to the house: Isaac Couturier (pronounced “ku-trare”) and Thomas Palmer apparently secured the lands they sold to Captain Palmer by royal grants, considerably before the Revolution. Captain Palmer and his son, Joseph, my third great-grandfather, to whom Springfield was willed, constantly added to their holdings, as a number of old plats have indicated. Some of these tracts added date back to grants made during the early years of the eighteenth century

There is no record when the earlier house at Springfield was built, or when it was taken down; for apparently, there was an earlier residence on the property. Joseph Palmer was living at Springfield when he commenced construction of his mansion. Some have said (though I haven’t been able to document it) that Joseph Palmer was born there, in 1776.

Reportedly, no house in Berkeley County, and few anywhere, can boast of the elaborate and beautiful carving that adorned the interior of Springfield (old photographs seem to document that). Hand carved by slaves with tools that were still in possession of the family, the ornateness and intricacy of the designs present an unrivaled picture of beauty, in the account of the Palmer reunion held there in December of 1934. Miss Flora Surles describes the woodwork as “giving one the impression of something made of lace, rather than wood.”

The two front entrance rooms, serving as drawing room and dining room, had high mantels elaborately decorated all the way to the ceiling. The cornices above the doors and windows and the wainscoting and frieze carried out the same design. Other rooms had simpler

decorations. The rooms were large and well proportioned. A small wing on either side of the main body of the house gave the building excellent proportions.

Captain John Palmer, who became known as the “Patriarch of the Village”, father of Joseph the builder, was an active partisan during the Revolution, and served as an aide to General Francis Marion. In 1794, Captain John was one of the founders of the village of Pineville, which soon became the summer home of all the planters in the community. He gave the acreage that became the village from part of Richmond Plantation. He took an active part in the affairs of the parish, as well as writing an historical sketch of St. Stephen’s Parish for Ramsey’s History of South Carolina, which was published in Charleston in 1803.

The Captain’s father, “Turpentine John” of Gravel Hill, and his uncle, Joseph, of Webdo, were both too far advanced in years to take active parts in the Revolutionary struggle. Both, however, were ardent Whigs, and earned the hatred of the Tories during that bitter partisan period.

Both were seized by their enemies and taken to Biggin Church, which at that time was a British post. There the two brothers were thrown into the dark and clammy confines of the Colleton family vault, with not so much as a blanket to keep off the chilly air of their gloomy prison.

When they were eventually liberated from their dungeon, the brothers were so weak that it took them two days to walk to Gravel Hill, only ten miles distance. Such was their condition, and such their fear of further imprisonment, that each took turns carrying the other on his back.

Joseph Palmer of Springfield was considered an outstanding individual in his community for the regard and affection in which he was held by his neighbors. “Few persons,” says Professor Frederick A. Porcher, “have ever had so many trusts confided to them as executors; and none has ever discharged them more assiduously or more faithfully.”

Palmer seems to have been impulsive at times, in speech, and in action. On one occasion, a minister preached a political sermon in lower St. John’s Parish in which he gave offense to all St. John’s. So offended was Joseph Palmer with the sermon, that he declared that the clergyman should never enter his house. (Famed though it was for its hospitality.)

Not long after that, while Palmer was away from home, the political parson drove up to Springfield and asked for a night’s lodging. The mistress of the house, fearful of the scene to follow, bade his welcome, regardless, and nervously awaited the return of her husband.

It was night when Joseph Palmer returned, and Mrs. Palmer met him before he entered the house to warn him of the unwelcomed guest.

“Damn him,” cried Palmer. “Is he here?” Then he strode into the drawing room to greet the minister with every courtesy hospitality demanded. Never did the minster realize the relief to his hostess of that warm welcome.

Just before the destruction of the Springfield mansion, the dwelling was in the midst of a yard filled with moss-draped live oaks. The house had been kept in perfect repair, and all the lands were extensively cultivated. The historic Rocks Church (Church of the Epiphany) was only located about a mile or so northeast of the Springfield house, and the church was surrounded on all sides by the plantation lands.

Joseph Palmer (1776-1841) married Eliza, eldest daughter of Peter Porcher III of Peru (brothers, Col. Thomas Porcher and Major Samuel Porcher) in 1801 and they had six sons and six daughters, all except one lived to maturity.

In Capt. John Palmer's account book is this item: "on the 15th of January 1787, moved the following named Negroes, thirty-nine in number, to my Plantation in St. John's Parish, bought of Mr. Isaac Couturier, which I have named Springfield." Professor Frederick A. Porcher, a nephew of Joseph Palmer, speaks of the place and its owner in this way: "The splendid mansion on the Springfield Tract was completed in 1820, was the abode of the most liberal and unostentatious hospitality. At a time when the roads were thronged with travelers, his house, which was conspicuous from the road, attracted strangers as well as friends, and all were considered equally entitled to its sacred rites. Joseph Palmer was a man of very marked and very admirable character, active, enterprising, and energetic. He not only shrank from no labor, but seemed to abhor a life of indolence, public spirited and benevolent, he was always ready to labor and to think for others, and was utterly free from selfishness, to postpone his own gratifications to promote the comfort and interest of others. Few persons have ever had so many trusts confided to them as executors, and none have ever discharged them more assiduously or more faithfully."

It must be remembered that the duty of an executor in the country was not confined to the marshalling of assets, paying of testators, debts, and making safe investments of the remainder for the benefit of the heirs. The country executor became the manager of the plantation and was charged with all the cares and vexations of such a position. He was obliged to assume responsibilities which were sometimes hazardous. An executor who marshals assets, pays debts, and invests safely, and has his accounts regularly audited is certainly acting safely for himself.

But he may doom the subjects of his trust to poverty when the exercise of energetic benevolence might save everything. One instance in a neighboring district where the debts of the testator amounted to $108,000.00 and his assets to $110,000.00, where the executor might have paid the debt and turned the heirs over to poverty, but he knew and felt that he was appointed by his deceased friend for a very different purpose. He acted as a friend of his wards, and when they came to manhood, delivered to them their father's property, unimpaired and unembarrassed. Such a man was Joseph Palmer. None of his wards ever complained of dereliction of duty on his part.

Springfield - 1939, Courtesy Library of Congress

ByGone Berkeley
Adventures in History

8 – Berkeley's First, Northeast Railroad

The Northeastern Railroad was chartered in December of 1851, and opened in 1856 from Charleston, north, to link up with the Wilmington & Manchester Railroad at Florence, a distance of 102 miles. This Charleston to Florence road ran through sparsely settled countryside and its financial success was doubtful from the start. It was financed largely by the city of Charleston and the banks of that city.

With the exception of the traffic which it received from the Wilmington & Manchester Railroad, it was wholly dependent on local traffic originating in a thinly populated agricultural region of the state. It had competition in this field, for it crossed the Santee Canal, which connected the Santee River and the city of Charleston, thus giving water transportation to a large part of the territory which would otherwise have been compelled to ship over lines of the railroad.

On February 15, 1865, with Union general William Tecumseh Sherman's army in large numbers near Orangeburg, and concerned that the Northeastern Railroad leading from Charleston to Florence and Cheraw would be cut, General P.G.T. Beauregard ordered Lt. General William J. Hardee to evacuate Charleston. Lt. General Hardee, being temporarily ill, the responsibility for evacuating what was left of the Confederate army from Charleston fell to Major General Lafayette McLaws. He ordered the troops from James Island to move out by Ashleys Ferry and follow the Northeastern Railroad, to be followed in turn by all the troops in the city.

It was during the last phases of the evacuation of the Confederate Army from Charleston that a terrible tragedy befell the civilian population. Lt. Moses Lipscomb Wood, of Company F, the 15th South Carolina Infantry Regiment, "The Thicketty Rifles," reported in his "War Record" – "I was in Charleston on the night before and the morning it was evacuated, and was put in charge of a detail of about seventy-five men to load what cars [of the Northeastern Railroad] we could ahead of us. We had not been out of the depot long, before the women and children rushed in to see what they could get. The depot was filled with powder and explosives and caught on fire and was blown up – causing the most pitiful sight I saw during the war. Women and children, about 250, were killed and wounded, and some were carried out by where [we] were in line on the streets, with their clothing burned off and badly mutilated.

Major General McLaw's troops took the cars of the Northeastern Railroad as far as Florence, and arrived at Cheraw the following day.

The trains carrying Major General McLaw's old brigade "spent a miserable night riding on top of the cars in a driving rain."

The Northeastern Railroad suffered great damage to its property during the U.S. Civil War, and it was forced to spend over $215,000 on reconstruction. It suffered also because of the total destruction of the Charleston & Savannah Railroad and its delayed reconstruction after the war. This interfered greatly with the Northeastern Railroad's rail travel from southern points northward, since traffic was diverted before it reached the Northeastern Railroad.

The road could not get away from the fact that it was very unfortunately located to maintain a separate existence. However, later, it would be deemed very valuable in a larger system, the Atlantic Coast Line Railroad.

Here's an interesting find, taken from the Fourth Annual Report of the South Carolina Railroad Commissioners, issued in 1882, where the following **Stations were named for the Northeastern Railroad**:

Charleston 0 miles
Magnolia 2.0 miles
Charleston & Savannah Junction 5.0 miles
8-Mile Turnout 1.0 miles
Otranto 7.0 miles
Mt. Holly 5.0 miles
Oakley 4.0 miles
Moncks Corner 7.0 miles
Bonneau's 8.0 miles
St. Stephen's 7.0 miles
Gourdin's 6.0 miles
Lane's 3.0 miles
Salter's 5.0 miles
Kingstree 5.0 miles
Cade's 8.0 miles
Graham's 6.0 miles
Scranton 3.0 miles
Coward's 4.0 miles
Effingham 7.0 miles
Willougby's 5.0 miles
Florence 4.0 miles

Towns on the route:
Florence Howe (aka Willoughby Station) (1883) > Bannockburn
Effingham > Effingham Station (1857) > Effingham
Cowards (1874)
Hinson (1883) > Coward (1900)

Myersville (1857) > Scranton (1878)
Lynch's Lake > Lake City (1883)
Camp Ridge > Cades (1895)
alters Depot (1860s)
Lane (1875)
Gourdine Station (1871) > Gourdin (1894)
Santee River (1890s)
Pineville > St. Stephen's Depot (1866) > St. Stephen
Black Oak > Bonneaus Depot (1866) > Bonneau
Macbeth (1886)
Oakley Depot (1869) > Oakley (1942)
Strawberry (1879)
Mount Holly (1853)
Cantrell (1902) > Goose Creek (1909)
Porcher (1880s)
Saxon (1890s)
Eight-Mile Station (1870s)
Ashley Junction (1890s)
Mappus (1900)
Charleston

Found in a June 8, 1886, article from the *New York Times*:

"CHARLESTON, S.C. June 7 – the northward bound passenger train on the Northeastern Railroad which, left here at 12 o'clock to-day, plunged through the Santee River trestle, midway between St. Stephens Station and Santee River bridge, smashing up the coaches and killing six passengers. The killed are John L. Cole, Dr. G.G. Kinlock, Charles Inglesby, Jr., and Miss Melver of Charleston; Miss C.E. McWhite, of Marion, and Miss Hannah Wilson, residence not known. Conductor B.G. Mazyck and Mail agent F.W. Renneker were badly injured. The cause of the accident is not yet known, but it is supposed to have resulted from the insecure fastenings of a rail on changing gauge. As soon as the news of the accident reached this city, a special train was dispatched, in charge of Superintendent Royall, with Dr. Ancrum for the relief of the wounded, and to bring back the dead. The extent of the damage to the property of the company is not yet ascertained. The wreck is so serious that no northern-bound train will be sent out to-night. The train with the dead and wounded will arrive here this evening."

The Northeastern Railroad became part of the Atlantic Coast Line Railroad in 1898, a segment of the Atlantic Coast Line's main line. In 1967, the Atlantic Coast Line merged with its rival, the Seaboard Air Line Railroad. The merged company was named the Seaboard Coast Line Railroad. [7] In 1980, the Seaboard Coast Line's parent company merged with the Chessie System, creating the CSX Corporation. The

CSX Corporation initially operated the Chessie and Seaboard Systems separately until 1986, when they were merged into CSX Transportation.

Today, running north and south through Berkeley County, South Carolina, CSX Transportation, colloquially as simply CSX, is a Class I freight railroad company operating in the Eastern United States and the Canadian provinces of Ontario and Quebec. The railroad operates on approximately 21,000 route miles of track . . . quite a difference from the original 102 miles length in 1856 from Charleston to Florence.

9 – Captain John Palmer

John Palmer was born in 1750, the eldest son of "Turpentine John" Pamor, that I told you about recently. He married Mary Anne Cahusac (pronounced ku-zak) from St. James Santee Parish, and they had five children. John Palmer was my 4th Great-Grandfather, on my grandmother's side of the family. I also told you he was recognized as the "Patriarch of the Village" of Pineville.

The following data is taken from an old journal that Capt. John Palmer wrote about St. Stephen's Parish, pertaining to the area and life's inherited characteristics during the early 1800's:

St. Stephens District, situate about fifty miles to the northwest of Charleston, is bounded by the river Santee on the north, and on its other sides by St. Johns and St. James Santee (Parishes). It was originally a part of St. James Santee, and was divided from it about the year 1740 (actually, 1754). The upper and lower part of the parish was distinguished by the names of French and English Santee. What is now St. Stephens was called English Santee. What is at present St. James, was formerly called French Santee, from the circumstance that the first settlers were French refugees who had fled from persecution after the revocation of the edict of Nantz. Among them was Phillip Gendron, who left one son, John Gendron, born in Carolina, who commanded a company of the Charlestown militia. This was the only military force ordered from the capital against the Indians in the Yamassee war of 1715. He was sent to the Indian land, now Prince Williams, and was in all the severe actions fought against the Indians, until a peace took place. At the time of his death, which was about the year 1754, he was the eldest Colonel of militia in the then province, and was generally called Brigadier Gendron. (Note: Phillip Gendron was my 7th Great-Grandfather, John, my 6th Gr-Grandfather.)

Indians – Their Antiquities and Wars – Persons now living, remember that there were about thirty Indians, a remnant of the Peedee and Cape Fair tribes, that lived in the parishes of St. Stephens and St. Johns. King Johnny was their chief. There was another man among them of the same tribe, who was called Prince. Governor Lyttleton gave him a commission of Captain general and Commander-in-Chief of the two tribes, which superseded Johnny. The latter took umbrage at the promotion of the former and attempted to kill him. There were some shots exchanged but no mischief done. The neighbors interfered and made peace; but there never was, afterwards, any cordial friendship between them. All this remnant of these ancient tribes are now extinct, except one woman of a half-breed. There are several traces of Indian

mounds in the neighborhood of Pine Ville. Some have been opened, and fragments of bone and beads found in them.

In the Indian war of 1715, St. Johns and St. Stephens parishes were the frontiers of the province. In or near them were three forts, the first on Cooper River, about three or four miles below Monck's Corner, on the plantation of Mr. Thomas Broughton, called Mulberry. One was on Mr. Daniel Ravenel's plantation, called Wantoot. Another on a plantation of Mr. Izard's, called Schinskins, on the Santee River. The garrison at Schinskins were all massacred in consequence of their own imprudence in permitting a number of Indians to enter the fort under the cloak of peace and friendship. They concealed their tomahawks with their blankets. When they got in, they butchered the whole of the garrison except one negro, who jumped over the fort. He ran to the garrison at Wantoot and gave the alarm. Col. Hyrne, who was in that fort, advanced with a party – surprised the same body of Indians at Schinskins fort and killed the whole of them. They were unguarded and engaged in feasting. In this situation, they were surprised and cut to pieces. Colonel Hyrne, who commanded on this occasion, was the grandfather of the late Major Hyrne. (*Note: "Schenckingh's" is the more accepted correct spelling.*)

A similar act of perfidy (untrustworthiness) on the part of the Indians was committed about the same time, a little above the Eutaw's, at a place called Barker's Savannah. The commanding officer, Colonel Barker, from whose defeat the scene of action acquired its name, was drawn into an ambuscade by the treachery of an Indian named Wateree Jack, who, pretending friendship, allured the white people into a snare. In this action, David Palmer was killed; and Edward Thomas,* the great grandfather of the two present Dr. Thomas's, was wounded. The cruelties and perfidies of the Indians excited resentments in the minds of the settlers, which led to deeds unworthy of a civilized people.

A man of the name of Donavan lived in the upper part of St. Johns, who stood his ground all the time of this Indian war. He had a strong log house, and a number of large mastiff dogs that kept the Indians off, and occasionally killed them. Donavan kept his dogs at home in the day, and turned them out at night. When they killed an Indian, he gave them no provisions. They soon acquired a habit of feeding on the flesh of Indians, when dead, and of attacking them when alive.

**This gentleman, after living about fifty years in St. Stephens parish, for fifteen years of which period he never passed the limits of his plantation, went to England and died there since the Revolution, at the advanced age of ninety. He communicated the above particulars to Captain Palmer.*

Agriculture – Freshets – The inhabitants of St. Stephens began to cultivate indigo about the year 1754; and cultivated it with success, particularly in Santee River swamp, until the year 1784. In the beginning of the latter year, St. Stephens was one of the most thriving parishes in the State, and in point of size, was the richest. The parish then had about five thousand negroes in it, but at present does not contain half that number. The white population has also diminished in a similar proportion. In 1776, '77, '78 the militia company mustered one hundred men under arms; but there are not now about forty, exclusive of alarm men. There are at present many waste old fields both on the high-lands along the edge of the river swamp and in the swamp, which thirty years ago were in the highest state of cultivation, and produced luxuriant crops of corn, indigo, and rice. This melancholy reverse is the effect of freshets. These lands are uncommonly fertile and were successfully cultivated till the year 1784. From that year till 1796, very little was made near the Santee. Many of the planters, discouraged by a rapid succession of freshets, abandoned the plantations subject to their baneful influence. Since the year 1796, these freshets have diminished in frequency and height; and the planters have successfully recommenced the culture of corn and rice and engaged in that of cotton. The ground is found to answer for the latter, and extraordinary crops have been lately made.

To account for the uncommon frequency of freshets through a period of twelve years is very difficult. No record of anything similar since the year 1701 has reached us. In that year, we are informed by John Lawson that a flood came down the river Santee, which raised it thirty-six feet. That none of equal magnitude has occurred in the eighty-three years which followed, is probable from the silence of records and tradition. Within that period the upper country had been settled and its lands cleared. From its being more generally cultivated, some inferred that the falling rain met with fewer obstructions in passing off from the high land to the nearest rivers; and that these, with their enlarged streams uniting in the Santee, precipitated over its banks a much larger body of water than it ever could have received from above while the upper country was covered with leaves, logs, trees, brush, and other impediments to the free passage of rain and melted snow. This doubtless may have had some influence, but is not equal to the effect, for in that case the progressive clearing of the upper country would have produced a correspondent and accumulating increase of water in the rivers below, and a greater frequency of freshets, which is the reverse of facts, especially since the year 1796. Others suppose that the freshets are the consequences of extreme wet or warm seasons in the upper country, which, from the increase of rain and of melted snow, pour down torrents of the subjacent plains. The alternation of a service of wet and dry years is not without precedent. The cause is not precisely known, but the melancholy effects are obvious.

Religion – Literature – Pineville – St. Stephens has a large brick church built in 1769 and a wooden chapel. There is no clergyman at present, but the teacher of the Pineville academy performs divine service every Sunday. There have been four clergymen in the parish since the peace of 1783. First, the Rev. Mr. Joh Hurt – the second the Rev. Mr. Farrel – the third, the Rev. Mr. O'Farrel – the fourth, the Rev. Mr. Conner. The first was from Virginia, and the other three from Ireland. Pineville in St. Stephens is a retreat for health in the summer and autumn. It began to be settled in 1794 and is about fifty-two miles to the northwest of Charlestown. It is situated on a level piece of pine land about five miles to the south of the Santee, and two miles from the swamp, which is three miles deep to the river. Pineville contains twenty-two dwelling houses with an academy for teaching the Latin and English languages. The master has a salary of twelve hundred dollars per annum, and a house found. The school is confined to thirty scholars, rates of schooling $50 per annum for subscribers' children, and $60 for non-subscribers; to be paid half yearly in advance. The Pineville Academy is incorporated and under the superintendence of five trustees. The tutor is permitted to take boarders, not to exceed sixteen, but is restrained from demanding more than $100 per annum for boarding. There are also two private schools in the same place for the tuition of the smaller class of children. The white population of Pineville is 150; the greater part of them under the age of sixteen. The number of blacks is about 300. The water is all from wells from fourteen to eighteen feet deep. It is very excellent, cold, and soft, being filtered through white gravel sand. There is a quarry of stone on a piece of high land about a mile from Pineville. It is a hard brown stone, very heavy, and has the appearance of iron ore. Colonel Senf used some of the same kind of stone, procured near this quarry, for part of the locks of the Santee Canal. Nothing like it has yet been found in the lowcountry of Carolina.

Amusements – Health – Dances commence in September, and there are generally from two to three in a week in the season of residence in Pineville. They are given by the inhabitants nearly in rotation, with little ceremony and expense, but with great decorum and propriety; and never continue later than eleven o'clock.

Pineville has been generally healthy. There are in it but few cases of fevers, and these are chiefly in the month of July. Seldom any regular intermittents originate there. Those who expose themselves to visiting their plantations occasionally suffer in consequence of their imprudence. There was a fever in the summer of 1803, which proved fatal to six negroes in Pineville, and eleven on the adjoining plantation; but scarcely affected white people. The symptoms of this fever were a violent headache and pain in the back – the pulse was low. The tongue was of a brown or deep red color, and when put out trembled much. A great weakness and delirium generally attended. The most successful mode

of treatment was to give in the first instance one or two emetics and afterwards camphor, nitre (variant of niter) and small snake-root. When the patient was very low, wine freely given seemed to be of the greatest service. Bark was injurious. Few old negroes took the disease.

Longevity and Fecundity – Two of the natives and resident inhabitants are between sixty and seventy. Of the ninety years which Edward Thomas lived, more than onehalf were spent in St. Stephens. The district is not remarkable for the longevity of its inhabitants, but there have been of late a few prolific marriages. Five, six, seven and eight children have been raised in some families within the last thirty years.

Manure – Fish – Stock – Wild Beasts – Trees – Manufactures – The planters begin to be careful of their manure and to be sensible of the utility of improving their lands. The best and the most durable manure is derived from herding cattle in pens. This increases the fertility of the land fourfold. Cotton seed is also much used. A pint of it put around or in a corn hole adds greatly to the crop. Santee river is well stored with fish, particularly the trout and the bream. There are also cat-fish, mudfish, rock-fish and sturgeon. The inland creeks and ponds produce trout, perch, and bream. The stocks of cattle belonging to individuals rarely exceed 150. They decrease in cold winters, but increase in such as are mild. Few own more than fifty head of sheep. These are often destroyed by wolves. Hogs are also often killed by bears. The swamps of Santee afford favorable retreats to these and other wild beasts. There are, on an average, from 100 to 150 pine trees on an acre of ground. Their ages vary, but in general, they live about 200 years. If we may judge by their surrounding rings, a few approach their 400th year. Domestic manufactures begin to increase. Some of the planters clothe their negroes with homespun, and also manufacture coarse cloth from inferior cotton for the development of that commodity.

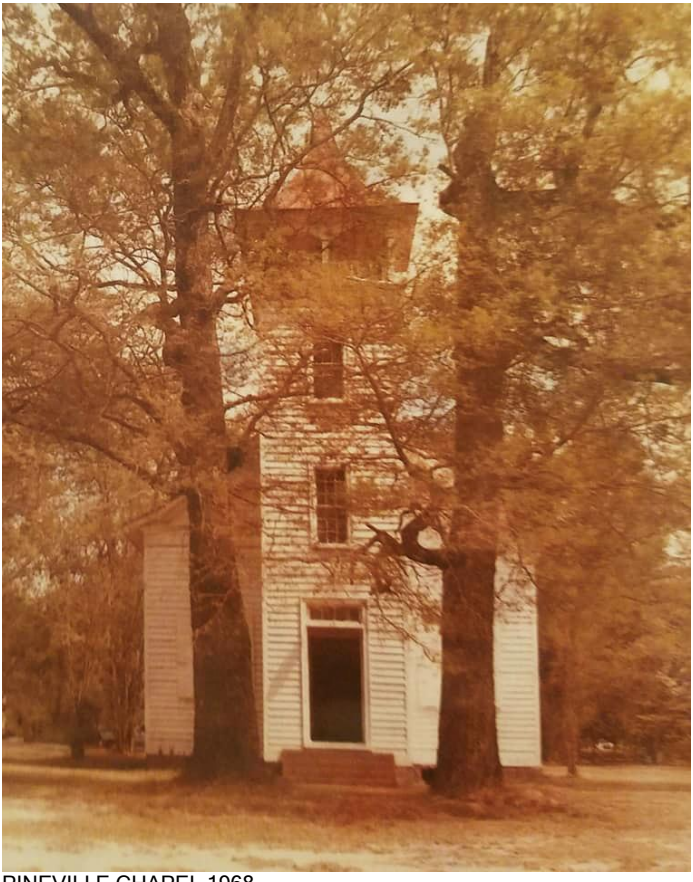
Storms – The parish of St. Stephens, in proportion to its distance from the sea, has its full share of the calamities resulting from the hurricane of 1804. From minor storms it has frequently suffered. One of the most remarkable and injurious was on the 6th of June, 1801. A cloud appeared to the northwest with thunder. Shortly after a storm came up with great violence, but without rain. The cloud had a redness like fire, and the dry dust thrown up was dreadful. The wind prostrated the fences. The growing cotton was materially injured. Its color was changed to brown. The tops were withered and blackened. In St. Matthews, the storm was equally violent and blasted the corn and peas. The peach and plumb leaves had an adjust black appearance. The weeds and grass were also very much injured. During the storm the wind appeared to have a heat like the blast of fire at a distance. The mercury from being up at 96 degrees at one o'clock, fell in less than five hours to 76.

Eminent Men – Colonel Maham, a native of St. Stephens parish descended from Swiss ancestors who had settled there early in the 18th century, made a distinguished figure in the Revolutionary War. He was possessed of considerable natural talents as a military man. At the taking of Fort Watson, on Scott's Lake, General Marion gave him the sole direction in carrying on the approaches and erection of a battery for over-shooting the British fort. At the taking of the fort a Motte's above Belleville, General Marion gave him the sole direction in carrying on the approaches. Both these enterprises were crowned with complete success. Major Pinckney, who examined the works after the surrender of the fort, declared that they had been erected with as much correctness as if they had been planned by the most experienced engineer. The British thought so well of him that they made him an offer of a regiment if he would join them. Colonel Maham also behaved very gallantly in sundry skirmishes, and particularly at Watboo (Wadboo) and Quinby bridges.

St. Stephens has given birth to John Gaillard, Senator, and Rober Marion, Representative of Charlestown district in the Congress of the United States, and also to Theodore Gaillard, late Speaker of the House of Representatives of the State, and at present one of the Judges of the Court of Equity.

Sufferings From The Revolutionary War – St. Stephens was not the scene of any important action. John Palmer, Sen., and Joseph Palmer, the first sixty-six and the last fifty years old, were taken prisoners in May 1781, out of the house of the former by a party of Tories – carried to the British post at Biggin Church, and both confined for three days in the family vault of the Colleton's. The reason assigned by the captors was that John Palmer, Sen., had two sons performing military duty with General Marion.

Note: This journal, written by Capt. John Palmer, is copied here with only minimal editing to create easier reading.



PINEVILLE CHAPEL 1968

ByGone Berkeley
Adventures in History

10 – Pimlico Plantation

It is thought that the name Pimlico is of Indian origin. Other names used were Gadsden, Gadsden Lands, Mepshew, and Kecklico, determined from combining of some of the lands, as well as being named for/by some of the earlier owners.

The earliest known grant traces Pimlico to the Colleton family back in 1681. Little is known (by this writer) about this ownership. Reportedly, the plantation was among the grants made to the three sons of Sir John Colleton. Pimlico was one of the six tracts into which the "Mepshew" plantation of the Colletons was divided, when, after the Revolution, it was sequestered and sold by the state.

Approximately 128 years later, we are told that Mepshew, Kecklico, and Pimlico were brought together by Elias Ball in 1809 to form Pimlico Plantation, totaling 2,248 acres in 1810.

Exactly when the original Pimlico house was built is unknown. We are told the Ball family continued owning the plantation until the deaths of Hugh Swinton Ball and his wife (Anna Channing), when they both perished in a wreck of the steamer Pulaski, on their way from Charleston to Baltimore, June 14, 1838. The boiler exploded and the vessel was blown to pieces, and many of the passengers were lost at sea, while a few were able to cling onto broken parts of the ship for four days or more, until rescued by a ship from Philadelphia heading to Wilmington. The Balls had not been seen after the night of the explosion.

Having no direct heirs, the estate wasn't settled until 1844, when Pimlico was sold at public auction to then Gov. Thomas Bennett, Jr. for $40,000.00. Bennett sold the property to James Gadsden in 1852, and six years later, at the death of Gadsden on December 26, 1858, more than 200 enslaved ancestors were listed at Pimlico Plantation, Berkeley County, SC in his estate inventory. On January 9, 1860, 235 enslaved people were sold in Charleston to more than thirty purchasers. The Pimlico land property was acquired by James Poyas.

Then, in 1883, the plantation, consisting of 1779 acres, was conveyed to Francis William Heyward (1844-1907) of Wappaoolah. It was owned by several timber companies in the early 1900's, until in 1925, when it was purchased by G.D.B. Bonbright, of Rochester, N.Y.

With Bonbright's ownership came a new house, the old Ball house was still standing, but having been in such bad condition, it was considered

better to tear it down and start with a new one. The new owners salvaged much of the interior woodwork, consisting of “exquisitely finished, hand-carved woodwork on the windows, wainscotting and mantels.” We are told that the new house was designed for the site by Albert Simons of Charleston.

It is thought that this new home-front was very much like that of the original. It was a large two-story frame building, approached by a curving avenue bordered by tall oak trees. And of course, it wouldn’t be very stately had it not displayed a beautiful white entrance gate. We are told the entire estate was in a very dilapidated condition when purchased, however, Bonbright worked wonders making the grounds lovely with new grass, flowers and shrubbery galore.

Bonbright holdings, we are told in Northern Money, Southern Land, were approximately 3,000 acres of land, including both Pimlico and Point Comfort plantations, with the Cooper River only a few feet away. Point Comfort, before, was part of a grant to Joseph Wragg in 1704, and used to be the property of Robert William Roper of Charleston, the founder of Roper Hospital. Roper’s wife sold the place to her brother, Keating Simons Laurens. A feud remembered by Isaac Ball between a Poyas on Pimlico and a Laurens on Point Comfort resulted in the building of two separate fences, five feet apart, along the entire length of their mutual boundary.

Pimlico, during this later time period, having passed through various ownerships, was fortunate in that of being possessed by Northerners who love their Southern home. George Dana Boardman Bonbright and Mrs. (Isabella Hart) Bonbright and their family were genuinely interested in the old place . . . quite evident by all the planting and upgrading of the property. By this time the Laurens family had given up Point Comfort, and it had been included in Pimlico property (as stated above).

Mr. Bonbright had a seaplane, a sea sled, and a Chris-Craft, all of which he kept for his pleasure and that of his guests while at Pimlico. The Bonbrights and their three children made Pimlico their winter home, and accordingly, thoroughly enjoyed it. Wooded lands afforded good hunting, mostly quail, doves and ducks, as well as a large flock of wild turkeys. W.G. Butler, Bonbright’s game keeper and manager, and his wife occupied a small white bungalow beyond the “big house.”

Mr. Bonbright and his brother, Irving, were stockbrokers in Rochester, New York, also headquarters of the Eastman-Kodak Company. As a friend and advisor, Bonbright had suggested that George Eastman, head of the company, invest in the motion picture industry, then in its infancy, and gave similar advice about technicolor. Mr. Eastman could see no future in either, passing up a fortune.

Bonbright died at his home on Natucket in 1939 at the age of sixty-four, and his widow sold Pimlico to Powel Crosley, Jr. of Cincinnati in 1941. Crosley was an industrialist and inventor with business interests ranging from radio and household appliances to the development of an inexpensive automobile that bore his name. Not too many years later, he was best remembered as the co-owner with his brother Lewis, of the Cincinnati Reds baseball team, and the ballpark in which they played, Crosley Field.

It is believed that Crosley and his family never lived at Pimlico. In 1942, he sold it to the South Carolina Public Service Authority. They bought many of the properties along the Cooper River during the time of development of Lake Moultrie and Lake Marion, primarily with anticipation of most certain lawsuits resulting from flooding and/or destruction of old rice fields that were highly valued by the plantations' owners. Jefferies generating station, a hydroelectric power plant, went on line that same year, and released a huge flow of water downstream. When Santee Cooper decided to dispose / sell many of these places, they entered a clause in the new deeds in which the seller "reserved the right to themselves to flow the property without accountability." (That probably would never 'flow' today!)

The next owner of Pimlico was P.O. Mead, Sr., who lived at Pimlico until 1948. Mead, a timberman who owned several other Lowcountry plantations as well passed Pimlico on through several owners before it was sold to Reeves Broadcasting Company in 1956. Then, this company, though it used various other names in its transactions, in 1959, began laying out plans for residential development of the property.

The old Bonbright house and four acres were kept together, surrounded by the new housing development, until 1993, when the house, badly damaged by Hugo in 1989, was determined to be taken down.

Today, Pimlico is a housing development with a (2020) population of 1200. It is located pretty much in the center of Berkeley County, on the west bank of the West Branch of the Cooper River; five miles east of Strawberry, and about thirty miles north of Charleston . . . and enjoyed by many!

References: A Day On Cooper River, by John D. Irving, M.D.; Historic Houses of South Carolina, by Harriette Kershaw Leiding; Historic Ramblins' Through Berkeley, by J. Russell Cross; Northern Money Southern Land, The Lowcountry Plantation Sketches of Chlotilde R. Martin; and the State Historic Preservation Office.

Photo Courtesy State Historic Preservation Office
The Bonbright Home on the four acres were kept together until 1993, when, after Hugo, badly damaged, it was taken down.

ByGone Berkeley
Adventures in History

11 – Cooper River Rediversion Project

All of the Cooper River Rediversion Project features are located in Berkeley County, near the town of St. Stephen. The project began at Lake Moultrie with the lake waters passing through a 2.1-mile dredged entrance channel, then through an intake canal beginning at the northeast corner of the lake, for a distance of 4.3- miles long, which was (mostly) excavated through what was considered "highland." At the end of the intake canal comes a hydro-power plant, which is situated about one and one-half miles northwest of the town of St. Stephen. This is followed by a 5.1- mile-long tailrace canal, leading northeastward through Mattassee Lake into the Santee River.

The purpose of the project was authorized as a benefit to navigation in Charleston Harbor by rediverting about eighty percent of the freshwater from the Cooper River watershed, back into the Santee River (from whence it originally came/comes). According to the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers, such re-diversion is to reduce freshwater inflow into the Cooper River from an average of 15,600 cubic feet per second (cfs) to 3,000 cfs and thereby effect an eventual seventy percent reduction of the shoaling rate and the dredging requirements in Charleston Harbor. The major benefit of the project was/is primarily to navigation, resulting from the reduction in quantity of silt-laden water and cost of maintenance dredging. The Corp states other benefits will accrue to commercial shipping, the U.S. Navy, Fish & Wildlife, and area redevelopment. The greatly reduced requirement for disposal areas will contribute a significant environmental benefit.

Background history may be a bit helpful at this point: A serious shoaling problem developed in Charleston's harbor, subsequent to 1942, when freshwater from the Santee River huge drainage basin was diverted through the State constructed Santee-Cooper Project into the Cooper River, in order to generate electricity (primarily to supply Charleston industrial plants) at the Pinopolis Hydropower Plant and also, providing a navigational channel to Columbia. This diversion increased the average flow in the Cooper River from seventy-two cfs to 15,600 cfs. With this increased flow, silt-laden fresh water flowing in Charleston Harbor generated considerable density currents, causing stratification with the salt- water resulting in trapped sediments which increased maintenance dredging from less than 200,000 cubic yards (prior to 1942), to as much as 10,000,000 cubic yards annually. The increased dredging requirement has resulted in much greater Government, as well as private dredging costs, and significantly aggravated a critical material disposal problem in Charleston County.

Authorization and responsibility for the Cooper River Rediversion Project was authorized by Congress, as a result of studies and accompanying recommendations by the Secretary of the Army, Chief of Engineers, and the Board of Engineers for Rivers and Harbors, as was presented in a Survey Report of Cooper River, South Carolina (Shoaling in Charleston Harbor). The report was prepared and transmitted on 29 December 1967, in response to a resolution by the Committee on Public Works, U.S. Senate, adopted 6 June 1960. It was officially published as Senate Document 88 and the recommended project authorized by the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1968 13 August 1968. So . . . as you can see, this problem (and plan) began quite a few years ago, before actual digging began. Responsibility for design and construction of the project was with the District Engineer, U.S. Army Engineer District, Charleston, South Carolina. Real estate activities' (acquisitions included) responsibility was with the U.S. Army Engineer Division, Savannah, Georgia, providing additional project engineering assistance to the Charleston District, primarily for design of the powerplant, fishlift, and highway canal crossings.

A bit of history of the Santee-Cooper Lake System may be helpful at this point. This system consists of Lake Marion (173 square miles) which is connected to Lake Moultrie (94 square miles) by a Diversion Canal (approximately five miles long). The Pinopolis Hydro Plant is located at the south end of Lake Moultrie that discharges into the Tailrace Canal, which ultimately ties into the Cooper River, then Charleston's harbor.

The watershed contains about 14,700 square miles of the Santee River Basin above Lake Marion, of which 9,400 square miles is in the north-central part of South Carolina, with the remainder extending up into the Blue Ridge Mountains of North Carolina. These Santee River Basin flood waters are released over Wilson's Dam on (southeastern corner of) Lake Marion, by way of sixty-two "tainter" gates that discharge directly into the Santee River (heading southeastward toward Georgetown).

After completing the Cooper River Rediversion Project, an average of 3,000 cfs water will be (scheduled to) discharged through the existing Pinopolis Hydro Plant, and the remainder of about 12,600 cfs will pass through the St. Stephen Hydro Plant. Normal lake water surface elevations normally range from seventy-feet to 75.7 feet, referred to as mean sea level data of 1929. This Project was not expected to change water surface elevations / conditions when completed by the Corp.

Just a bit more . . . about the lands required to complete the Project: 3,000 acres, predominantly for the canals, the hydro plant, and disposal areas for excavated materials (not used in levee construction). Right-of-way widths varied from 1,750 feet to 2,500 feet for the Intake Canal, and

from 600 feet to 3,100 feet for the Tailrace Canal. There were some additional properties outside the predominant project area required for access roads, project buildings, and an area for disposal of materials dredged from the entrance channel construction.

The Corp would tell you the land acquisition for the project "was in conformance with the Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970 (Public Law 91-646)." (*Note the date of this Act.*) This legislation provided for "uniform and equitable treatment of persons displaced from their homes, businesses, or farms by Federal or Federally-assisted programs." (*This writer has personal knowledge of this statement . . . to the contrary*). Only those interests in lands were acquired that were necessary to carry out project purposes and objectives intended in the authorization by the Congress. The Corp would also tell you that "Every effort was made to inform affected landowners sufficiently in advance to permit them to relocate with the least possible inconvenience. The government provided Relocation Advisory Assistance Service to help all persons who were displaced by the project. (*What a joke!*) With certain limitations, the Government reimbursed both landowners and tenants for expenses which they incurred in the process and, as a direct result of moving themselves, their families, and their possessions because of land acquisition for the project. (*Another huge joke!*) "Regarding value of project lands, 'just compensation' as required by the Fifth Amendment to the Constitution of the United States, was paid for any private property acquired for public use (*the biggest lie ever told!*). This compensation, as established by the Courts, was "fair market value" determined by approved procedures and, if necessary, further verified by the Courts."

This Rediversion Project is starting to bring back too many bad memories, so I'm going to dispense with saying more, by 'nuf said!' My brother and I loss 520 acres of prime farmland to the project. It was, however, . . . quite an interesting and huge project. I did all the progress photography work required for documenting the entire project, for all (twenty-seven, I believe) contractors and the Corp. Five years work; aerial and ground shots each month.

Resources: a booklet prepared in 1983 by the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers, Charleston District; and collections of Keith Gourdin.

From a centerline in the woods in 1977

From a centerline through the woods in 1978

From Lake Moultrie

The Intake Canal to the St. Stephen Hydro Plant and into the Tailrace Canal. Project completed 1983.

12 – Cooper River Plantations

We'll start this with a bit of history on names and places. John Ashby, and his son, were issued several grants, more especially a 2,000-acre grant at Yadhaw, 9 September 1696. The Indian name of Yadhaw was not retained, nor can the exact lines of this 2,000-acre tract be ascertained. It didn't bound directly on the Cooper River, but somewhat inland about where the plantation known as "Walnut Grove" was situated. There were two adjacent grants that were situated on the river and the creek, later known as Quenby, and these two together formed a plantation of 740- acres on which Ashby conferred the name of "Quenby" after the ancestral home in England. This name has been retained, though corrupted with "Quinby," and other spellings. In the deed from Thomas Shubrick to Roger Pinckney in 1792, it is spelled "Queenbie," and in other deeds it is spelled "Queen Bee". Dr. Irving, in his Day on Cooper River, gives an odd way in which it happened to be called "Queen Bee," through the same ludicrous distortion by which it has been stated that the name "Pee Dee" was taken from the initials P. D. carved by an early explorer on a tree on the river bank, or by which the Indian name "Accabee" near Charleston has been traced to the letters A. K. B. on some mythical map.

From the above history on Quinby, I digress thusly: Like so many of these old plantations, Quinby has its own particular "ghost" or "sperrit." Kensington has its "Keeson Pa'at Sumptin"; Limerick has its "Weeges ghost-foot:" Middleburg, "Old Fanny with her light;" Camp Vere on the "Old Creaking Coach;" Brabant its "Crying child in the Wagon-wheel." There are several "ghosts" or "sperrits" who inhabit the roads and the woods at Quinby. First, there are two men who appear at the foot of the hill just above the bridge, where the old nut-tree used to stand. This is the same spot where the two brave comrades and soldiers, Buckley and Newman of Revolutionary fame, fell. Here they stand, it is said, and with hands clasped together, seem to guard the road.

British Trooper's Ghost ~ But more thrilling than this is the famous "British Trooper," who frequents this road. On some dark night, if you should happen that way, you will hear his horse's hoofs as he gallops along. Not long ago, one evening at dusk, it is told, he came dashing up the hill from the bridge, the hoofs of his steed were thundering along the road, the animal was panting and snorting as though some enemy was in hot pursuit. Just as he came into view and reigned in his horse, both rider and steed vanished from sight.

Then, there are the "Jingoes Horses," who live in the swamp near the wood spring, or "Miss' Spring," as it was called. How these horses

appear, or what they look like, can never be explained, but beware of being caught by them after dark in these woods.

Most folks will say they don't believe in ghosts, but even so, some will acknowledge their existence. One doesn't have to believe in the devil in order to give him his due.

In the Lowcountry, drive down any road, and if you know what to look for, you'll see evidence that ghosts operate freely in the area (for instance, Pinopolis). And some of you may know, ghosts are supposed to be 'deathly' afraid of the color purple. (Oh!, you didn't know that?) Therefore, houses trimmed in purple are ghostfree. I'm told a lot of purple paint has been sold in years past in the Lowcountry (especially).

Researching this ghost issue further, I'm told Lowcountry ghosts are genteel, cultured, and well-read. (That doesn't really surprise me.) They have an aesthetic sense that runs to old houses, palm trees, horse-drawn buggies, philosophical inquiry, and the distinct, but fast disappearing, way of talking. Many local natives have ghost stories they are not reluctant to tell.

The original writer of some of this, Robert Hawkins, an older editor of the Post and Courier, had this to say, "Ghosts remain in the Lowcountry because there are many tastefully little inns and restaurants and, of course, plenty of she-crab soup, although many are howling (mad) because of the gravy-like swill made with pollock masquerading in some places as she-crab. It's an abomination and ought to be banned, or at least represented in the menu as sawmill gravy containing hunks of cold-water fish."

Ghosts that run out from behind tombstones or trees, shrieking like banshees, or that show up in the starlight, blood oozing from slit throats or bullet wounds are more the kind you find, say, up in the mountains, where they used to fight duels at the drop of an insult . . . but not here in the Lowcountry.

Each county has a favorite ghost that serves as a kind of out-of-this-world mascot. In Berkeley, it's the little girl who was chained by the cruel schoolmaster to a tombstone for punishment.

Some Lowcountry ghosts seem to be fulfilling a noble calling, as if they were separated from life before they finished their work. Actually, they may be many.

I've read quite a bit about the Gray Man who always comes to the beach on Pawleys Island before a hurricane (you've probably heard of him too). If you by chance see him there, or anywhere along the beach

shore nearby, I'd recommend you head for a safe place. He walks the beach until someone spies him, then he's gone! (I'm told) A hurricane strikes shortly after the Gray Man puts in an appearance.

Beware! I've recently heard talk on TV of a very strong hurricane out in the Atlantic.

Articles from the Charleston News and Courier, Sunday, April 07, 1929, and Thursday, August 06, 1992; Historic Ramblin's in Berkeley, by J. Russell Cross; Rivers and Regions of Early South Carolina, by Henry A.M. Smith.

Quenby Plantation – Circa 1921 Photo Courtesy
Harriette Kershaw Leiding

ByGone Berkeley
Adventures in History

13 – Parishes of St. Thomas & St. Denis

Recently, I was asked to help define the parishes of old, and where were the boundaries? That's a question not really that easy to answer because of all the changes that have taken place in our (present day Berkeley) county, and with your understanding that the original Berkeley County, nor the 2nd Berkeley County, is certainly not where this 3rd (present-day) Berkeley is, nor do Parish lines line up with anything we have in place now. We only define them today through use of old maps (which we can geo-reference to present day mapping) . . . and from old history writers.

Counties have existed in one form or another since colonial days, beginning with the establishment of the three coastal counties in 1682 (Colleton, Berkeley, and Craven). Prior to 1785, most of the records that are now created at the county level were instead maintained by the central government in Charleston (Charles Town). Anglican Parishes were used as election districts and had responsibility for road development, care of the poor, and education. Counties existed from 1785 to 1799 as judicial and administrative units; were changed to Districts from 1800-1868; and were finally given the designation of "county" by the State Constitution of 1868.

Parishes – The "Church Act" of 1706 created ten parishes across the South Carolina Lowcountry – five in today's Berkeley County. Within each of these parishes, the provincial legislature applied public tax revenue for the construction and maintenance of an Anglican church and a smaller "chapel of ease," and to pay the salary of an Anglican minister.

Those original (official) parishes included St. James' Santee, on the Santee River; St. Thomas and St. Dennis (later spelled "Denis")(initially separate parishes, but soon developed into a single parish) that encompassed Daniel Island; St. Johns' Berkeley, situated on the northwestern reaches of the Cooper River; and St. James Goose Creek Parish. Never anything made official, the people of St. Johns' spoke of / and divided the parish into "Upper," "Middle," and "Lower" St. Johns; 'Upper' being from the Cross area northwestward, 'Middle'was (for all intents and purposes) the area of Lake Moultrie, including Biggin's; and 'Lower'St. Johns was from below Biggins southward until you got to Strawberry area, which became, also divided into 'Upper' and 'Lower' St. James Goose Creek.

St. Thomas and St. Denis Parish – St. Denis was settled by the French Protestants in 1685 as a distinct parish church of their own. St. Thomas

was established along with the other parishes that were established under the Church Act of 1706, as you learned earlier. The first church was built "at the charge of the publick out of a certain fund raised by an Imposition laid on Skins and furs by an Act of the General Assembly passed November 4, 1704, and appropriated by the Act for the Building of Churches, Parsonages."

The two parishes (Thomas & Denis) were combined in 1785, when most of the French speaking members were speaking, mostly, English.

But, back to St. Denis – Henry A.M. Smith tells us a parish is provided for "in the Orange Quarter for the use of the "French Settlement there which shall be called by the name of "the parish of St. Dennis." In the Act of 1712, provision is made for the support of a "Minister of the parish of St. Dennis for the French "Settlement in Orange Quarter." How it acquired the name "Orange" Quarter, Smith was never able to ascertain. This may be just as well, as we learn that after 1715, the name "French" Quarter seems to have superseded "Orange" and the creek from Cooper River through this settlement, first known by the Indian name of Wisboo, or Wisboo-e creek, and then as Lynch's creek, acquired the name of French Quarter creek, which it still retains. The Orange Quarter, roughly speaking, covered the area bounded northwardly by the grants to Cassique John Ashby, eastwardly by the settlements beyond the headwaters of the creek, southwardly by the English settlements on the Cooper River and westwardly by the Eastern Branch of Cooper River. The grants of the French settlers laid thickly around the headwaters of Wisboo Creek. Those French settlers numbered as 101 in 1698/99, which would have produced about twenty families.

But why was this parish given the name of St. Denis is 'matter of pure conjecture.' The Presbyterians and French Huguenots do not seem to have given the names of Saints to their churches. "The name of St. Denis was probably conferred by the Church of England Assembly," so we are told by H.A.M. Smith, "to whom the application had been made and who created the Parish. The patron Saint of France was St. Denis, and in giving a Saint's name to a French parish, it was not unnatural to select his name. It still is a case of pure conjecture."

The Parish of St. Denis was dissolved by the Act of 1768, and the church building sold; the money being used for the benefit of the poor of the Parishes of St. Denis and St. Thomas.

The site of the now extinct building of the Orange Quarter St. Denis settlement was given to the Huguenot Society of South Carolina by heirs of Altis Dickson (a worthy colored man of the neighborhood) on the 25th day of March 1922. The inscription on the granite cross at Orange Quarter St. Denis reads: *Erected A.D. 1922 by the Huguenot Society of*

South Carolina on this Gods Acre, Site of the old and extinct Protestant or Huguenot Church of Orange Quarter St. Denis with its surrounding graveyard constructed about 1687 A.D.

The present-day White Church, or Brick Church, or St. Thomas & St. Dennis Parish Episcopal Church, was constructed in 1819, and occupies the site of the older parish church of St. Thomas. The historic marker out front calls it St. Thomas Church.

Richard Beresford, Esq., died in 1721 and bequeathed the net profits of his estate to the vestry of St. Thomas' Parish, to be held in trust until his son, then eight years old, should reach his maturity. One-third of the interest was to be paid to schoolmasters and the balance to educate and support the poor children of the parish. Beresford's bounty amounted to 5,200 pounds sterling. In 1739, a school was built. In 1763, the Rev. Alexander Garden, as rector and schoolmaster, reported that the school was flourishing. The fund had been carefully managed and had increased to $70,000 in 1861. This was dissipated by the disastrous ending of the War.

During the Reconstruction period, the church was the scene of the 1876 "Cainhoy Massacre," a serious riot between whites and blacks developed when some white men from Charleston journeyed to Cainhoy to attend a Negro Republican meeting. The blacks fired upon the white men with guns they had hidden in a vault in St. Thomas' churchyard.

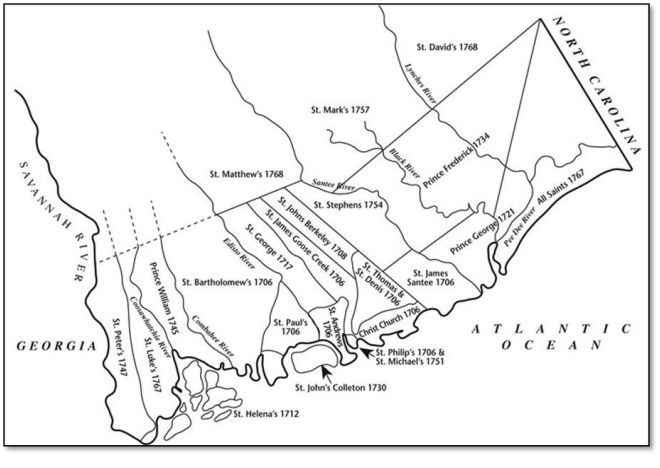
We are told by the National Register of Historic Places, "The Church, charming in its simplicity of design, is a uniquely beautiful example of a small, rural parish church of the early 1800's. The church is made of stucco over brick with a medium gable roof made of tile. A high-arched doorway with a fanlight capped by a five-panel arch is set between pilasters. The side facades are identical. A balcony above the inside door was added about 1858. In 1937, the church was restored by Henry F. Guggenheim. An unusual and distinctive auxiliary building is the vestry, with hip roof on one end and chimney on the other, giving the appearance of a halfcompleted building. The cemetery dates to 1782."

<u>References</u>: J.D. Lewis' Carolana.com; Collections from library of Keith Gourdin; Historic writings of Anne D. Propst, former President of Berkeley County Historical Society; National Register of Historic Places; Rivers and Regions of Early South Carolina, by Henry A.M. Smith.

St. Thomas & St. Denis Church / Churchyard photo by Keith Gourdin

St. Thomas & St. Denis Church, built 1819

Photo courtesy Keith Gourdin



Parishes in South Carolina after “Church Act” in 1706

14 – 5 Berkeley Brothers

Heard about the Bradwell brothers' warehouse in Cross? Well, you should check it out. Except . . . it has a new name today. Now it's called Cross General Store & Ancient Grounds Coffee. Yes, the old brick building is the same, but the faces inside are much better looking than those five brothers that used to be there. Allow me to tell you more . . .

I'm 'sure as silk' many of you know a lot about Cross, S.C., and many of you know where the ole' Furniture Barn had a thriving antique furniture business for years, and a few of you know some of the Bradwell family who started it all. It is indeed a wonderful story, and for those of you who don't know Cross nor the Bradwell family, here's how it got started.

Far from telephones, paved roads (the closest was ten miles away), and electricity, was Cross, S.C., yeah, you could say it was 'back in the woods' and little else, 'cept maybe a retail store, a post office, a school, and several privately owned country houses bordering the county road. (I'm sure you've got the picture now.) But a more interesting story was the warehouses of J.C. Bradwell & Sons, fifteen miles kinda west-northwest of Moncks Corner.

Few businessmen would have thought of establishing a wholesale concern in the country with all the competition offered by big city jobbers. The Bradwell brothers, regardless of these handicaps, went into the wholesale business and made it a success. Through their own earlier experience as retailers, they saw the difficulty that country merchants had in obtaining merchandise quickly and cheaply, far from city jobbers, and with little or no railroad facilities. They were quick to realize the possibilities of the motor truck in overcoming the lack of railroad service.

The concern was begun in 1901, as a retail store, by the father, J.C. Bradwell. Six sons entered the business as partners, and the firm was known as J.C. Bradwell & Sons. With the death of the elder Bradwell in 1916, the partners chose this present title for the name of their organization. The five brothers comprising the firm were Louis W. Bradwell, John W. Bradwell, Isaac D. Bradwell, Capers N. Bradwell, and D. Lee Bradwell. After the death of the senior partner, the sons continued retailing.

A few years later, they realized the possibility of using motor transportation in serving their competitors directly from manufacturers

and brokers. One of the brothers took to the road to solicit trade for the new venture. A few years' experience convinced them that the project was profitable, and they decided to quit retailing. Their stock of merchandise was sold, the counters were removed from their store, additional warehouse space secured, and J.C. Bradwell Sons became wholesalers.

Jobbers all the way from Chicago to New Orleans; rice brokers from the Gulf and millers from the West – all said that the organization was one of the most unique in their experience. It was said that there were only four such similar country wholesale concerns in the United States. None other existed in South Carolina.

In May of 1917, we see that Charleston Republic Truck Company had this to say: "J.C. Bradwell Sons, who conducts a general store at Cross, S.C., have had a Republic one-ton truck in service since about the first of March. All supplies are hauled from Moncks Corner to Cross, a distance of sixteen miles. Prior to the purchase of the truck, mules were used. Since using the Republic truck, they find that after deducting 25 percent per year for depreciation and upkeep, they make a net savings of over $1.50 per ton in hauling. Remember, these loads are hauled over all kinds of roads, including mud, sand, and rough roads. They make each trip on an average of less than 2½ gallons of gasoline and less than one quart of oil to the one hundred miles. Far better results can be obtained over city streets."

In July of 1917, Charleston Republic Truck Company said this: "In Berkeley County, where are some of the worst roads, J.C. Bradwell Sons, of Cross, are using two one-ton Republics; Cross Bros., at Cross, use a one-ton Republic; and James Clarke, of Eadytown, purchased a one and a half-ton. All these sales were made after J.C. Bradwell Sons had given their first one-ton a thorough test."

To give us an idea of costs of these trucks in July of 1917, the "1-Ton, with express or stake body, driver's top, lamp, etc., FOB Factory, cost $1,195.00." And, the truck James Clark bought, "a 1½-Ton Chassis, with driver's seat, lamps, horn, etc., cost $1,375.00."

Practically all the Bradwell's transportation was done through the port of Charleston. The large majority of their merchandise was shipped into Charleston by water. Merchandise was loaded directly onto a waiting truck, which sped to Cross, where it was distributed quickly to where it needed to go. Little time was wasted by leaving commodities on wharves/docks. Products were literally transferred from the ships to the merchants. Various commodities were shipped into Moncks Corner by the railroad in carload lots. This, however, was but a small part of their transportation as compared to the water.

The Bradwell brothers had high praise for the Charleston waterfront. They spoke highly of the efficiency with which their business was handled by Charleston shippers. Many of their transactions were handled directly with brokers and millers on the Pacific Coast. Tons of merchandise were shipped into Charleston harbor by way of the Panama Canal. Four trucks cared for the entire volume of business. There was a daily stream of traffic between Charleston and Cross, and on to scattered points. Those four trucks were able to load forty thousand pounds of merchandise and transport it here in Cross from Charleston docks.

The warehouses here in Cross presented a scene of intense activity at all times. Trucks roaring in with commodities from every part of the U.S.: flour from the west coast, sugar and rice from the Gulf, and canned goods from northern manufacturers. Goods were expertly unloaded and quickly stored. Motors were hardly cooled before the trucks were freight-bound for the warehouse or returning to Charleston for goods stacked on wharves . . . J.C. Bradwell Sons never (!) paid demurrage.

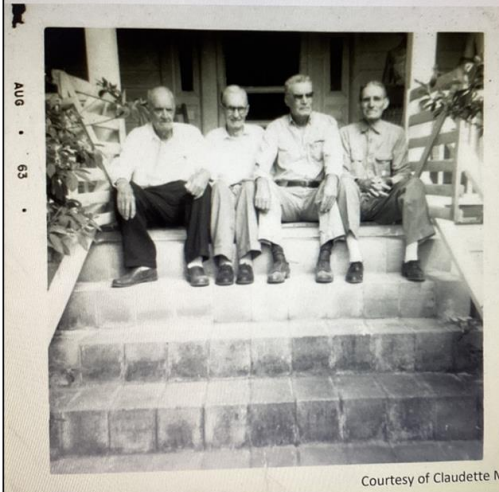
There was little loss of time. Each partner had a definite duty. One handled the buying, another the selling. Others looked after the orders, the shipping, and the bookkeeping. The firm was an excellent example of cooperative activity. There were no telephones in the offices of J.C. Bradwell Sons. No messenger boys entered with telegraphic market reports. Yet the members were always acquainted with commodity prices. The brothers were always up on market conditions.

This particular writer was talking to Louis W. Bradwell regarding the depression. During the conversation, Mr. Bradwell made this statement, "You know, there was really no depression with us. Our business grew steadily during the entire period. Each year, our volume of business was larger. We expect to sell more than a million dollars worth of merchandise. We can actually get more business than we now have, but we don't want it." And he continued, "We are prepared to give good service on the volume we are now handling. We are not prepared for an increase and would rather curb the tons we handle and give prompt service. Otherwise, that takes on more business than we feel we can efficiently handle." Seems this policy of efficiency built up this small county store in the back woods of Berkeley County to an organization with annual sales of half a million dollars. I'm sure Cross General Store plans are the same!

Resources: Charleston News and Courier articles; May 12, 1917, July 9, 1917, and November 10, 1935; Ramona L. Grimsley, Digitization Librarian, Berkeley County Library System

BRADWELL WAREHOUSE AT CROSS

THE BRADWELL BROTHERS



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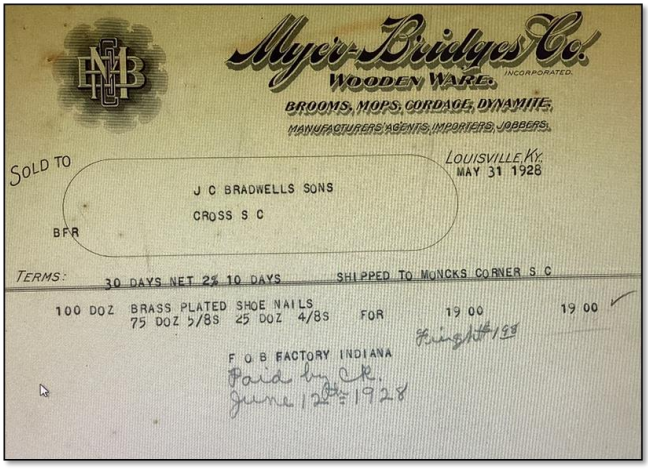
Courtesy of Claudette McCall



Meyer-Bridges Co.
INCORPORATED.
WOODEN WARE.
BROOMS, MOPS, CORDAGE, DYNAMITE,
MANUFACTURERS' AGENTS, IMPORTERS, JOBBERS.

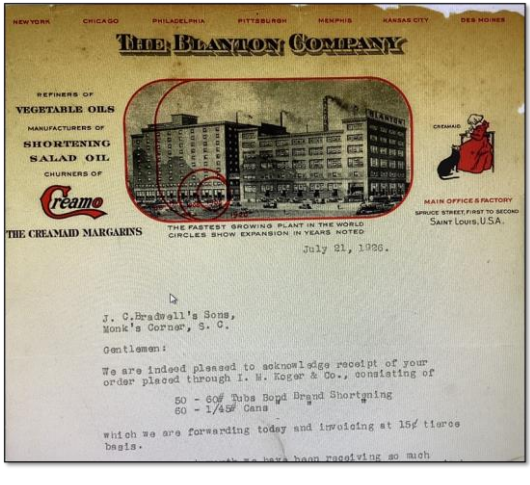
SOLD TO
J C BRADWELLS SONS
CROSS S C
BFR

LOUISVILLE, KY.
MAY 31 1928

TERMS: 30 DAYS NET 2% 10 DAYS
SHIPPED TO MUNCKS CORNER S C

100 DOZ BRASS PLATED SHOE NAILS
75 DOZ 5/8S 25 DOZ 4/8S FOR 19 00 19 00

F O B FACTORY INDIANA
Paid by Ck.
June 12th 1928



NEW YORK CHICAGO PHILADELPHIA PITTSBURGH MEMPHIS KANSAS CITY DES MOINES

THE BLAYTON COMPANY

REFINERS OF
VEGETABLE OILS
MANUFACTURERS OF
SHORTENING
SALAD OIL
CHURNERS OF
Creamo
THE CREAMAID MARGARINS

THE FASTEST GROWING PLANT IN THE WORLD
CIRCLES SHOW EXPANSION IN YEARS NOTED

CREAMAID

MAIN OFFICE & FACTORY
SPRUCE STREET, FIRST TO SECOND
SAINT LOUIS, U.S.A.

July 21, 1936.

J. C. Bradwell's Sons,
Monk's Corner, S. C.

Gentlemen:

We are indeed pleased to acknowledge receipt of your order placed through I. W. Koger & Co., consisting of

50 - 60# Tubs Boyd Brand Shortening
60 - 1/4# Cans

which we are forwarding today and invoicing at 15¢ tierce basis.

15 – Berkeley County's Hospital, 1933

There was a great deal of tuberculosis in the county among the poorer white people and the Negroes. As soon as a case was discovered, the patient's name and application for admittance was sent to State Park, near Columbia, which was the only place in the state where tuberculosis charity cases were taken care of and treated.

There was always a long waiting list, so much so that occasionally by the time the patient could be admitted, he was either too far gone for help or had already died.

Many of these tuberculosis cases were members of large families who slept in the same room and with the inadequate facilities then available, it was impossible to know when these "contacts" were infected with the disease. Consequently, children from these families were in school when they might be in the early stages of the disease, therefore, a danger to their fellow students was the result. Dr. Kershaw Fishburne determined that something had to be done at once to check this explosive condition. This quality of "at once" was expressed in a colorful way by one of the doctor's colored friends, who said that "when Doc wanted something done, it had to be done as of yesterday."

After mulling over ways and means, Fishburne concluded that the only conclusion was for Berkeley County to have a tuberculosis "shack" of her own, where these patients could be isolated and have treatment without delay. Having reached this decision, he was obsessed with fiery zeal and the necessity for speed in accomplishing his desire. He put on a whirlwind campaign, enlisting all the help available to raise enough money to build the shack.

Fishburne went to all the colored schools and churches in the county to talk about the situation and to ask for contributions. This meant miles and miles of hard driving and many hours of talk in which he brought forth the entire force of his mind and body to arouse his hearers to a burning sense of necessity.

Fishburne also sponsored a weekly dance at the unused furniture store in Moncks Corner and visited all the northern plantation owners on the Cooper River, telling them of his plight of these people, the lack of facilities to take care of them, and asking them for donations.

He finally managed to raise $8,000.00. The smallest amount contributed was a sticky dime that came from a little boy who stopped Dr. Fishburne

on the street and pulled the grimy coin from a ragged pocket and handed it to the doctor.

This sum was augmented by Berkeley County, which put up a $10,000.00 bond issue. Realizing that this was not enough to build and equip a shack large enough for the needs of the county, the doctor went to Charlotte to see Dr. Rankin, head of the hospital division of the Duke Foundation, with hope that Dr. Rankin would match dollar for dollar the sum he already had. Dr. Rankin received Dr. Fishburne cordially and listened to his story with interest, but told him the Duke Foundation would not contribute to a Special Disease Hospital, as the turnover was too slow. Fishburne returned home very much discouraged. He had apparently reached a dead end.

About this same time, Nick Roosevelt, Dr. Fishburne's brother-in-law, returning from Philadelphia to his plantation, Gippy, met in the smoking car with Hugh S. Robertson, who was going to his winter home, Yeaman's Hall. Yeaman's Hall was a stylish winter club, catering to well-to-do northern businessmen and their families, and though near Charleston, it was actually situated in Berkeley County.

Roosevelt and Robertson engaged in conversation and Robertson told Roosevelt that he had bought a plantation on the Cooper River for hunting and fishing sports. He said that he was distressed at the apparent poverty of the colored people in the vicinity of his plantation and wondered what could be done to help in a long-range way.

Roosevelt told Robertson that the man for him to see was his brother-in-law, Dr. Kershaw Fishburne, who was director of the Berkeley County Health Department. Roosevelt related how Fishburne was making herculean efforts to raise enough funds to build a Tuberculosis Shack and a contribution to this cause would be of very great assistance.

Later on, Roosevelt suggested that Dr. Fishburne make an appointment with Mr. Robertson and talk over the matter with him. The doctor obliged, and after several meetings, the idea of a general hospital was born. Robertson told Fishburne to go back to Dr. Rankin and find out what the least amount that had to be raised locally for the Duke Foundation to match their money. Dr. Fishburne returned to Charlotte again to talk with Dr. Rankin, his loins girded for battle and a "do-or-die" determination oozing from every pore. Dr. Rankin greeted him politely, but in a skeptical manner to Fishburne told him that $35,000.00 was the very least that Duke required from Berkeley County to have Duke do business with them, and that he knew from Fishburne's previous visit he did not have it, could not get this amount, and that he might as well go home and forget about it.

Dr. Fishburne returned home after several hours of hard driving and got in touch with Mr. Robertson, telling him of Dr. Rankin's ultimatum. Robertson listened to the story and told the doctor to go back to Dr. Rankin and tell him that he did have the $35,000.00, for he, Hugh S. Robertson, would put it up.

Charlotte is 186 miles from Moncks Corner and Fishburne had already made the round trip that day, but without a moment's delay, not even stopping for food, jumped in his car and started once again for Charlotte, arriving just before Dr. Rankin closed his office for the day.

Dr. Rankin looked up in astonishment when Fishburne was ushered into his office and asked, "Why are you still hanging around Charlotte? I told you to go home!" Dr. Fishburne grinned and replied, "I have been home and I have the $35,000.00 that you stipulated."

Dr. Rankin was incredibly surprised, but Fishburne sat down and told him in graphic language the story of Mr. Robertson, who was putting up the money. Hugh Robertson, at that time, was building Rockefeller Center in New York, and was a personal friend of George Allen, one of the trustees of the Duke Foundation. Dr. Rankin had heard Mr. Allen speak of Mr. Robertson, and realizing who was putting up the money, withdrew all his objections and the remaining obstacles were immediately cleared away.

Dr. Rankin realized that Dr. Fishburne was pretty well tired out by this time, and insisted that he spend the night with him, which invitation Fishburne gladly accepted. (This series of events started a life-long friendship between Dr. Rankin and Fishburne.)

Not enough can be said for the generosity of Mr. & Mrs. Hugh S. Robertson, for as the plans for the hospital developed and expanded, it was seen that still more money would be needed. The Robertsons, who had planned to build a $50,000.00 home at the Cooper River plantation (Bonneau Ferry), decided to give the entire amount to the hospital instead.

The tempo of excitement and urgency around Dr. Fishburne at this time was electrifying. Everyone in the county was watching the progress of the building with intense interest and sometimes, when Dr. Fishburne walked about among the workers, he felt compelled to put his hand out and touch the bricks to reassure himself that the hospital was at last taking shape and solid form, and was no longer in the realms of his dreams.

Mr. & Mrs. Robertson spent the summer in Europe and unfortunately, while in England, both contacted severe cases of pneumonia, from

which Mrs. Robertson died. When this news reached Dr. Fishburne and his wife Anne, they were greatly grieved, for Mrs. Robertson was not only a charming woman, but a huge help-need on whom Mr. Robertson relied, in so many ways. She was in her early middle life and her death was a terrible loss, as you might imagine.

Upon his return to America, Robertson came to Berkeley County to see the hospital, which was almost completed. He told Fishburne that he wanted to equip the entire building in memory of Mrs. Robertson. He emphasized that he wanted 'everything' to be the last word in comfort and efficiency and to spare no expense to make it so.

All in all, Hugh Robertson gave the hospital $72,000.00 and with the help of this magnificent gift, what started out as a modest Tuberculosis Shack, grew into the beautiful, modern hospital (at that time), that was the pride of Berkeley County. In addition to his gifts to the hospital building fund, Robertson made up the operating deficits for the first six months and in later years, sent two or three thousand dollars annually to help with the operating expenses.

Dr. Kershaw Fishburne was made Life Chairman of the Board of Trustees and it was one of the most enduring satisfactions of his life to see the great and lasting good that was accomplished by this hospital and its devoted staff.

On Sunday, January 15, 1933, an opening announcement in the newspaper read, "Berkeley County Hospital Will Open for Inspection by Its People."

The new Berkeley County Hospital, which cost $140,000.00, opened with speeches, a barbeque, and a tour of inspection. Two of its largest individual contributors, Hugh S. Robertson, of New York and Bonneau Ferry plantation, and Nicholas Roosevelt, of Philadelphia and Gippy plantation were present. The exercises began at 11 a.m. with addresses from Dr. W.S. Rankin of Duke Foundation, and Dr. Robert Wilson of Charleston, Dean of the Medical College of Charleston and the State of South Carolina. A barbeque dinner for fifteen-hundred guests followed, supplemented with cakes made and donated by members of the civic league, and then the doors of the hospital were opened for inspection.

The Board of Directors were as follows: Dr. W.K. Fishburne, President; Hugh S. Robertson, New York City and Bonneau Ferry Plantation, Vice-President; H.W. Harvey of Moncks Corner, Secretary and Treasurer; Nicolas G. Roosevelt, Philadelphia and Moncks Corner, G.K. Bonnoitt, Moncks Corner, J. Russell Williams, Pinopolis, and L.W. Bradwell of Cross, members of the Board.

Dr. Joseph Norman Walsh was elected by the Board of Directors as the hospital's Chief Surgeon and Physician. Also elected, Mrs. Emma Zeigler Loring, (recommended by the Duke Foundation as one of their best superintendents) as Hospital Superintendent, announced the following heads of departments: Floor Supervisor, Miss Mary Kimbrell of Fort Mill; Supervisor of Surgical Aid and Obstetrical Department, Miss Juanita Tribble of Greenville; Laboratory Supervisor, Miss Ella Marion Hoffman of Charleston; Supervisor of Tuberculosis, Miss Louise Patrick of Charleston; Dietitian, Miss Camille Alexander of Charlotte, N.C.; and, Bookkeeper, Malcolm Cain of Moncks Corner. The only Floor Nurse announced was Miss Thelma Winter of Moncks Corner.

As you know, this Berkeley County Hospital building is no longer used as a hospital, but that's not the end of this story. More to come.

Resources: the majority of this article was originally written by Anne Sinkler Fishburne, wife of Dr. Kershaw Fishburne; also, from the Charleston News and Courier newspaper; Columbia Record; and the State newspaper.

Old Berkeley County Hospital 2019, courtesy Brandon Coffey

ByGone Berkeley
Adventures in History

16 – Chachan Plantation

Once again, God has blessed me to see another October; a 'kind-of' special month to me. During the past twenty years, the Francis Marion Symposium, always held the latter part of October, gets my blood pumping a little faster, as my favorite genealogical and historical annual event is nearing. This 20th and 21st of October, our 21st Annual Francis Marion Symposium will bring together all "the experts" to discuss, learn, and deliberate any and everything you always wanted to know about Francis Marion. To me, and many others like me, it's like a big family reunion, and once again, I'm really getting excited! So, I thought I might try to peak your local history interests by reporting on the place that became the birthplace of Francis Marion; Goatfield, or Chachan Plantation, on the north branch of the Cooper River, near Cordesville, South Carolina.

North Chachan Plantation, historically, was owned by the Cordes family, descendants of the French Huguenot physician Dr. Antoine Cordes, who came to America and South Carolina in 1696. He was the son of Paul Cordes and his wife, Marie Dupeuch of Baremet in Languedoc, France. Antoine Cordes also came to South Carolina in 1696, settling on the north branch of the Cooper River on what was later to be called North Chachan Plantation.

Interestingly, after the above Cordes, all Cordes hailed from St. Stephen's Parish, nearby. The Cordes have many descendants, even of other names. Indeed, it has been said that there is more Cordes blood in South Carolina, on the coast and in the Lowcountry, than any other name.

Okay, to set the scene with a bit of genealogy of the Cordes and Marion family' tie to Chachan: Dr. Antoine Cordes (1661-1712) married Esther Madeleine Baluet (1675-1712) in 1690 and together they had seven children, one of which was Esther Cordes (1695-1757), who married, abt. 1716, Gabriel Marion (abt. 1690- 1757). Together, Gabriel and Esther Marion had six children, Issac, Gabriel, Benjamin (*my 5th Great-Grandfather*), Esther, Job, and Francis, General of the Revolutionary War. Francis was born at Goatfield / Chachan in 1732.

In 1796, Chachan passed with other properties to the almost legendarily eccentric, but able Francis Cordes, son of Antoine Cordes. "Brick House", as it was known to be called, was a fine brick mansion, said to be built around 1760. According to a Charleston News and Courier newspaper article of March 3, 1910, the house was burned badly by fire, supposedly originating in one of the third story rooms, and spread

rapidly to the roof. In that article, no more information was given as to the extent of damage, but apparently, only stone steps and the foundations of the big house, guests pavilions, and carriage house remain.

The stables contained an interesting set of mangers (a long open box or trough for horses or cattle to eat from) cut out of long cypress logs. Its brick walls were vented with air passages curiously contrived to keep direct drafts from the horses.

It is thought that, in 1811, Frances Cordes erected a handsome pair of gate posts on the roadway with his name and the date carved on their crowning marble urns. The plantation gates consist of two brick pillars with carved stone caps and stone urn finials. The caps have "Cordes" and "1811" carved into them and the right post has a stone sign stating "Chachan." Also, on North Chachan, are (were) a pair of two-story brick pavilions thought to have been built ca. 1811 by Francis Cordes. Their walls are set in common bond and the gable ends, faced with wood shingles, have doorways leading to balconies. Each pavilion has a single chimney. They are said to have been renovated in the early twentieth century, their original appearance is unknown.

Chachan was stated to have been one of the handsomest of the many handsome plantations on the Cooper River. It is the next plantation above Mulberry Castle and situated about a mile from that historic place.

A cemetery at North Chachan has the stone marker of Mulatto Cain, a slave owned by Francis Cordes, dated 1836. The plantation also has extensive rice field remnants along the Cooper River.

This plantation seems to have been originally settled by Antoine Cordes. In Dr. Antoine Cordes' will, he states, ". . . my Plantation that I now live on Containing two hundred acres of land, Together with six hundred acres of land which I cause to be measured joyning the said two hundred acres of land." Several late 1880's and '90's newspaper advertisements have "243 acres North Chachan Plantation" for sale. This may give us an interpretation of the size of Chachan, or at least a consideration, during that time period.

The baroque stable, the stable, and a coach house that matched it, faced each other to form a court before the land side of a Georgian house, whose other front overlooked a garden, and beyond it the swamp fields along the Cooper River, a scheme that was probably built altogether in James Cordes time, a bachelor son of a prosperous father.

An old newspaper article reported this about Chachan, "In 1814, Peter Gaillard purchased, at Sheriff's sale in Charleston, the Chachan Plantation on the western branch of the Cooper River in the Parish of St. John's Berkeley, which has been property of his brother, Theodore. This he soon after sold to Thomas Ashby for $22,000."

Another interesting advertisement in the November 27, 1868, Charleston daily news reads: "Rice Plantation and a Summer Retreat to Rent - North Chachan Plantation, on the western branch of Cooper River, will be leased for one or a term of years. This place is in good order, and now occupied. On it are good residence, negro houses, barns, etc., etc. With it, as an appurtenance, will be leased a comfortable Residence in the healthy Village of Cordesville, two miles distant. This Plantation, and the adjoining one, South Chachan, now offered for lease or sale, would, together, constitute a most desirable agricultural enterprise, complete in every respect. On these places are negroes, now ready to contract for another season."

An interesting extract from a letter from a retired Congressman from Charleston about Antoine Cordes' great, great, grandson, Dr. Samuel Cordes goes like this: "He was no common man with many of the infirmities of our common natural. He had virtues that were by no means common. Industrious, ardently skillful, he was the prince of the country Physician. No pestilence by day or no length of road by night ever deterred him. The sick were certain of his ministrations, and his heart was so large, his pulses so generous that not even amity was a barrier to his good works. I remember hearing of his visiting Mr. German, with whom he had a difference and by the most assiduous attention, saving his wife at a most critical junction, of money he was lavish, and many have been assisted by his purse upon a most extensive scale." Many are the stories of the Cordes family.

References/Resources: *Cordes Genealogy*, by Virginia Gourdin; *Historic Preservation Inventory, Berkeley County*, 1979, by BCD Council of Governments; *Plantations of the Carolina Low Country*, by Samuel Gaillard Stoney.

North Chachan Stable ca. 1760
Courtesy Historic Preservation Inventory, Berkeley County, 1979

Pavilions erected for accommodations of guests, ca. 1760
Courtesy Historic Preservation Inventory, Berkeley County, 1979

ByGone Berkeley
Adventures in History

17 – Francis Marion, 1732 – 1795

Brigadier General Francis Marion, the Swamp Fox of the American Revolution, left an indelible mark on the American imagination. He is an American Robin Hood who, from time to time, captures the popular imagination. One of the greatest heroes of the American Revolution, Marion is more myth than man to the general public. However, he continues to be remembered with reverence in the oral history of South Carolina. Those who can, will proudly identify their fifth or sixth great-grandfather who rode with the Swamp Fox.

Francis Marion was a real person. He was subject to all the frustrations, pressures, obligations, desires, and personal ups and downs that people are subject to. He remained a bachelor until the age of 54, when, on April 20, 1786, he married Miss Mary Esther Videau, a 49-year-old spinster.

Although we think of Marion as a partisan fighter, he held elected office as a state senator. He was one of a dozen or so men who shaped the new republic of South Carolina and then supported the adoption of our present federal constitution. He ended his public life during the turbulent political times that marked the early republic. Differences between the Federalist party and the Democratic-Republican party caused heated debates and even violence. Marion was a Federalist. He believed, as did many of the former Continental Army officers, in a central government. Much of South Carolina, however, followed the DemocraticRepublican party, which was a states rights party.

One thing is clear from the writings of those who actually knew Marion. He was an exceptional person. He undoubtedly had a brilliant mind, capable of both flexible and original thoughts. Those who fought against him acknowledged his integrity. Many who were his political enemies during his life, later acknowledged that Marion had been correct, and they had been wrong. Those who followed him, looked on him in awe. Capable of making life and death decisions, he was known as a humane man who was devoted to his siblings and their families.

Although most people today think of Marion as a soldier, his greatest accomplishment was stopping the civil war in South Carolina at the end of the American Revolution. When many people were calling for vengeance, he advocated forgiveness towards the former supporters of England.

Marion never surrendered, no matter how hopeless things appeared to be. Although not an orator by the standards of the day, he was able to

convince men to follow him in what must have seemed to be a hopeless cause. Like a true revolutionary, he urged upon his followers the justice of the American cause. Known as a strict disciplinarian, he was a just man who appealed to integrity before force. When he personally commanded, he was never beaten. He never wasted the lives of his followers for some hope of personal glory. Although it is said that he never physically engaged in the fighting, no one ever doubted his personal bravery. In the thick of numerous firefights, targeted by British marksmen, he was never wounded.

He thought out and waged a very modern, logistical war against the British. His strategy was sound and successful. Because he did not risk his soldiers' lives to get "big victories," and because it is hard to point to some large battle that he won, those who do not understand the art of war discount his actions as being romantic but not significant. Just the opposite is true. His was a dirty, hard fought war of attrition. He had a strangle hold on the British supply lines. Not only was that a major factor in the defeat of the British in South Carolina, but it also set the stage for the eventual defeat of General Cornwallis in Virginia. One of the reasons Cornwallis went to Yorktown, where he was trapped by George Washington and the French, was that Cornwallis could not get supplies overland. (He went to the coast to be re-supplied by the British navy.

Francis Marion's days reached their bound. As he approached it, "he spoke thoughtfully of the great concerns of life, death, and the future; declared himself a Christian, a humble believer in all the vital truths of religion." "Death may be to others," said he, "a leap in the dark, but I rather consider it a resting place, where old age may throw off its burdens." On the 27th of February 1795, he passed away, painlessly, peacefully, with his last words revealing the fact that he was victor in this, as in every struggle elsewhere.

Never, since the winter of 1795, when they laid Francis Marion to rest, has Belle Isle, the once beautiful plantation and home of his brother Gabriel, had so large an assemblage as met on May 22, 1893, to celebrate the unveiling of the granite monument erected by the state of South Carolina over the grave of the Revolutionary hero. Over 1,000 people, all classes and conditions of men, including several hundred negroes, attending, from all parts of Berkeley and Charleston, by dirt road, in all sorts of vehicles, horses and wagons, buggies, gig or dog cart, and upon arrival of the Northeastern train from Charleston. The day was warm and clear, and the long trip was uneventful.

The visitors found the lawn fronting the old Marion house (where the turnaround is today) filled with people, the piazzas and windows filled with eager and expectant faces, waiting for the unveiling, which could be easily seen therefrom.

The granite monument to Marion had been covered with the Palmetto flag, which was attached to a rope and upright pole. General Huguenin, the acting chairman of arrangements, requested the following young ladies from St. Stephen's, St. John's Berkeley, Georgetown, and Charleston to unveil the monument: Misses Ella and Mattie Gourdin, Henrietta, Mary, Lizzie, and Hattie Palmer Inman, Mrs. Panzerbeiter, Misses Anna Sinkler, Laura Kirk, May Waring, Maggie Holbeck, and Leila Murphy. They stood in front of the monument to Marion and the tomb of Mrs. Marion, and many members of the DeVeau family, and gracefully performed their patriotic duty.

At 12:15, Gen. Huguenin announced that on behalf of the State of South Carolina, he then ordered unveiling the monument in honor of the distinguished soldier and patriot, Francis Marion; he dropped his handkerchief; the fair women pulled the cord, and the flag of Marion's State unveiled his tomb; the brass Napoleon of the German Artillerists belched its thunders on the astonished ears of men, children, and horses, with a salute of eleven guns.

Resources: Collections from library of Keith Gourdin, including *The General and Cousin Mary Esther, Reflections on Gen. and Mrs. Francis Marion*, by Karen L. MacNutt.

ByGone Berkeley
Adventures in History

18 – Blessing Plantation

Location of the Blessing is on the East Branch of the Cooper River, Huger area of St. Thomas and St. Denis Parish of Berkeley County, South Carolina. Today's location is off South Carolina Highway 41 on Cainhoy Road. We are told in A Day On Cooper River that Dr. Irving didn't know how the name "Blessing" was determined in reality, but Jonah Lynch, the early owner, received a grant of land of 780 acres in 1682 at "a place called 'Mattesaw' also the 'Blessing". Judge H.A.M. Smith surmises that Lynch's journey to Carolina in the Proprietor's ship "Blessing" may have given him the name for the plantation. In Historic Ramblin Through Berkeley, Russell Cross confirms, telling us "Mattesaw was a place, called the Blessing, on the south side of the Eastern Branch of the Cooper River granted to Jonah Lynch."

The Blessing, after growing in size in the hands of several owners, was later divided into three separate plantations: Blessing, Cedar Hill, and Cherry Hill, and passed on to various owners. Plats of Blessing made in 1785 and 1786 show a large settlement overlooking extensive rice fields. This settlement appears to have been north of the current main house complex.

Sometime in the latter years of the eighteenth century, Henry Laurens and his son purchased the Blessing and then proceeded to purchase Cherry Hill and Cedar Hill, bringing the three together again. Then, while in the possession of the Laurens family, the plantations were once again divided.

An interesting history about Blessing during the time period of 1770 to 1791 is found of an English-born slave trader on the Rio Pongo, John Holman, who contemplated a move to the Lowcountry of South Carolina. He wrote to his friend and fellow slave trader Henry Laurens in Charleston about the prospects for investing in rice plantations in the area, of which Laurens wrote an encouraging response. It took Holman some time to act on that suggestion, and Holman invested "in a large tract called Blessing Plantation on the Cooper River for which he paid L2,500 sterling. (More to come on this story.)

So, as to owners, the Blessing passed through the Bonneau, Deas, and Laurens families before James Poyas of Beaufort and his wife Charlotte Bentham acquired it and built the two-and-a-half-story rectangular framed plantation house in 1834. The property fronted 336 acres of rice fields.

Also, within the Blessing Plantation complex is the Bonneau Ferry structure archaeological site. This site contains the remains of a nineteenth through twentieth century ferry landing associated with Bonneau Ferry, located across the East Branch of the Cooper River. Incidentally, Judge H.A.M. Smith, on a map accompanying his article on "Quenby and the Eastern Branch of Cooper," shows the Bonneau Ferry at the river crossing, but designates the plantation itself as "Prioli." The name "Prioli" was applied to this plantation to recall the Venetian ancestry of the Prioleaus.

Then, by 1860, the three plantations had all become the property of William James Ball, to be sold away after 1865.

In 1927, the three plantations, Blessing, Cherry Hill, and Cedar Hill, were bought by the Wellington Corporation and in turn, sold in 1928 to T. Ferdinand Wilcox, Esq. and Edward Roesler, Esq., of New York. The dwelling house built by James Poyas on Cedar Hill was repaired and improved by these two gentlemen, Wilcox and Roesler.

Cherry Hill was the residence of Commodore Duncan Nathaniel Ingraham. His father, Nathaniel Ingraham, fought with John Paul Jones on the Bon Homme Richard. Duncan Nathaniel Ingraham saw service in many waters, notably on Mexican and Brazilian expeditions. But the occasion which showed the fibre of his spirit was the Koszta case. Martin Koszta was a rebel against Austria with the Hungarian leader and Governor, Lajos Kossuth, in 1848 and 1849. The insurrection could not mature as a revolution, and leaders were severely punished. Kossuth and Koszta, once released from imprisonment, were banished to Turkey with orders to remove to a foreign country and never return to Austria. They went to the United States, where Koszta, in July of 1852, declared his intention of becoming a citizen, and renounced his allegiance to the Emperor of Austria.

Then in 1853, business called Koszta to Smyrna. Sitting in a restaurant with friends one day, he was arrested by Austrian soldiers, bound, and carried to an Austrian brig-of-war, the Huzzar, where he was imprisoned in the hold, in chains. Just at that time, the American sloop-of-war St. Louis sailed into the harbor, with Lieutenant Ingraham commanding. The American Consul appealed to him to help with the case. Koszta had no papers, so the American authorities in Constantinople were appealed to for instructions, but conditions were so serious that Ingraham drew into position, trained his guns on the Austrian brig and threatened to fire. A large Austrian schooner arrived carrying sixteen guns and other war vessels followed until Ingraham was faced by seven Austrian warships.

On July 2nd, 1853, Ingraham, informed that Koszta was recognized as a citizen of the United States, proceeded to the Austrian brig and formally

inquired whether Koszta desired protection and promised to help him. He demanded that the prisoner be transferred to the St. Louis and prepared the sloop for action in the face of the seven Austrian ships, but did not need to go further, as Koszta was delivered to him. Secretary of State to President Pierce, William L. Marcy (previously Secretary of War), prepared a very able paper on Koszta's right to claim citizenship.

Commodore Ingraham received high honors from his own government and others. The third Congressional Medal ever granted was given to him. He continued in service until the Secession of South Carolina, when he resigned and entered the Confederate Navy.

Ingraham married Harriet Horry Laurens, granddaughter of Henry Laurens and of John Rutledge. One of her possessions inherited from Henry Laurens was the original draft of the terms of capitulation and surrender of Lord Conwallis; which was, unfortunately, destroyed in the burning of Columbia by Sherman.

There is an interesting story connected with Cedar Hill Plantation I'd love to tell, but will have to recite it at another time when there is more space available. There are so many interesting stories that need telling when you begin perusing all the old historic plantations of the Cooper River Historic District.

References: *A Day On Cooper River*, by John D. Irving, M.D.; *Africans in The Old South, Mapping Exceptional Lives across the Atlantic World*, by Randy J. *Sparks; Historical Ramplin's Through Berkeley, by J. Russell Cross; and National Register of Historic Places, Cooper River Historic District, Berkeley County*.

Blessing Plantation House

19 – Medical Doctors in Pineville

Medical Doctors (in alphabetical order) **in St. James' Santee, St. Stephen's, & St. John's Berkeley Parishes:**

- Dr. Edward Francis Allston
- Dr. William T.W. Baker
- Dr. Stephen Bannister
- Dr. Daniel J. Cain
- Dr. Philip Carolan, SJS ~ WB
- Dr. John J. Couturier
- Dr. Antoine Cordes (*7th Great-Grandfather)
- Dr. Samuel Cordes
- Dr. Isaac DeJean, SJS ~ WB
- Dr. Samuel DuBose
- Dr. Edwin Samuel Gaillard
- Dr. Peter Gaillard Gourdin II (*Great-Grandfather)
- Dr. Robert Marion Gourdin (*2nd Great-Granduncle)
- Dr. Theodore Thomas Gourdin (*Great-Granduncle)
- Dr. William Hardcastle
- Dr. Silas P. Holbrook
- Dr. William Keith
- Dr. Philip S. Kirk
- Dr. Nathan Leavenworth, SJS ~ WB
- Dr. William Lehre
- Dr. James Lynah
- Dr. Francis Mariana, SJS ~ WB
- Dr. Philip Porcher Mazyck (1792-1860), SJS ~ WB
- Dr. William Porcher Mazyck (1800's), SJS
- Dr. James L. McBride (*husband of 2nd Great-Grandaunt)
- Dr. Samuel Miller, SJS, SS
- Dr. John Saunders Palmer (1804-1881) (*1st cousin 4 times removed)
- Dr. Joseph Palmer II (*2nd Great-Granduncle)
- Dr. Peter Patrick Porcher Palmer (1809-1889) (*2nd Great-Grandfather) SJB-P
- Dr. Thomas Pinckney
- Dr. Edward Porcher (1814-1874) SJB ~ WB
- Dr. Julius T. Porcher (1829-1863) SS-P
- Dr. Peter Cordes Porcher (1814-1853) SJB ~ WB
- Dr. William Porcher (1800-1833) SS-P
- Dr. John Gibbes Shoolbred (1796-1860), SJS ~ WB
- Dr. Robert Press Smith II (*half 1st cousin 3 times removed)

- Dr. John Peyre Thomas (1767-1804) SS-P
- Dr. Henry Thorne
- Dr. Philip Tidyman, Jr. (1777-1850), SJS ~ WB

Medical Doctors listed on the following pages are in alphabetical order. Dates given are doctors' birth and death dates.

Medical Doctor in St. James' Santee – **Dr. Edward Francis Allston** (1832-1896) (son of John Hayes Allston and Harriet M. Wilkinson and husband of Catherine Porcher Palmer). After studying at South Carolina College, he completed his medical education in Charleston and New York. Before and after the Civil War he planted at Doe Hall Plantation and practiced medicine in the Georgetown and McClellanville areas. In the 1880s he moved to Darien, Ga., to work as quarantine doctor for the port, and he remained there until his death.

Medical Doctor in St. James' Santee – **Dr. William T.W. Baker** (1825-1894) was McClellanville's doctor for nearly forty years.

Medical Doctor in St. James' Santee – **Dr. Stephen Bannister** (1828-1904), son of Sampson Bannister of Orangeburg. He practiced along the South Santee River.

Medical Doctor in Pineville – **Dr. Daniel J. Cain** (1817-1883) (son of Daniel Cain and Mary Malcomson). He graduated from South Carolina College, studied in Paris, and practiced medicine for two decades in and around Pineville. After the war he moved to Asheville for his health.

Medical Doctor in Pineville – **Dr. John J. Couturier** (1789-1834) of Pineville (son of John Couturier and Ann Cahusac and husband of Rebecca Jerman Palmer). Dr. Couturier received a classical education at the Pineville Academy and the Medical College of New York. Dr. McBride had recently gone to Charleston, so "Dr. Couturier found himself instantly in possession of a practice worth six or seven thousand dollars a year. He had a success which, joined with good manners, made him very popular. He was a man of great benevolence and was adored by the poor." Dr. John Couturier married Rebecca Jerman Palmer (1801-1877), daughter of John Palmer, Jr. and his wife Mary Ann Jerman, of St. Stephen's Parish.

Medical Doctor in St. John's Parish – **Dr. Antoine Cordes** (b. 19 Apr 1661, Mazamet in Languedoc, France) came to Carolina ca. 1685, settled in St. John's Parish, Berkeley, husband of Esther Madeleine Balluet (Esther Magdalen Baluit), both were naturalized in England, 1696.

Medical Doctor in St. James' Santee – **Dr. Samuel Cordes** (1790-1858) son of Thomas Cordes of Yaughan Plantation in St. Stephen's Parish and Charlotte Evance and husband of Mary Louise Smith (m. 1813). After receiving his medical training in Philadelphia, Dr. Cordes spent his life serving St. James Santee and adjacent parishes. He was also a magistrate, a state representative, a delegate to the Nullification Convention, and a school commissioner. According to St. James Santee Parish Records 1846-1921, Dr. Cordes died 19 May 1858, age 67 years & 9 months, at his residence, North Santee, and is buried in Biggins Churchyard.

Medical Doctor in Pineville – **Dr. Samuel DuBose** (1758-1811) of Murrells Plantation in Pineville, m. (1784) Elizabeth Sinkler, m. Mary (Walter) Sinkler, m. (1801) Martha (Walter) White. DuBose was an Adjutant in the South Carolina Revolutionary War.

Medical Doctor in Pineville – **Dr. Edwin Samuel Gaillard** (1798-1834) of St. John's Parish, son of John Gaillard III and Harriett Lord; husband of Mary Harriet Cantey White (b. in Pineville in 1799), m. in Pineville 15 Nov 1819, and she died in December 1857. Gaillard entered South Carolina College from Charleston, A.B. degree in 1815, studied medicine in New York and practiced in Pineville, where he died 11 Oct 1834, and is buried in Biggin's Churchyard.

Medical Doctor in Pineville – **Dr. Peter Gaillard Gourdin II** (1832-1876) was raised in Kingstree and Buffalo Lick on Red Clay Plantation until the death of his father in 1837, after which he rotated between Pineville, Walnut Grove Plantation, and Training Schools, until he entered and graduated from Harvard University, Cambridge, Mass. In the 1850 US Census, he is listed as being 19 years of age and a student of medicine. After graduation, he returned to Pineville, where he commenced the practice of medicine. In 1854 he inherited his Uncle Samuel Thomas Gourdin's house in Pineville, with its contents. He purchased Richmond Plantation in 1856 from his brother-in-law (W.G. Desaussure), formerly the estate of his uncle, Samuel Thomas Gourdin.

Medical Doctor in St. James' Santee – **Dr. Robert Marion Gourdin** (1799-1876) (son of Theodore Gourdin and Elizabeth Gaillard) –was educated Red Clay Plantation Elementary School, Pineville Academy, Harvard, and graduated in 1824 from the College of Physicians and Surgeons of New York. After returning to South Carolina, Dr. Gourdin established his medical practice at Lenud's Ferry Plantation. During the Civil War, he served as a Captain in the Confederate Army.
Like John S. Palmer, his neighbor and friend, he planted more than he practiced medicine. Dr. Gourdin never married, though he fathered at least seven children (three boys and four girls) with his mulatto servant, Daphne Singleton, born about 1813. A thirteen-year-old slave girl

named Daphney was listed among the slaves being conveyed to members of Thomas Day Singleton's family. The long relationship necessary to bear seven children, the cohabitation at the Lenud's Ferry plantation house [during and after the war], and the conveyance of property to Daphne and her children are all indications of a congenial relationship.) These descendants are the French-African-Americans who carry on the Gourdin / Gourdine family legacy. Dr. Gourdin and Daphne lived at 2 College Street in Charleston in 1871. He is buried next to his brother, Theodore Louis Gourdin, in the Gourdin enclosure at St. Stephen's Episcopal Churchyard.

Medical Doctor in Pineville – **Dr. Theodore Thomas Gourdin** (1829-1863), of Pineville (son of Peter Gaillard Gourdin and Susan Singleton Cantey, and husband of Harriet P. Gaillard), Dr. Gourdin was educated at Harvard and the Medical College of South Carolina and was a surgeon in the Civil War.

Medical Doctor in Pineville – **Dr. William Hardcastle** (d. 1777) (husband of Elizabeth Clevland, married between April and June of 1771, who worked alongside her husband, learning the skills of his medical profession), a native of England, was a physician and surgeon in the British military prior to the Revolutionary War. He came to the South Carolina colony in the service of the Royal British Army and practiced medicine in St. John's and St. Stephen's Parishes. William and Elizabeth lived at Wampee Plantation, until it was sold in 1772, then they moved to Pineville. Records in the first census of the United States (1790) show that William and Elizabeth were practicing medicine nearly twenty years prior to this date. Dr. Hardcastle died, unexpectedly, possibly due to the war, in May 1777. Professor F.A. Porcher states, Dr. Hardcastle's widow " . . . understood well the curative branch of surgery which she probably learned from her husband." She died intestate on December 30, 1808, and the Pineville Academy claimed her lands as escheated property.

Medical Doctor in Pineville – **Dr. Silas P. Holbrook** (1790-1835)

Medical Doctors in Lower St. John's – **Dr. William Keith** (d. 1777) of Keithfield Plantation, married Ann Cordes, youngest daughter of Isaac Cordes (1692-1745), was a planter and physician. Dr. Keith had three sons, one of which was Dr. William Keith, Jr., and four daughters. Dr. William Keith, a Scotsman by birth, purchased 91 acres of the Le Bas land from Jonna, the daughter of Thomas Monck, and 400 acres from Mary de St. Julian Monck, widower of Thomas Monck, which he combined with another tract that became Keithfield Plantation. This plantation of 1,317 acres was located in St. John's Berkeley Parish, Berkeley County, about two miles north of Moncks Corner. Dr. Keith had three sons, one of which was Dr. William Keith Jr., and four

daughters. James and William Keith were brothers who married two sisters. Elizabeth Clevland Hardcastle stayed at Keithfield when she came to South Caroliina to visit as a young girl. She most probably lived at Keithfield when she, and her niece, Catherine, came back to South Carolina, until she bought Wampee and Brickhouse Plantations.

Medical Doctor in Pineville – **Dr. Philip S. Kirk** (1835-1911) (son of Philip C. Kirk and Gabriella Marion and husband of Susan H. Singleton), of Pineville. He graduated from South Carolina College in 1832.

Medical Doctors in St. Stephen's Parish – **Dr. William Lehre** attended Edinburgh University from 1786-1791, graduating from Aberdeen in 1791. Dr. Lehre was a physician and planter of St. Stephen's Parish. Dr. Lehre married Ann Findlay Miller on December 24, 1795. A daughter, Ann Judith, baptized February 28, 1797, was born to this union. Dr. Lehre left Ann a widow in May 1799. Ann was also a relative of Dr. William Keith of Keithfield Plantation. She was a close friend of Elizabeth Clevland Hardcastle, living adjacent to her. (See the Ann Lehre tract on old Mouzon / Gaillard map).

Medical Doctor in St. Stephen's Parish – **Dr. James Lynah,** (1735-1809) a native of Ireland, came to South Carolina abt. 1765 and soon built up an extensive practice in several upper parishes. He became a neighbor (living south of the River Road across from Belle Isle Plantation) and firm friend of General Marion, and during the war served at intervals with him. He received two appointments as army surgeon, first in Col. Joseph Maybank's Berkeley Regiment in 1776, and in Col. Horry's cavalry in 1779. He was with Colonel Horry at the siege of Savannah, as was his eighteen-year-old son, Edward Lynah, who served as Surgeon's Mate. Dr. Lynah died 17 October 1809, at Charleston, to which he had moved after the war.

Medical Doctor in Pineville – **Dr. James L. McBride** (1784-1835) – married Ellinor Gourdin (dau. of Theodore Gourdin II) on 4 March 1811. Dr. McBride, formerly of Williamsburg District, a graduate of Yale College, purchased a four-acre lot in Pineville in 1812 and established a large medical practice.

Medical Doctor in St. James' Santee – **Dr. John Saunders Palmer** (1804-1881) of St. Stephen's Parish, Balls Dam Plantation (west of today's Jamestown), son of Thomas Palmer and Harriet Jerman, and husband of Esther Simons Palmer (m. 1830). He was educated at Pineville Academy, South Carolina College, and the College of Physicians and Surgeons of New York and practiced briefly with Dr. Samuel Cordes in St. James Santee. He writes, "I commenced the practice of medicine in co-partnership with Dr. Samuel Cordes. Our practice extended over a wide district of country. We were engaged principally on South Santee,

also across Lenud's Ferry - and besides the whole parish of St. James Santee, we frequently visited the lower part of St. Stephen's, and the upper part of Christ Church Parishes. I entered the professional duties with zeal and energy and would gladly have continued a professional life if I had not soon discovered that I was wholly unprepared to cope with disease, learned only through the medium of books and lectures, and after practicing eighteen months with Dr. Cordes, I was content to withdraw from so extensive a practice, and devote more of my time to the culture of rice, on Wambaw Creek, at the place known as Springfield. I was compelled to practice in some localities as Dr. Cordes could not undertake the whole demand on his services. I resided principally at Echaw, my Uncle James Jerman's plantation all during the years '26, '27, '28, and '29, although I did profess to keep house at Springfield." Dr. Palmer was a member of the South Carolina House and Senate and signed the Ordinance of Succession. However, he spent most of his life planting cotton and rice at Lenud's Ferry on the Santee.

Medical Doctor in Pineville – **Dr. Joseph Palmer II** (1818-1906), of St. John's Springfield Plantation, son of Joseph Palmer and Elizabeth Catherine Porcher and husband of Margaret C. Allen (m. 1864), Mary Louise Singleton (m. 1870), and Ida Vernon (m. 1875). He graduated from South Carolina College in 1839 and practiced medicine and planted for the remainder of his life. After his marriage in 1864, Dr. Palmer, having been living at The Rocks with his father and family, reopened the house at Springfield and once again its old spirit of hospitality revived. Everything that could be done to aid the Confederacy was done. Dr. Palmer, over the age for military service, remained at home and attended the sick over a large area of country. His partner, Dr. P. Sidney Kirk, a much younger man, went into the army. All cotton was given to the Confederate government, and even the leaden weights at the windows were removed and given to be melted into bullets. Dr. Palmer was known as "Uncle Joe" to many of the whites, and "Mausse Josie" or Mass Josie" to the negroes. For years, after age and ill health forced him to give up active practice, he went to all the family and kept his office open for the Negroes. Sometimes his fees were never paid, sometimes they were paid in chickens, eggs, corn, or peas. Always, medicines were furnished, (with medicine bills running up into hundreds of dollars). His skill in diagnosis was almost uncanny; time and time again, often at his request, doctors from various places were called to see some of his patients, and, always, his diagnosis was confirmed!

Medical Doctor in Upper St. John's – **Dr. Peter Patrick Porcher Palmer** (1809-1885) of St. John's Wood Pond Plantation (son of Joseph Palmer and Elizabeth Catherine Porcher and husband of Harriet Jerman Palmer, m. 1832). He was educated at Pineville Academy and the

South Carolina Medical College, and he planted and practiced medicine near Pineville. Dr. Palmer also served in the South Carolina House (1836-1839, 1842-1845) and Senate (1846-50), and was a magistrate.

Medical Doctor in St. James' Santee – **Dr. Thomas Pinckney** (1828-1915) (son of Charles C. Pinckney and Phoebe C. Elliott. He was educated at the University of Virginia and the Medical College of South Carolina, but preferred planting rice on the South Santee to practicing medicine. Thomas Pinckney served with the 4th S.C. Regiment during the war and rose from captain to colonel.

Medical Doctor in Pineville – **Dr. Julius T. Porcher** (1829-1863), of St. John's (son of Dr. Thomas W. Porcher and Elinor Gaillard and husband of Mary F. Wickham) was educated at Pineville Academy and South Carolina College, and he planted and practiced near Pineville. Lt. Col. Porcher served in the 10th S.C. Regiment and died at Missionary Ridge.

Medical Doctor in Pineville – **Dr. William Porcher** (1800-1833) of St. Stephen's Parish, established a practice in Pineville. He died after just a few years, but his influence lived on, thanks to his wife Isabella Sarah Peyre Porcher (1803-1890).

Medical Doctor in St. James' Santee – **Dr. John G. Shoolbred** (1796-1860), of St. James Santee (Woodville Plantation), son of James Shoolbred and Mary Middleton and husband of Emma Gibbes (m. 1820). He graduated from Yale and the University of Edinburgh, served as a magistrate, and was a vestryman and warden in his church.

Medical Doctor in Pineville – **Dr. Robert Press Smith II** (1839-1899), of St. John's (son of Robert Press Smith and Mary Mazyck Gaillard and husband of Margaret C. DuBose (m. 1864). He was educated at Pineville Academy, the Citadel, and the Medical College of South Carolina. He first worked for his father in a sawmill and then practiced medicine with Dr. Peter P.P. Palmer before moving to California.

Medical Doctor in Bonneau – **John Peyre Thomas** (1796–1859), the oldest son of Thomas Hasell Thomas (1767–1804) and Ann Peyre Walter (1778–1818), was born at Betaw Plantation in present-day Berkeley County, South Carolina. He graduated from South Carolina College (present-day University of South Carolina) in 1818 and earned his medical degree from the College of Physicians and Surgeons (now part of Columbia University) in New York in 1820.
In 1821, he returned to Berkeley County to practice medicine, and after his marriage to Harriet Jane Couturier (1810–1835), began planting near the present town of Bonneau at Oak Grove Plantation.
Medical Doctor in Pineville – **Dr. Henry Thorne** (1819-1869) of St. Stephen's; son of Mary Thorne. Dr. Thorn was born in England and

came to this country to live and work. His wife was Ann Patience Nelson. Dr. Thorn was a practicing physician in Pineville (see *Chas. News & Courier*, August 20, 1929). He died in October of 1869; see *Charleston Daily News*, October 8, 1869, where it states, "We learn that this gentleman died very suddenly of heart disease on Thursday last at St. Stephen's Depot. He was in his usual health, and had traveled that day from his residence, in Pineville, to the depot, where, while standing on the platform, he dropped suddenly dead. He was a gentleman of fine intelligence, and was well known in Williamsburg District, where he formerly lived and practiced his profession for a number of years."

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ByGone Berkeley
Adventures in History

20 – Black Oak Church & Its People

Black Oak Church (also called Trinity Black Oak Church) and its graveyard were located on a piece of land containing about three acres, and was situated on Black Oak Road, which ran pretty much northwest and southeast, all lying entirely within the bounds of what we know today as Lake Moultrie (It was much earlier called by locals, the Pinopolis Basin). This Road followed, most of the distance, running parallel to the Old Santee Canal path, until on the northern end, it veered off westerly at Hall's Plantation until it intersected to what we know today as State Highway 45. The Black Oak cemetery plot was bounded on the East by Black Oak Road and on all other sides by Pooshee Plantation.

Black Oak community and church, we are told by (Cousin) Richard D. Porcher, Jr., was so named for the common tree in the area, the Black Oak. We learn from Cousin that Black Oak is the source of "quercitron", a yellow dye important in dying in the South.

Black Oak community was dominated, initially, by Huguenots, then by 1800, the English and Scots had immigrated to the area, and it became an important meeting place and wealthy agricultural community. Richard Porcher says in his latest book, *Our Lost Heritage*, "Black Oak functioned as a social, economic, and political center for the surrounding neighborhood of planters."

The Episcopal Church of South Carolina was established in 1785, after the American Revolution. The Anglican Church had been banished. Historian Frederick A. Porcher tells us, "The condition of the [Episcopal] church after the Revolution was very low – I have heard of not one clergyman who appeared to have impressed the people with any respect either for his own virtues, or any reverence for the religion which he professed to teach."

Church going residents of Black Oak determined that they needed their own church rather than meeting in homes or traveling back and forth to Biggin, the Parish Church. We were told (above) Biggin had become Episcopal, though many residents were not yet ready to accept being Episcopal, though they used the Episcopal liturgy in worship. Roads were questionably usable during wet conditions, making travel to Biggin difficult if not impossible.

Black Oak Church was established in 1804, as a Chapel-of-Ease to the Parish Church of Biggin, and the first building constructed in 1808. The land for the church was given by Rene Ravenel, a part of Pooshee

Plantation. This original church building was later given to the local Methodist and relocated to MacBeth in 1847. (We learn that this old building was torn down and replaced with a new one in 1926.) A new, and larger building was constructed of wood with dimensions of approximately 30 x 60 feet, replacing the old. Black Oak Church became separated from Biggin in ca. 1855.

The people of St. John's Berkeley Parish were composed of immigrants and their descendants, who came to America seeking civil and religious liberty, and were mostly of French, English, and Scot origin. The French, for the most part, settled in Jamestown, and the English and Scot, more upriver to Eutawville. In their migrations up river, they sought the fertile lands along the Santee. These being "sturdy" people, met, and through their commercial interests, as well as their marital ties, blended and formed into a much stronger and greater people. The infusion of French blood helped broaden the spirit of the English and helped soften the theological austerity of the Scots. They became conspicuous in all vocations in this new country. Probably few, if any, churches can boast of a history more splendid than Black Oak, which became the Mother Church and rallying point for Episcopalians throughout this section.

Cousin Richard points out a very valid consideration we should know when talking about the condition of the church, its minister, and its congregation: "All clergy before the American Revolution had been Englishmen, and most of them were unable to sympathize with the action of the people, who rejected the yoke of the mother country, to which the English clergy were loyal. Many were men of little ability and not very exemplary in character and not calculated to recommend their church by the purity of lives. When all aid for their support was withdrawn, local men were not willing to be taxed for the support of adventurers whom they did not respect."

As the population increased and settlements became more extensive, additional church locations became more necessary and needed to be established at more convenient points. These brave settlers began with a wilderness, hostile natives (sometimes, not always), totally new climate conditions than what they were used to, and mostly log huts. As years passed by, development by thrift and industry produced fine plantations and the building of fine, handsome homes. Due to this industry, these settlers became influential, affluent, happy, and prosperous people. Their mode of living was one of culture and refinement, unsurpassed by any section of America.

Our present-day generation has but a faint conception, if any at all, of the horrors, poverty, distress and misgovernment following the War between the States. These were days that tried man's soul, and the

members of Black Oak congregation, many of whom are interred in this cemetery, bore themselves nobly during these most stressful days.

Another, and a more serious blow to this section, was the scourge of malaria, which shortly before and following the War between the States became very prevalent. One note: there is some authority confirming the statement that this section was practically free from malaria germ at the time the first settlers arrived. This statement seems to be supported by the fact that considerable evidence of numerous houses were erected in Santee Swamp, confirmed by many early maps.

The theory prevails that this malaria germ was brought here by slaves impregnated at the time of their entry, and as the years passed, the Anopheles mosquito became impregnated over this entire area. People began moving farther and farther from these swampy areas and were found occupying houses on the higher elevated and dryer portions of the pinelands. In earlier times, not knowing the cause of malaria fever, the people attributed it to the miasma in the atmosphere and there was a practice of burning pitch on stands erected on the premises. This practice was partially effective because it had a tendency to destroy and drive away the mosquitoes.

This recital of the menace to health may be attached by those whose attachment to these plantations is very clear. Should you refer to the tabulated list of those buried in Black Oak Cemetery, you will be impressed by the great number who died in the months of July and August, and the great number who died before the passing the usual span of life. The month of July accounts for 18% of the total deaths, over twice that of the monthly rate. This is very significant and proves that the land in this section was of an unhealthy climate . . . for whatever the cause.

Services at Black Oak were maintained without a break all during the Civil War, and enslaved people were provided for with tended services and religious affairs during this especially trying time. Over the years, the migration of the younger generation to more remunerative fields gradually reduced the power and leadership of this famous old church until services were held only once a year. The coming of South Carolina Public Service Authority in the late 1930's and early 1940's caused termination of church, and family members requested deceased members be re-located to a half-dozen or more locations.

1939 Annual Service at Trinity Church Black Oak
Courtesy copy archives of Dr. Richard D. Porcher, Jr.

ByGone Berkeley
Adventures in History

21 – Trademark of South Carolina 1928

In April 1928, Dr. Roe E. Remington, of the faculty of the University of Minnesota, was in Charleston, South Carolina, on a tour of the State, under the auspices of the recently created food analysis commission. He believed that a fact of great industrial and agricultural importance to the nation, and especially the southeastern part of the country, could be accomplished if vegetable products of this state were found to have sufficient iodine content to prevent or check simple goiter*, a common affliction over a wide area of the continent. (Iodine is a micronutrient required for thyroid hormone production.) Dr. Remington was recommended to the Food Analysis Commission as a desirable man to take charge of the work, and it was announced shortly thereafter he would accept the appointment, and he announced where he would establish his headquarters. **goiter - an abnormal enlargement of the thyroid gland that causes coughing, difficulty breathing, hoarseness, and difficulty swallowing.*

At the recent session of the legislature (in April 1928), a bill was passed creating this food products commission and appropriating the sum of $15,000 for making the investigation. Dr. Remington was engaged by the commission to come to South Carolina and look the field over with the idea of directing the work. He has returned to Minnesota and will give his decision soon. "Of course," Dr. Remington said, "I had to get much of my information from men familiar with conditions. The prospects, as I see them, are most promising."

Once again, we see South Carolina taking a lead role and being a pioneer in such work, and her enterprise in making provision for this investigation of her food products is most commendable and is attracting attention over the country. Some universities have carried on such work just as they carry on other investigations, but South Carolina, as a State, is taking the lead in this important matter.

In October of 1928 we see Dr. Roe E. Remington, Laboratory Director of South Carolina Food Research Commission, addressing the Young Men's Business League, making analyses of various foods and food crops grown in the Orangeburg section of South Carolina. He's looking toward establishment of the fact that there's sufficient iodine content to prevent the formation of goiter and other glandular diseases.

These troubles are very prevalent in many parts of the United States and only a very small percent of the natives of this section are affected. It is thought that the reason for this is the presence of iodine in the foods grown here. Dr. Remington believes if this be true, there will be a great

incentive for the finishing of food stuffs grown in this section for sale in the goiter infested areas of the United States and may attract settlers here as well as food finishing industries.

January 1929 – The food analyses program in South Carolina has resulted in the discovery of a large content of iodine in the products of the state's soil. As a result, the program will be continued in 1929, according to the State Budget Commission's adoption, which will continue to be carried out by the General Assembly. The budget board met in the governor's office and voted to recommend the continuation of the appropriation for the food analyses work.

At a conference in Columbia, it was brought out that the surveys and analyses made so far by the commission disclose that the food products of this state possess large quantities of iodine. It was stated by Dr. Weston that South Carolina potatoes possess sufficient iodine to absolutely prevent goiter, if eaten daily. Other food products also have a high iodine content.

It was anticipated that the disclosure along this line would revolutionize the farming industry of this state in creating a nationwide demand for the products of the Palmetto state's soil. It is expected, especially in the goiter belt of the north, where eighty-odd per cent of the people have goiter, foods raised in South Carolina's iodine laden soil would be much in demand.

February 1929 – We see that the official "trademark" of South Carolina farm produce has been copyrighted and registered by R.F. Taylor, Chairman of the new Industry Commission. Specifications of design, "The outline shall be the exact geographical map of the state of South Carolina in black. In the middle of the state there is to be a palmetto tree in green. Printed in plain letters diagonally across the map of the state shall be 'Fruits and vegetables grown in South Carolina contain a sufficient amount of iodine in its natural state to prevent or cure goiter and other conditions due to a deficiency of iodine. There shall be arranged inside the boundaries of the map, in their natural colors, the following fruits and vegetables: peaches, plums, apricots, dewberries, raspberries, strawberries, purple and white grapes, cherries, tomatoes, cucumbers, asparagus, lettuce, cabbage, Irish potatoes, snap beans, green peas, turnips, carrots, corn, onions, squash, eggplant, radishes, and okra. On the trademark will also be a picture of a Jersey or Holstein cow, or both."

May 1929 – An account of South Carolina's discovery of iodine content in fruits and vegetables grown in the state was presented by Dr. James A. Hayne, chairman of the State Board of Health, speaking to the

conference of state and provisional health authorities in Washington, D.C.

The health officer urged other states to conduct similar surveys while speaking on "endemic goiters and its relation to iodine content of food." "We know," Dr. Hayne said, "that South Carolina fruits and vegetables contain sufficient iodine for nutritional purposes and if a person eats South Carolina fruits and vegetables they can reasonably expect not to have goiter. The survey has brought out so many new facts in regard to iodine content of foods that it should be brought to the attention of North America, with a view that they might make an investigation and study of these facts and provide that such food analysis be made in their own states."

"The survey for goiter in South Carolina shows that we have a small amount of goiter, and one naturally says, if we have so much iodine in food, why do we have goiter at all? This is easily answered when we consider that all people do not eat South Carolina vegetables. A study of the situation seems to point that the vegetables used in the cities of South Carolina largely come from other states."

Dr. Hayne pointed out that the iodine content of vegetables is greater in the mountainous regions of the state than in any sections, except on the immediate seacoast.

June 1929 – A large number of delegates from the South Carolina Research Commission traveled to Detroit's national convention to deliver an address on iodine in the state and an exhibit shown along with literature that will bring directly to wide attention the value of this state's high percentage of iodine foods.

August 1929 – Hugh L. Oliver, Director of the Georgetown County Resources Commission read a paper and elaborated on the history of the iodine movement and stated, "Someday, South Carolina may be known as 'the Iodine State' wherever English is spoken."

Dr. Robert S. Bailey, a resident originally of Georgetown, now residing in St. Stephens, said that South Carolina has been suffering from sleeping sickness, and must be aroused. He pointed out the results accomplished by the iodine project.

In September of 1929, an interesting, surprising story of two young men from Conway, who took an old strip-down Ford, for which they paid $25, and after one of the young men finished with it, it resembled a "crazy quilt" in appearance, painted the sign, "South Carolina – the Iodine State," placarding the car body.

"That sign was our only worry," said young Jordan, "All the stops on the trip to and from Montreal, Canada, everywhere we stopped, crowds gathered about us wanting to know what the sign meant. I can now say that they know where South Carolina is and that it is the 'Iodine State.'" With a total investment of $25, these two young men stated that they made the entire trip to Montreal and returned with less than $50 each and with only .15 cents motor repairs.

Another interesting story known about the Breeden Brothers Auto Company in Bennettsville, who painted the 125' long roof of their company building with "Bennettsville, S.C." and underneath, the slogan, "South Carolina, the Iodine State." A light was placed on the water tank nearby so the inscription could be readily discernible at night, and during the day, is very visible by aviators over Bennettsville.

The massive public health screenings that accompanied the military draft during World War I had raised awareness about the problem of iodine deficiency in the United States, particularly in those areas of the mid-western prairie states where there were lower iodine concentrations in the soil. It made sense, therefore, for South Carolina to promote the high levels of iodine in the products produced in this state.

We now hear where, in October 1930, South Carolina automobile license plates, now being manufactured at the State Penitentiary in Columbia, will be put on sale in November. The 1931 plates will have green numerals and letters on a field of gray, and below the numerals are the words, "S.C. Iodine State 1931." Orders for 217,000 licenses were placed from the prison by highway authorities at a cost of five cents each. The first plate was finished and delivered to Governor John G. Richards.

Incidentally, Lt. Peck, of the Southern Railway detective force, remembers when automobile numbers were purchased from the "ten-cent" store. He doesn't remember if the numbers were required to be registered at the courthouse, "you just went to the ten-cent store, picked out the three-number combination you wanted, nailed them to a board, and hung the board on the back of your car. There was no such thing as 'tags' as we know them today. This was in (about) 1910."

Then we discover that in the year 1917, the State Highway Department was founded; this being the year of the first ever issued license plates. They featured black letters on a white background and were six inches wide. These pioneer plates' lengths varied up to 14¼ inches, long enough for all sorts of superfluous wording.

A States Dinner in Boston – it's October 1930 – an outstanding social event of the National American Legion Convention, consisting of places

for 1,140 Legion and distinguished guests will be at the state dinner. With each state having a separate table, South Carolina's will be decorated with baskets of blue and white flowers carrying out the state colors, a lovely silk state flag, and there will be fruits, vegetables, and other products of the "Wonderful Iodine State" on their table; each place setting marked with a miniature state flag, and small market baskets of jellies and fruits will be given as favors.

During October of 1930, we see that new industry began moving into upstate South Carolina with the express purpose of providing more of "our superior vegetables over those of sister states."

Then we hear in November 1930 Columbia's radio station "WIS" is producing radio talk shows whose guests have been invited to the White House by President Hoover, and Mrs. W.C. Catheart, Director of Children's Bureau of South Carolina, who will be making a presentation about the "wonderful Iodine state" for our dependent children. (We learn the "WIS" call letters stand for *Wonderful Iodine State.* Pretty neat!)

June 1931 – Despite a lot of bickering back and forth from auto owners, various advertisers, and organizations, for and against the state's slogan the "Iodine State", the South Carolina Highway Department once again approved the iodine slogan contested by many . . . among whom was our Natural Resources Commission. 200,000 license plates have been ordered from the State Penitentiary for 1932.

June 1932 – Bickering over the state's slogan continues, though the slogan on South Carolina license plates has changed, slightly, for 1933, a change to the "Iodine Products State." Many are questioning why there's no advertising on the products themselves in grocery stores which state "contains iodine." Good question!

June 1933 – One tells the story of the moonshiner who labeled his corn liquor with a memory of South Carolina's self-advertisement as the Iodine State: "*Calhoun County Corn, from the heart of the iodine belt. Not a goiter in a gallon*."

August 1933 – Chief Highway Commissioner Ben Sawyer announced today that the "Iodine State" slogan has been <u>omitted</u> from license plates, "The Legislature has changed the license law, requiring the expiration date of the license plate to be added, eliminating space available for the slogan." He says, "I regret very much that the words 'Iodine Products State' do not appear on the plates in 1934."

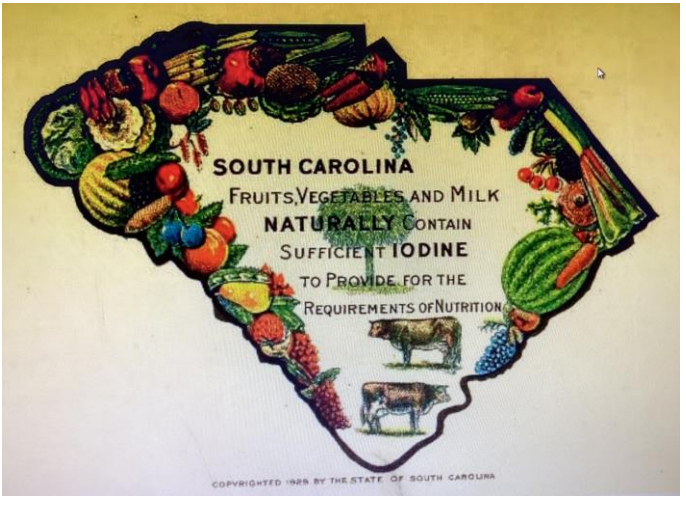
In the United States, iodized salt first became available on grocery shelves in Michigan on May 1, 1924 (surprising to me!). The region had largely been severely iodine deficient, and Hartsock, in 1926, described

an outbreak of thyrotoxicosis in adults who took iodized salt living in the Great Lakes region of the goiter belt. Salt was initially fortified with iodine at 100 mg/kg, resulting in an estimated average intake of 500 µg iodine daily. However, many individuals in other states continued to resist efforts to make iodized salt freely available for the next several decades. Although a bill by the U.S. Endemic Goiter Committee in 1948 proposing the mandatory introduction of iodized salt in all states was defeated, the proportion of U.S. households which use only iodized salt has remained stable at 70%–76% since the 1950s. Estimates are that the proportion of U.S. households with access to iodized salt now exceeds 90%.

The State's historical markers erected from 1929-1936 had the official state-shaped trademark as a header that read "All Rich In Iodine" (described earlier), but by 1936, the markers no longer carried the slogan; it was replaced by a palmetto tree flanked by an "S C". It's important that the marker program was briefly part of the larger campaign to promote South Carolina's agricultural production. Put the project, program, trademark, slogan, and all the State's efforts together, South Carolina seems to have made all its people, as well as many of our United States' people, much healthier. For that, I give them a big "thumbs up"!

And finally, a brag for Berkeley County, as far as is known, there are only two of these oldest historical markers, with the state trademark "Rich In Iodine" still in existence in the state . . . and they are both in Pineville!

References/Resources*: News and Courier, Charleston newspaper; collections from library of Keith Gourdin.*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TO PROVIDE FOR THE
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ByGone Berkeley
Adventures in History

22 – Tragic Fate of Chicora & Cemeteries

It's Of the many, many places in Berkeley County's history, probably none have a more tragic story than that connected with Chicora and its cemeteries. Several months ago, I believe in July, I gave you some information about the town, the railroad and timber companies. Recently, I found a bit more to share.

From bits and pieces of history obtainable, the tract, or plantation, on which this Chicora cemetery is located, was originally the property of the Prioleau family. From the Prioleau's, it passed into the possession of the Ward's, then later came into the ownership of the Porcher family, but it retained the name of *Wards Plantation*.

About 1891, this plantation, which contained several thousand acres, being covered with an original (supposedly) growth of the finest pine and hardwood trees, became the object of covetous desire on the part of timber speculators from all parts of the country. Finally, John and A.S. Emerson of Boston, became the purchasers. They immediately erected their sawmill, the proportion and efficiency of which was unsurpassed by anything of its kind in that section. The financial returns from this enterprise became as profitable that the Emersons began to entertain dreams of fabulous wealth obtainable from this plantation. Developing the land and making it more accessible to the outside world, they constructed a railroad of about ten miles in length, from Moncks Corner, on the mainline of the A.C.L. Railroad, to a spot on this tract of land which they christened "New England City."

Streets and lots were laid out for a town of considerable proportions. Stores, dwellings, and other buildings sprang up in mushroom fashion, and the trains maintained a regular schedule for passengers and freight for points north and south.

One of the train's passenger cars utilized was at one time a crack coach running between Brooklyn and New York. Local natives looked in wonder as the train passed over the road. To them, it signified development, prosperity, and the arrival of the machine age.

So enthusiastic were the Emersons, promoters of the little city, that they drilled an artesian well 1100 feet deep, the first such well ever bored in Berkeley County, and so convinced were they of the curative value of this water, that they sent it in large tanks to Charleston, where it was bottled and sold to a credulous public under the name of "Chicora Carbonated Water". So fast and so far, the news of the virtuous qualities of this water traveled that prompt shipments were ordered by

customers as far north as the state of Pennsylvania. It was at this stage of development that the name of this mushroom town was changed from that of New England City (which the locals never did like!) to Chicora.

The best citizens of Pinopolis and Moncks Corner believed so fully in the splendid medicinal qualities of this plain artesian water, and every morning, sent jugs by train to this well to be filled and used as drinking water in their home.

The towns' promoters reluctantly conveyed a few of the lots in Chicora to people eager to get in on the ground floor of this magically developing property.

In a short time, it dawned on the Emersons that the natives of the surrounding territory were too inactive and too sparsely settled to be depended upon for rapid colonization of the town, and although they had brough down from the north a certain number of families, they soon realized that their project was unsuccessful, for most of the inhabitants were soon stricken with malaria, many of them died, and the few remaining were not sufficient to insure normal growth of the town.

The Emersons, as the original promoters, at this juncture, became discouraged and sold the project to a certain party by the name of J.L. and Daniel L. Risley. In order to rejuvenate the project, Risley conceived a plan which brought tragedy to many people and a calamitous end to the city.

The Risley's, apparently caring naught for the end fate of the first contingent of colonists, went north and persuaded another group of about 300 people, including families, to come down and live at Chicora.

Those people, unaware of the fate of their predecessors, and ignorant of the dangers of malarial fever and of means to combat it, moved in. They began at once, with energy and vigor, to prepare for permanent abode. In a short time, the majority of this new population became infected with the disease, which in many cases went into hemorrhagic (or black) fever, and they died so rapidly that it was impossible to get all the bodies in cemeteries for burying, and, in the emergency, many had to be interred in their own backyards.

It is said that about this time, cases of the epidemic having spread abroad, the government threatened to send troops in to remove the settlers.

The friends and relatives of these unfortunate people, afterwards, sent funds to have many of the bodies reinterred, either at their former homes, or at Friendship and/or Mt. Olivet churchyards nearby.

The rails of the railroad were torn up in 1908, and the city of Chicora vanished as fast as it had begun.

Through personal interview with local residents at that time (1939-1940), cemetery investigators learned the names of four persons believed to have been buried in unmarked graves: Earle Stratton, age 5; Herbert Stratton, age 4; Tom Gould; Mrs. Elizabeth Gunkle.

Advertising, at the time of cemeteries affected by the flooding waters of reservoirs (lakes), brought no response and it was determined to leave the few remaining graves undisturbed. Today, the cemetery is covered by waters of the Pinopolis Reservoir known as Lake Moultrie.

The black cemetery, also located about ten miles northwest of Moncks Corner, was on the property of the W.S. Grooms Estate, and was overgrown and neglected, with no fencing. At the time of the 'inventory' in 1940, investigators determined there was "no evidence of any graves, and it has not been used as a burial ground for perhaps sixty years or more." No names of the interred were discovered. Advertising brought no response, so it was determined that the area would be completely submerged, and the cemetery was left undisturbed.

Resource: *C.W. Walsh, Sr.' history research during years 1939-1976.*

Unknown Graves
A painting of Betaw Church, courtesy of Louise Edens

23 – Christmas Concert – Van High

Pineville, A Historic Refuge – Pineville Chapel, Celebrating its 197th Christmas

Originally published December 7, 2007, in the *Columbia Star* Newspaper, by Warner M. Montgomery & Keith Gourdin (1st cousins).

The Pineville Chapel celebrated its 197th Christmas on December 2, 2007, with a Musical Recollection of the Savior's Birth. The concert was directed by Van High, who organized the 13-member chorus, pianist, and guitarist– all from the Pineville-Moncks Corner area.

At intermission, Keith Gourdin explained the historical importance of the Pineville Chapel, which was founded in 1810. The event was organized by Keith and Betty Gourdin of Pineville. All 80 seats were sold out. Following the concert, refreshments were served in the churchyard.

A Christmas Concert by Van High & Friends ~

A very special Christmas Concert was performed by *Van High & Friends Choir* on December 2nd at the Pineville Chapel. I say a "very special" because it was not only the first in this historic Chapel of 1810 but has led to the event becoming an annual affair. With folks attending, sometimes from several states, most always the Chapel is filled to capacity with those who have grown to love the beautiful musical selections, especially chosen for this special place and time of year. I can't tell you how many times, every year, participants tell us, "We look forward to this every year, as the Concert and fellowship at the Reception is what starts our Christmas season."

The Pineville Chapel, circa 1810, located at 1014 Matilda Circle in Pineville, SC, is quite possibly the most perfect location for such a special musical, for several reasons. First, the Chapel was selected and listed on the National Register of Historic Places by the South Carolina Department of Archives and History back in 1992, and, is the oldest building in historic Pineville. Secondly, and rather shockingly to all in attendance, after the first musical selection was performed, recognition of the most amazing acoustical sounds were heard – like no one had ever heard before! One of these choristers, a professional singer who had sung in famous and highly recognized theaters all over the world, told us, " . . . never have I sung in, nor heard, such astounding acoustics as this little Chapel exudes." (There are no "bad" seats in the Pineville

Chapel, wherever you sit, you hear, perfectly, the beautiful sounds being sung.)

This first concert of 2007 was a beautiful musical recollection of our Savior's birth, special selections chosen by Director Van (Bubba) High and his choir of thirteen choristers: Lydia Lankford was the Accompanist, with Valarie Beaudin, Kim Rhett, Lyn Tindal, Carolyn Burbage, Suzanne Ferguson, Judy Walton, Brenda Barry, Dick Brumhall, George Altman, Forrest Sessions, Brian Sheppard, Phil Phail, Trey Carter, and Bob Rhett singing.

Accompanist Lydia Lankford played the historic piano, manufactured between 1885 and 1890 in New York City, a Mathushek, that produced glorious sounds of music echoing from the Chapel walls. The piano had ties to the Gourdin family of Pineville. Pauline Turner Holman and her husband, a professional musician, originally owned the piano. Years after the death of her husband, Pauline Turner Holman gave the piano to her young great-nephew, Palmer Gourdin. When Palmer later sold his home in Pineville, he left the piano to the new owners, Eddie and Christine Brown, who gave the piano to the Pineville Chapel. Over the years, it has been a wonderful addition to the historic chapel, as well as a perfect home for the piano.

This first Pineville Chapel Christmas Concert of 2007 was performed for the benefit of *Berkeley North Historical & Cultural Committee*. Funds raised by ticket sales and donations are scheduled to be used for maintenance and upkeep of the Chapel, as well as other places of historic value and importance to the *Berkeley North* area of Berkeley County.

Van High & Friends received a standing ovation from the audience for the outstanding performance, and were invited to perform a Spring Concert in 2008 (which was done!). A reception was held on the churchyard grounds where refreshments and fellowship was enjoyed by all.

This (above) was our first Pineville Chapel Christmas Concert, sponsored by our non-profit, *Berkeley North Historical & Cultural Committee*. Everyone has seen a lot of changes in the last sixteen (16) years . . . and I might add, all to the good! First, a name change from *Committee* to *Association*. And through the support and help of friends and attendees from all over the state and as far away as Virginia, we've been able to not only continue the Christmas Concert, but also keep the ole Pineville Chapel looking good, inside and out. (Hope to be able to put on a new coat of paint on the outside after the New Year gets here.) Van High & Friends' Choir has grown from those early days, the choir sometimes as many as twenty-eight strong. (Wait until you hear this

year's concert! It's going to be awesome!!!) Our crowd, tickets most always sold out, has grown to 120. Another change is we don't have refreshments "in the churchyard" any longer, but have moved the Reception to the *J.K. Gourdin House*, where it's a bit more Christmas-sy.

This year is very, very special to me. The Concert and Reception is being held without my loving bride of (almost) 63 years. It has been mighty tough over these last few months, preparing the House and Chapel for the Concert, without her. If I didn't know she was looking down and "overseeing" my work, I'd be a basket-case (some say 'I already are one'). But she taught me well, and though it's extremely hard without her, I'm sure her angels are steering me through to the next task. With God's many blessings, I have no doubt this will be the best Concert ever! I can't say I'm ready yet (still plenty to do), but I have no doubt that heaven's music will be awesomely heard in that beautiful Pineville Chapel on December 3rd, 2023. I can hardly wait!

Van High & Friends Choir 2007, with Accompanist and Director

Van High & Friends in 2007 in concert

Van High & Friends 1st Pineville Chapel Christmas Concert – 2007
This first concert, held December 2, 2007, was a beautiful Musical Recollection of our Savior's birth; each a special selection chosen by Director Van (Bubba) High, and sung by his choir of thirteen: Lydia Lankford, Accompanist, with Valarie Beaudin, Kim Rhett, Lyn Tindal, Carolyn Burbage, Suzanne Ferguson, Judy Walton, Brenda Barry, Dick Brumhall, George Altman, Forrest Sessions, Brian Sheppard, Phil Fail, Trey Carter, and Bob Rhett.

The Pineville Chapel was celebrating its 197th Christmas. Keith and Betty Gourdin organized the event, which was presented for the benefit of *Berkeley North Historical & Cultural Committee*. A crowd of eighty (80) enjoyed the beautiful concert. Afterwards, Director Van High & Friends were invited to return with a Spring Concert (which they did!). Refreshments were enjoyed on the churchyard grounds.

Photos taken from a Berkeley Independent newspaper article by Betty Delk.

ByGone Berkeley
Adventures in History

24 – Old Jamestown, Why Abandoned?

The earliest French attempts at settlement in Carolina followed soon after the repeal of the Edict of Nantes in 1562, when a group of Huguenots, led by Jean Ribault, was unsuccessful in establishing a colony.

The Huguenots were a group of Protestants who became the center of political and religious quarreling in France during the 16th and 17th centuries. The word "Huguenot" was a nickname originally given to Protestants at Tours, France. The group is thought to have assembled for Divine worship under cover of darkness near the "Bate of King Hugo." Hugo was regarded by people as a spirit that wandered abroad during the night hours. Huguenots became refugees who were being persecuted in their homeland by the Catholic royalty.

Within a forty-year period, thousands of Huguenots were slaughtered because they desired to worship God according to their "dictates of conscience." On April 13, 1598, they obtained passage of the Edict of Nantes, which constituted a Charter of political and religious freedom for the Huguenots. The Catholic Clergy refused to accept validity of the Edict, which stirred up further persecutions of the Huguenots, and on October 18, 1685, Louis XIV revoked the Edict of Nantes on the pretext that adherents of Protestantism had embraced Catholicism. (Note: Huguenot persecutions were very much similar to the atrocities we hear taking place on today's news; just as bad, if not worse; unbelievable!) About 400,000 abandoned all possessions and left France for England. Many, later, came to America, primarily to enjoy religious freedom after the Revocation of the Edict of Nantes.

Huguenots were Calvinists, or Reformed. Huguenots "embraced with enthusiasm" the hopes and disciplines of Calvinism. That was their "real driving power." Max Weber agrees: Calvinist piety "penetrated and dominated their whole lives."

The first permanent colony including French Huguenots was established at Port Royal in 1670. South Carolina soon became the principal retreat of the Huguenots in the New World. Reverend Richebourg brought part of his Huguenot congregation to the Carolinas from Virginia and nearly a thousand Huguenots emigrated to Carolina from Holland alone.

The British were sympathetic of the Huguenot plight and allowed them to settle in Carolina. Emigrants were attracted to four principal regions outside of Charles Town; at the headwaters of the Ashley River near Wassamassaw; the Eastern Branch of the Cooper River at French

Quarter Creek; and (what was to become) Jamestown, along the Santee River, north and south sides.

By 1685, French settlers had begun to settle the Santee River Swamp, primarily from Lenud's Ferry to Mazyck's Ferry, just below Wambaw Creek, and by 1700, more than eighty families had settled there. The area up river from Lenud's Ferry was settled, chiefly, by English, and became known as English Santee. The date of this original settlement has not been fixed, though a number of grants of land have been found with the date of 1685.

By 1705, the number of families had risen to approximately 100, and the Lords Proprietors ceded to the French inhabitants a tract of land for a town or a plantation in common, as they should prefer. This settlement was, and continued for some time, to be the most advanced settlement of Europeans towards the interior and Northern portions of the province. The area contained the largest French settlement in South Carolina outside of Charles Town.

At that time, Santee and Sewee Indians also were living along the lower Santee region. Within a short time, this lower area became known as the French Santee settlement.

Refugees settled on plantations to cultivate the vine, olives, and silk wares. None of these worked out, but the settlers were successful in planting indigo, rice, and other crops. When there was a crop loss due to flooding (keeping in mind they were living in Santee Swamp!), naval stores provided work and income.

The principal center for the Huguenots became known as Jamestown, created shortly after January 29, 1705/6. The town site originally was to include 141 acres on the bank of the Santee. Twenty-four numbers were assigned to lots within the town, but eventually, a total of thirty-six lots were distributed. In addition to the thirty-six lots, the town contained a church, parsonage, cemetery, glebe, commons area, and a rectangular road network. (see redrawn plats)

Lots 1 through 24 originally sold for 40 shillings each; Lots 25 to 30 for 60 shillings; and Lots 31 to 36 for 40 shillings (10 shillings = .06 cent today). No records are available for sale of eight of the lots. Jamestown lots were purchased by Gaillard, Chastaigner, Guibal, Ravenel, Gendron, Robert, Bruneau, Pastie, DuBose, Cadeaux, Thibout, Foucherou, Rambert, Carrion, Lejeau, Seron, Couillandeau, and Nord, and as you can tell, many of these family names are no longer in existence.

The date of abandonment of Jamestown is uncertain, however, it was largely abandoned by 1760. When the earliest census was conducted, in 1790, St. James Parish contained a total of 3,433 persons, 3,202 of which were slaves. By 1830, Jamestown had already been incorporated into a 490-acre plantation, when Theodore Gourdin II, executor of Theodore Gourdin I, (my 4th and 5th Gr-Grandfathers) deceased, conveyed the property to Samuel J. Palmer. By that time, it was no longer referenced as Jamestown, but was known as Mount Moriah.

Ravenel, writing in 1900, stated, "There are no remains of the Town. The site of the Church is known and near it were graves which are remembered, but many are now obliterated." In 1931, the Huguenot Society of South Carolina commemorated the St. James Church site at Jamestown by erecting a granite Cross. Similar crosses (three of which are in Berkeley County) were erected on other Huguenot Church sites at other South Carolina settlements.

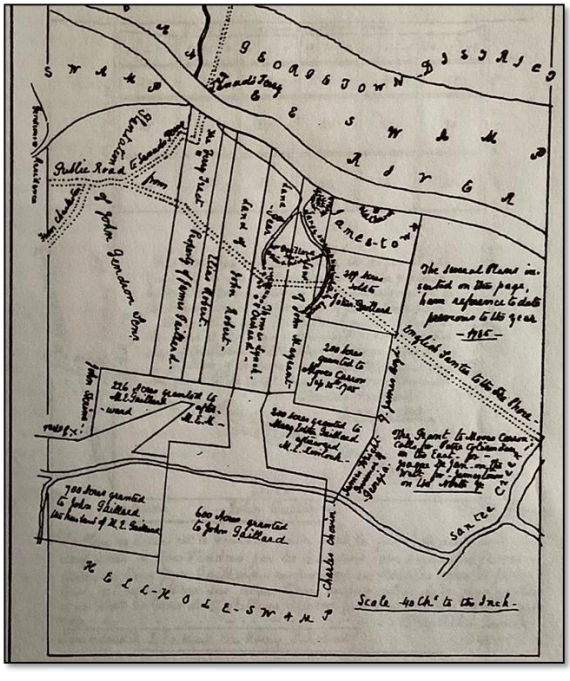
The Church at Jamestown was declared the Parish Church of St. James Santee, quite probably built between April 1706 and December 1706, and it functioned as Parish Church until May 11, 1754. It was a wooden building on a brick foundation.

The French Santee settlement contained the largest unadulterated concentration of any of the French Huguenot settlements in South Carolina. During the early eighteenth century, Jamestown was the commercial and religious secular center of this settlement. Historians have downplayed the role of this urban center in the history of South Carolina, yet the interpretation of Jamestown as a town that never materialized may be incorrect. Why was it abandoned? The archaeological remains of Jamestown are sparse, but they do serve to identify the location of the town. Could it be that with the energy and drive of these Huguenot families, their determination to succeed, continue to worship God, freely, their move up river to new land took them from Jamestown? The French presence in Colonial South Carolina was very important in the formation of the colony.

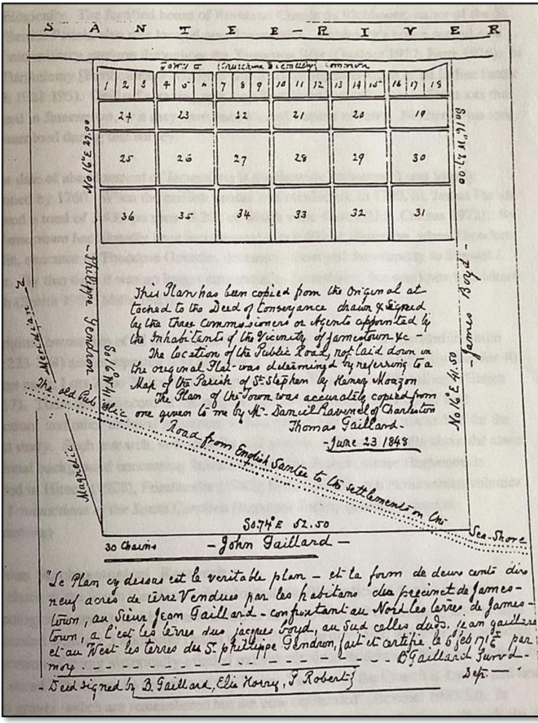
A good friend, Dr. Al Truesdale, in describing and defining the Huguenot, says this, and I love his in-depth statement: "Although pursuing wealth as an end in itself, or spontaneously enjoying one's possessions, is reprehensible, obtaining wealth as a result of labor in one's calling is a sign of God's blessing, a sure confirmation of election. Here, in a theologically grounded asceticism, we encounter the dynamic that birthed capitalism as a rational deployment of capital. The Huguenots embodied and demonstrated this spirit. They and their fellow Calvinists had been brought to this place by a religion that taught them to 'regard the pursuit of wealth as, not merely as an advantage,

but a duty'. A 'halo of sanctification' had been placed upon the pursuit of wealth." Van Ruymbeke recognizes that Huguenot settlers were "bent on securing as much wealth as possible in its least volatile form, namely, real estate." These St. James Santee' families, large as they were, I believe, seem to most assuredly have accomplished their tasks at hand . . . and surpassed their goals (though they may never have admitted it). To be continued . . .

References: *Collections from Library of Keith Gourdin; Huguenots' Material Success, by Al Truesdale, PhD; Jamestown Reconnaissance Survey, by Lamar Institute, Inc.; and The Huguenot Crosses of South Carolina, by the Huguenot Society of South Carolina.*



Redrafted Plat by Thomas Gaillard,
Originally drawn 1715/6 by Barthelemy Gaillard, Surveyor



Redrafted Plat by Thomas Gaillard,
Originally drawn 1715/6 by Barthelemy Gaillard, Surveyor

25 – Old Jamestown, Still Puzzling

Today, much of the old French Santee region is again covered with a forest of pine and hardwood trees, that of the Francis Marion National Forest. Berkeley County has this most important namesake for our patriot son, Francis Marion, and we are so proud of it. Only occasional piles of bricks, scattered about the swamp, and very scarcely found on the highland, mark the spot where once stood a plantation house or a family cemetery. Few old ditch banks remain, marking the fields used in rice culture.

If you remember last week's story of the Huguenots, they were a peaceable, industrious people, serving God faithfully in a wilderness. Agriculture and Indian trade were the main occupation of these early settlers. They gained wealth by raising indigo, rice, and naval stores (turpentine and pitch).

By 1720, the south side of the Santee had been substantially settled, mostly by French Huguenots who had migrated up from Goose Creek and the Cooper River areas. First, they colonized the lower Santee on both banks, and then looked for additional lands to cultivate.

We are told by J. Russell Cross, in his *Historic Ramblin's Through Berkeley*, "The settlers began the practice of Indian slavery as they moved inland. Despite the fact that the Proprietors tried to discourage it, the Indian men captured in war were sold in slavery to the northern colonies and the 'sugar islands,' and a few were employed locally. Indian women sometimes became the wives of the early settlers. At times, the early settlers and traders became lost by adoption into Indian groups. In many instances, Indian women captured in war became wives to Negro slaves with the resulting offspring referred to in old wills as Mestees, Mustees, or Mestizoes. Samuel Gaillard Stoney attributes to this group the origin of the slave class of house and body servants, drivers, and mechanics."

None of the thirteen original colonies received a stronger infusion of Huguenot blood, faith, and valor than in South Carolina. Many of these early French Huguenot families gradually moved upriver as their families grew and more land was needed cleared for additional fields. It wasn't too many years before they discovered the older fields to be "worn out" and not producing as they had previously. (One needs to be reminded that adding fertilizer to rebuild the depleted soil during that day and time was all but unheard of.) Agricultural practices upstream also caused flooding from the Santee. These frequent freshets, contributing from the seasonal rains, caused the plantation homes and

residences to become considerably unhealthy for the settlers living there. (It would be almost 100 years before "summer resort" homes and pineland villages were established.)

And before we leave Old Jamestown, I only just found this statement by Maxwell Clayton Orvin, "Twenty-seven lots were sold, but there is no evidence that houses were built on any of them . . ." And as you may recollect, I told you last week of Ravenel telling us, writing in 1900, "There are no remains of the Town." This is puzzling to me, even with the archeological studies that have been done, that there seems to be no trace of housing on any of these Town lots or locations. Old Jamestown, I believe, still has some explaining to do. Why was it abandoned?

Mt. Moriah Plantation was established, if you remember last week's story, at the site of the laid-out town of Jamestown, or French Jamestown, and consisted of around 500 acres. West of the old town of Jamestown was established what became Lenud's Ferry, and adjoining, westward of this location, was Ballsdam Plantation, also bordering the Santee River.

Just a bit about Lenud: One earlier settler, living on the north side of the Santee where Highway 41 crosses today, was Nicholas Lenud. The year was 1730. His sons, Albert and Nicholas, along with Jonathan Skrine, owned lands adjoining his. In 1730, Lenud's wife, Magdelene, was given 400 acres to add to Lenud's property by her brother. Nicholas died in 1735, leaving an impressive estate including 21 slaves. Like the settlers on Black River, a number of them had African names – Coffee, Ponjo, Sabina, and Cudjo. Nicholas had nine horses, three designated "riding", named Roman, Toby, and Jollyboy. Nicholas was armed with two guns, a cutlass*, and he kept books.
**cutlass – a short, slightly curved, sword, formally used by sailors.*

Abraham Michau, another brother-in-law of Nicholas Lenud, joined Lenud on adjoining lands north of the Santee. In the year 1739, Michau was granted the right to operate the north bank portion of the ferry, which was established to cross the Santee. Soon, thereafter, this franchise was passed to Albert Lenud, Nicholas' son, and became known as Lenud's Ferry. Unlike other early settlers of the area, the Michaus did not own many slaves. Abraham, Sr., owned seven when he died in 1767, and his son five, when he died in 1774. They had acquired considerable land along the Santee and north to the Black River. Like his neighbors, he was well armed with three guns and two cutlasses, and he too, had quite a collection of books.

Ballsdam Plantation was owned, very early in time, by the Reverend Pierre Robert, the first Calvanistic minister in South Carolina. He was the first minister to travel by horseback to reach his congregation.

Dr. John Saunders Palmer (1804-1881) owned this plantation prior to 1860. He was educated at Pineville Academy, South Carolina College, and the College of Physicians and Surgeons of New York, and practiced briefly with Dr. Samuel Cordes of St. James Santee. However, he spent most of his life planting cotton and rice at Lenud's Ferry on the Santee. He was a member of the South Carolina House and Senate and one of the signers of the Ordinance of Secession.

Ballsdam changed ownership a number of times. Former Governor Robert E. McNair inherited it from his father, who bought it in the early 1930's. He had come here from North Carolina, where he was in the timber business. The original house, referred to as the "Old Manse" was destroyed by fire during the Great Depression in the 1930's. Ballsdam's present house is a good example of a pineland summer house.

References: *Collections from Library of Keith Gourdin; Huguenots' Material Success, by Al Truesdale, PhD; Historic Ramblin's Through Berkeley, by J. Russell Cross; Jamestown Reconnaissance Survey, by Lamar Institute, Inc.; and The Huguenot Crosses of South Carolina, by the Huguenot Society of South Carolina.*

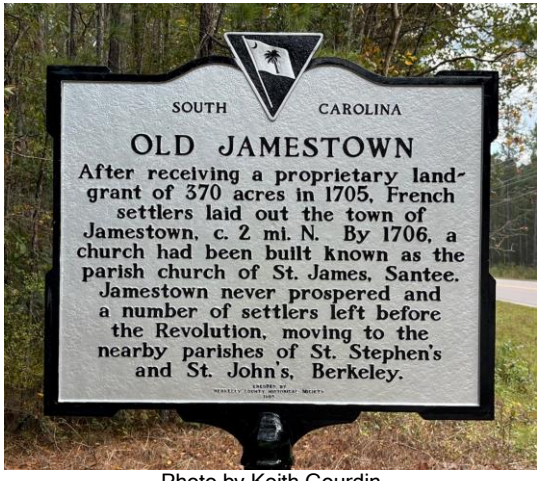
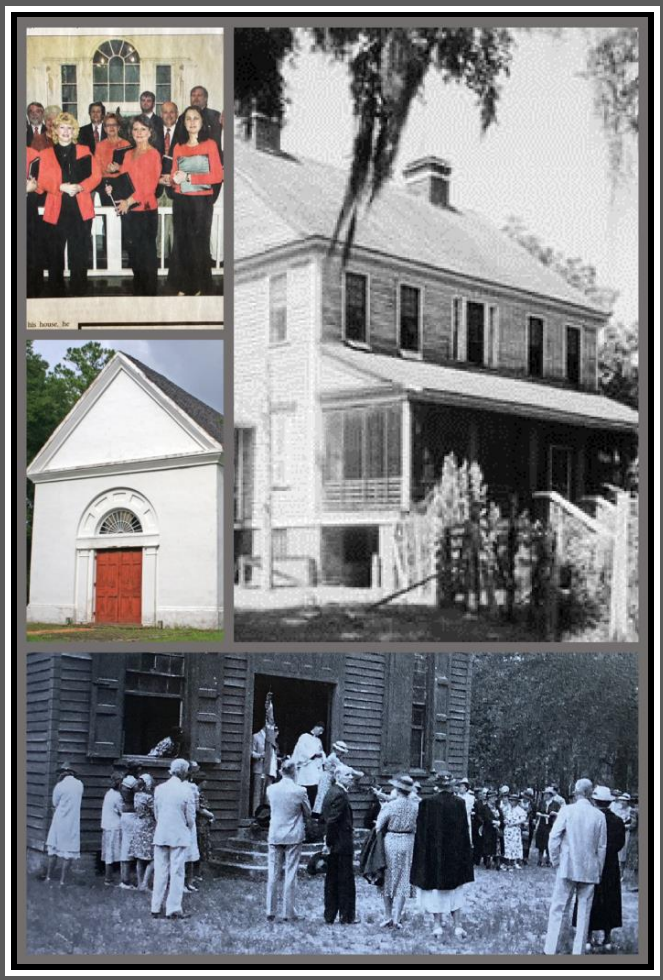


Photo by Keith Gourdin



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