

SOME HISTORIC SPOTS IN BERKELEY

By

HENRY RAVENEL DWIGHT



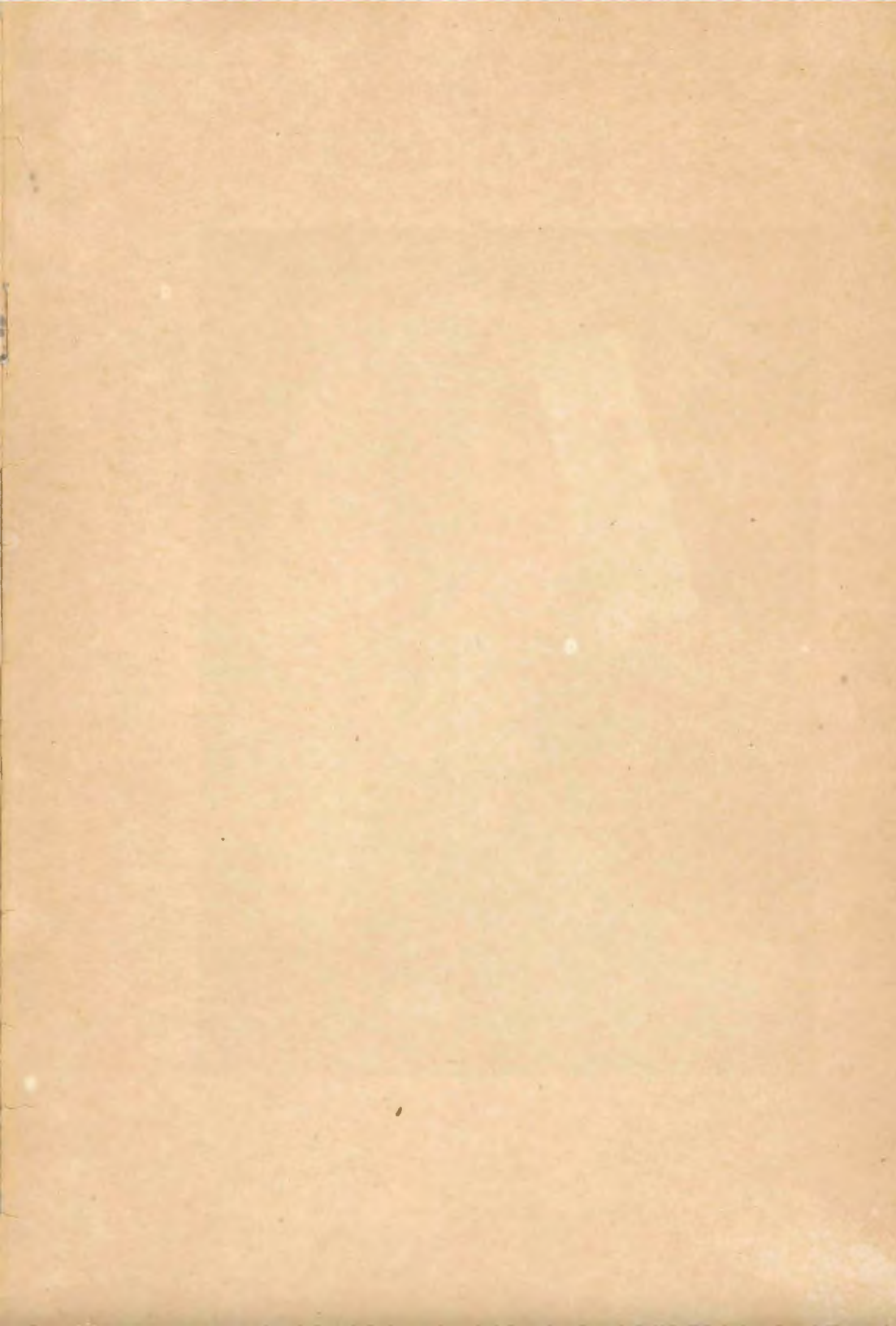
Published By

THE WOMANS' AUXILIARY OF TRINITY CHURCH

Pinopolis, South Carolina

WALKER, EVANS & COGSWELL COMPANY
CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA

1944

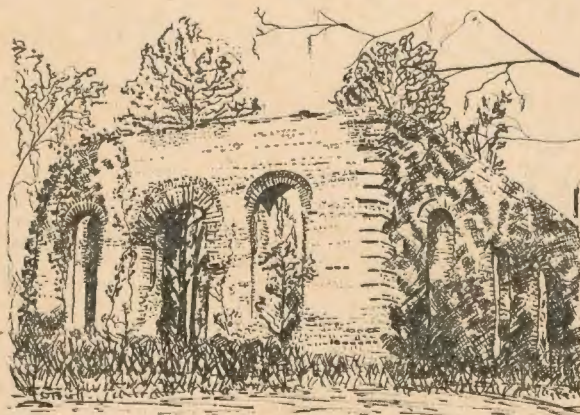




SOME HISTORIC SPOTS IN BERKELEY

By

HENRY RAVENEL DWIGHT

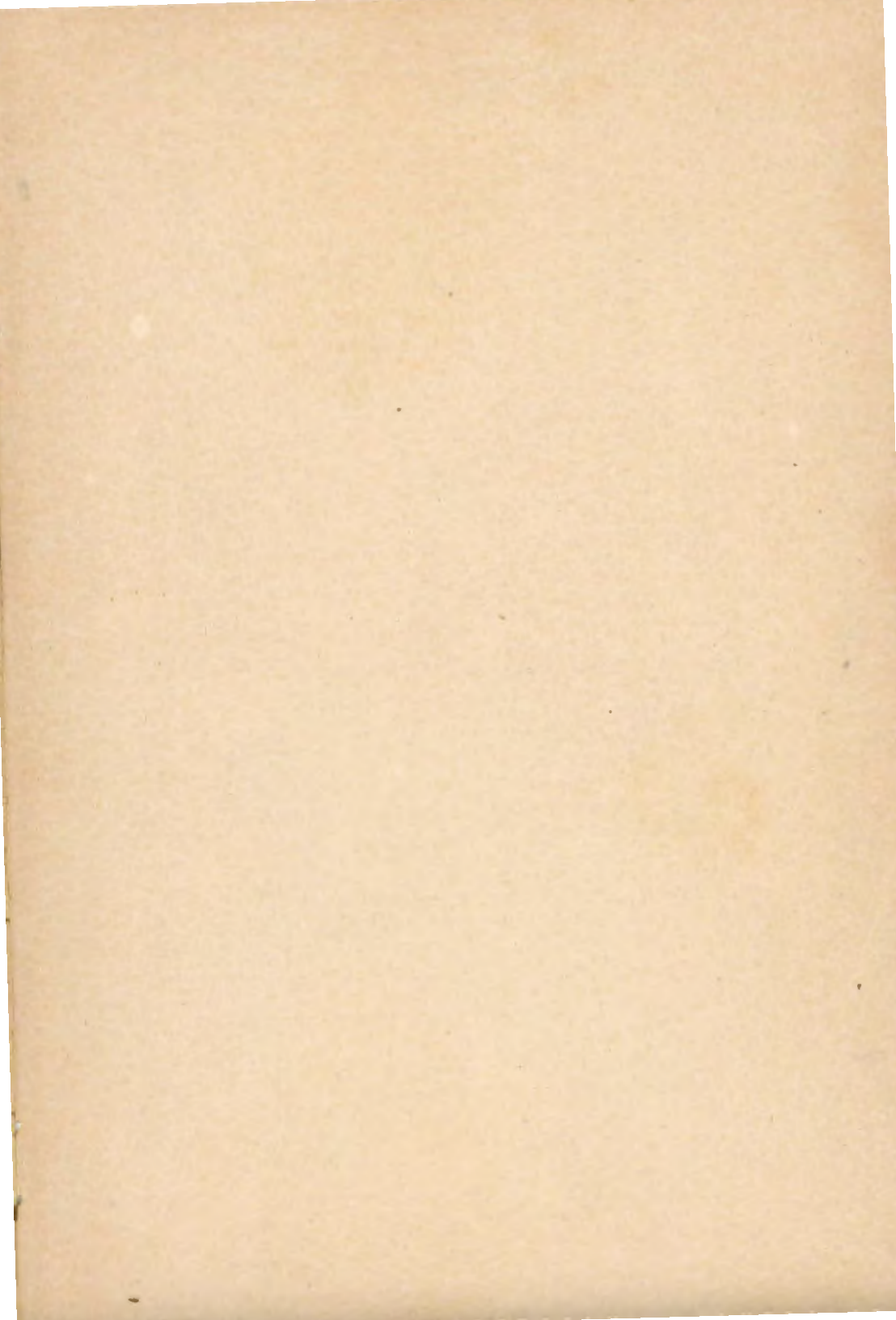


Ruins of St. John's Parish Church
Known locally as Biggin Church
Built in 1712

Published By

THE WOMANS' AUXILIARY OF TRINITY CHURCH

Pinopolis, South Carolina



FOREWORD

There is a line from Horace which runs "Ille terrarum mihi praeter omnis angulus ridet". Freely translated, the poet declares: "This spot of earth smiles on me more than all the world". The quotation is a favorite with Henry Ravenel Dwight, and well it may be; for the one spot that smiles more on him than all the world is Berkeley County in general, and St. John's in particular.

With Berkeley and its plantations, churches, and battle sites; its history, tradition, and lore; its families and its culture running back to Proprietary days, no one is more familiar than Mr. Dwight, who has lived for more than half a century in intimate contact with the places he describes.

Born in Missouri, where his parents moved immediately after the War between the States, Mr. Dwight moved with his father and mother back to the home in Pinopolis which his parents had left ten years before. He was then at the impressionable age of seven and must have absorbed much of the joy that was his father's: that of the exile coming home; that of returning to family and friends, to the land of his forefathers.

The house to which he moved sixty-four years ago has been his home ever since. The places that had been dear to his forefathers, paternal and maternal, for two hundred and fifty years, have been dear to him. He sees them in better perspective today than did any of them in his day; more discerningly, historically, than Professor Fredrick Porcher or Mr. Samuel DuBose.

This pamphlet first appeared twenty-three years ago. It is printed now in a revised and enlarged edition. Careful study and conscientious research have gone into it. Historically, it is accurate; but the reader must realize that more than mere accuracy is contained herein. The pages that follow describe scenes more intimate to Mr. Dwight than to any man alive today; scenes which represent to him a life-time of close and familiar association.

There is an old saying about a book which aptly describes its life-like quality: "This book was once a living man". Thank God, in this case, the present tense can be used!

Mount Pleasant, S. C.
September 20, 1944

FRANCIS MARION KIRK

INDEX

A

Albine, famous racing mare—46

B

Barnet's Tavern—34
 Belle Isle—30, 31
 Beresford, Richard—44
 Berkeley County established—7
 Black Oak—27, 29
 Black Oak Agricultural Society—29
 Black Oak Church—27
 Bonneau's Ferry—19
 Brabant—43
 Broughton, Thomas—9, 19

C

Calhoun, John C.—19, 36
 Carolina, granted by Charles II—7
 Child, James—18
 Colleton, Sir John—13, 14, 15
 Colleton, Sir Peter—19
 Colleton, Landgrave James—14
 Crowfield—21, 23, 24
 Cypress Barony—17, 35

D

Dawson & Walter,
 Monck's Corner merchants—8
 Dickson, Samuel Henry, M.D.—48
 Dillwyn, William—23
 DuBose, Samuel—7, 29, 47
 Dupont, Gideon—26

E

Elliott, Stephen—42
 Exeter—15, 18

F

Fairlawn Barony—15, 17, 18
 Ferguson, Col. James—46
 Foxworth, Samuel—45
 French Huguenot churches—12
 French Quarter Creek—31, 48

G

Gaillard, John, U. S. Senator—42
 Garden, Alexander, M.D.—25
 Garden, Maj. Alexander—25
 Goatfield—30
 Goose Creek—20, 21, 24, 25
 Green, Gen. Nathaniel—40
 Guerard, Peter Jacob—19

H

Hampton Hill—30
 Huger, Gen. Isaac—11, 36

I

Irving, John B., M.D.—34, 47
 Irving, John Beauvain—35
 Izard, Ralph, U. S. Senator—24

J

Jamestown—33, 44
 Jefferson, Thomas—24
 Johnson, Sir Nathaniel—18, 19

K

Kensington—34

L

Laurens, Henry—13, 17, 46
 Laurens, Col. John—17
 Limerick—35, 36
 Linnacus—25
 Lowndes, Rawlins—23
 Lucas, Eliza—23

M

Macbride, James, M.D.—42
 Maham, Col. Hezekiah—40, 47
 Marion, Gen. Francis—15, 30, 31
 Medway—25
 Mepkin—Frontispiece, 17
 Middleburg—43
 Middleton, Arthur—23, 25
 Middleton, Edward—20
 Middleton, Henry—21
 Middleton, William—23
 Military engagements—11, 12
 Monck, Thomas—9
 Monck's Corner, derivation of name—7
 Moultrie, Gen. William—13, 14, 26, 36
 Mulberry—15, 19, 32

N

Northampton—10, 26

O

Ophir—28, 30, 39
 Otranto—25

P

Pineville—41, 42
 Pineville Jockey Club—41
 Pompion Hill Chapel—16, 19
 Pond Bluff—30
 Porcher Embankment—45
 Porcher, Francis Peyre, M.D., L.L.D.—39
 Porcher, Prof. Frederick A.—7, 41, 47
 Porcher, Samuel—41, 45
 Porcher, Thomas—39

R

Ravenel, Daniel—12, 45, 46
 Ravenel, Henry W.—8
 Rochefoucault Liancourt, Duke de la—24

S

St. James, Goose Creek—9, 20, 25
 St. John's Hunting Club—29, 44
 St. John's Parish Church—29
 St. John's Parish established—12
 St. Stephen's Church—29, 31
 St. Thomas Church—31, 43
 Santee Canal—29, 33, 36
 Saas, Herbert Ravenel—41
 Senf, Christian—36
 Silk Hope—18
 Simms, William Gilmore—21
 Simons, Benjamin—19, 43
 Simons, Keating—30
 Sinkler, Peter—46
 Sinkler, William—46
 Skrine's Ferry—45
 Smith, Rev. Robert—43
 Somerton Canal—45
 Strawberry Chapel—17
 Strawberry Ferry—18

T

The Elms—24
 The Oaks—21

W

Wadboo Barony—13, 14, 17
 Walter, Thomas—33, 34
 White Hall—30, 37
 White, John Blake—37, 39
 Wilson, Rev. Robert, M.D., D.D.—48
 Windsor—26, 35, 42

Y

Yeadon, Richard—24

PREFACE

A smaller edition of this pamphlet was published in 1921, at which time five hundred copies were printed. It was stated in the preface that time and space did not permit the inclusion of the names of all the places and persons of historic interest. Opportunity is now offered to include some of what was omitted at that time, to revise and enlarge certain parts, and to correct some minor errors.

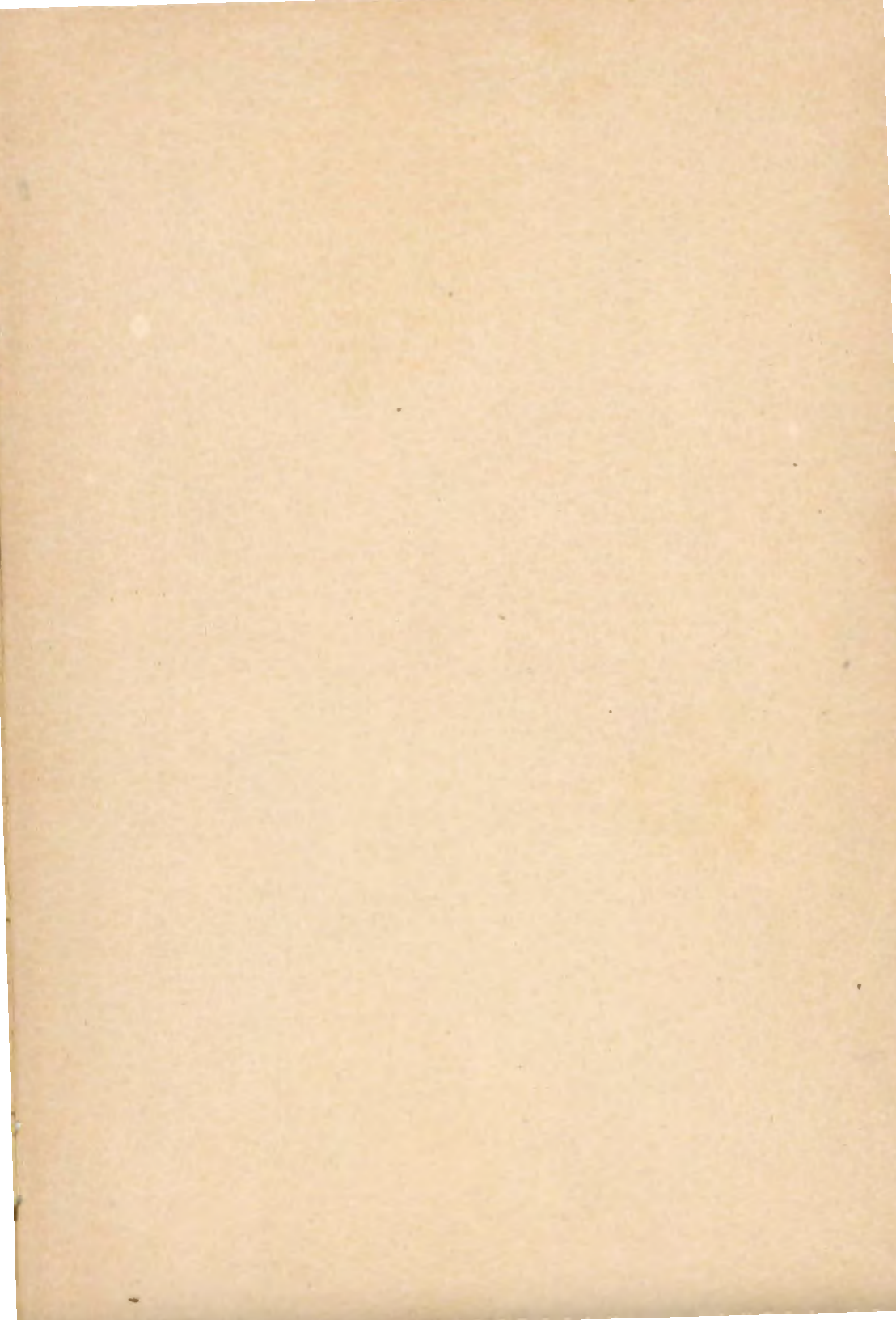
This is not a history of Berkeley County. The reader will find it a simple story, simply told, but an earnest effort has been made to assure accuracy.

In the preparation of the following pages, various sources have been consulted, and the information derived therefrom, when considered authentic, has been freely used. Notable, among these sources, have been several numbers of the South Carolina Historical and Genealogical Magazine, and it is a pleasure to acknowledge here the indebtedness.

It is to be hoped that the reader, particularly if a resident of Berkeley County, will find something of interest in the matter here presented. It may not be too much to hope that this pamphlet, brief and incomplete as it is, may inspire some historically minded person to take advantage of the vast amount of material available, and write a complete history of the county. Such a book would be a valuable contribution to the history of the Low Country in particular, and to that of South Carolina in general.

HENRY RAVENEL DWIGHT.

Pinopolis, S. C.
September 26, 1944.



SOME HISTORIC SPOTS IN BERKELEY

Animated by those sentiments of gratitude which sometimes prompted monarchs to reward with titles and lands their faithful political and military supporters, Charles II, King of England, by a charter dated March 24, 1663, granted to: Edward, Earl of Clarendon; George, Duke of Albermarle; William, Lord Craven; John, Lord Berkeley; Anthony, Lord Ashley; Sir George Carteret; Sir William Berkeley, and Sir John Colleton all that vast tract of land in North America lying between latitude 31° and 36° and extending westward to the Pacific Ocean. To this more than princely domain these gentlemen, known henceforth as the Lords Proprietors, gave the name of Carolina in honor of their royal benefactor.

The first permanent settlement was established at Charles Town in 1670. By an order of the Proprietors dated May 10, 1682, the first three counties were established and defined, and called Berkeley, Craven, and Colleton, honoring the names of three of the Proprietors. Therefore, Berkeley County is one of the very oldest counties in South Carolina.

The time that Monck's Corner was established or began to attain any commercial importance is not known; but it is fair to assume that it was not known by that name until after 1735, at which time Thomas Monck came into possession by purchase of his "Milton" or "Mitton" Plantation. There is very little information as to its size or importance. There is no evidence that the place was even laid out like some of the other places which reached the dignity of a "Town"; but it is known that its importance was due more to its location than to the number of its inhabitants. It is mentioned, however, by two writers of the last century. In his "Reminiscences of St. Stephen's Parish", 1858, Samuel DuBose said: "Before the Revolution Monck's Corner was a place of some commercial importance. There were three or four well kept taverns and five or six excellent stores. These were generally branches of larger establishments in Charleston, and as they sold goods at Charleston prices they commanded a fair business. The usual practice of the Santee planter was to take his crop to Monck's Corner, sell it there, receiving cash or goods in exchange, dine, and return home in the afternoon".

Prof. Frederick A. Porcher, in his "Upper Beat of St. John's Berkeley", at a later date, 1868, said: "I have never

SOME HISTORIC SPOTS

known Monck's Corner without at least one house, and I remember when four or five remained as relics of this old commercial mart where most of the turpentine, tobacco, indigo and even rice, the produce of Colonial times, were sold. The principal merchants of Monck's Corner were also Charleston merchants. The last of those were Mr. John Dawson and Mr. Simeon Theus. I cannot say when it ceased to be a commercial port, but probably about the commencement of the century, as the first named of these gentlemen lived several years in Charleston after he retired from Monck's Corner".

About the middle of the 18th century there was, besides individual merchants, at least one firm in business in Monck's Corner, that of Dawson & Walter.

The original statement, of which the following is a copy, is among the oldest commercial documents extant relating to Monck's Corner :

Mr. Henry Ravenel, Jr., To Dawson & Walter, Monck's Corner.

1773

Febry. 9—I Blankett 55/ 1 pair Doe gloves	37/ 6-	4.12. 6
March 24—I Cutteau knife	7/ 6-	. 7. 6
April 17—3¾ Yards bro Holland @	12/ 6-	2. 6.11
May 19—1 Pair Shoes	42/ 6-	2. 2. 6
June 3—2 yds. Cott. Holld. @ 12/6 1 skein		
silk 3/9 8 lb. white rope @ 5/		3. 8. 9
July 27—2 yards silk frill @ 20d ¾ lb.		
Rope 4/6 5 lb. shott @ 2/6		.19. 3
Augt. 18—1 horse whip	40/	2.
Sept. 14—2 yards Oz nabj @ 5/		.10
Nov. 27—1 pair gloves		.15
Dec. 28—3 lb. shott @ 2/6		. 7. 6

£17. 9.11

To amot. of acct. in 1772 Dld

33.13.11

£51.31.10

Received July 19th, 1774 the contents of this acct.

DAWSON & WALTER.¹

¹. A similar receipt has recently been found, dated 1769.

The above account was in Pounds currency and was equal to one seventh of Pounds sterling.

The present town, of course, took its name from Old Monck's Corner, which was situated not far from the railroad station, at the point where the road from Stony Landing to the Congaree section crossed the road leading from Charleston across Biggin Swamp and Wadbo Creek to Strawberry Ferry on Cooper River and Murray's Ferry on Santee River. Therefore, it was located on two important thoroughfares and was quite a trading center for many years. The town was really the "port" for river traffic to Stony Landing, the head of navigation, and several Charleston merchants had stores at the "Corner", as stated above.

Thomas Monck, an English gentleman, owned the plantation at the point where the two roads crossed; hence, the name "Monck's Corner". In the old records the name of this plantation is spelled both "Milton" and "Mitton". In a mortgage given him on March 23, 1738, for 600 acres, he speaks of it as commonly called "Mitton".

Thomas Monck must have established himself in the province and in Berkeley at a very early date, for he had a grant of 3000 acres in St. James, Goose Creek; and he purchased this Mitton property April 22, 1735, the deed calling for 1000 acres. The first owner was Landgrave Joseph West, to whom it was granted November 15, 1680. According to the South Carolina Gazette of January 15, 1732, Thomas Monck was married at Mulberry on January 6, 1732, to Johanna Broughton, a "daughter of Colonel Thomas Broughton, President of His Majesty's Council for this province, a young lady of merit and fortune; at which ceremony were present, his Excellency the Governor, his lady and several other persons of distinction."

In his will, dated April 7, 1740, and proved January 22, 1747, Thomas Monck bequeathed his plantation, "Mitton", to his second wife, Mary Monck.

The coat of arms of Thomas Monck, engraved on a piece of silver in possession of the Dawson family of Charleston, shows him to have belonged to the Monck family of Caenby, England, these arms being the same as those shown by Burke's "English Peerage" as belonging to that family.

During the Colonial period there were frequent notices in the South Carolina Gazette of the review of the "Berkeley County



NORTHAMPTON

Former home of Gen. William Moultrie. Erected about 1716.

Photo by Beverly M. DuBose

IN BERKELEY

regiment of foot" at "Monck's Corner", one at least as early as 1751.

The following advertisement from the South Carolina Gazette of August 16, 1760, showed that there was no doubt as to the correct way of spelling the name of the old town one hundred and eighty-four years ago.

"TO BE SOLD at public vendue, on Monday the 8th of September next, at the house of the late Simeon Theus, deceased, in St. John's parish,

"All the personal estate of the said deceased, consisting of nine valuable negro SLAVES, some horses and mares, a small flock of cattle and hogs, a riding chair and household furniture: Also three years and seven months lease of MONCK'S CORNER. The terms of purchase will be declared at the day of sale.

ELIZABETH THEUS, EXECUTRIX."

There has been some discussion in the past in regard to the proper spelling of "Monck's Corner"; however, the foregoing statements should settle the question beyond dispute. The name was not derived from George Monk, Duke of Albermarle, one of the Lords Proprietors.

During the American Revolution the following engagements took place in Berkeley County. The list is from Romance of Lower Carolina, by C. Irvine Walker, 1915.

Engagement at Monck's Corner April 12, 1780. Americans 100, under Gen. Huger; British 150, under Col. Tarleton. Losses, American 33, British 2. British victory.

Engagement at Monck's Corner, June 24, 1781. Col. Postell and party of partisans raided British at Manigault's Ferry and Monck's Corner, capturing supplies. Numbers and losses unknown.

Engagement at Wadboo Bridge, January 24, 1781. Americans, under Captain John Postell, captured supplies. Forces and losses unknown.

Engagement at Quinby Bridge, July 1781. Americans 700, under General Sumter; British 700, under Colonel Coates. Losses, American 60, British 145.

Capture of Fairlawn, November 27, 1781. Americans 380,

SOME HISTORIC SPOTS

under Colonels Shelby and Maham, captured garrison of 80 and valuable supplies.

On September 8, 1781, the battle of Eutaw Springs was fought on what is now Belvidere Plantation. The American forces under General Green numbered 2098, the British under Colonel Stewart numbering 2300. The American losses were 517, the British losing 664. It was said that in this battle Major John Majoribanks, by turning aside the bayonet of a British soldier, saved the life of Colonel William Washington after the latter had been wounded. Major Sheridan and Major Majoribanks were credited with saving the British forces from a complete rout. The latter died during the retreat to Charleston and was buried at Wantoot Plantation, where a stone erected by Daniel Ravenel marks his grave. The springs have been in Orangeburg County for some years, and were destroyed by Lake Marion.

The section of country within a radius of twenty-five miles of Monck's Corner is rich in historical association; and it was from early days noted for its culture, refinement, and hospitality. The whole Low Country for years exercised, politically and socially, an influence far out of proportion to its population.

When one sees the utter ruin that time has brought to scores of plantation homes throughout our coastal country, it is hard to realize that they were once the abode of a prosperous and happy people who were, like the "Virginians of the Valley",

"The knightliest of a knightly race,
That since the days of old,
Have kept the lamp of chivalry
Alight in hearts of gold."

One of the points of interest nearest to Monck's Corner is the ruins of St. John's Church, which was one of the largest of our Colonial churches. For a hundred years or more it has been known locally as "Biggin Church." The origin of the name has never been satisfactorily explained. This was the church of a parish "whose ecclesiastical rights extended over a territory half as large as the state of Rhode Island." The Parish of St. John's, Berkeley, was established by an act of Assembly on November 30, 1706. In 1707 there were 610 whites in the parish. The first church was built about 1712 on the hill overlooking

IN BERKELEY

Biggin Swamp and known by the Indian name of "Tippicop Haw", on land donated to the parish by Landgrave John Colleton, owner of the Wadboo Barony (granted in 1683 for 12,000 acres) and cousin of Sir John Colleton of Fairlawn.

The first church was destroyed by fire during January, 1755, only the brick walls remaining. The second church was burned by Colonel Coats of the British Army in 1781. It was rebuilt and again destroyed by a forest fire about 1886. Parts of the walls remain.

During the Indian War of 1715, the Rev. Robert Maule, rector of the parish, and his "whole flock" took refuge in Mulberry "Castle", several miles below, where they remained for four months. "This venerable fortress, built some three or four years after the church, was a very godsend at this critical juncture, for it proved the one place of refuge to the white population of the parish."

General Wm. Moultrie and Henry Laurens, the "stainless patriot", were vestrymen of the parish. General Potter of the Federal Army camped at Biggin in the spring of 1865.

But now, after all these years and many vicissitudes of peace and war, not even

"The owl and bat repose,
Where once the people knelt them,
And the loud Te Deum rose".

The graveyard at Biggin is interesting as the burial place of Hon. John Colleton (died 1751) and of his grandson, Sir John Colleton, of Fairlawn Barony, the Fourth Baronet (died 1777), whose epitaph follows:

SOME HISTORIC SPOTS

To the Memory
of
Sir John Colleton, Bart.
of
Devonshire in England and of Fairlawn
in South Carolina, whose mortal remains
rest here in hope of a blessed resurrec-
tion. Descended from Sir John Colleton,
formerly Proprietor of this State, he lived
to witness the Independence of the United
States and died at Fairlawn.
This stone is erected in respect to his
Memory and in mark of her affection
by his only daughter,
Louisa Carolina Graves.

The land around Biggin Church and Wadboo Bridge was embraced in the Wadboo Barony, granted to Landgrave James Colleton in 1683, which, like the other Baronies, consisted of 12,000 acres. He was governor from 1686 to 1690; and it is supposed that he erected the splendid stone mansion near Wadboo Creek, about one mile above the bridge, the remains of which "still bear evidence of extensive and expensive construction". The mansion was built of blocks of marl quarried nearby, where it crops out on the surface near the swamp, the pits from which the stone was taken being still plainly visible. This dwelling was constructed probably between 1686 and 1690. When it was destroyed is not known, but it is supposed to have been burned during the Revolution. Only the foundation walls remain. The Barony, after the death of Landgrave James Colleton, went to his son, Landgrave John Colleton, who gave the site for the erection of Biggin Church, as stated above, and also a glebe of 100 acres.

Under the Confiscation Act passed in 1782 by the Legislature at Jacksonboro, the Wadboo Barony was divided into twenty-eight parts and sold at public auction to thirteen purchasers, among whom were General William Moultrie and Commodore Gillon. General Moultrie purchased lots 11 and 12 and formed what is now known as Kent Plantation. Commodore Gillon bought lot 9, on which are the ruins of the Rectory. Lot 8, on which the Mansion House stood, was bought by Charles De Tol-

lenare, as were also lots 13 and 14. The entire barony brought \$126,853.76. The property confiscated under the act of 1782 was restored, by subsequent acts, to the heirs of the original owners or its value paid in money.

Around the Mansion House General Marion had his last encounter with the British, on August 29, 1782; and under the cedars of the avenue he bade farewell to his soldiers when they were dismissed from service.

The mansion of Fairlawn Barony, situated about one mile from Monck's Corner, on the western branch of Cooper River, was another colonial home of the Colletons, a family said to have gone over to England with William the Conqueror. A small part of the barony still retains the name of Fairlawn; and, while there is nothing left of the fine old building, the place has an interesting history. This barony was granted to Sir Peter Colleton by the Lords Proprietors on September 7, 1678, for 12,000 acres, the name Fairlawn first appearing in 1685. This grant was followed on September 6, 1679, by another of the Mulberry tract consisting of 4423 acres; and it, together with that of the Fairlawn Barony, comprised over 16,000 acres and embraced all of the territory including the plantations now known as Stony Landing, Gippy, Lewisfield, Exeter, Moss Grove, Oak Hill, Mulberry, South Mulberry, Harry Hill, and many small farms and, probably, the present town of Monck's Corner.

The house at Fairlawn was one of the finest in the province, having been built of brick between 1730 and 1740. It was the home of the Hon. John Colleton, who built the house, and of his grandson, Sir John Colleton, fourth Baronet, mentioned above. This splendid home was destroyed by the British in 1781 after their retreat from the battle of Eutaw Springs.

Mrs. Louisa Carolina Graves, daughter of Sir John, in her recollections of the place written in 1821, said: "This mansion, as it was for a family residence, was of course very magnificent and of such great extent that when the British troops made a rapid retreat after the battle of Eutaw Springs, on reaching it, they rallied under the shelter of its wings". The little book from which the above is quoted was published in Brussels in 1821, and there is only one known copy in South Carolina. Mrs. Graves returned to Fairlawn after peace was declared, and thus gave expression to her feelings at the destruction wrought by the enemy.



POMPION HILL CHAPEL
Eastern Branch Cooper River. Built, 1763.

Photo by Rev. Wallace Martin

"Whilst contemplating the place of my nativity, my attendants informed me that the hunted deer often took shelter amidst the ruins; from which I turned heartstruck at finding that desolation brooded where plenty formerly revelled in her gayest mood". According to the census of 1790 there were 128 slaves left on the Fairlawn estate. A short account of the mansion and grounds is found in "Charleston, The Place and the People", by Mrs. St. Julien Ravenel.

The following are the principal grants to the Colleton family:

Fairlawn Barony, 12,000 acres; Wadboo Barony, 12,000 acres; Cypress Barony, 12,000 acres; Mepkin Plantation, 3,000 acres; Pimlico Plantation, (called Mepshew), 2,000 acres; and Okatee Barony, 12,000 acres.

Mepkin, notable as the home of Henry Laurens, is on the western branch of Cooper River, about ten miles southward below Biggin Church. This plantation, comprising some 3,000 acres, was purchased by Mr. Laurens in 1762 from "John Colleton of the Parish of St. James, within the Liberty of Westminster, in the County of Middlesex, Esquire", grandson of the first owner of Wadboo Barony. He was a son of Landgrave John Colleton and appears to have spent very little time in South Carolina. Henry Laurens was of Huguenot descent and was born in Charleston in 1724; and, being a very successful merchant, he amassed a considerable fortune. He was President of the first Council of Safety of South Carolina, President of the Continental Congress, and one of the most distinguished patriots of the Revolution. He was the father of Colonel John Laurens, who was aide to Washington and Special Minister to France, in which capacity he was eminently successful.

Henry Laurens was imprisoned for fourteen months in the Tower of London. Being offered a pardon on terms which seemed to him dishonorable, he replied: "I will never subscribe to my own infamy and to the dishonor of my children". He died at Mepkin, December 8, 1792, where, according to the directions in his will, his body was cremated. His daughter, Martha, who married David Ramsay, the historian, in her Memoirs published in 1814, speaks of the "awful ceremony" of cremation.

Strawberry Chapel, situated not far below Mepkin on a high bluff on the western branch of Cooper River, was erected about 1725 as a chapel of ease to Biggin Church. The land for this

SOME HISTORIC SPOTS

chapel was given by James Child, who, in his will, dated October 29, 1718, designated one and one-half acres for that purpose. James Child was the founder at this place of the town of Childsbury, long since forgotten, but brought again to our notice in recent years as the scene of Mrs. Arthur Gordon Rose's charming story, "Little Mistress Chicken."

Strawberry Ferry, established by act of Assembly in 1705, was in operation until recent years. During the Cherokee war of 1760-1761, a number of British troops, brought up Cooper River by transports from Charleston, disembarked at Strawberry Ferry, from where they began their march to join Governor Lyttleton in his expedition against the Indians.

Exeter, which is on Cooper River, is a few miles south of Monck's Corner and within sight of the state highway to Charleston. It is supposed erroneously to have been the home of Sir Nathaniel Johnson; however, an examination of the records fails to reveal any evidence to support such a claim. The plantation, consisting of 988 acres, was sold off the Fairlawn Barony in 1767 to Mary Broughton. Although the date 1700 is cut in the eastern chimney of the house, which is among our oldest and most interesting plantation homes, there is no evidence as to the builder or that it was built at that time. There are records to show that between the years 1726 and 1738 Hugh Butler erected a house on Exeter; but whether or not the present structure is the one he built, it is impossible to say.

Silk Hope, situated on the eastern branch of Cooper River, was the home of Sir Nathaniel Johnson. The fact that it was granted under that name in 1696 indicated that the culture of silk was contemplated at that time. Being greatly interested in agricultural matters, he introduced silk culture; and as early as 1690, and in 1699, he presented the Proprietors with a sample which he raised. It is said that he exported that commodity to the value of several thousand pounds sterling and that he aided others to increase their income 40 to 50 pounds a year by raising it. He also paid great attention to the development of rice culture and the machinery for threshing and cleaning it. Sir Nathaniel was Governor from 1702 to 1709. He was actively and intelligently interested in all things pertaining to the development of the province; and his efforts were highly commended by the Proprietors. He was buried at Silk Hope on July 2, 1712, where

a brick wall erected by Gabriel Manigault, a subsequent owner, marks his grave. During the Revolution, Lord Cornwallis had his headquarters for many months at Silk Hope.

Pompion Hill Chapel, situated a few miles below Silk Hope, is on a high bluff on the river. The original church, erected of wood in 1703, was the first Church of England building in the province outside of Charles Town. In 1747 it was made a chapel of ease to St. Thomas Parish, and in 1763 the old wooden structure was replaced by the present very handsome one of brick, which is still in good repair. Mrs. Benjamin Simons, the heroine of "Little Mistress Chicken" mentioned above, is buried at this chapel.

Bonneau's 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 this Province". Infringement of the patent rights of Guerard was subject to a fine of "forty shillings current money of this Province".

Mulberry, commonly called Mulberry Castle,² adjoins Exeter on the south. It is situated on a beautiful bluff on a bend in the river and overlooks a large expanse of river and rice-fields. The property on which the mansion is located was granted to Sir Peter Colleton on September 6, 1679; and it was exchanged by him on May 12, 1712, with Thomas Broughton, who had purchased the original 4,423 acres on January 20, 1708, but who had by mistake placed his settlement over the line. Thomas Broughton, who was a son-in-law of Sir Nathaniel Johnson, built Mulberry in 1714, the weather vanes on the four turrets showing that date cut in copper plates. Thomas Broughton was Speaker of the Commons House of Assembly from 1726 to 1730 and Governor

2. The term "castle" is said to have been used by the boat company to make the trip up the river sound more attractive to prospective passengers.

SOME HISTORIC SPOTS

from 1735 to 1737. For many years Mulberry has been a place of great interest to visitors from far and near. The style of architecture is unique. The brick used in the construction are said to have come from England; however, this is very unlikely, as ample material was at hand for local manufacture. The mansion is said to have been modeled after "Seaton Hall", the Broughton home in England. With a fine appreciation for the fitness of things, the present owner, in his work of restoration and improvement, while modernizing in some degree the interior, has allowed no unseemly alterations to mar the original plan and appearance of this historic mansion.

The Goose Creek country, through which the stream of that name flows into Cooper River, is about fifteen miles south of Monck's Corner and is part of the parish of St. James. The old parish church, built in 1714, is still in splendid preservation, and service is held there once each year. In the Colonial days it was the church of a parish of many prosperous and distinguished families. This church has probably been visited by more people than any country church in South Carolina. The British Arms, which are still over the chancel, are said to have saved it from destruction during the Revolution; and here the visitor is shown the Izard hatchment, with the family coat of arms, probably the only one in South Carolina.

The chapel of ease of St. James, Goose Creek, was situated about seven miles above the parish church and a short distance east of the state highway. From Dr. Dalcho we learn that "It was a brick edifice in the form of a Cross, built on a glebe of one acre of land, presented for the purpose, by Mr. Dutarque. There is no record of the time it was built. Something like the figure 1721 appears on one of the bricks. It appears from a Road Law, that it was standing in 1725". The body of the chapel has long since disappeared, only the outline of the foundation remaining to indicate its location. After the decay of the woodwork it probably served as a brick-yard for the community, as was often the case with abandoned brick buildings.

Probably every one who has visited Goose Creek Church is familiar with the wonderful avenue at The Oaks nearby. This was one of the homes of the Middletons, granted in 1678 to Edward Middleton. The original mansion was built about 1700. Members of this family served the State in various positions: as

Governor, President of the Continental Congress, Signer of the Declaration of Independence, Foreign Minister, and President of the Provincial Congress. The family was one of means and high social position. Henry Middleton, of The Oaks and Middleton Place, owned 50,000 acres of land, 20 settled plantations, and 800 slaves. This plantation was the scene of William Gilmore Simms' novel, "Katherine Walton".

The lands along Goose Creek began to be occupied very soon after the settlement of Charles Town, some grants dating as early as 1672; and, according to a careful and competent investigator, by 1680 all the lands along both sides of the creek, as far as Back River and Foster's Creek, were taken up. However, it would take a small volume to tell about the Goose Creek country, Howe Hall, Inglesby's, Yeaman's Hall, and many other places of more than passing interest, all formerly occupied by families who played an important part in the social and political life of that day.

A writer of half a century ago has given us a picture of Goose Creek in those prosperous days:

"This Parish so stripped, so denuded of inhabitants, once swarmed with a thickly settled and increasing population. Here at this chancel once knelt more communicants than could be found at Old St. Philip's on Easter Day. These fields and swamps, which nature has long since reclaimed, and where solitude now reigns, save where broken by the shriek of the water fowl, or the hunter's horn, once resounded with the hum of busy industry, and bear upon their faces even now, the mark of old time enterprise, energy and skill. Those lawns and pleasure grounds; those elaborate terraces and artificial lakelets; those walks once beautiful with imported gravel from Holland, but now thickly matted with the pine and the oak and the myrtle, were once the resorts of refinement and elegance and beauty. Here along the roads once galloped those gay parties of which family tradition tells us, and here before these doors, with its rich liveried attendants, drew up in no stinted numbers, as I saw it in my ancestral home across the Ashley, the old English coach with its massive panels of unbroken gilt".

Crowfield, situated about four miles from The Oaks in the same parish, was among the most noted homes in the county, and it was for many years one of the principal seats of the Middleton



Photo by Dr. W. Jervey Ravenel

THE POTATO DINNER

General Marion Inviting British Officer To Dinner*

From an engraving by John Sartain, 1840, owned by Mrs. E. E. Douglas, Charleston. Original painting by John Blake White, in Senate Lobby, Washington.

family. Only the ruins of the mansion and of the extensive gardens, which had been "long considered one of the handsomest landscape gardens in the Province", remain to remind the visitor of the wealth expended and the taste exhibited in their construction; but these, even now, seem to speak to us of "the tender grace of a day that is dead". The property was first granted to John Berringer in 1701. In 1722 it was purchased by Governor Arthur Middleton, who conveyed the estate in 1729 to his son William Middleton, who erected soon afterward the large and handsome brick mansion. In a letter written in 1742 by Eliza Lucas to her friend, Miss Bartlett, after a visit to the plantation during the occupancy of William Middleton, she gave her impressions: "The house stands a mile from, but in sight of the road and makes a very handsome appearance; as you draw near it new beauties discover themselves; first the fruitful vine mantleing the wall, loaded with delicious clusters. Next a spacious basin in the midst of a large Green presents itself as you enter the gate that leads to the House which is neatly finished, the rooms well contrived and Elegantly furnished".

"From the back door is a spacious walk a thousand feet long: each side of which nearest the house is a grass plat ornamented in a serpentine manner with Flowers; next to that on the right hand is what immediately struck my rural taste, a thicket of young tall live oaks where a variety of airey Choristers pour forth their melody". She then describes the "mounts", the "wilderness" and the large fish ponds with a mound in the center, surmounted by a "Roman temple".

Rawlins Lowndes, who later acquired Crowfield, advertised it for sale in the South Carolina Gazette of September 23, 1783: "To be sold that elegant and much admired seat called Crowfield. It contains upward of 1400 acres of land, has on it a very commodious dwelling house of excellent brickwork, having twelve good rooms with fire places in each besides four in the cellar with fire places also, and wants but very little repair. The gardens are extensive, laid out in good taste and are in tolerable order. The Fish Ponds and canals are superior to anything in the state and abound with excellent fish".

While he was in Charleston, William Dillwyn, of New England, visited Crowfield and wrote in his diary on January 17, 1773: "S. F. and myself with a Negroe Boy for our guide went

SOME HISTORIC SPOTS

to the next Plantation at which has been as much money expended in Improvements as I believe has been the Case anywhere in America. The Gardens, Fishponds & Walks occupy about 20 acres which has been well planned."

Richard Yeadon, editor of the Charleston Courier, writing in 1845, had occasion to refer to Crowfield: "It is said to be a place of great beauty, presenting numerous remains of the great labor and expenditure of money, which the wealthy colonial planter bestowed upon his villa or country seat, when the law of primogeniture gave us a landed aristocracy and a kind of hereditary nobility. It is no longer in cultivation, but it is well worth the visit of the antiquarian, and of all who delight to recall the memories of the past —especially the grandeur and magnificence of colonial times".

The Elms,³ built in 1711 near Goose Creek in St. James' Parish, was the original settlement of the Izard family and was the home of Ralph Izard. He was educated at Cambridge University, England, and for a while he lived in London, where he became the friend of Edmund Burke, the great English statesman and eloquent advocate of conciliation in the dispute with the American Colonies. While he was in England, Congress appointed him Commissioner to the Grand-duke of Tuscany. When he returned to America in 1780, Izard resumed his residence at his ancestral home. Soon afterward he became a delegate to the Continental Congress, and later one of the first two U. S. Senators from South Carolina.

In 1784 he wrote to Thomas Jefferson: "I am settled upon an agreeable spot about 18 miles from Charles Town. A plantation long neglected, but pleasantly situated and capable of great improvement. This I am attempting; and my inclination would lead me never to enter again into public life".

The Duke de la Rochefoucault-Liancourt spent some time with Ralph Izard at The Elms in 1795. In his "Travels through the United States" he said: "His slaves amount to five hundred. His mansion is, properly speaking, only a country house, built by his great grand-father, who arrived from England at the time, when the first settlements were formed in this country. . . . This settlement which Mr. Izard has named Elms, from a fine plantation of elm trees, which he planted himself, contains

3. Annexed in recent years to Charleston County.

about 1400 acres. He cultivates only three hundred and keeps on the estate from twenty-five to thirty negroes”.

While Ralph Izard and his wife, Anne deLancy of New York were in Rome, in 1775, their portrait was painted by Copley, the celebrated American artist.

Otranto Plantation, very near Goose Creek Church, was first granted in 1678 to Edward and Arthur Middleton, emigrants from London. In 1771 the property was conveyed by John Moultrie and his wife to Dr. Alexander Garden, a native of Scotland and a noted, beloved physician, who seems to have amassed “quite a competence”. Dr. Garden received his education at the University of Aberdeen and studied medicine under the celebrated Dr. John Gregory. He studied a year also in Edinburgh. During the last quarter of the eighteenth century, before taking his final departure for England, he conveyed the plantation to trustees for his son, Alexander Garden, a minor, who became afterwards a Major in the American Army. He was author of the well known “Anecdotes of the American Revolution”. Dr. Garden was a noted botanist and correspondent of Linnaeus, the great Swedish botanist, who gave the name *Gardenia* to that well known flower. It is said that Dr. Garden was a most ardent loyalist and that he never forgave his son for espousing the American cause. The good doctor, however, did not seem to lose his high standing on account of his loyalty to his native land. About 1772 he was elected a fellow of the Royal Society; and after his return to England he was elected a member of its council, later becoming one of its vice-presidents. During his residence in South Carolina several of his papers were read before the society.

While it seems fairly certain that the house at Otranto, burned some years ago and rebuilt, was erected by Maj. Garden in 1790, the following, from an editorial in the News and Courier, Nov. 7, 1940, would seem to indicate the certainty of Dr. Garden's residence on the plantation before that date. “Dr. Garden lived later at Otranto and it was from Otranto that Dr. Garden corresponded in Latin with the Swedish botanist, Linnaeus (Carl von Linne)”. If this is true, Dr. Garden must have occupied the original house erected by Arthur Middleton, one of the grantees. The plantation has been known as Otranto since 1785.

Medway, on Back River, in the parish of St. James, Goose Creek, said to be the oldest house in South Carolina, was built

SOME HISTORIC SPOTS

of brick in 1686 by Jan van Arrsens, who arrived in the colony as the leader of a small group of people from Holland. He died shortly after his arrival, and his widow married Thomas Smith, who subsequently became landgrave and governor. He died in 1694 and is buried at Medway.

It was Gideon Dupont of Goose Creek who introduced the water culture of rice into South Carolina in 1783, a change in the method of culture which probably revolutionized the industry.

Northampton Plantation,⁴ in Middle St. John's Parish, was once the home of General William Moultrie, the gallant defender of the fort in Charleston harbor that bears his name. The house was built in 1715. General Moultrie was one of the most distinguished men South Carolina furnished in the Revolution and was a man with a very high sense of honor. Having received a proposal from Lord Charles Montague in regard to leaving the American Service, his reply was a scathing but dignified rebuke to a dishonorable suggestion. One of the first crops of long staple cotton in South Carolina was planted on this place by General Moultrie—150 acres in 1793. He was Captain of a provincial regiment sent as part of a force against the Cherokee Indians in 1761; was first a Colonel, then Brigadier General after his heroic defense at Fort Sullivan; and in 1782 he was made a Major General. He served in the First and Second Provincial Congresses; and he had the distinction of raising on Fort Johnson, on James Island, in 1775 the first American flag in South Carolina. He was Governor from 1785 to 1787, serving again from 1792 to 1794. He died at Charleston in 1805 and was buried at Windsor Plantation, near Ladson Station.

The following is an extract from General Moultrie's letter to Lord Montague:

"When I entered this contest, I did it with the most mature deliberation and with a determined resolution to risk my life and fortune in the cause. The hardships I have gone through I look back upon with the greatest pleasure. I shall go on as I have begun that my example may encourage the youths of America to stand forth in defence of their rights and liberties. You call upon me now, and tell me I have a fair opening of quitting that service with honor and reputation to myself by going to Jamaica. Good God! Is it possible that such an idea could

4. Destroyed by the waters of Lake Moultrie.

arise in the breast of a man of honor! I am sorry you imagine I have so little regard to my own reputation as to listen to such a dishonorable proposal; would you wish to have that man whom you have honored with your friendship play the traitor? Surely not. You say by quitting this country for a short time, I might avoid disagreeable conversations, and might return at my own leisure, and take possession of my estates for myself and family; but you have forgot to tell me how I am to get rid of the feeling of an injured honest heart, and where to hide myself from myself; could I be guilty of so much baseness, I should hate myself and shun mankind. This would be a fatal exchange from my present situation, with an easy and approved conscience of having done my duty and conducted myself as a man of honor”.

Northampton was also for a number of years the home of Henry W. Ravenel, a noted South Carolina botanist, who achieved an international reputation. He was born at Pooshee Plantation in 1814 and moved to Northampton when it was given to him by his father. He lived here until he moved to Aiken in 1853. He was a graduate of the South Carolina College, and some years before his death the degree of L.L.D. was conferred upon him by the college at Winston-Salem, N. C. In 1869 he was appointed a botanist of the Government commission sent to Texas to investigate the cattle disease prevalent there; and at the time of his death he was botanist of the South Carolina Department of Agriculture. He was a member of several scientific societies in the United States and abroad. He was elected a correspondent of the Academy of Natural Societies in 1849 and some years later a member of the Zoological and Botanical Society of Vienna. In his pamphlet on South Carolina Botanists, Wilson Gee said: “With the probable exception of Rev. Moses A. Curtis, he was the only American of his time who knew specifically the fungi of the United States, and it is doubtful whether any other botanist has covered so wide a range of plants”. His works have been published in this country and in England. The most valuable part of his fine herbarium was purchased by the British Museum. He died in his home in Aiken in 1887.

Black Oak, once an important community center on the Santee Canal near Northampton, was until 1860 surrounded by a large and prosperous agricultural section; and probably nowhere



OPHIR

Built by Thomas Porcher about 1810.

Photo by Henry R. Dwight, Jr.

in the entire South did the social and economic life of the plantation system attain a more typical development.

For many years previous to the War Between the States, Black Oak was the meeting place of the St. John's Hunting Club, founded May 1, 1800, and of the Black Oak Agricultural Society, founded 1842.

The membership of the St. John's Hunting Club and of the Black Oak Agricultural Society was very largely identical. It was at the anniversary meeting of the latter organization, April 27, 1858, that Samuel DuBose, of Harbin, President of the society, read his deeply interesting paper on the introduction and progress of cotton culture. This paper, together with his Reminiscences of St. Stephen's Parish, both published by the society in 1858, form valuable and authentic contributions to the history of St. John's and St. Stephen's parishes, giving, as they do, the history of many families and plantations. The original minute books of both organizations are in perfect condition; that of the St. John's Hunting Club being still in use.

Black Oak, which was a voting precinct, "was the scene of many political meetings" and was a sort of stronghold of the Union party. However, in 1831 the States Rights party gave a public dinner, which was attended by three hundred men, many of whom were prominent, including General Hamilton, General Hayne, Robert J. Turnbull, and Benjamin F. Dunkin, afterwards Chancellor, who addressed the meeting.

Just below the upper lock at Black Oak, there was a landing and warehouse of the Santee Canal Company. The residence⁵ of the lock-keeper was nearby, and also the Post Office, a general store, and the club house of the St. John's Hunting Club. As early as 1807 the Commissioners of High Roads of St. John's Parish met here from time to time, as convenience or expediency suggested. It is probable that members of the parish patrol held their regular meetings here. From 1800 to the present day there has been a bridge over the lock, which served plantations on both sides of the canal. As early as 1800 there was an Episcopal Church here. The first church was taken down in 1846, when the present one was built. About 1855 a large territory was separated from St. John's Parish, establishing the parish of Tri-

5. This building stood for 140 years and was the last of the many used by the old Santee Canal Company.

SOME HISTORIC SPOTS

nity. The church and parish are generally known and spoken of as Trinity, Black Oak.⁶

Grouped around Black Oak, the following plantations were within easy reach even in the days of the carriage and pair: Pooshee, Hardport, Woodlawn, Stuarton, Harbin, Chelsea, Cedar Spring, Goshen, Sarrazin, Ophir, White Hall, Hanover, Hepworth, Brunswick, Northampton, Indianfield, Wantoot, Woodboo, Fair Spring, Somerton, and Somerset. These were occupied through a long period of years by the families of DuBose, DeVeaux, Ravenel, Waring, Porcher, Lucas, Moultrie, Mazyck, St. Julien, Stevens, Macbeth, and Cain. All of these plantations, and many more, have been covered by the waters of the Santee-Cooper Hydro-Electric Development.

Belle Isle Plantation, located in the upper part of the county on Santee River, is the burial place of General Francis Marion, the great partisan leader of the Revolution and the terror of the British red coats. His grave near the house is marked by a handsome monument erected by the state. He was born at Goatfield Plantation, on Cooper River, not far from Cordesville.

Francis Marion never owned Belle Isle or lived in the plantation home; but, through the kindness of his brother, Gabriel, he was allowed to occupy and cultivate a part of the property known as Hampton Hill. In 1773 General Marion purchased Pond Bluff Plantation,⁷ near Eutaw Springs, from John Matthews. Late in life he married Mary Videau, who owned the adjoining property, and they lived at Pond Bluff during the remainder of their lives. Mrs. Marion died in 1815, leaving the plantation to Keating Simons; and until recent years was owned and occupied by the Simons family.

“Our band is few but true and tried,
Our leader frank and bold;
The British soldier trembles
When Marion’s name is told.”

—Bryant.

Nothing could speak more eloquently of the high character of General Marion than the following: When the act was proposed which granted immunity to the warriors of the Revolution,

6. Destroyed by the waters of Lake Moultrie.

7. Annexed in recent years to Orangeburg County. House taken down, and lands covered by the waters of Lake Marion.

he moved that his own name be stricken out, saying: "If I have given any occasion for complaint, I am ready to answer in property and person. If I have wronged any man, I am willing to make him restitution. If in a single instance in the course of my command, I have done that which I cannot fully justify, justice requires that I should suffer for it".

The following epitaph from his tombstone at Belle Isle records his civil and military virtues:

Sacred to the Memory
of
Brig. Gen. Francis Marion
who departed this life on the 27th day of February, 1795,
in the sixty-third year of his age;
deeply regretted by all his fellow citizens.
History
will record his worth, and rising generations embalm
his memory as one of the most distinguished
Patriots and Heroes of the American Revolution;
which elevated his native Country
To Honor and Independence,
and
secured to her the blessings of
Liberty and Peace.
This tribute of veneration and gratitude is erected
in commemoration of
the noble and disinterested virtues of the
Citizen;
and the gallant exploits of the
Soldier;
Who lived without fear; and died without reproach.

The old parish church of St. Stephen, which is in the town of St. Stephen's, and on the river road below Belle Isle, was built in 1767. It is still in good repair, and services are regularly held there.

In addition to the churches mentioned, which used the ritual of the Church of England, there were four French Protestant or Huguenot Churches in Berkeley County, of the seven in South Carolina. These were located as follows: In the parish of St. Thomas & St. Denis, on French Quarter Creek, about a mile be-



MULBERRY

Western Branch Cooper River. Built by Thomas Broughton, 1714.

low the bridge. This church was established about 1687, and the section was known as Orange Quarter. In the parish of St. James, Goose Creek, about one mile east of Ladson. This church was established about 1694. In the parish of St. James, Santee, on Mount Moriah Plantation, on a high bluff on Santee River, about one mile east of Jamestown. The church was established before 1700, and the section was known as French Santee. In St. John's parish, on Simpson Plantation, a short distance north-east of the Simpson basin of the old Santee Canal. The site is on the Biggin-Black Oak Road. This church was established before 1700.

During recent years the Huguenot Society of South Carolina has placed handsome and substantial granite crosses at or near the sites of these churches. In each case one acre of land was purchased or donated for the purpose.

The residence of Thomas Walter, the botanist, who was born in Hampshire, England, in 1740, was situated northwest of Mexico Plantation in St. John's Parish, near the place where the Santee Canal joined Santee River. In his monograph, "South Carolina Botanists", Wilson Gee said that "Walter was during the time in which he lived of equal rank, if not superior to any of the botanists resident in the Colonies". His "Flora Caroliniana", published in London in 1788, was the "first fairly complete account of the flowering plants of a definite region of North America". Walter's herbarium is preserved in the British Museum. He died January 17, 1789, and was buried in his botanical garden, now far removed from the haunts of men, where a plain marble slab with the following inscription marks his grave:

SOME HISTORIC SPOTS

In Memory
of

Thomas Walter

A native of Hampshire in England
and many years a resident of this
State. He died at the beginning of
the year 1788.⁸ Aetatis cir 48 ann.

To a mind liberally endowed by
nature and refined by a liberal
education, he added a taste to
the study of Natural History,
and in the department of
Botany, Science is much
indebted to his labours.

At his desire he was buried in
this spot, once the garden in
which were cultivated most
of the plants of his

Flora Caroliniana

From motives of filial affection
His only surviving children
Ann and Mary
have placed this memorial.

At the forty-five mile post on the Monck's Corner Road, near the Chapel Hill avenue, was Barnet's Tavern, from which place General Green sent to Congress dispatches reporting the battle of Eutaw Springs. In 1833 this place was selected as the muster grounds for the Eutaw Volunteers, a company raised to support the Ordinance of Nullification.

Kensington Plantation, on the eastern branch of Cooper River, was the home of Dr. John B. Irving, who was born in 1800 on the Island of Jamaica. For more than thirty years Dr. Irving was the secretary of The South Carolina Jockey Club, and was the author of the "History of the Turf in South Carolina". He was a man of cultured literary tastes and accomplishments and was a welcome guest at all social gatherings. He

⁸. This date is incorrect. Walter died January 17, 1789, according to John Fraser, famous British collector of American seeds and plants, who in that year, published a letter from Walter dated, "Santee, October 9, 1788." The inscription was written by Dr. James Macbride long after Walter's death. The marble slab bears the name of "J. Hall" who worked in Charleston about 1812-1816.

was editor of "The Rambler", published in Charleston in the early 1840's, "a very sun in the literary firmament". He was sent to Rugby and to Cambridge University in England for his education. From his diary we have a glimpse of his life there. "My college life which began at Cambridge was full of incident. I have chapter after chapter in my diary of things in general, but of racing in particular. During my college term, my proximity to New Market, that great metropolis of the Turf, was an irresistible temptation to me to indulge my passion for the sport that did most easily beguile me. I could not resist my propensity that way. It seemed to grow with my growth, and strengthen with my strength. I, often in my moments of youthful levity, used to laugh and say, if I only devoted to my college studies the time I did to acquire a thorough acquaintance with the "Stud Book", and a familiarity with pending racing events, and their probable results, I could not fail to become a very accomplished scholar; the pride and ornament of any University: but this alas! was not to be. I was stable-minded, it is true, but not stable enough. Unstable as water, I could not excel".

In 1842 Dr. Irving wrote "A Day on Cooper River", which is an account of the plantations from Charleston to the ends of both branches of the river. The original is now rather rare. His lecture on "Cock Robin", which he prepared and delivered on thirty-four occasions, brought to the Literary and Philosophical Society of South Carolina, of which he was a member, the surprising sum of \$11,000. Dr. Irving was the father of the noted portrait painter, John Beaufain Irving. In addition to Kensington he owned Windsor and St. James Plantations. After the Confederate War he removed to the North and became the Secretary and Manager of the new Jockey Club at New York, at its Jerome Park course. He died at Bergen, N. J., in 1881.

Limerick Plantation, adjoining Kensington and near Huger's Bridge, was formerly a part of the Cypress Barony, granted in 1683 to Thomas Colleton, son of Sir John Colleton, one of the original Lords Proprietors of Carolina. In 1707 the barony, consisting of 12,000 acres, was sold to John Gough, Dominick Arthur, and Michael Mahon. The latter was a native of Limerick, Ireland, and patriotically bestowed the name of his native city upon his portion of the property. Finally, he returned to Ireland in 1713, having conveyed his landed estates to Daniel Huger,

SOME HISTORIC SPOTS

who spent the remainder of his life at Limerick, where he accumulated a fortune which made him one of the richest men in the Province. Isaac Huger, son of Daniel, was born here March 19, 1743. "He served as a Lieutenant in the Cherokee War, was Lieut-Colonel of the 1st Regiment in 1776, Colonel of the 5th Regiment of the Continental Line, made Brigadier General on June 9, 1779, and served with distinction throughout the whole Revolutionary struggle". After the war he became vice-president of South Carolina. He died Oct. 6, 1797. Limerick was also the birthplace of Daniel Elliott Huger (1779-1854). He entered the House of Representatives of South Carolina in 1804, was elected Circuit Judge in 1819, and was elected to the United States Senate in 1842. After a few years' service he very patriotically resigned his seat in favor of John C. Calhoun.

Between Monck's Corner and "Biggin" Church, the state highway crosses the last reach of the old Santee Canal, the charter for which was applied for in 1786. It was commenced in 1793 and completed in 1800 by Christian Senf, a Swedish engineer, at a cost of about \$660,000. This canal, twenty-two miles long, was a very important link in the water route between Charleston and the up-country; however, it was not a financial success. General William Moultrie was the first president of the Santee Canal Company, and George B. Artope, a native of Frankfort, Germany, was the general manager.

The canal was thirty-five feet wide, five and one-half feet deep, and was designed to carry four feet of water at all times. There was a drawpath ten feet wide on each side. There were two double and eight single locks, each ten feet wide, all well constructed of brick and stone, except the last one near the entrance to Cooper River, which was of wood. After the lapse of one hundred and forty-four years, most of the former are still in fine preservation. There were also two large and two small "basons" and eight aqueducts, which carried small streams under the bed of the canal. Most of these are in excellent condition and show superior workmanship. Substantial warehouses were located along the canal at convenient points; and at each lock there was a keeper's residence. There was a bridge sixteen feet wide over each lock, in addition to seven public and private communication bridges. For supplying water to the canal and for discharging

surplus water, there were twenty-five floodgates and overfalls, all of brick and stone.

The boats used on the canal were 56 feet long, $9\frac{1}{2}$ feet wide, and of twenty to twenty-two tons capacity, and were drawn by horses. The country produce transported consisted of cotton, rice, tar, turpentine, pitch, resin, livestock, and probably lumber and brick.

But the days of the canal's usefulness were numbered. The South Carolina Railroad was commenced in 1829, and about 1840 the Columbia branch was completed. Augusta had long been a convenient market for the Saluda River section and a part of the Broad River country; and, when the railroad was completed to Camden, the canal had to depend largely upon the near neighborhood for trade. The peak of traffic on the canal was reached in 1830, when seven hundred and twenty boats passed through the locks in nine months, transporting seventy thousand bales of cotton.

In 1850 the corporate existence of the canal came to an end, and it ceased to be a factor in the transportation facilities of the state. What is left of the old work is a mute but lasting reminder of the enterprise, energy, and skill of the men who built it nearly a century and a half ago.

White Hall Plantation,⁹ in Middle St. John's Parish, derives its name from Blake Leay White, who for many years owned and resided upon the property, where he had a tavern and probably a residence. A partially filled well and some scattered brick are all that remain to indicate the location of the settlement. From extant records which indicate his residence in the parish from 1750 to 1794, when he moved to Charleston, there can scarcely be the shadow of a doubt that his son, John Blake White, was born in 1781 during the residence at White Hall.

John Blake White became a noted historical painter, writer, and dramatist. His early education seems obscure; but it is certain that he studied law in Columbia and later in Charleston, where he was admitted to the bar in 1808. In the early part of the year 1800 he went to England and began the study of painting under the celebrated artist, Benjamin West, an American, and at the time president of the Royal Academy. He left America on an English ship; however, England and France being at

9. House taken down, and lands covered by the waters of Lake Moultrie.



SIMPSON'S BASIN AND STOREHOUSE
OLD SANTEE CANAL, 1803

Reproduced from a CHARLESTON SKETCH BOOK by Charles Fraser, published by the Carolina Art Association.

war at the time, his ship was attacked by a French corvette, and he, with others, was taken prisoner. While being taken to France, the corvette was captured by the English, and the passengers were taken to Cork, Ireland. From there White proceeded to London and presented his letters to Benjamin West.

He returned to Charleston in 1803 and almost immediately began his series of historical paintings. Among the most noted are: "Marion Inviting the British Officer to Dinner", "Rescue of American Prisoners", "The Battle of Fort Moultrie", "Burning Arrows", and "Unfurling the United States Flag In the City of Mexico". The last mentioned was considered his best work, but it was burned when Columbia was destroyed in 1865. The other mentioned are in the Senate lobby, Washington. Several of these were engraved and had wide and popular circulation. White painted also several portraits. John Blake White was regarded by some as the pioneer of literature in the South, and he was the recipient of many honors. He received a gold medal in 1840 from the South Carolina Institute for the best historical painting; and in 1847 he was elected an honorary member of the National Academy. At the time of his death in 1859, the Charleston press was most generous in praise of his character and ability.

Ophir Plantation,¹⁰ adjoining White Hall, was the birthplace of Dr. Francis Peyre Porcher, noted physician and botanist. The fine house at Ophir was built about 1810 by his grandfather, Thomas Porcher. The boyhood and youth of Dr. Porcher were spent at nearby Sarrazin Plantation, the home of his parents. After attending Mt. Zion Academy in Winnsboro, he went to the South Carolina College, where in 1844, at the age of nineteen, he received his A.B. degree. In 1847 he was graduated from the South Carolina Medical College, being first honor man in a class of seventy-six. His thesis on this occasion was: "A Medico Botanical Catalogue of the Plants and Ferns of St. John's Berkeley, S. C.", rather a natural subject for the great-grandson of Thomas Walter, the noted botanist mentioned in these pages. This paper was later published by the faculty.

During his two years abroad, Dr. Porcher spent thirteen months in the hospitals of Paris and seven months in Florence, Italy, in the study of medicine and Italian literature. Here he formed a taste for the works of several Italian writers and con-

10. House taken down, and lands covered by the waters of Lake Moultrie.

SOME HISTORIC SPOTS

tinued to read them all his life. He visited also Belgium, Germany, and Switzerland. He practiced his profession successfully in Charleston for many years, during which time he occupied several chairs in the South Carolina Medical College. Many honors came to him. He was an Associate Fellow of the College of Physicians, Philadelphia; president of the Medical Society of South Carolina; in 1880, vice-president of the American Medical Association; in 1889, president of the section of General Medicine at the Pan-American Congress held in New York. He was one of a committee of ten Americans to the Tenth International Congress of Physicians held in Berlin in 1890, and the only Southerner appointed to the eleventh congress held in Rome the following year. He could not attend, and no substitute was appointed. In 1891 he received the degree of L.L.D. from the University of South Carolina.

Dr. Porcher's best known and greatest work was his "Resources of the Southern Fields and Forests", which he was detailed to prepare by the Surgeon General of the Confederate States, and which was published in Charleston in 1863. A revised and enlarged edition came from the press in 1869. Paul Hamilton Hayne said in 1873 that this book should give its author a "National and European reputation". A botanist of Cornell University has pronounced this work "the finest piece of research work of its kind in the literature of America". Dr. Porcher was a man of broad sympathies and varied interests; and it has been said of him what Johnson said of Goldsmith: "Whatever he touched he adorned". He died at his home in Charleston in 1895 and was buried at Black Oak.

Maham's Plantation, near Pineville, was the home of Colonel Hezekiah Maham, a distinguished patriot and soldier of the American Revolution. In the family burial-ground, near the ruins of the old home, is the fine marble monument erected to his memory by his kinsman, Joshua John Ward. Following is a part of the inscription thereon: "Successively a captain in the first rifle regiment, a commander of horse, in Marion's brigade, and lieutenant colonel of an independent corps of cavalry, raised by the authority of General Green he bore an efficient and conspicuous part in the capture of British posts, and in the series of skillful manoeuvres and gallant actions, which resulted in the final extinction of the British dominion in South Carolina, and

secured to her and to the Confederacy, the blessings of Peace, Liberty and Independence”.

Pineville,¹¹ in St. Stephen's Parish, was, according to Prof. Frederick A. Porcher, the oldest village in lower South Carolina which had its origin in the search of the planters for a healthful, summer place of residence. Founded in 1794 by John Palmer, Peter Gaillard, John Cordes, Samuel Porcher, Peter Porcher, and Philip Porcher, it became the summer resort of the planters of St. Stephen's Parish and of upper and middle St. John's Parishes.

The main object of health having been attained, other matters demanded attention. A grammar school was established in 1805, and it was given a charter under the name of Pineville Academy. It had a prosperous start under Alpheus Baker, of New Hampshire, whose skill as a teacher and a disciplinarian attracted students from other parts of the country. He was followed through the years by teachers from South Carolina, Maine, Vermont, and Massachusetts.

A public library was soon established, largely through the efforts of Robert Marion, once a member of congress from the Charleston District. The first building was sold in 1826, and a new one was erected. With the gradual abandonment of Pineville, the books became scattered and lost; but the titles of those that have survived indicate a cultured taste in the selection of reading matter.

Noted events in the history of Pineville were the annual spring races of the Pineville Jockey Club, which lasted two days and were attended largely by turfmen and spectators from other parts of the state, and the occasional and colorful tournaments held on the local race course. Two of these tournaments were described fully in the Charleston Courier: those of April 23, 1851, and April 27, 1859. There is also an excellent account of the first of these in a letter from Mrs. Charles Sinkler, of Eutaw Plantation, to her father, Thomas C. Wharton, of Philadelphia.

In his delightful book, "Adventures in Green Places", Herbert Ravenel Sass, well known Charleston writer, gave his readers a chapter on "Plantation Pageantry", really a chapter on tournaments, in which he drew freely from accounts in the Courier.

11. Fourteen dwellings were burned by Union soldiers during the War for Southern Independence.

SOME HISTORIC SPOTS

Probably the most noted resident of Pineville was Dr. James Macbride. Born in 1784, he graduated from Yale in 1805 and subsequently studied medicine, practicing his profession for some years in the village. Later he moved to Charleston, where he died in 1817. Although he was only thirty-three years old, he had attained renown as a physician and scientist. Botany, in its relation to medicine, was his favorite study; and most of his writings were published by the Linnean Society. Stephen Elliott, a noted South Carolina botanist, dedicated to Dr. Macbride the second volume of his "Sketch of the Botany of South Carolina and Georgia". In naming for him the *Macbridea Pulchra*, Elliott said: "I have named this genus in commemoration of the late Dr. James Macbride, whose untimely death, Medicine and Natural History, and an admiring country equally deplore".

A census of Pineville was taken on two occasions. The first was in 1826 and was confined to the white inhabitants, whose number was found to be 206. The second was taken in 1832 and was much more comprehensive. A total of 789 persons was reported. There were forty white families with 235 persons, and 554 colored persons, consisting of servants and their children. Also reported were 48 carriages, 43 chaises, 131 horses, 41 cows, 120 newspapers, and 30 periodicals.

The Episcopal Church and one residence are all that remain of the original buildings of this old village.

Windsor Plantation, located near Pineville, in St. Stephen's Parish, was the home of John Gaillard, one of South Carolina's Senators in Congress. After returning from England, where he studied law, he served his parish as Representative and Senator in the Legislature. He was elected United States Senator in 1804, thereafter serving his state in this office for twenty-two years, until his death in 1826. He was buried in the Congressional Cemetery. Thomas H. Benton, in his "Thirty Years View", gave John Gaillard the highest praise as a man, as a Senator, and as a presiding officer. Thomas said in his "Reminiscences", "This gentleman filled the Presidential chair of the Senate of the United States, pro tem, for ten years, and on one or more occasions, in the absence of the Vice-President, from sickness, he occupied the chair for the whole session, and was admitted to be the best presiding officer that ever sat in it. No man was

ever elected to it more than twice before, or since, if my memory is correct upon the subject. It may be emphatically said that,

‘All the ends he aimed at, were his country’s,
His God’s and Truth’s’ ”.

Brabant Plantation, situated in St. Thomas & St. Denis Parish, on French Quarter Creek, which flows into the eastern branch of Cooper River, was formerly the residence of the Rt. Rev. Robert Smith. He was born in Norfolk, England, in 1732 and was educated at the University of Cambridge, where he received his bachelor’s degree and later his master’s degree. After his ordination as priest by the Bishop of Ely in 1756, he was sent into the missionary field, and he became assistant rector and afterwards rector of St. Philip’s Church, Charleston. He married the wealthy Elizabeth Paget of St. Thomas’ Parish, from whom he probably came into possession of Brabant. During the Revolution he espoused the side of the colonies, and he was popular and highly respected. During the siege of Charleston he went into the lines as a common soldier. After the fall of the city he and others were banished to Philadelphia, where he remained until 1783. Upon his return to Charleston, his resources being depleted, he founded an academy, which afterwards became the College of Charleston, of which he became the first president. It was mainly through his efforts that the first Diocesan Convention of the Episcopal Church was organized in 1785, and that delegates were sent to the first General Convention in Philadelphia. In 1795 he was elected the first bishop of South Carolina and was consecrated in Philadelphia in November of that year. He died in 1801 and was buried in St. Philip’s churchyard.

On Brabant Plantation, January 3, 1782, an engagement took place between Americans under Colonel Richard Richardson and British under Major Coffin. This was known as the battle of Videau’s Bridge.

Middleburg, on the eastern branch of Cooper River, in the parish of St. Thomas & St. Denis, was built by Benjamin Simons before 1699. The house, which is in fine condition, is probably the oldest wooden house in the state. The plantation has never been out of possession of his descendants during two hundred and forty-four years.

The church of St. Thomas & St. Denis Parish is located near

SOME HISTORIC SPOTS

the public road, about three miles north of Wando. The parish is among the oldest in the state, having been established by Act of Assembly in 1706. The brick church was completed in 1708. It was destroyed by a forest fire in 1815, but it was rebuilt in 1818 on a much smaller scale. During recent years the church has been thoroughly repaired.

The interest from a fund of more than five thousands pounds sterling, which was left to the parish by Richard Beresford, who died in 1721, is still used, as designated, for educational purposes.

The Parish Register, beginning in 1708, has fortunately been preserved and was published in 1884.

The site of old Jamestown, one of the "forgotten" towns of South Carolina, which was situated on a bluff extending probably two miles along Santee River, is located about two miles from the station of that name on the Seaboard Air Line Railroad. It appears that the earliest settlement of the section was by French Protestants between 1685 and 1690.

John Lawson, who visited the settlement in 1700, gave a fairly detailed account of his stay among the inhabitants, describing them as a "very kind, loving and affable people". It is also a matter of record that the Lords Proprietors in the year 1705 "conveyed to Rene Ravenel, Henry Brenneau and Bartholomew Gaillard, as much for themselves as for the inhabitants of the vicinity of Jamestown on the Santee, a tract of 300 acres of land to be appropriated by them, either for a Town or Plantation in common, as may be judged most proper by the said inhabitants of the neighborhood, with ample powers to convey or dispose of the same in perpetuity &c".

In a statement by Philip Gendron, dated July 4, 1706, and duly "signed sealed and delivered", it is shown that the inhabitants of Jamestown appointed five commissioners to sell the "Lots which compose the Town". Acting upon this authority the commissioners sold thirty-six lots, which varied in price from forty to sixty shillings each, according to location. It is very doubtful, however, if the "town" was really ever more than a village, most of the people living in what was more properly a township.

In 1754, by Act of Assembly, the parish of St. James was divided, and the upper part was established as St. Stephen's Par-

ish. Subsequently, many of the inhabitants moved into St. John's and the newly created St. Stephen's.

Skirine's ferry, now Lenud's ferry, about one mile above Jamestown, was established by Act of Assembly in 1731.

There were two enterprises in Berkeley County which, because they were executed over one hundred years ago, entirely by private initiative, with slave labor and without the aid of any kind of machinery, are of historic interest and still survive as monuments to the energy and skill of those who constructed them under such adverse conditions.

The canal in middle St. John's Parish, separating Wantoot and Somerton Plantations, was constructed by Daniel Ravenel of Wantoot. The exact date of its completion is not known; however, it is recorded on a plat made in the year 1795. This canal is a mile and a quarter long, fifty feet wide, and varies in depth, being six feet or more in many places. It combined the waters of several large swamps, serving as a means of drainage, furnishing power for a rice mill, and for developing and flowing rice fields. This water way has been known generally as the "Somerton Canal".

The Porcher Embankment, on Mexico Plantation, in St. Stephen's Parish, was built by Samuel Porcher, ably assisted by his manager, Samuel Foxworth, and his negro driver, George. The former was at Mexico for forty years, held there mainly by his love for and his deep interest in the greatest work of his life. George was promised and was given his freedom upon completion of the job. This bank was commenced in 1817, but the year of its completion is not known. It is four miles and thirteen one-half chains long, thirty feet wide at the base, nine feet high, and wide enough on top for two horsemen to pass easily. Designed to protect fertile lands of Santee Swamp from damaging freshets, it partially enclosed an area of thirteen hundred and twenty-eight acres, five hundred and seventy of which were under cultivation. This work was a complete success; and for many years abundant harvests were gathered from soil as rich as that in the valley of the Nile.

In a resurvey in 1846, by Thos. J. Mellard, this embankment is designated, "Wonderful Bank". It is also recorded on the Chicora quadrangle of the U. S. Geological Survey, edition of 1921, as "Porcher Embankment".

SOME HISTORIC SPOTS

Early in their history South Carolinians began to take a very marked and practical interest in the sports of the turf. The earliest notice of public racing in the colony appeared in the *South Carolina Gazette*, February 1, 1734; and the first race was run on Charleston Neck on the first Tuesday in February, 1734. This was many years ahead of Virginia, where the first public racing took place in 1753.

The planters of Berkeley County were among the first to undertake the breeding and raising of thoroughbred horses, the stock being kept up to a high standard in the colony by importations from England, beginning about 1747, some of which had made fine records before being brought to South Carolina. There were several who went into the business on an extensive scale. As early as 1761 Daniel Ravenel, who bred almost entirely from imported stallions, developed an extensive breeding establishment on his Wantoot Plantation, which continued until 1785. Peter Sinkler was another colonial planter who went largely into the business, and when the British raided his Lifeland Plantation on Santee River during the Revolution, they carried away "sixteen blooded horses and twenty-eight blooded mares and colts".

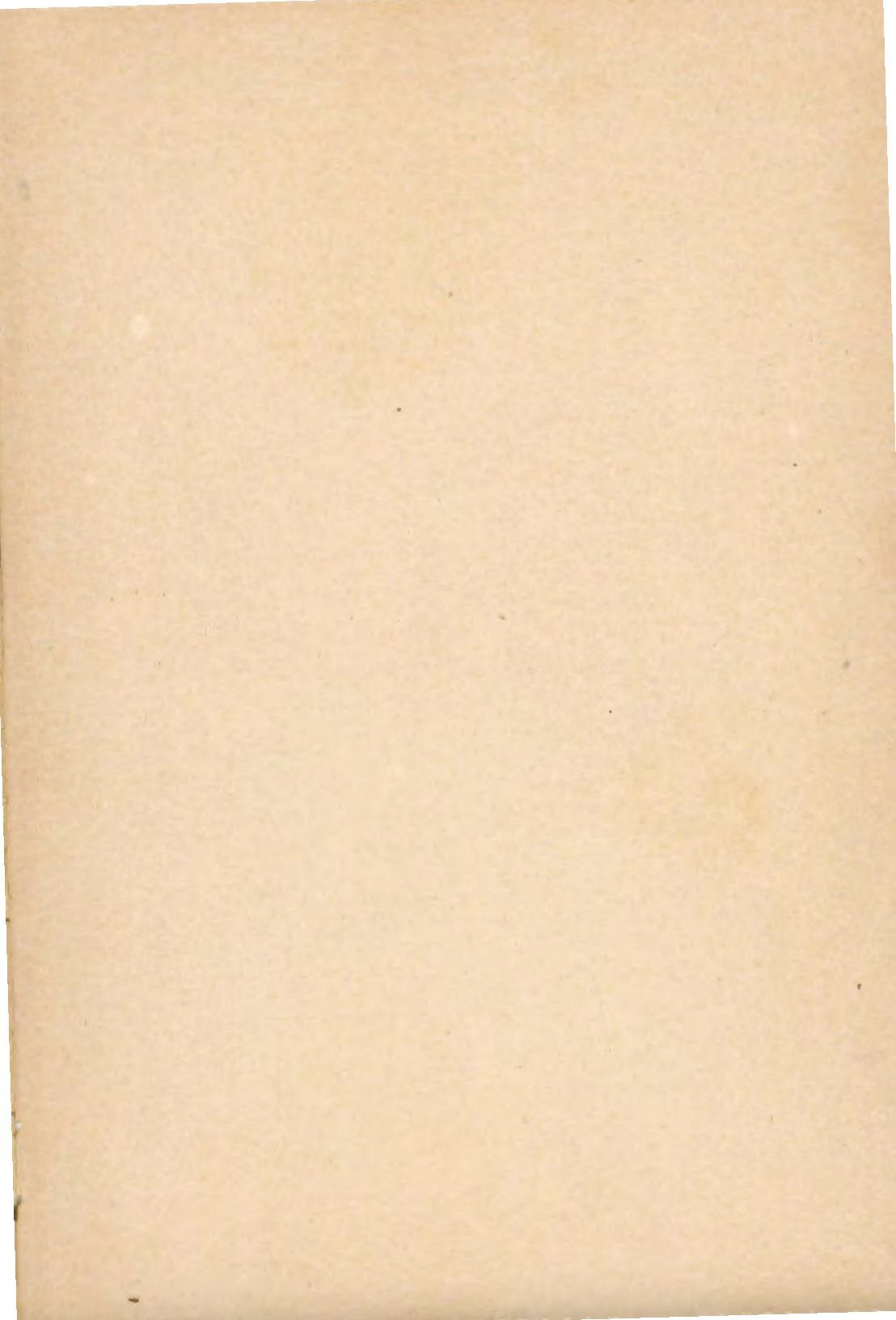
Some of the other planters in Berkeley County who raised and in some cases trained thoroughbred horses during a long period were: Frank Huger, of Midway; Nicholas Harleston, of Bossis; Henry Laurens, of Mepkin; Robert Hume, of Goose Creek; William Sinkler, of Eutaw; Major Isaac Harleston, of Irishtown; John Huger, of The Hagan, who lost to the British "twelve valuable brood mares, five fillies and ten colts"; P. Gaillard Stoney, of Medway; and Colonel James Ferguson, of Dockon. The famous racing mare, Albine, was raised at Dockon by Colonel Ferguson and began her racing career under the auspices of Mr. Stoney. This mare scored a great victory on the turf on the Charleston course in February, 1861, when she beat Planet, owned by Mr. Doswell of Virginia, and at that time the most famous race horse in the South. Albine's record in that race has never been beaten on the American turf.¹² Two four-mile heats were run, and the official time was: for the first heat, 7 minutes, 36½ seconds, and for second heat, 7 minutes, 42½ seconds. The South Carolina Jockey Club was the oldest such organization in the United States. Races were held successively on the York

12. Sketch of the Racing Mare, ALBINE. C. Fitzsimmons, Columbia, S. C., 1913.

(1735), New Market (1760), and Washington courses (1792) Charleston; but there were several courses outside of Charleston, viz, at Strawberry, Pineville, and Bluford Plantation, now the Oakland Club. The course at Strawberry appears to have been in operation as early as 1770, and it was used by many prominent turfmen throughout the state until 1822. The course at Pineville was laid out by Colonel Maham for the Santee Jockey Club, where the first meeting took place on March 7, 1791. This was known as the St. Stephen's Course; and Colonel Washington, Colonel Alston, Colonel Warren, and Colonel McPherson were members of the club. In his "History of the Turf in South Carolina" (1857), Dr. John B. Irving says of the Pineville races: "During race week the most jovial conviviality abounds in the neighborhood—in fact, everything is conducted with the strictest decorum and refinement; indeed so much so, that if it were not for the name of the thing, the most pious and rigid moralist could attend the races without being offended in the slightest degree, or being able to take exception to any of the proceedings going on around them—Here you see a people living upon the lands of their fathers, marrying and intermarrying, continuing to practice that hospitality and those polite attentions to strangers which their fathers practiced before them—the brightness of their countenances, as strangers drive up to their doors, indicating more plainly than words can express it, the cordial welcome they extend to all".

There have been mentioned above only those plantations whose occupants or owners of a by-gone day have attained a more than local distinction and are, therefore, of interest to the general public. However, there are many others in the county which are of deep local and historical interest from a purely personal or family view-point, and because of the interesting, beautiful, and spacious homes which remain to remind us of a vanished era. It is obviously impossible and unnecessary to include them in a brief pamphlet such as this. However, probably one hundred and fifty of these have been mentioned in the following publications:

"A Day on Cooper River", by John B. Irving, M.D., 1842; "Historical and Social Sketch of Craven County", by Prof. Frederick A. Porcher, 1852; "Reminiscences of St. Stephen's Parish", by Samuel DuBose, 1858; "Upper Beat of St. John's





MEPKIN

Photo by Nicholas G. Roosevelt

View looking up Cooper River from former home of Henry Laurens.



