

"The Island of Hilton Head is nearly cut in half by two creeks penetrating from opposite points towards the center, leaving but a narrow strip connecting the extremes. Upon this point is located the Episcopal Church. This Island was remarkable during the Revolutionary War for the staunchness of its Whig inhabitants as was the neighbouring Island of Dawfusky notorious as the stronghold of the Tories. Frequent incursions were made upon the territory of each other. A party of Whigs went to that portion of Hilton Head next to Dawfusky, having some intimation that a visit might be expected from their neighbours. they were prepared to give them a warm reception; but seeing no hostile movement from the opposite shore, they concluded their information was incorrect, they therefor disbanded and returned in small parties to their respective homes. In the meantime, the Tories, under their leader, Martinangel (with a number of British soldiers) had crossed over to Hilton Head unperceived, ascended one of the creeks to the center of the Island, and here, having ascertained that a body of Whigs had gone to meet them at the other end of the Island, they placed themselves in ambush to await their return. Charles Davant and John Andress had separated themselves from the rest of the party, after passing the spot where the Church now stands, a few hundred yards, they were fired upon by the Tories. Davant, who was a good and true Whig, fell dead, pierced by several balls. Andress, more fortunate, escaped untouched—two large oak trees are pointed to as the spot upon which Davant fell. Davant left an only son, we believe, who continued to reside on Hilton Head until within a few years, he has a number of descendants. The present estimable and highly respected Commissioner of this District is a grandson of the Revolutionary Whig." G. P. Elliott. Bluffton, S. C.

This is part of a letter written by Mr. Henry Talbird to John Cheney Davant, dated Starke, Fla. June 2, 1885. It was sent me by Cousin Louisa Crawley in 1930. Henry Talbird was b. 1810 on Hilton Head Island on a plantation near Charles Davant's home there.

"It is so many years since I left Hilton Head Island and my mind has been so fully occupied in other matters as to have driven from my recollection many of the traditions connected with the period to which you refer. It occurs to me that your grandfather was a stern, uncompromising hater of Toryism in all its forms. On one occasion I asked him to explain to me his decided and strong feeling on the subject. We were seated at the time on the front piazza of his residence. Pointing in the direction of the "Two Oaks" he said in substance. "When I was a small boy I heard a number of guns fired in that direction. While inquiring within myself the meaning, I saw my father riding at full speed as if unable to restrain him, but coming towards the house. On arriving he fell from the horse wounded to death. Tories had waylaid him at the "Two Oaks". In any case they were too many for him to contend with but even as it was they assassinated