



SOUTH

CAROLINA

## REVOLUTIONARY WAR AMBUSH

On 22 October 1781, returning from a patrol with the Patriot Militia, Charles Davant was mortally wounded from ambush near here by Captain Martinangel's Royal Militia from Daufuskie Island. He managed to ride his horse to his nearby plantation, Two Oaks, where he died. Captain John Leacraft's Bloody Legion avenged his death.

## Islander killed in Revolution finally honored

By Jim Littlejohn

Carolina Morning News

HILTON HEAD ISLAND — The spirit of Revolutionary War militiaman Charles Davant, the only Hilton Head Islander killed in that conflict, may rest easier following a ceremony Wednesday at the Zion Chapel of Ease Cemetery.

Attending the ceremony was Dr. Charles Davant, a retired physician from Blowing Rock, N.C., who is a part-time Hilton Head resident and a direct descendant of the man commemorated.

Davant and his wife unveiled the bronze plaque that marks his ancestor's grave.

The Zion Chapel of Ease Cemetery is located at the intersection of Folly Field Road and the William Hilton Parkway on Hilton Head Island.

Dr. Robert E.H. Peeples, who for years has headed the Hilton Head Historical Society and is president of the local Sons of the American Revolution, led the ceremony.

He opened with a brief description of how Pvt. Davant died Oct. 22, 1781, at the hands of Capt. Philip Martinangel of nearby Daufuskie Island.

Peeples said that only days earlier a band of Tory soldiers, led by a member of the Martinangel family, had visited Hilton Head during the day and burned several plantations along Skull Creek.

"The patriot militia, anxious to prevent a similar occurrence, began regular patrols, and it was from such a patrol that Pvt. Davant was returning on the evening of Oct. 22," Peeples said.

When the militia reached the gate approximately where the Children's Center now stands, Martinangel stepped from his hiding spot in bushes and shot Davant in the chest, Peeples said. The wounded man was able to ride to his plantation, a mile away, before he died. But that time allowed him to name is assailant before he died, Peeples added.

Within a month, a group of Island patriots, sometimes referred to as "The Bloody Legion," raided Daufuskie and executed Martinangel, Peeples said.

The plaque was designed and its installation directed by Austin Thoman, chairman of the group's Revolutionary War Graves committee. Islander Kyle Mulligan created the monument.

Participating in the unveiling was the color guard from the U.S. Navy Junior ROTC unit at Hilton Head High School, Hilton Head Mayor Tom Peeples and Chris Pendleton, head of the Museum of Hilton Head Island.

Wednesday, May 8, 1996

## Public invited to ceremonies

The public is invited to attend unveiling and dedication ceremonies of a bronze historical marker at the Zion Chapel of Ease Cemetery at 3:30 p.m. today.

The plaque will be placed at the burial site of Revolutionary War martyr, Pvt. Charles Davant (1750-1781) in the cemetery at the corner of William Hilton Parkway and Folly Field Road.

Mayor Tom Peeples will speak before unveiling the bronze memorial by islander Kyle Mulligan. Austin Thoman has directed the installation for the Dr. George Mosse Chapter, South Carolina Society of Sons of the American Revolution.

Dr. Charles Davant of Blowing Rock, N.C., and Palmetto Dunes will unveil the memorial, a tribute to his great-great-great-great grandfather who was killed at Big Gate, present intersection of Mathews Drive and Marshland Road, on Oct. 22, 1781. He was returning to his Two Oaks Plantation home following patrol duty with the local militia. A wreath created by Nadine Karose, president of Avid Gardeners, will be presented. Chris Pendleton, director of the Museum of Hilton Head Island, will speak, and the Jr. Naval ROTC Color Guard from Hilton Head High School will post the colors.

**Wednesday, May 8, 1996**

## **SAR to recognize Revolution hero**

The antebellum Zion Chapel-of-Ease Cemetery, which sits at the corner of William Hilton Parkway and Folly Field Road, will be the site Wednesday of a special ceremony honoring Hilton Head Island's lone Revolutionary War martyr.

The Sons of the American Revolution will unveil and dedicate a bronze historical plaque at 3:30 p.m. Hilton Head Mayor Tom Peeples will speak, following an introduction by the Rev. Robert Peeples, president of the George Mosse chapter of the SAR.

The plaque was designed and its installation directed by Austin Thom an. chairman of the group's Revolutionary War Graves committee. The plaque was executed by Islander Kyle Mulligan. Dr. and Mrs. Charles Davant of Blowing Rock, N.C. will unveil the memorial.

The Davant being honored was shot by a Tory raider from Daufuskie in December, 1781.

# Islander killed in Revolution remembered

By JIM LITTLEJOHN  
Assistant Editor

Charles Davant was Hilton Head Island's only military casualty of the Revolutionary War, and the local Sons of the American Revolution want to commemorate that fact.

Davant was attacked and shot Oct. 22, 1781, while patrolling Hilton Head Island against possible British Tory raids.

Ironically, this was three days after British Gen. Lord Cornwallis had surrendered to Gen. George Washington at Yorktown, effectively ending hostilities in the war for American independence.

The Hilton Head Island chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution plan to request that Hilton Head Island Mayor Tom Peeples designate Oct. 22, 1996, the 215th anniversary of Davant's death, as "Charles Davant Day," said group spokesman Austin J. Thoman. Another element of the commemoration might include a re-enactment of Davant's ambush, he added.

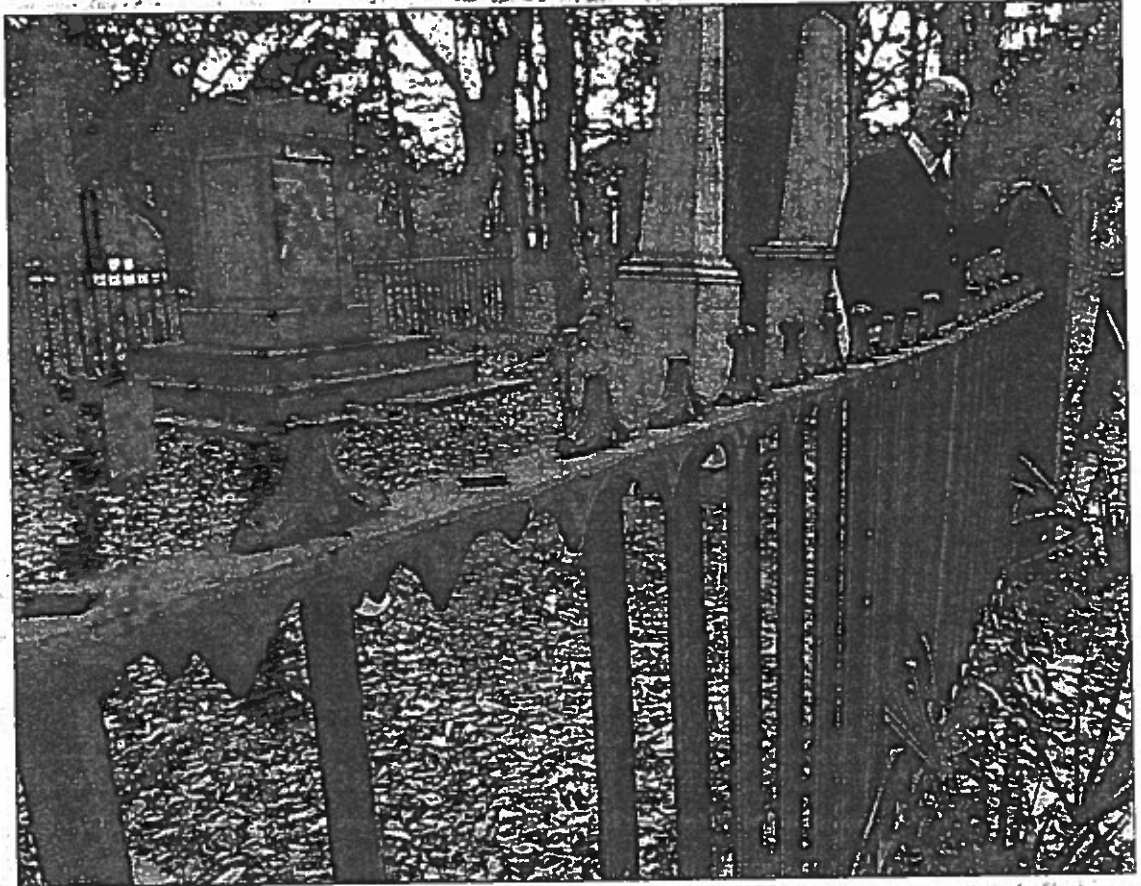
Six months before the October ambush of Davant, Hilton Head historian Robert E.H. Peeples relates, John Leaycraft and a group of patriot soldiers captured and executed Daufuskie Tory leader Capt. Richard "Tory Dick" Pendarvis and Lt. William Patterson.

It took Daufuskie Loyalists several months to plan a retaliation, but in mid-October the Daufuskie Royal Militia raided Hilton Head Island and burned every residence there along Skull Creek.

It was to prevent a recurrence of this type of raid that had Davant and other islanders patrolling the marshes and waters on the Daufuskie side on Oct. 22, the night of the ambush that killed Davant.

The South Carolina Society of the Sons of the American Revolution, as well as the Daughters of the American Revolution and the Hilton Head Historical Society, are all involved in gaining further recognition for Davant, a private in the South Carolina militia and a planter on Hilton Head.

The combined groups have ordered a 12-by-24-inch bronze marker detailing Davant's dates of birth and death and the circumstances of his ambush. They plan to erect the marker on Davant's grave in the



Austin Thoman of the Sons of the American Revolution visits the Zion Chapel of Ease Cemetery where Charles Davant, an Islander killed at the end of the war, is buried. Photo by Joseph Homer

Zion Chapel of Ease Cemetery, located at the intersections of Mathews Drive, Folly Field Road and U.S. 278, sometime in February, Thoman said.

Other improvements are in the offing, he said. The 200-year-old cemetery, especially the wrought-iron fence around the Kirk-Baldwin plot, is in "a terrible state of disrepair," he said.

The local SAR chapter received a \$5,000 grant in October from the Hilton Head Foundation to begin the first phase of repair. More money is needed to complete the project, estimated to cost \$17,000, Thoman said.

The area Sons of the American Revolution chapter also is interested in finding out more about the so-called "Bloody Legion," a group of Davant's fellow militiamen who, a few weeks after the ambush, raided

nearby Daufuskie Island and killed both Phillip and Abraham Martinangele. Davant had identified them as his killers before he died, Thoman explained.

The members of the group who raided Daufuskie were identified in a Charleston newspaper of the period as being "a band of banditti."

Peeples described the Bloody Legion assault in "A History of Daufuskie Island and Melrose Plantation."

"At Christmas 1781 the Bloody Legion crossed to Daufuskie in strength. Pvt. Israel Andrews killed Capt. Phillip Martinangele. Philip's brother Abraham was killed in his bed while holding his infant daughter," Peeples wrote.

The raiders included Leaycraft as commander, Israel Andrews, James Allen, Isaac Baldwin, Lewis

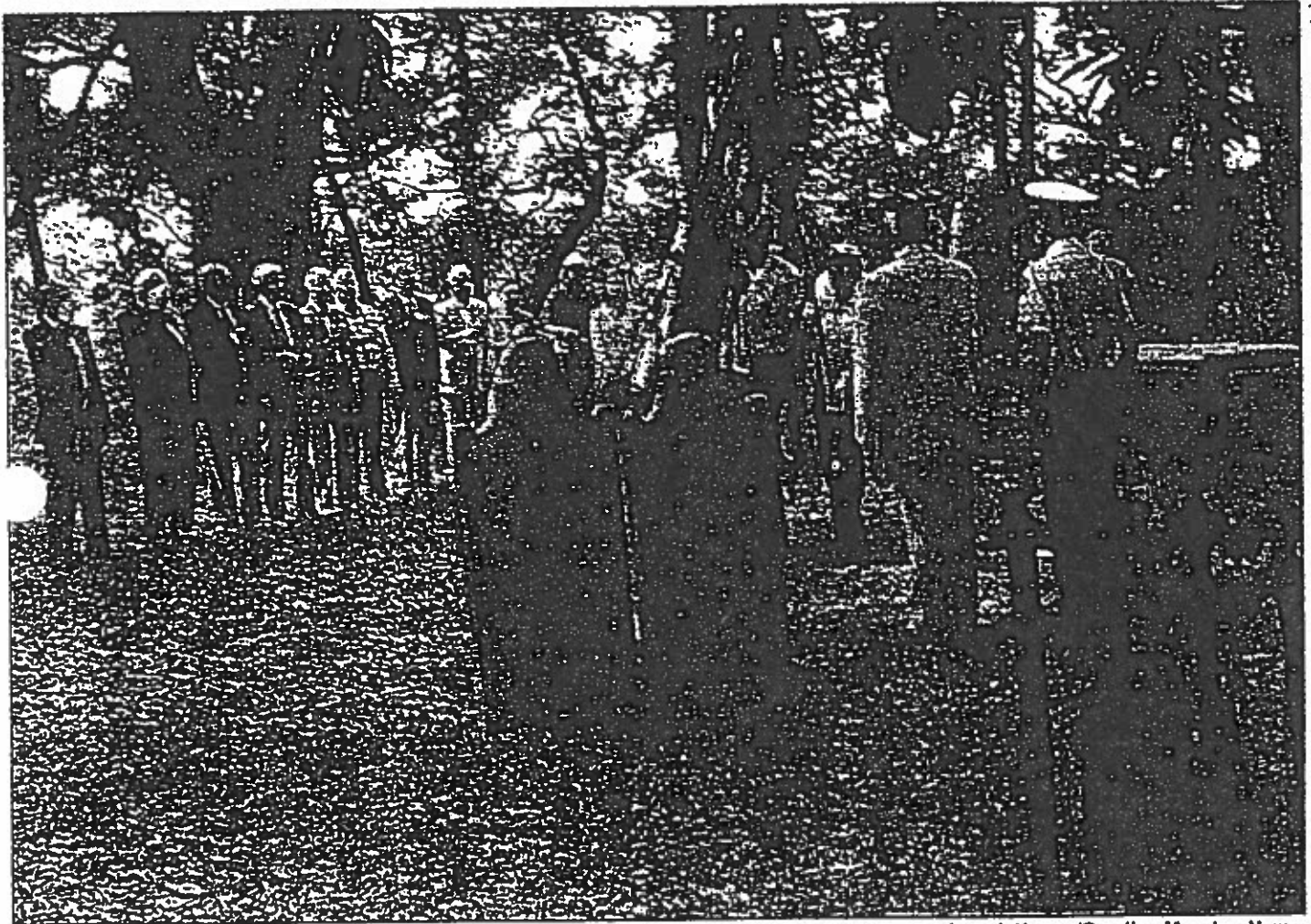
Bono, John Bull, William Chiswell, James Davant, Isaac Davids, James Erving, John Erving, John Fendon, Charles Floyd, Nathaniel Gamball, Patrick McMullen, John Mongin Sr., John Mongin Jr., Christian Rankin, Meredith Rich, Thomas Roberts, David Ross, Daniel Savage, and William Scott.

Thoman said that other than Davant's brother, James Davant, and Isaac Baldwin, little is known of the other members of the Bloody Legion.

"We would like their descendants to give us any information available," Thoman said. "We believe that an appropriate marker or plaque of the Bloody Legion Roll of Honor should be erected either on Daufuskie Island or near the site of the former Militia Muster House on Hilton Head." (2)



## *Unveiling a touch of history*



Joseph Horner/Carolina Morning News

## Revolutionary soldiers honored

Dr. Robert E.H. Peeples, president of the Dr. George Mosse Chapter, South Carolina Society of the Sons of the American Revolution, unveiled bronze markers Wednesday at the graves of Revolutionary War soldiers and prominent island planters James Davant and Isaac Baldwin at the Zion Chapel-of-Ease Cemetery on Hilton Head Island. Members of the Naval Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps from Hilton Head High, under Lt. Brian Higgins, presented the colors.

## Historical marker to be unveiled

To The Packet:

Thank you for the recent photograph of the installation of the memorial bronze marker at the grave of Revolutionary War soldier Isaac Baldwin (1752-1826) in Zion Chapel-of-Ease Cemetery.

Credit for documenting, ordering and bringing into reality this handsome marker and that for Revolutionary War soldier James Davant (1744-1803) is due Compatriot Austin Thomar, chairman of the Revolutionary War Graves Committee of Dr. George Mosse Chapter, Sons of the American Revolution.

The public is invited to attend the formal unveiling ceremonies for both of the beautiful and distinctive markers at 3 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 4, in the Zion Chapel-of-Ease Cemetery, Mathews Drive at William Hilton Parkway. Descendants of the Baldwin and Davant families are especially invited as guests of honor.

The Naval Junior ROTC Color Guard of Hilton Head High School, under the direction of Cmdr. Steve J. Tutunjan, USN, will participate.

Brief accounts of each of these Revolutionary War soldiers, both island planters, will be given.

Robert E. H. Peeples, president  
Dr. George Mosse Chapter,  
South Carolina Society,  
Sons of the American Revolution

## GRAVE UNDERTAKING



Brian LaPeter/The Island Packet

Kyle Mulligan puts the finishing touches on one of two plaques he placed Thursday on the graves of Revolutionary War soldiers in the Zion Chapel of Peace and Cemetery.



The Hilton Head News, Wednesday, October 4, 1995

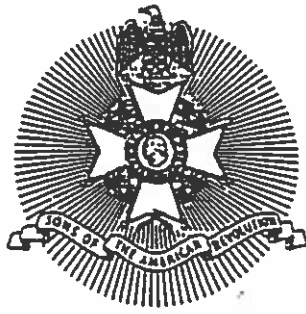
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## Revolutionary soldiers honored

Bronze markers will be unveiled at the graves of Revolutionary War soldiers James Davant (1744-1803) and Isaac Baldwin (1752-1826) on Wednesday, Oct. 4, at 3 p.m. at Zion Chapel-of-Ease Cemetery on William Hilton Parkway at Mathews Drive, Hilton Head Island.

The Dr. George Mosse Chapter, S.C. Society, Sons of the American Revolution, celebrating the chapter's 11th anniversary, will conduct the ceremonies.

The public is invited. Brief accounts of the Revolutionary War soldiers, both prominent island planters, will be given.



DR. GEORGE MOSSE CHAPTER  
HILTON HEAD ISLAND, SOUTH CAROLINA

January 10, 1996

Dear Fellow Citizens:

Our local Dr. George Mosse Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution has been engaged, during the past year, in marking two Revolutionary War Veterans' graves on Hilton Head at the Zion Chapel of Ease Cemetery at the intersection of Mathews Drive-Folly Field Road and Highway 278.

The graves of two other Revolutionary Veterans there, namely John "Capt. Jack" Stoney (1749-1821), had previously been marked May 14, 1959, and Charles Davant (1750-1781), Pvt. S.C. Militia, was marked in February 1986 by the local William Hilton Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution.

On November 4, 1995, our local SAR dedicated a Revolutionary War marker for Isaac Baldwin (1752-1826), Lt. S.C. Militia, and James Davant (1744-1863), Pvt. S.C. Militia.

However, the 200-year-old Zion Chapel of Ease Cemetery, especially the wrought iron fence around the Kirk-Baldwin plot, is in a terrible state of disrepair and our local SAR Chapter was given a \$5,000 grant by the Hilton Head Foundation to begin the first phase of repair and restoration which is presently underway. But, we are in need of additional funds to complete the project.

In 1973, the Hilton Head Historical Society and the S.C. Highway Department erected a Historical Marker at the Mathews Drive-Folly Field-278 Highway intersection that describes how Pvt. Charles Davant, returning from a Patriot S.C. Militia Patrol, was ambushed by Capt. Martinangel's Royal Militia from Daufuskie Island and mortally wounded. He managed to mount and ride his horse to his nearby home, Two Oaks, where he died. Mrs. Margaret Greer, in her Hilton Head history -- *Sands of Time* -- describes how the S.C. Militia Muster House and the Masonic Lodge were located adjacent to the Zion Chapel of Ease, where the present cemetery is located. Although

the chapel was established in 1767, there is no record of burials in the cemetery before 1795.

However, the December 1781 date on the marker is incorrect and the Davant-Bland Family Bible records Charles Davant's death date as October 22, 1781. This date is also confirmed in Dr. Charles Davant, Jr.'s 1986 SAR application in our Dr. George Mosse SAR Chapter.

As best we can determine, Pvt. Charles Davant was the only S.C. Militia soldier killed in action on Hilton Head during the Revolutionary War.

However, the S.C. and America General Gazette of Charleston SC, on January 30, 1782, reported "that about Christmas last [1781] a gang of banditti from Hiltonhead Commanded by John Leacraft who 'stile' themselves as the Bloody Legion, came to Daurusky Island where Capt. Martinangel of the Royal Militia was lying sick and whilst two of them held his wife -- another named Israel Andrews shot him dead."

The following is a list of the gang -- Bloody Legion Roll of Honor -- which has been placed in alphabetical order.

- |                              |                       |
|------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. John Leacraft - Commander | 13. Charles Floyd     |
| 2. Israel Andrews            | 14. Nathaniel Gamball |
| 3. James Allen               | 15. Patrick McMullen  |
| 4. Isaac Galdwin (Bolder)    | 16. John Mongin, Sr.  |
| 5. Lewis Bono                | 17. John Mongin, Jr.  |
| 6. John Bull                 | 18. Christian Rankin  |
| 7. Wm. Chiswell              | 19. Meredith Rich     |
| 8. James Davant              | 20. Thomas Roberts    |
| 9. Isaac Davids              | 21. David Ross        |
| 10. James Erving             | 22. Daniel Savage     |
| 11. John Erving              | 23. Wm. Scott         |
| 12. John Fendon              |                       |

That is how Captain Leacraft's Bloody Legion avenged Charles Davant's death. Since Pvt. Charles Davant sacrificed his life in the cause of freedom and independence, we believe that his grave site should be given additional recognition, and we have a 12 inch X 24 inch bronze marker on order with his name, dates of birth and death, and the circumstances of his ambush as described on the Highway marker, but a corrected date of death, October 22, 1781.

Although Hilton Head did not know it at the time, three days earlier, October 19, 1781, Cornwallis, had surrendered his British forces to General George Washington at Yorktown.

January 10, 1996  
Page 3

We also plan to request the Mayor of Hilton Head to designate October 22, 1996 the 215th anniversary of his death, as Charles Davant Day on Hilton Head.

However, except for Charles Davant's brother, James, and Isaac Baldwin, we do not know anything about the rest of the Bloody Legion members and would like their descendants to give us any information available. We believe that an appropriate marker or plaque of the Bloody Legion Roll of Honor should be erected either on Daufuskie Island or near the site of the former Militia Muster House on Hilton Head.

Your assistance will be appreciated.

Sincerely,

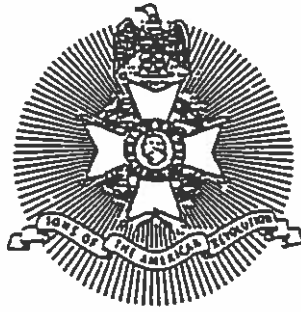


Austin J. Thoman  
Chairman  
Revolutionary Graves Committee  
20 China Cockle Lane  
Hilton Head, SC 29926

AJT/mbe







DR. GEORGE MOSSE CHAPTER  
HILTON HEAD ISLAND, SOUTH CAROLINA

December 9, 1995

Dear

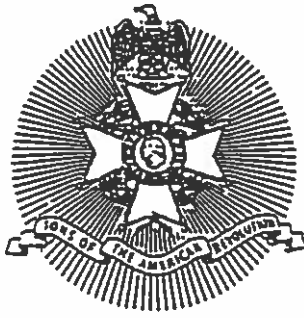
I am sending a copy of a proposed 12x24" Bronze Grave Marker our local Dr. George Mosse, SAR Chapter, recently approved for installation on the Revolutionary grave of Patriot Charles Davant - the only known Revolutionary S.C. Militia Patriot killed in action. By that time we hope to have our ongoing repairs to the wrought iron fence around the Kirk-Baldwin Cemetery Plot and the Baynard Masoleum completed at the Zion Chapel of Ease Cemetery on Hwy. 278 and Mathews Drive.

We also wish to publicly thank The Hilton Head Foundation for their grant of \$5,000.00 towards our \$17,000 renovation and repairs to this 200 year old cemetery and also to the many private donations already received but considerable more is needed to complete this project. Any publicity and assistance will be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Austin J. Thoman  
Chairman, Revolutionary Graves Committee

20 China Cackle Lane  
Hilton Head SC 29926  
Phone (803) 681-6969



DR. GEORGE MOSSE CHAPTER  
HILTON HEAD ISLAND, SOUTH CAROLINA

SAR  
SEAL

**CHARLES DAVANT**

PVT. S.C. MILITIA  
1750-1781

On 22 October 1781, returning from a patrol with the Patriot Militia, Charles Davant was mortally wounded from ambush near here by Captain Martinangel's Royal Militia from Daufuskie Island. He managed to ride his horse to his nearby plantation, Two Oaks, where he died. Captain John Leacraft's Bloody Legion avenged his death.

MR AUSTIN THOMAN  
20 CHINA COCKLE LN  
HILTON HEAD ISLAND SC 29926-1908



I. COVER SHEET

[Date of Application]

Applicant Name: Dr. George Mosse Chapter  
Sons of the American Revolution  
Address: 8 Moon Shell Road  
Hilton Head Island, SC 29928  
Telephone: 803/785-3967  
Executive Director: Reverend Dr. Robert E. H. Peeples, President  
Contact Person: Austin J. Thoman, - Chairman, Revolutionary Graves Committee  
Purpose of Funds: To restore and maintain the 200-year-old Zion Chapel of Ease  
Cemetery located at the intersection of William Hilton  
Parkway/Highway #278, Matthews Drive and Folly Field Road  
Amount Requested:  
Total Program/  
Project Budget:  
Total Organizational  
Budget (Current Year): \$500.00  
Proposed Time Frame  
for Grant:  
Geographic Area Served: Hilton Head Island, Beaufort and Jasper Counties, South Carolina  
Population Served:

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Reverend Dr. Robert E. H. Peeples [Date]

## II. GRANT APPLICATION

### A. Background

The George Mosse Chapter of the SAR was chartered in October 1984 with thirty-five (35) charter members as of October 10, 1984.

Since that date, we, along with other SAR members, have sought to promote American patriotism, love and respect for our country, and good citizenship.

In addition to our President, Vice-Presidents, Secretary-Treasurer, Registrar, Chaplain and Historian, we have Chairmen of the following committees:

1. Revolutionary War Graves
2. Liaison with Other Veterans Organizations
3. Awards and Medals
4. Liaison with Local ROTC
5. Liaison with Boy Scouts
6. Patriotic Education and Public Relations

One of our continuing programs over the past ten (10) years has been the annual Fourth of July pilgrimage to the grave site of one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence, Thomas Heyward, Jr., nearby at the Old House Plantation Cemetery with prominent speakers such as Fran Smith, Editor of the Island Packet and a Heyward descendant.

We have had Dr. Barbara Nielson, South Carolina Superintendent of Schools, address our group with local publicity to foster improvement and support of our public schools. Retired General William Westmoreland addressed our South Carolina State SAR Convention on Hilton Head.

In addition, we have recognized and honored local Judge Rita Simmons with the SAR Law Enforcement Medal for her outstanding service.

We have identified four (4) Revolutionary Veterans' graves on Hilton Head. Two of these graves, namely those of Captain John Stoney and Charles Davant, have been marked as Revolutionary Veterans, but the remaining two graves have not.

One of the grave stones, that of Veteran Isaac Baldwin, has been broken and parts are missing, including some of his last name. We have reported this incident to the Beaufort County Sheriff's Department and have filed a request with the Veterans Administration for a suitable replacement marker showing Isaac Baldwin's Revolutionary service. We have also requested the Kennedy Memorial Company of Meter, Georgia to reset and repair, as best possible, the broken stone of Isaac Baldwin and his daughter Sarah's broken stone, located next to his, as well as another broken small stone nearby.

We are also planning to place a suitable marker on Veteran James Davant's grave showing his Revolutionary service.



## B. Funding Request

We have been concentrating our efforts on two (2) of the important Revolutionary sites in the immediate area, namely the grave site of signer of the Declaration of Independence, Thomas Heyward, Jr., and the Zion Chapel of Ease Cemetery that contains the grave sites of four (4) Revolutionary Veterans.

However, this cemetery also contains the Baynard Mausoleum that is believed to be the oldest intact building on Hilton Head Island.

Zion Chapel of Ease was established May 23, 1767, but was destroyed by the year 1868. The oldest grave in the cemetery marked by a stone is that of Lydia Page Davant, first wife of Revolutionary Veteran, James Davant, who died April 20, 1795. However, there were probably earlier burials not marked by existing grave stones.

This 200-year-old cemetery now under the custodianship of the Hilton Head Historical Society has had a minimum amount of care in recent years with the result that age and vandalism have taken their toll. The twenty-five foot by fifty foot wrought iron fence around the Kirk-Baldwin plot, containing the grave of Revolutionary Veteran Isaac Baldwin, is in a sad state of disrepair. Corner posts are broken or missing; sections of wrought iron fence and gates are broken and have fallen to the ground and are now chained to a tree to deter their being stolen.

There appears to be enough wrought iron fencing left to restore the fence on three sides, clean and paint it, and erect a low concrete block wall covered with coquina on the fourth side with an entrance opening.

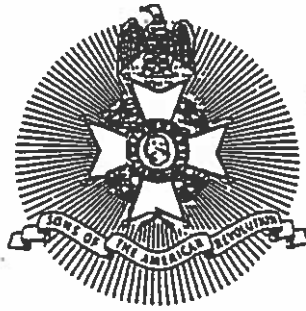
Next to the Revolutionary grave sites of John Stoney and the Davants is the Baynard Mausoleum where the twenty-eight foot by thirty foot wrought iron fence is in disrepair and rusted from its former mountings. This fence needs to be securely fastened, cleaned and painted to prevent further deterioration. Also, the plywood covering over the mausoleum door opening replacing the missing former marble doors needs repairs and covering with a thin sheet of copper to preserve it and improve the appearance.

There are other minor repairs necessary such as broken concrete rails on the fence at the entrance to the cemetery.

A continuing problem is the maintenance of the numerous live oak and other trees on this two-and-one-half acre cemetery plot as well as grass and weed cutting and clearing.

Once funding is available, the fence repair and painting could be completed in four to six (4-6) weeks. The Town of Hilton Head has stated that no building permit will be required for the proposed fence and other repairs.

This proposal has been coordinated with The Hilton Head Historical Society and the Daughters of the American Revolution.



DR. GEORGE MOSSE CHAPTER  
HILTON HEAD ISLAND, SOUTH CAROLINA

November 15, 1995

Dr. George Mosse Chapter, SAR  
Capt. William Hilton Chapter, DAR  
Hilton Head Historical Society  
Hilton Head Genealogical Society

Dear Members and Friends of Historic Preservation,

The local Dr. George Mosse Chapter, Sons of the American Revolution, recently dedicated Revolutionary Veteran markers for Isaac Baldwin and James Davant at their grave sites in the Zion Chapel of Ease Cemetery, intersection of William Hilton Parkway and Mathews Drive on Hilton Head Island.

Unfortunately, the 200 year old cemetery, especially the wrought iron fence around the Kirk-Baldwin plot, is in a sad state of disrepair, some sections of the fence fallen to the ground and others chained to a tree to prevent their loss.

An estimate in hand indicates that it will cost approximately \$14,000 to restore the wrought iron fences and complete other necessary repairs at the cemetery.

A grant of \$5000 has been approved by the Hilton Head Foundation for the first phase of repairs to the wrought iron fence around the Kirk-Baldwin plot. We are pleased to be able to begin the restoration and repairs, but are in need of additional funds to complete the project.

We therefore appeal to your generosity in contributing to this effort to preserve a piece of the past as a worthy memorial to those from this area who gave their lives in the interest of freedom. We hope you will want to send a contribution to Lawrence O. Shingleton, Secretary-Treasurer, Dr. George Mosse Chapter, SAR, at 38 Twin Pines Road, Hilton Head Island, SC 29928.

We thank you very much.

*Rev. Dr. Robert E. H. Peeples +*

Reverend Dr. Robert E. H. Peeples, President

*Austin J. Thoman*

Austin J. Thoman, Chairman.  
Revolutionary Graves Committee

# THE SANDS OF TIME



*Stoney-Baynard Ruins*

## A HISTORY OF HILTON HEAD ISLAND

BY MARGARET GREER

Hilton Head Island was a target for foraging and raiding British aided by planters from Daufuskie Island.

Charleston fell to the British in 1780. Lieutenant John Talbird, whose home was on Skull Creek, was captured at that time. The Revolutionary War continued for weeks on Hilton Head and Daufuskie after Cornwallis' surrender at Yorktown on October 19, 1781. On the day of the surrender, Mary Ann Talbird (the captured John's wife) looked out toward Skull Creek to see a landing party of British soldiers led by Isaac Martinangele of Daufuskie. Now, Isaac's wife was Mary Ann Talbird's sister, and for this reason Isaac Martinangele ordered the soldiers to remove all the house furnishings and place them beneath a large oak tree before burning the Talbird residence to the ground and departing for more undefended sites. Later that day terrified attendants, with eyes glancing back toward the creek, awaited Mrs. Talbird as she gave birth to a son whom she named Henry, but, because of the historic day on which he was born, was known throughout his life as "Yorktown Henry."

More than a century later, in 1888, another Henry Talbird, a member of the clergy, wrote of an oak which stands today and is known as the Talbird oak. Perhaps it was the same oak which sheltered the possessions of Mary Ann Talbird. The Reverend Talbird wrote from his residence in Florida, "The tree used to be my playground in my boyhood."

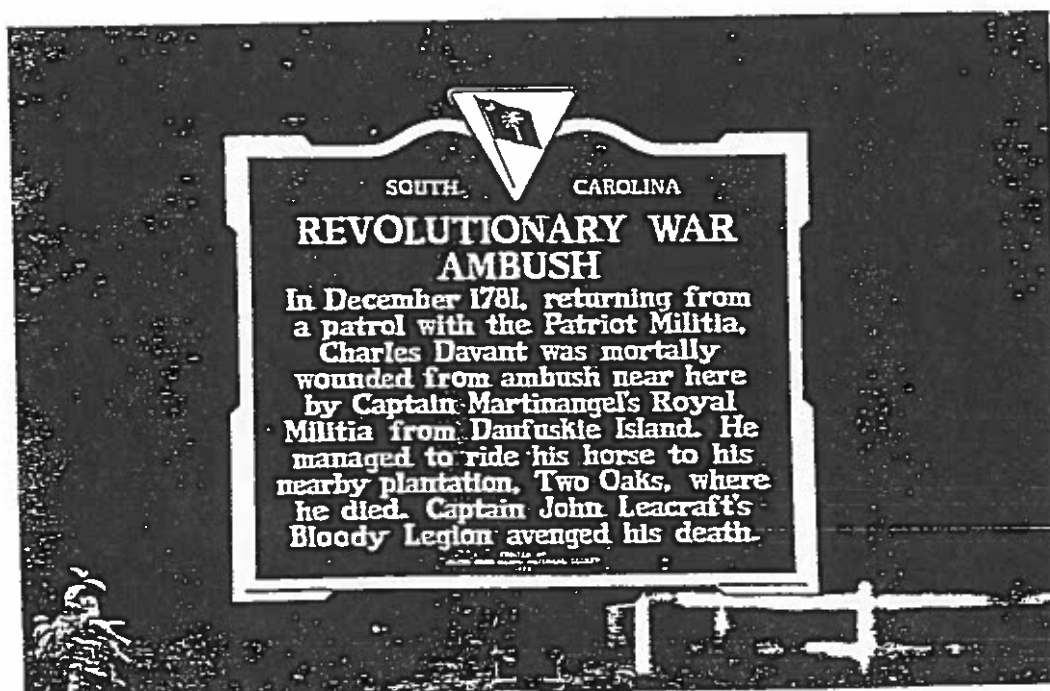
The Revolutionary War was not over on Hilton Head. A few nights after the Talbird torching, word came that another raid was planned, and plantation owners saddled their horses to thwart the landing party from Daufuskie. Their effort was futile. Just before dawn Hilton Head planters Charles Davant and John Andrews, riding ahead of the others, saw movement among the broad oaks near the crossroads now called Folly Field and William Hilton Parkway. A shot rang out from the shadows. Charles Davant slumped in his saddle. Andrews galloped back to the others, and Davant's horse, with his wounded master, raced for home where Davant died after he gasped the name of Martinangele as his assailant. Revenge was not long in coming. A band of men who called themselves the Bloody Legion raided and plundered the residences on Daufuskie Island and executed Martinangele, the Tory.

The two Revolutionary War events cited above are the most written about concerning Hilton Head Island; however, it should be noted that, during the War,



the British burned every plantation house on Skull Creek and carried off any captured slaves to be sold in the West Indies. Two signers of the Declaration of Independence fought side by side on Port Royal Island to rout the British in 1779, one of them being Charles Cotesworth Pinckney who had inherited Pinckney Island in 1758.

Savannah fell in 1778 because a plucky British colonel found a secret but swampy passage around the defenders and attacked the city from the waterways. In almost a rehearsal for Sherman's march to the sea 100 years later, British General Augustine Prevost and his 6,000 Redcoats were joined by runaway slaves and a few Indians, plundering and burning unguarded plantations up to 35 miles inland from Hilton Head. At Coosawhatchie's Tullifinny River bridge, Lieutenant John Laurens, with only 100 volunteers, made a stand against the overwhelming British forces. When Laurens received support from General Benjamin Lincoln, the British were eventually driven back toward Savannah. During the seesaw battle many more slaves were captured by the Redcoats, cruelly treated and either left to die of disease or become slaves once again in the West Indies.



*Historical marker at intersection of Highway 278 and Folly Field Road*

The Talbird home at the north end of the island was torched in 1781.

As battles raged from Massachusetts to Virginia, residents of Hilton Head Island (Whig) and Daufuskie (Tory) waged their own war. Charles Davant, a prominent island planter and patriot, was killed in ambush by a Daufuskie Tory. Led by John Leacraft, a group of 25 island patriots banded together to avenge the Davant murder. Calling themselves the "Bloody Legion," the patriots crossed Calibogue Sound to Daufuskie, plundered Tory homes, and killed the man accused of Davant's murder. Today, an historical marker at the intersection of Highway 278 and the Industrial Park Road on Hilton Head Island marks the site of the ambush killing of Charles Davant. He lies buried in Zion Chapel of Ease Cemetery.

History repeated itself when, in 1813, British soldiers returned to Hilton Head to plunder and burn plantation homes.

The storied past of Zion Chapel of Ease is of interest to even the most casual history scholar. Established as a chapel of St. Luke's Parish in 1767, built of wood around 1786, and consecrated in 1833.



SOUTH

CAROLINA

## REVOLUTIONARY WAR AMBUSH

In December 1781, returning from a patrol with the Patriot Militia, Charles Davant was mortally wounded from ambush near here by Captain Martinangel's Royal Militia from Daufuskie Island. He managed to ride his horse to his nearby plantation, Two Oaks, where he died. Captain John Leacraft's Bloody Legion avenged his death.

ERECTED BY  
THE STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
1911





# The National Society Sons of the American Revolution

1000 S. 4th St., Louisville, KY 40203

## GRAVES REGISTRY REVOLUTIONARY WAR GRAVES COMMITTEE

Committee Use Only:  
Date Rec'd \_\_\_\_\_  
in 93 RWGR Y N  
Enter next ed. \_\_\_\_\_

Revolutionary War Soldier or Patriot

DAVANT CHARLES  
Last Name (all spellings) First Name (all spellings) Middle Name

Born on 1750 Where S. C.

Died on October 22, 1781 Where S. C.

Married (1) Elizabeth (Ferdin) Bland Widow's Pension No. \_\_\_\_\_

(2) \_\_\_\_\_ Note: If widow put maiden name in parentheses.

(3) \_\_\_\_\_

Service: Rank or Service S. C. Militia State(s) S. C. Pension No. \_\_\_\_\_

Source SAR Application, Charles Davant, Jr., #127263 S. C. #1954

Buried: Name of Cemetery Zion Chapel of Ease Cemetery

City Hilton Head Island Township \_\_\_\_\_ County Beaufort ST SC

Directions for locating Cemetery Corner Matthews Drive and Highway #278 Folly Field Road

Location of grave in Cemetery Front Center

Tomestone: Yes X No \_\_\_\_\_ Note: If possible, attach a picture of the headstone to the reverse side of the sheet.

Marker: Yes X No \_\_\_\_\_

If Yes what type: DAR X SAR \_\_\_\_\_ Other (name) \_\_\_\_\_

Date Marker was placed, if known 1984

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

Information furnished by: Austin J. Thoman, 20 China Cackle Lane, Hilton Head Island, S. C.  
Name & Address 29926

Date Submitted: 5/25/95

Please return form to:

Robert F. Galer, Chairman  
Revolutionary War Graves Committee OR  
7236 Lullwater Road  
Columbus, GA 31904

National Society SAR  
1000 South Fourth Street  
Louisville, KY 40203

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# Supplemental Application



National number... 127263.....

State number... 1954.....

Dr. George Mosse..... Chapter, the... South Carolina..... State Society

## NATIONAL SOCIETY

# SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

..... CHARLES ..... (NONE) ..... DAVANT, JR. ....  
(First) (Middle) (Last)

Descendant of ..... CHARLES DAVANT, I ..... (No. ....) is the ancestor who assisted in establishing American Independence while acting in the capacity of ..... member of South Carolina militia before the fall of Charleston ..... Killed in line of duty in December 1781.

(Give all dates by day, month, and year as 01 Jan 1900)

Do not encroach on this margin, which is needed for binding.

		DATE	PLACE & STATE
2	I am the son of ... Charles Davant, Sr. ....	born 1 Mar 1898	Augusta Georgia
	NSSAR # .....	died 5 Dec 1953	Augusta Georgia
	and his ( ) wife Martha Fleetwood Fickling.	born 30 Nov 1898	Columbia South Carolina
	NSDAR # .....	died 25 Dec 1966	Blowing Rock, N.C. ....
		married 30 Apr 1919	Columbia South Carolina
3	grandson of William Maner Bostick Davant ...	born 6 Apr 1871	Allendale, S.C. ....
	NSSAR # .....	died 24 Aug 1936	Carthage, North Carolina
	and his ( 1st.) wife Arabella Bradford Clarke ..	born 5 Nov 1870	Beech Island, S.C. ....
	NSDAR # .....	died 24 Nov 1931	Chester, South Carolina
		married 15 Sep 1896	Beech Island, S.C. ....
4	great-grandson of Dr. Charles Davant .....	born 7 Apr 1839	Gillisonville, S.C. ....
	and his ( 1st.) wife Mary Harrietta Bostick ...	died 27 Oct 1903	Pendleton, S.C. ....
		born 7 Sep 1843	Allendale, S.C. ....
		died ... Apr 1882	Allendale, S.C. ....
		married 24 Nov 1862	Allendale, S.C. ....
5	great <sup>2</sup> -grandson of Richard James Davant .....	born 22 Jun 1805	Hilton Head Is., S.C. ...
		died 16 Jan 1873	Gillisonville, S.C. ....
	and his ( 1st.) wife Evelina Judith Chenéy .....	born 21 Sep 1805	Gillisonville, S.C. ....
		died 13 May 1883	Gillisonville, S.C. ....
		married 20 Nov 1828	St., Luke's Parish, S.C. ...
6	great <sup>1</sup> -grandson of Charles Davant, II .....	born 20 Nov 1777	Hilton Head Is., S.C. ...
	and his ( 1st.) wife Isabella Loyer .....	died 8 Apr 1846	Coosawhatchie, S.C. ....
		born 23 Aug 1779	Savannah, Georgia .....
		died ... Oct 1860	Coosawhatchie, S.C. ....
		married 27 May 1800	Savannah, Georgia .....
7	great <sup>4</sup> -grandson of Charles Davant, I .....	born ..... 1750	Edisto Is., S.C. ....
	and his ( 1st.) wife Elizabeth (Fendin) Bland .....	died 22 Oct 1781	Hilton Head Is., S.C. ...
		born 28 Oct 1751	Edisto Is., S.C. ....
		died 12 May 1812	Hilton Head Is., S.C. ...
		married ... Jun 1776	Edisto Is., S.C. ....
8	great <sup>5</sup> -grandson of .....	born .....	.....
	and his ( ) wife .....	died .....	.....
		born .....	.....
		died .....	.....
		married .....	.....

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deceased .....  
married .....

Revolutionary War ancestor  
Buried in the ..... Cemetery at .....

References: Please cite author and title, volume and page of publications. Quote Bible, church, court, cemetery, census and other records to establish birth, death and marriage dates and relationship.

2nd Gen. .... All records are taken from .....  
"A Place In History". The Davant Family, 1972, by Hardin Davant Hanahan, .....  
Knoxville, Tennessee, Library of Congress Catalog Card No. 72-90515 .....  
3rd Gen. .... And .....  
Genealogy of the Davant Family of South Carolina, written by Carlisle .....  
Courtney, see copy .....  
4th Gen. .... And .....  
"Our Family Circle" written by Annie Elizabeth Miller, page 305 .....  
4th Gen. .... See above documents, Page 14-16 The Family Bible of Richard Bostick, see .....  
5th Gen. .... See above documents, Article dated October, 1901, concerning Dr. .... copy .....  
Charles Davant-Pendleton, South Carolina Newspaper .....  
6th Gen. .... See above documents, .....

7th Gen. .... See above documents, The combined Richard Bland-Davant Bible .....  
Roster of South Carolina Patriots in the American Revolution, see copy .....

8th Gen. ....  
9th Gen. ....  
10th Gen. ....  
11th Gen. ....

References to ancestor's Revolutionary War services (1.) Roster of South Carolina Patriots in the American Revolution, see copy. (2.) Article from THE MAGNOLIA or SOUTHERN APPALACHIAN, a literary magazine and monthly review, P.C. Pendleton and Burges and James, Publishers and Proprietors, 143 Meeting Street, Charleston, S. C., 1843, Volume II, (Copy sent me by Cousin Louisa Crawley, about 1930, I have also read it in the magazine... Hardin Davant Hanahan, ...). Letter dated June 2, 1885, from Johnny Davant to Cousin Lou Crawley, sent me by Cousin Virginia Crawley, about 1930, who adds that it is what Dr. Henry Talbird told Cousin Johnny about his grandfather's account of his father's death... (That is Charles Davant's account of the above Revolutionary Charles Davant... Hardin Davant Hanahan) .....

MAILING ADDRESS  
of applicant  
Name .. Charles Davant, Jr., M.D. ....  
Street .. P. O. Box 186 .....  
State .. Blowing Rock, North Carolina .....  
Zip Code 28605 .....

State Registrar  
Application verified and approved ..... 19.....  
.....

AFFIDAVIT IS REQUIRED  
Signed by the applicant as being true and correct to the best of his knowledge and belief, on this .....  
11th day of June 1986  
Signature .....  
Occupation Physician (M.D.) .....  
Subscribed and sworn to before me at Blowing Rock, North Carolina .....  
this 11th day of June 1986...  
Official Signature: .....  
..... (L.S.)

Sent to Nat. Hdqrs. .... 19.....

Recd. at Nat. Hdqrs. [JUL 25 1986] ..... 19.....  
Registered by Nat. .... 19.....  
Certificate dated ..... 19.....  
C. A. Shepherd, Jr. 5-1982

Do not encroach on this margin, which is needed for binding.

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Letter by Cousin Johnny Davant

"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 the ground of 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 with myself the meaning, I saw my father riding at the full speed of his horse 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 from an ambush. In one respect of his character your grandfather was a stern man, in another his feeling was of almost womanly tenderness. With quivering lips and tearful eye he pointed to a spot in the yard and said "He fell there, and lived only long enough to tell how he had been shot, and to name two of his murderers." And standing over his dead body I, as a boy, vowed that I would kill those men if I lived to be a man. Happily for me they both died while I was a child. But the feeling of the moment have grown with my growth and strengthened with my strength and I hate treachery and toryism in all its forms. This is a subject which always harrows my feelings and unmans me. I do not like to speak of it. - Henry be true to your God, your friend, and your country" and the stern old man put his hands to his face and wept. I could by sympathize in his deep emotion and an impression was made on me that is almost as fresh now as when it was first stamped on my youthful soul." This letter was written from Starke, Florida June 2, 1885.

This is part of a letter, written to Cousin Lou Crawley by Cousin Johnny Davant, many years ago, sent me by Cousin Virginia Crawley, about 1930, who adds that it is what Dr. Henry Talbird told Cousin Johnny about his grandfather's account of his father's death. (That is, Charles Davant's account of the above Revolutionary Charles Davant.) Hardin Davant Hanahan.



THE NEW  
TESTAMENT

OF OUR

LORD and SAVIOUR  
JESUS CHRIST,

Newly Translated out of the

ORIGINAL GREEK:

And with the Former

TRANSLATIONS

Diligently COMPARED and REVISED

By His Majesty's Special Command.

Appointed to be Read in CHURCHES.

L. O. N. D. O. N.

Printed by THOMAS BASKETT, Printer to the King's most  
Excellent Majesty; and by the Assigns of ROBERT BASKETT.

M. DCC. LXI.

24

Charles Dewart and Elizabeth Gendron  
married October 21 - - 1775

Son of Charles and Elizabeth Dewart  
Charles Dewart was born Monday the 20<sup>th</sup>  
Ten minutes after closing clock in the morning 77  
and baptised May the 17<sup>th</sup> 1778 by the Reverend  
William Gosham

Charles Dewart Son of Charles  
and Elizabeth Dewart born April 27 - 1775

Charles Dewart Son of Charles and Elizabeth  
Dewart was born Friday morning 10 o'clock March  
22 - - 1772

Charles Dewart was born October 22 - - 1774

Elizabeth Gendron was born Monday Morning 2<sup>nd</sup>  
October About 2 o'clock in the Morning 1754

Christopher Gendron died October 4<sup>th</sup> in the  
Morning 1768

1725 - many have the wife of Richard Bland  
were borne the 31 of March 1725  
John Bland were borne 17 day of July 1759  
many of the wife of Richard Bland  
Died the 21 of August 1759  
Lone of heart and 11 days of the  
Elizabeth Bland was married to Richard

Bland on the 5 of 1759  
Richard Bland the son of Richard and Elizabeth  
were borne the 26 of July at 10 1/2 men  
at home a Saturday in the year of our Lord  
1744 Richard Bland the son of Richard and Elizabeth  
was born the 25 of February Saturday  
at home in the year of our Lord 1772

Richard Bland the son of Richard and Elizabeth  
were borne the 26 of July at 10 1/2 men  
at home a Saturday in the year of our Lord  
1744 Richard Bland the son of Richard and Elizabeth  
was born the 25 of February Saturday  
at home in the year of our Lord 1772  
Richard Bland Died Oct 26 - 1775

Mrs Elizabeth Rankin died Mar 26. 1812  
Aged 55 years 5 Months and two days

NORTH CAROLINA BUREAU OF VITAL STATISTICS STANDARD CERTIFICATE OF DEATH

00

1. PLACE OF DEATH

County Moore Registration District No. 63-51 Certificate No. 5-
Township Carthage or Village
City Carthage N.C.
Length of residence in city or town where death occurred yrs. mos. ds. How long in U. S. if of foreign birth? yrs. mos. ds.

2. FULL NAME

Wm M. B. Davant

(a) Residence: No. Auguste Sta. Ward. (If non-resident give city or town and State)

PERSONAL AND STATISTICAL PARTICULARS

1. SEX m 4. COLOR OR RACE white 5. Single, Married, Widowed, or Divorced (write the word) widowed
6. DATE OF BIRTH (month, day, and year) April 16, 1871
7. AGE Years 65 Months 4 Days 17 If LESS than 1 day, hr. or min.
8. Occupation construction foreman
9. Industry or business in which work was done, as silk mill, saw mill, bank, etc.
10. Date deceased last worked at this occupation (month and year) Aug 3, 1936
11. Total time (years) spent in this occupation
12. BIRTHPLACE (city or town) Dillonville S. C. (State or country)
13. NAME Chas Davant
14. BIRTHPLACE (city or town) Allendale Co. S. C. (State or country)
15. MAIDEN NAME Mary Gristick
16. BIRTHPLACE (city or town) Allendale Co. S. C. (State or country)
17. INFORMANT Charles Davant (Address) Carthage N.C.
18. BURIAL CREMATION, OR REMOVAL Placed in Island S. C. 8/25 1936
19. UNDERTAKER Fry & Clark (Address) Carthage N.C.
20. FILED Sept 4 1936 R. Y. Fry REGISTRAR

MEDICAL CERTIFICATE OF DEATH

21. DATE OF DEATH (month, day, and year) Aug 24, 1936
22. I HEREBY CERTIFY, That I attended deceased from Aug 23, 1936 to Aug 23, 1936
I last saw him alive on Aug 23, 1936 death is said to have occurred on the date stated above, at 1:10 A. M.
The principal cause of death and related causes of importance in order of onset were as follows:
mitral insufficiency
Contributory causes of importance not related to principal cause:
none as known
Name of operation none date of
What test confirmed diagnosis? none Was there an autopsy? no
23. If death was due to external causes (violence) fill in also the following:
Accident, suicide, or homicide? Date of injury 19
Where did injury occur? (Specify city or town, county, and State)
Specify whether injury occurred in industry, in home, or in public place.
Manner of injury
Nature of injury
24. Was disease or injury in any way related to occupation of deceased? no
If so, specify
(Signed) Chas J. Trice M. D.
(Address) Carthage N.C.

tion should be carefully supplied. AGE should be stated EXACTLY. PHYSICIANS should state CAUSE OF DEATH in plain terms, so that it may be properly classified. Exact statement of OCCUPATION is very im- portant. See instructions on back of certificate.

A  
Place in History  
THE DAVANT FAMILY

5C  
REF  
929.2  
BEAUFORT COUNTY LIBRARY.  
HILTON HEAD BRANCH

By  
Hardin Davant Hanahan

Charles Davant

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 of land connecting the extremes. Upon this spot 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 their 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, or 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.

An article taken from THE MAGNOLIA or SOUTHERN APPALACHIAN, a literary magazine and monthly review. P.C. Pendleton and Burges and James, Publishers and Proprietors, 143 Meeting Street, Charleston, S.C. 1843 Volume II. (Copy sent me by Cousin Louisa Crawley, about 1930. I have also read it in the magazine.) Hardin Davant Hanahan.



2. Isaac Davant b. ca 1743 m. Tabitha Williams. Two items only:  
St. Helena's Register records the baptism of Isaak, son of Isaak and Tabitha Devant of Hilton Head Nov. 19, 1772 born May 18, 1772.  
The Book of the Court of Ordinary, Chas. S. C. Pro. Ct. 1771-75. Dedimus to Andrew Aggnew to qualify William Furreau of St. Helena's Parish to administer on Estate of Isaac Devant late of said parish, 18 June 1772.
  - \* 3. James Davant b. Edisto Island, Sept 9, 1744 d. Savannah, Ga. Jan. 13, 1803 married Jan. 30, 1769 Lydia Page b. Jan. 12, 1751 d. Apr. 20, 1795; m. 2nd Elizabeth White, widow of Charles White Mar. 19, 1797 Savannah, Ga. who d. Savannah ca 1821. See Appendix IV.
  4. \* Mary Davant b. ca 1748 on Edisto Island. The Register of St. Helena's Parish records:  
Thomas Tailler of Lady Island married Mary Devant 26 Apl. 1764 by the Rev. Teal. .  
The children of Thomas Taylor and Mary his wife were baptized by the Rev. Mr. Lewes at a private service in Upper Indian Lands 5 Apl. 1785. They were:  
John Taylor b. Apl. 21, 1768; Thomas Taylor b. Feb. 19, 1770; William Taylor b. 28 Feb. 1780 and Robert Devant Taylor b. 20 Jan. 1785. No further information.
  - \* 5. Charles Davant b. Edisto Island ca 1750 d. Hilton Head Island Dec. 1781 m. ca June 1776 Elizabeth (Fendin) Bland, widow of Richard Bland b. Oct. 28, 1751. She m. 3rd Christian (?) Rankin. See Appendix V.
- \* John (1) John (2) James Davant b. Sept. 9, 1744 d. Jan. 13, 1803 m. Jan. 30, 1769 Lydia Page. He appears to have had no children by his second wife. James and Lydia Davant are buried at Zion Chapel of Ease on Hilton Head Island. Their children were:
1. John b. May 14, 1770 d. Oct. 13, 1770.
  2. James b. Aug. 9, 1771 d. Sept. 13, 1772.
  3. Mary b. Oct. 23, 1773 m. May 14, 1790 James B. Sealy m. 2nd Mr. Kicklighter. She d. July 1806.
  4. Elizabeth b. Dec. 31, 1775 d. Dec. 26, 1808 m. Samuel Fickling
  5. John b. May 4, 1778 d. Jan. 6, 1822 m. Martha Cadmon Sept. 4, 18—she was b. June 1, 1781 d. June 6, 1818. They had a son Robert b. Hilton Head Is. July 18, 1805 d. Oct. 20, 1808. Stones to mother and son at Zion Chapel of Ease.
  6. Lydia b. Mar. 27, 1780 d. Sept. 30, 1824 m. Thomas Webb b. Nov. 24, 1769 d. Feb. 24, 1816.
  7. James b. Feb. 14, 1783 d. Sept. 4, 1859. m. 3 times.
  8. Rebecca b. Jan. 2, 1793 d. Sept. 4, 1859 m. the Rev. Philip Mathews.



This also came from Allison Davant, and I don't know who now owns this Bible. It is a poor photostat of the records in James Davant's Bible.

\* Births: James Davant sen'r was born Sep'r 9th 1744; Lydia Page born Jan'y 12th 1751; John Davant, son of the above James & Lydia was born May 14, 1770; James Davant born Aug. 9th 1771; Mary Davant born Oct'r 23, 1773; Elizabeth Davant born Dec'r 31, 1775; John born May 4, 1778; Lydia born March 17, 1780; James born Feb'y 14, 1783; Rebecca born Jan'y 2, 1793. Mary Whaley born June 7th 1788; Sam'l Fickling son of Jas. and Mary Davant born Feb. 18, 1808; Martha Sarah born Mar. 7th, 1810; Elizabeth Lydia Mary born May 31, 1811; Rebecca Lavinia born Nov'r 30th, 1813; Matilda Ann Born Jan'y 23, 1815; John James born May 16th, 1818; Martha C. Mathews born Feb'y 5, 1798; James Mathews son of Ja's and Martha born June 15, 1823; John Webb born Ja'y 1, 1825; Jeremiah Fickling born July 15, 1826; William Frederick born Ja'y 9th 1828; Ellen Catherine born March 17, 1829; Eliza Carleton born Ja'y 28, 1831; Charles Careleton (sic) born Nov'r 14th 1832; Philip Edwin born March 22d 1834; Robert Page born Apl. 25, 1836; Chester William born Ja'y 30th 1838; George Sanders born Oct'r 28th 1839; Benjamin Brantly born Aug't 13, 1842.

\* Deaths: James Davant sen'r died Ja'y 13 1803 59 y 4 m 4 d Lydia Page Davant died Ap'l 20, 1795 40 y 4 m 8 d. John died Oc'r 13, 1770 5 m 1 d James died Sep'r 13, 1772 1 y Mary died July 1806 33 y 9 m Elizabeth Jan written over Dec [but Dec. is correct] 28, 1808 33 y John died Ja'y 6 1822 43 y 8 m.

\* Marriages: James Davant Sen'r and Lydia Page were married January 30th 1769; Mary Davant daughter of James and Lydia Davant was born 177? married James B. Sealy; Elizabeth Davant married Samuel Fickling; John Davant married Martha Cadmon; Lydia Davant married Thomas Webb; Rebecca Davant married Rev'd Philip Mathews; James Davant Junr and Mary Whaley were married July 12th 1807; Martha Sarah Davant married Mat J Williams; Elizabeth Lydia Mary Davant married Doc'r Norman L. Chester; Rebecca Lavinia Davant married Wm. Randle; Matilda Ann Davant married Doc'r Enos C. Moyer; James Davant married Martha C. Mathews August 8th 1822; James Davant married Rebecca F. Mathews March 26, 1843.

SCHS magazine vol. 45 p. 73 Died at Savannah, on the 16th inst. in the prime of life, Mrs. Mary Devant, wife of Mr. J. Devant. (Wed. May 27, 1818)

(E) Annals of Georgia by Caroline Wilson Eppingham County, Ga. p. 32 has quite a lot of Davant tradition—I knew Mrs. Wilson, but I don't know where she got her information, and she doesn't say. "John and James Davant were Huguenots who settled on James and John Islands about 1690. James Davant was a Revolutionary soldier and his service is referred to in "Columbia State" [newspaper in Columbia, S. C.] in 1904. In the Diary of Revolution by Frank Moore "Capt. Davant who conspicuously distinguished himself in leading the forlorn hope at Ninety-Six was killed at Eutaw" (Letter from Gen. Greene to President of Congress) [I have no idea who this could be.] . . . Will of James

Davant 1801 mentions dau Elizabeth Ficklin. Stephen Blount who died in Savannah in 1804, had a sister Elizabeth Davant who died in Savannah 1821 He was from Beaufort, S. C. Her will in Savannah mentions daughter Elizabeth, wife of John Mingledorf; daughter Rachel wife of Samuel Sturgis; grandson Fred'k Robinson Schubert son of deceased daughter Jane. Savannah Record Room Bk. R p. 139 1797 Marriage settlement of James Davant of St. Luke's Parish, S. C. and Mrs. Elizabeth relict of Samuel White of Burke Co., Ga., Atlanta, Ga. microfilm of newspapers: Col. Mus. and Savannah Advertiser Mar. 21, 1797 (Tues) Married on Saturday last, Mr. James Devant of Hylton Head, to Mrs. Elizabeth White of this city, relict of Mr. Samuel White of Burke County." Mortuary Records City Hall, Savannah by Caroline Wilson p. 37 1807 Dec. 28 Elizabeth, wife of Capt. Samuel Fickling of Hilton Head age 31.

p. 61 S. Hammond age 46, b. Newport, R. I. Millwright, killed by a fall. From residence of Mrs. Davant S. Broad, left wife and children. [ca 1811]

Note from Elizabeth Faw, who inspected the original records of St. Helena's Church and says "The two John and James died in infancy. When baptized at St. Helena's Church parents were put down as from Port Royal".

Stub Indents of Revolutionary Services, Columbia, S. C. Bk. R-T No. 433 R. Issued 4 June 1785 to James Devant for £20.8.63/4 for 285 days duty in militia in 1779-80.

No. 434 Issued 4 June 1785 to Mr. James Devant £14.7.1½ for 200 days militia duty in 1781-82.

Inv. Bk. 1776-78 Pro. Ct. Chas. S. C. Inventory for Richard Bland, planter, late of Hilton Head Island as shown by Capt. Lewis Bona and Charles Davant to the appraisors Lewis Bona, James Davant and Richard Adams 18 June 1776.

MCO Chas. S. C. Bk. F6 p. 219 Benjamin Bailey of Charleston sale to James Davant of Hilton Head Island Jan. 1792 270 acres bounded N on said James Davant, S on beach, and Mrs. Sarah Waight, W on James Davant Rec. 10 Apr. 1792 Wit. John Brailsford Wm. Baynard.

Letter from Elizabeth Chester Faw, Marietta, Ga. 1929 "Great-grandfather must have been an Episcopalian, for Grandma (Elizabeth Mary Lydia Davant) remembered his reading the Episcopal service to them on Sundays, to the accompaniment of the waves".

The 1790 Census for Beaufort District shows but one Davant: James Devant; 2 males over 16; 2 males under 16; 5 females; 20 slaves.

The watch James Davant willed to his son in 1801 was made by George Prior 15043, London. James Davant Jr. left it to his son Robert Page Davant, whose son Robert Chester Davant left it to his daughter Elizabeth Dixie Davant, Mrs. I. J. Miller of Beaumont, Texas. She had a photograph made of it—minus the hands and crystal now, but clearly showing the uniqueness of this watch—instead of the usual numerals it has 12 at the top, then JAMES DAVANT.

"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 Chaney 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

from an ambush.' In one respect of his character your Grandfather was a stern man, in another his feeling was of almost womanly tenderness. With quivering lips and tearful eye he pointed to a spot in the yard and said 'He fell there, and lived only long enough to tell how he had been shot, and to name two of his murderers'. And standing over his dead body I, as a boy, vowed that I would kill those men if I lived to be a man. Happily for me they both died while I was a child. But the feeling of the moment has grown with my growth and strengthened with my strength and I hate treachery and toryism in all its forms. This is a subject which harrows my feelings and unmans me. I do not like to speak of it. Henry, be true to your God, your friend and your country!' And the stern old man put his hands to his face and wept. I could but sympathize in his deep emotion and an impression was made on me that is almost as fresh now as when it was first stamped on my youthful soul."

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? BALOWIN

#### APPENDIX XIV

In the Bible of Francis Wellman Fickling the name of John Ducoine's second daughter is given Amelia Maria Frances Ducoin. Capt. E. E. Fickling also says "She was said to be the daughter of Isabella Loyer and the Marquis de Coigny, married Samuel Fickling for his second wife, and died in Columbia, S. C. Nov. 24, 1861". Always referred to as "my precious sister" by her half sister Isabella Loyer Davant. She was the daughter of Christiana Irvine or Erwin, Who married three times. First Adrian Loyer who died "Feb. 22, 1781 Savannah Last Sunday died here, Mr. Adrian Loyer, Silversmith" "John Ducoign of the Georgia Battalion to Mrs. Christiana Loyer, widow of Mr. Adrian Loyer Feb. 6, 1782" and "William Renshaw, carpenter married Mrs. Ducoine, widow of the late Capt. Ducoine Mar. 10, 1796". These items are from the Savannah newspapers. The Mortuary Records of Savannah, Ga. gives "Mar. 17, 1807: Christiana Rheinshaw, age 47, born County Antrim, Ireland. widow, survivors 2 children and sister Mrs.

P. 130 Sand Hill 600 acres and Folly Field 500 acres, often called Mathews' Land, when sold in 1875 Folly Field brought only \$110; only 200 acres of Sand Hill were redeemable by heirs due to government surveyors' mistake. The heirs were Sarah Mathews Lawton (Mrs. W. G.); Mary E. Mathews George, whose husband was a clergyman and the widow Mary Lawton, probably widow of Theodore Mathews. (Pattie Howard sent me this record of two of the George children, from Laurel Grove Cemetery, Savannah: Rebecca Davant d. March 14, 1855, age 7 yrs. and 4 months and on same stone, William Wiley died Mar. 22, 1855 aged 5 yrs. and 4 mos. children of Joseph and Mary Elizabeth George.

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p. 60 Sale of Land at Hilton Head: 1784: part of Bayley's Patent . . . these famed healthy and pleasantly located lands on Scull Creek. . . James Davant added no. 38 being 270 acres fronting the beach to the land he owned on the south end.

# Indians, Tories, Patriots all part of rich Plantation lore

By Jim Littlejohn  
Features Editor

"Back in those days, there were Indians" My grandfather never had a story published, but he knew instinctively how to grab an audience in the first few words — especially if that audience happened to be a 10-year-old boy.

Of course, he wasn't telling stories about Hilton Head Island, or its northeastern corner that today goes by the name of Hilton Head Plantation — but he might as well have been.

There is no doubt that the high, "bluffy" area overlooking Port Royal Sound and the broad reaches of Skull Creek contained its share of Indian encampments, although it really isn't known if many tribes made it more than a seasonal home.

About half way between the Old Fort Pub and Talbird Cemetery was a flowing spring that must have been patronized by various Indian tribes from time to time, because early settlers named it Indian Springs. It was the site of Indian encampments and villages for almost 4,000 years according to Mike Taylor, director of the Museum of Hilton Head.

Taylor recalls that during the early development of Hilton Head Plantation, The Sea Pines Company brought in Stanley South of the Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology in Columbia to do some investigative digging.

"Among their findings was evidence of a small palisade, which would definitely indicate someone using the area with defensive purpose in mind." Taylor says the group also found a wealth of European artifacts, some of the earliest to be found anywhere in the country.

It was in the plans of Sea Pines management to bring South back to complete his preliminary digs, but in all of the changes of the middle '70s, it never came to pass.

The spring itself is still flowing and lies between the present-day villa complexes of Indian Springs and Mariners Point, but the surrounding sites have now been lost to modern residential development.

Hilton Head and Skull Creek were well-known haunts of the raiding Yemassee long after the uprising of 1815 was supposedly laid to rest. In fact, one local historian would have it that Skull Creek was actually "Skulk Creek" and was so named because the savages "skulked" up and down its reaches, looking for white settlers to attack.

There are others, however, who tend toward the legend that pirates used these waters to careen their ships and perhaps hide their ill-gotten gains back up on the shore. The palisade remains discovered by South may well have been defenses for a wooden blockhouse similar to the one in Robert Louis Stevenson's "Treasure Island."

Certainly Indian attacks were common enough during the days between the area's first settlements in the early 1700s. The friendly Cusabos usually allied themselves with the settlers, but roving tribes of Ogeechees, Yemassee and Creeks, all subtribes of the Cherokees, were warlike and quick to take offense when they felt cheated by the so-called "Indian Traders."

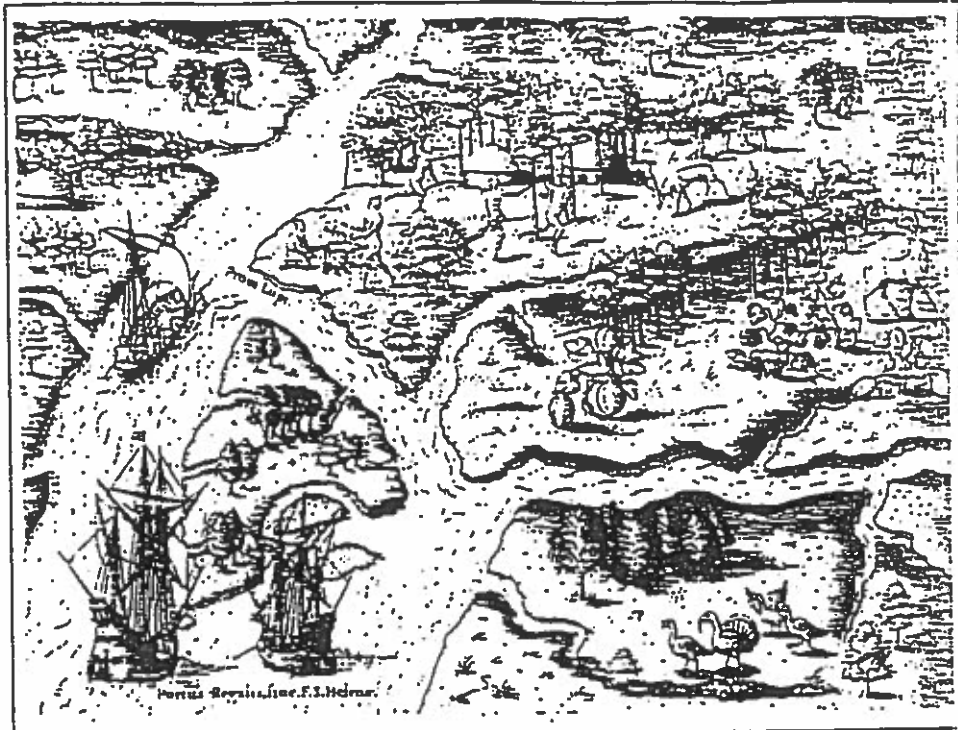
The Cusabos were already near extinction, due to numerous attacks by the Westoes, a reputedly cannibalistic tribe from the inland, and even though they were given land and food, the tribe had virtually disappeared by 1740.

## The Yemassee Wars

The Yemassee were friendly enough most of the time and, indeed, had allied themselves with the English colonists in wars against the Spanish and against the raiding Tuscaroras of North Carolina. Col. John Barnwell got his nickname of "Tuscarora Jack" from a series of campaigns he led in aid of the besieged North Carolinians in 1711 and 1712.

It was for this and later similar acts of deriding-do that Barnwell was granted three 500-acre plantations on Hilton Head by the Lords Proprietors in 1717.

Before that, however, came the Yemassee War of 1715.



Indians fascinated early explorers of the South Carolina seacoast. In this engraving of Fort Royal Sound by Theodore DeBry of one of the earliest maps by cartographer Jacques Le-Moyne, they are depicted hunting and cooking amidst a Garden of Eden-like bounty.

Having heard of unrest among the Yemassee and rumors of an uprising, South Carolina Governor Charles Craven sent a deputation of men familiar with the Indians to Pocatigo, the site of the Yemassee nation, to discuss problems.

The men were received well enough and were invited to a special feast in the evening, but early the next morning (Easter Sunday, as it happened,) the Yemassee fell on the sleeping men and massacred all but two.

The two men ran, splitting up when they came to a path offering two directions of escape. Seaman Burroughs, continued on toward the river and possible return to Fort Royal Island, but his companion, John Wright, hid in the bushes and had to undergo the mental torture of watching the destruction of his friends. Burroughs, despite an arrow through his neck and cheek, managed to reach Whale Branch, a tidal inlet, a few steps ahead of his pursuers. He ran into the water, made a surface dive and swam the stream, eluding his attackers.

As luck would have it, the first inhabited area he reached was the farm community of Tuscarora Jack Barnwell, who attended Burroughs' wounds as best he could and then sent his household and servants in all directions to warn the area that the Indians had arisen.

#### Burroughs' Heroism

The settlers came in from all over to the tiny community that had begun to form along the banks of the Beaufort River. A ship was in the middle of paying a trading call on Beaufort, and as a result of its presence and some other craft in the harbor, the assembled planters and their families were able to board and get clear of the land, just minutes ahead of the arrival of the Yemassee.

Despite Burroughs heroism and the swift action taken by Barnwell, over 100 settlers lost their lives during the next few days.

One of those who was to lose both his hair and his life was Christopher Dawson, who must have been the first European to live and work on Hilton Head. According to historical accounts, Dawson had a 200-acre plantation on Skull Creek and was later found there, mutilated by the aroused Yemassee.

With the help of Barnwell and Lt. Col. Alexander Mackey, the Granville County Militia defeated the Yemassee decisively at Pocatigo, but the fighting continued openly for more than a year before a treaty was signed.

Barnwell's three 500-acre plantations lay along Skull Creek and Port Royal Sound. These holdings later made up large portions of the Waight/Elliott Myrtle Bank Plantation, and Fish Hall Plantation, which has been mistakenly listed as a holding of the Draytons.

Barnwell already had land on Parris Island and on St. Helena, but he did plant his Hilton Head holdings, and upon his death he left the three plantations to three of his children — John, Katherine and Bridget.

Through sales and inheritance, John's property (Fish Hall) devolved to Mary Baynard Pope, who left it to her grandchildren from the marriage of her daughter Emma to Thomas Fenwick Drayton. The Draytons were unable to take possession of their land due to the Civil War, but the name stuck and the land is still referred to as "Drayton Plantation." Katherine Barnwell died without issue and her portion was added to the estate of her sister, Bridget. When her son, Robert Sams died without children, the estate was sold and became Myrtle Bank, later the site of the Elliott family's experimentation with Sea Island Cotton. William Elliott was a well-known Lowcountry planter, but it was his son, William Elliott II who pioneered the long-stapled cotton brought in from Barbados, thereby creating a large part of the wealth of the antebellum South.

### The Talbird Saga

The Talbirds were another early family along Skull Creek and their story definitely is the substance of which dreams — and novels — are made. The head of the South Carolina clan of Talbirds was born Henry Talbot, son of Sir John Talbot, Lord Mayor of Dublin.

When Henry was five years old, he was sent to live with his uncle and namesake, Henry Talbot, in London, to become his heir. Through either accident or jealousy, the young

boy was lost by a servant in the streets of London and was rescued by a sea captain from Plymouth. Not being able to find his family, the childless mariner took the young boy home to Plymouth where he and his wife raised him as their own.

Later in life, after the family had moved to America, the boy was told of his background, the family having discovered it soon after their impromptu adoption. Talbot went back to Ireland to claim a share of his father's estate, but was thrown into prison as an imposter by a younger half-brother.

His legal problems were solved through help from a sister who believed his story, but his brother would not relent and Talbot returned to South Carolina. He did, however, come armed with contracts to build a series of lighthouses along the coast, and as part-payment for the lighthouses, Talbot was given a grant on Hilton Head's Skull Creek.

And herein lies the hazel-hatchery part. A lazy or ignorant clerk in London who made out the grant papers spelled Talbot's names as Talbird. Since the papers would have to be sent back to London to record the change — and since Talbot had no particular love for his patronymic as the result of his brother's actions, he left the spelling as it was and adopted that version himself thereafter.

A neighbor to the Talbot/Talbird property on Skull Creek was John Ladson, whose father-in-law, John Conyers, also lived nearby. Young John Talbird, one of Henry's six children, met and married Ladson's daughter, Mary Ann, and was given his father's Hilton Head property as a wedding present.

The wedding took place in December 1778, shortly after the fall of Savannah to the British. John soon found himself on duty with the Continental forces as a lieutenant in the company of his brother, Capt. Thomas Talbird. Wounded and captured during a battle on John's Island, John was a prisoner for a time in Charleston, but was paroled and sent home

in 1780.

(FRANCIS)

When the Tories of Capt. Dick Pendarvis tried to recruit Talbird to fight against his friends and family, he slipped away and joined the Continentals once more, fighting with "The Swamp Fox," General Thomas Marion, only to be captured a second time and placed on a prison ship in Charleston Harbor.

Pendarvis, a kinsman of the Martinangeles of Daufuskie, became a scourge to the Lowcountry and was responsible for the death of Talbird's step-brother, Capt. James Doherty. Talbird's nephew, a Captain Leaycraft, tracked down Pendarvis and executed him.

Shortly thereafter, a troop of British soldiers from Savannah and led by Isaac Martinangele of Daufuskie, landed on Hilton Head and marching the length of Skull Creek, burnt every plantation and home they found. One of these, of course, was the Talbird home, despite the fact that Isaac's wife was the sister of John Talbird.

Mary Ann Talbird, left destitute except for the furniture that her brother-in-law saved for her from the fire, later that day gave birth to her second child. The date was Oct. 17, 1781, the same day that Lord Cornwallis surrendered to George Washington at Yorktown. The child, Henry Talbird, was called "Yorktown Henry" throughout his life.

The Martinangeles weren't through, however, and a few nights later, they raided Hilton Head, killing Charles Davant from ambush near the site of the present Antebellum Cemetery, near Folly Field. Two weeks later, on Christmas Eve, a group of patriot soldiers known as "The Bloody Legion," and led by Capt. Leaycraft, went to Daufuskie and killed both Philip and Abraham Martinangele.

The bloodletting stopped after that and Hilton Head (and Hilton Head Plantation) moved on into the halcyon days of Sea Island cotton and the great fortunes that were to be amassed from it.



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7 BALOWIAL

#### APPENDIX XIV

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# The National Society Sons of the American Revolution

1000 S. 4th St., Louisville, KY 40203

Committee Use Only:  
Date Rec'd \_\_\_\_\_  
in 93 RWGR Y N  
Enter next ed. \_\_\_\_\_

## GRAVES REGISTRY REVOLUTIONARY WAR GRAVES COMMITTEE

Revolutionary War Soldier or Patriot

DAVANT CHARLES  
Last Name (all spellings) First Name (all spellings) Middle Name  
Born on 1750 Where S. C.  
Died on October 22, 1781 Where S. C.  
Married (1) Elizabeth (Fendin) Bland Widow's Pension No. \_\_\_\_\_  
(2) \_\_\_\_\_ Note: If widow put maiden name in parentheses.  
(3) \_\_\_\_\_  
Service: Rank or Service S. C. Militia State(s) S. C. Pension No. \_\_\_\_\_

Source SAR Application, Charles Davant, Jr., #127263 S. C. #1954

Buried: Name of Cemetery Zion Chapel of Ease Cemetery

City Hilton Head Island Township \_\_\_\_\_ County Beaufort ST SC

Directions for locating Cemetery Corner Matthews Drive and Highway #278, Folly Field Road

Location of grave in Cemetery Front Center

Tombstone: Yes X No \_\_\_\_\_ Note: If possible, attach a picture of the headstone to the reverse side of the sheet.

Marker: Yes X No \_\_\_\_\_

If Yes what type: DAR X SAR \_\_\_\_\_ Other (name) \_\_\_\_\_

Date Marker was placed, if known 1984

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

Information furnished by: Austin J. Thoman, 20 China Cockle Lane, Hilton Head Island, S. C.  
Name & Address 29926

Date Submitted: 5/25/95

Please return form to:

Robert F. Galer, Chairman  
Revolutionary War Graves Committee OR  
7236 Lullwater Road  
Columbus, GA 31904

National Society SAR  
1000 South Fourth Street  
Louisville, KY 40203



# The National Society Sons of the American Revolution

1000 S. 4th St., Louisville, KY 40203

## GRAVES REGISTRY REVOLUTIONARY WAR GRAVES COMMITTEE

Committee Use Only:  
Date Rec'd \_\_\_\_\_  
in 93 RWGR Y N  
Enter next ed. \_\_\_\_\_

Revolutionary War Soldier or Patriot

<u>DAVANT</u>	<u>JAMES</u>	
Last Name (all spellings)	First Name (all spellings)	Middle Name
Born on <u>September 9, 1744</u>	Where <u>S. C.</u>	
Died on <u>January 13, 1803</u>	Where <u>Savannah, Georgia</u>	
Marrried (1) <u>Lydia Page</u>	Widow's Pension No. _____	
(2) <u>Elizabeth White</u>	Note: If widow put maiden name in parentheses.	
(3) _____		
Service: Rank or Service <u>S.C. Militia</u>	State(s) <u>S. C.</u>	Pension No. _____

Source Davant family history - Hardin Davant Hanahan

Buried: Name of Cemetery Zion Chapel of Ease Cemetery

City Hilton Head Island Township \_\_\_\_\_ County Beaufort ST S.C.

Directions for locating Cemetery Corner Matthews Drive and Highway #278 - Folly Field Road

Location of grave in Cemetery Front Center

Tombstone: Yes  No \_\_\_\_\_ Note: If possible, attach a picture of the headstone to the reverse side of the sheet.

Marker: Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No

If Yes what type: DAR \_\_\_\_\_ SAR \_\_\_\_\_ Other (name) \_\_\_\_\_

Date Marker was placed, if known \_\_\_\_\_

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

Information furnished by: Austin J. Thoman, 20 China Cockle Lane, Hilton Head Is., SC 29926  
Name & Address

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Columbus, GA 31904

National Society SAR  
1000 South Fourth Street  
Louisville, KY 40203

SOUTH

CAROLINA

# ZION CHAPEL OF EASE AND CEMETERY

A Chapel of St. Luke's Parish, established May 23, 1767, built of wood shortly after 1786 under the direction of Captain John Stoney and Isaac Fripp, was consecrated in 1835. Members of the Barksdale, Baynard, Chaplin, Davant, Fripp, Kirk, Mathews, Pope, Stoney, and Webb families worshipped here. By 1868 the chapel was destroyed.

MADE BY THE STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

## Island Leaders Rest In Zion

By Robert E. H. Peebles

Photographed by Gary Forcier

"We're marching to Zion, beautiful, beautiful Zion," sang the Gospel hymn writer, recalling the sacred hill in Jerusalem with its royal residence of King David and his successors. Eighteenth century Hilton Head Islanders, longing for a period of peace after the violence of the Revolutionary War years (1775-1783), looked at the lovely grove of live oaks, cedars and magnolias at the head of Broad Creek and called it Zion. There Captain Jack Stoney and Isaac Fripp, for the good of their souls, built a chapel of brick and wood in 1787. They were joined by other Islanders, one of whom lost his wife Lydia in 1795.

James Davant was born on Edisto Island in 1744. His father, John, brought him to Hilton Head in 1758 when he began planting indigo on Point Comfort Plantation. With 14-year-old James came his brothers Isaac 16, and Charles 8, and a sister Mary 10. And when their father died in 1768, the three brothers continued the indigo planting operation with the help of their 12 slaves.

The British government's subsidy on indigo guaranteed its profitability. The next year James married Lydia Page; they raised six of their eight children.

Mary Irvine's marker obviously is older than the tree which grows around it. Mary died in 1821 at the age of 59.



James served in the local militia 1779-1782 and was a concerned member of The Bloody Legion which avenged the death of his brother Charles who was ambushed by Daufuskie Island Tories.

By 1790 James and Lydia had the help of 20 slaves and had added extensively to their landholdings. Their eighth child was born in 1793 and Lydia died in 1795. James buried her in the churchyard of Zion Chapel of Ease. Two years later he found solace and help in raising his young daughter in the widow of Charles White of Savannah.

The 1801 will of James Davant confirms his position of leadership. He left for daughter Mary Kicklighter five slaves and Marshlands Plantation, for daughter Elizabeth Fickling five slaves and part of Point Comfort Plantation, for daughter Rebecca (who later would marry Rev. Philip Mathews, the Island's first resident minister from 1813 to his death in 1828, for whom Matthews Drive is named) five slaves and Sand Hill Plantation, for son John four slaves, livestock and Point Comfort Plantation, for daughter Lydia Webb five slaves and Possum Point Plantation, and for son James, Jr., four slaves, livestock, Folly Field Plantation, and his exotic gold watch made in London by George Priorl. Instead of the usual numerals it had only "12" at the top, then J-A-M-E-S-D-A-V-A-N-T in the 1 through 11 spaces. James Davant was buried in Zion in 1805 beside Lydia. Several of their children and grandchildren are buried around them and an epitaph for his martyred brother Charles (1750-1781) has been erected.

One of the builders of Zion Chapel, Captain Jack Stoney (1748-1821) also rests there. Born in Knockshegowna, Tipperary, Ireland, he arrived in Charles Town in 1774 with his wife Elizabeth Caulfield and their son James, born in April 1772. At "Hobcaw Billy" Pritchard's shipyard on Wando River he commissioned a ship

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By Robert E. H. Peebles

Photographed by Gary Forcier

"We're marching to Zion, beautiful, beautiful Zion," sang the Gospel hymn writer, recalling the sacred hill in Jerusalem with its royal residence of King David and his successors. Eighteenth century Hilton Head Islanders, longing for a period of peace after the violence of the Revolutionary War years (1775-1783), looked at the lovely grove of live oaks, cedars and magnolias at the head of Broad Creek and called it Zion. There Captain Jack Stoney and Isaac Fripp, for the good of their souls, built a chapel of brick and wood in 1787. They were joined by other Islanders, one of whom lost his wife Lydia in 1795.

James Davant was born on Edisto Island in 1744. His father, John, brought him to Hilton Head in 1758 when he began planting indigo on Point Comfort Plantation. With 14-year-old James came his brothers Isaac 16, and Charles 8, and a sister Mary 10. And when their father died in 1768, the three brothers continued the indigo planting operation with the help of their 12 slaves.

The British government's subsidy on indigo guaranteed its profitability. The next year James married Lydia Page; they raised six of their eight children.

Mary Irvine's marker obviously is older than the tree which grows around it. Mary died in 1821 at the age of 59.



James served in the local militia 1779-1782 and was a concerned member of The Bloody Legion which avenged the death of his brother Charles who was ambushed by Daufuskie Island Tories.

By 1790 James and Lydia had the help of 20 slaves and had added extensively to their landholdings. Their eighth child was born in 1793 and Lydia died in 1795. James buried her in the churchyard of Zion Chapel of Ease. Two years later he found solace and help in raising his young daughter in the widow of Charles White of Savannah.

The 1801 will of James Davant confirms his position of leadership. He left for daughter Mary Kicklighter five slaves and Marshlands Plantation, for daughter Elizabeth Fickling five slaves and part of Point Comfort Plantation, for daughter Rebecca (who later would marry Rev. Philip Mathews, the Island's first resident minister from 1813 to his death in 1828, for whom Matthews Drive is named) five slaves and Sand Hill Plantation, for son John four slaves, livestock and Point Comfort Plantation, for daughter Lydia Webb five slaves and Possum Point Plantation, and for son James, Jr., four slaves, livestock, Folly Field Plantation, and his exotic gold watch made in London by George Priorl. Instead of the usual numerals it had only "12" at the top, then J-A-M-E-S-D-A-V-A-N-T in the 1 through 11 spaces. James Davant was buried in Zion in 1805 beside Lydia. Several of their children and grandchildren are buried around them and an epitaph for his martyred brother Charles (1750-1781) has been erected.

One of the builders of Zion Chapel, Captain Jack Stoney (1748-1821) also rests there. Born in Knockshegowna, Tipperary, Ireland, he arrived in Charles Town in 1774 with his wife Elizabeth Caulfield and their son James, born in April 1772. At "Hobcaw Billy" Pritchard's shipyard on Wando River he commissioned a ship

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which he christened the *Saucy Jack*. At the outbreak of the Revolution Captain Jack secured a Letter of Marque from His Excellency, John Rutledge, President of South Carolina, to operate the *Saucy Jack* as a privateer against all enemies of the Province.

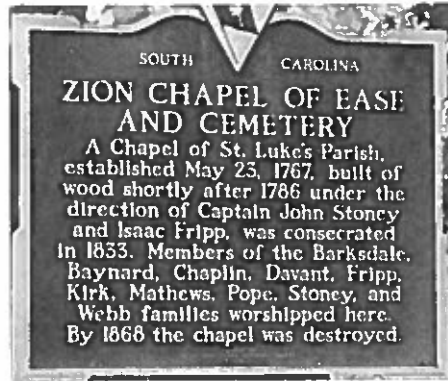
He watched the British ships-of-the-line escorting heavily laden merchantmen along the Carolina coast toward St. Augustine where forces were being readied for the December 1778 attack on Savannah. Again and again the *Saucy Jack* was able to cut a lagging merchantman from these southbound fleets, quickly disappearing with its prize up Calibogue Sound into Broad Creek whence its cargo was transferred under cover of darkness to Beaufort or Charles Town. He knew well the splendid interconnecting system of back waterways by which prizes could be speedily spirited away while British gunboats searched in vain.

By 1784 Captain Jack Stoney began investing his wartime winnings in prime Hilton Head Island indigo lands, establishing himself first at Otterburn (later called Otter Hole) Plantation. He also bought Braddock's Point and Calibogia Plantations, now included in Sea Pines. By 1790 his establishment included 82 slaves and his family had increased by a son John in 1780 and a daughter Elizabeth Mary in 1784. In 1793 he built for his residence the impressive Braddock's Point House (now called Baynard Ruins) and Otterburn became the seat of his son, Captain James Stoney on the occasion of his marriage to Elizabeth, daughter of Dr. George Mosse. The young couple spent their winters at Otterburn, their summers in their Beaufort town house. They had 15 children but raised only two: Dr. George Mosse Stoney (1795-1854) and Martha Sarah Stoney (1807-1880).

### *He Invested His Wartime Winnings In Hilton Head Lands.*

Captain Jack continued expanding his Island holdings, adding Fairfield and in 1805 Honey Horn Plantations. By then Sea Island cotton had replaced indigo as the Island's money crop. In 1821, in his 74th year, while shooting birds with his old friend, Captain William Pope of Fish Haul Plantation, he tripped and his gun discharged killing him instantly. He was buried where he fell on a promontory overlooking Port Royal Sound. His elder son, Captain James Stoney who had inherited his 5,400 acres on Hilton Head, died at Otterburn and was buried beside him. Later their remains were reburied in Zion.





Plaque at Zion.

The vast Stoney properties were all, except for 1,820-acre Calibogia Plantation and its 156 slaves, inherited by Captain James' only son: Dr. George Mosse Stoney who richly endowed his eight children, by two wives, before his 1854 death in his since-demolished baronial Bay Street Beaufort town house. It was the heiress of Calibogia Plantation, Martha Sarah, whose first husband also rests in Zion.

### *'He Built For His Bride A Handsome Residence.'*

The epitaph of Thomas Henry Barksdale (1795-1832) stands beside that of his father-in-law. Thomas was born on Hilton Head, son of planter George Barksdale of Christ Church Parish who settled here after marrying an Ashe heiress. The 1790 census showed him with 33 slaves. By early 1795 George had a second wife, Ann Agnes, born on Hilton Head in 1776, daughter of Lewis and Sarah (Parmenter) Bona. Their son, Thomas Henry was not only handsome and cultivated, he was successful. On his 2,600-acre Scull Creek Plantation, stretching from Elliott's Myrtle Bank to Stoney's Fairfield, he built for his bride a handsome residence featuring two stories above a tabby basement, beautifully furnished and landscaped, a double avenue of *Magnolia Grandiflora* leading to its Skull Creek landing.



The Baynard Mausoleum.

When Island planter Isaac Baldwin (1752-1826) and his wife Martha both died in 1826 and were laid to rest in Zion, Thomas Henry Barksdale bought their 290-acre Baldwin Plantation. But his marriage to Martha Sarah was childless and when only 36, he died in 1832, leaving Martha Sarah to appeal to her uncle, Col. Alexander Lawton, for help in settling his estate. Squire William Pope bought 1,000 acres, including Scull Creek House which he renamed Cotton Hope Plantation. William Seabrook, Esq. of Edisto Island's elegant Mansion House, bought the remaining 1,600 acres, since known as Seabrook Plantation. One man's success quickly becomes another man's challenge.

Also at rest in Zion beside the Baldwins are their daughter Mary Elizabeth (1793-1851) and her husband, James Kirk (1780-1850) of Cherry Hill Plantation, together with several of their 15 children. The latest Kirk epitaph to be erected was to their son, Dr. James Kirk (1825-1858), well-known Island physician.

No one entering Zion can avert his interest from the imposing gabled mausoleum with its protecting iron fence fixed in granite posts. Above its gaping door, once elegantly fitted with a pair of full-length white marble doors, are raised letters: WM. E. BAYNARD. William Edings Baynard was born on Edisto Island in 1800, third of the four sons of Thomas Baynard (1763-1805) who had bought 600-acre Spanish Wells Plantation in 1790.

Adjacent 850-acre Muddy Creek Plantation was bought in 1792 by William's Uncle William Baynard (1772-1802), the sudden death of whose first wife, the beautiful Sarah Black Baynard, resulted in the accusation of her handsome and spirited personal maid, Eliza, of poisoning her mistress. Variations on the story abound: a dish of deviled crabs gone bad, possibly poisoned wine, missing jewels, even jealousy over the young husband's attentions. Eliza tried to escape, was quickly apprehended and hanged on a venerable live oak at Big Gate, intersection of current Mathews Drive and Marshland Road. Innocent or guilty, her ghost was wont to revisit the scene of her death, the tree known as Eliza Tree as long as it stood.

By 1820 young William Edings Baynard had inherited Spanish Wells and had bought Muddy Creek from his uncle's estate. His wide fields of Sea Island cotton added quickly to his wealth. He acquired splendid Buckingham Plantation on the nearby mainland. But not until he was 29 did he marry the 16-year-old Catherine Adelaide Scott, daughter of deceased Island planter Joseph Adams Scott (1781-1826) only the planters and their families but of Grasslawn Plantation and niece of the son, Squire Pope.

Home was still Edisto Island for the Baynards but their husky slaves could row the plantation boats through protected inland waterways to the Spanish Wells dock on Calibogue Sound in only a few hours. Baynard was a highly successful planter, following both the advice and example of his greatly-admired elder brother, Ephraim Mikell Baynard, for whom he named his first son in 1830. Three additional children had arrived by 1840 when local tradition tells that William Edings Baynard won the deed to 1,000-acre Braddock's

Point Plantation from Col. John Joseph Stoney in a poker game.

It is impossible to verify Beaufort District Mesne Conveyance Office records for 1785-1865 since Sherman's army burned them in 1865 in Gillisonville Court House. But after 1840 the Baynards lived graciously in the tabby mansion built by Captain Jack Stoney, now known as the Baynard Ruins.

The Baynard Mausoleum was erected during this flourishing era and the handsome Davenport House was bought to serve as the family's Savannah town house. In 1843 William Edings Baynard, Jr. was born and grew up to be "a good-looking man" as reported by a cousin in the spring of 1864 when on furlough in Lawtonville from Captain George Cuthbert's company. He was killed on Ogeechee River that fall in a skirmish with Union troops and never made it to Zion to join his father and mother.

For William Edings Baynard died in his prime, only 49, and was funeralized in Zion Chapel-of-Ease by Rev. Alsop Woodward, Rector of the parish. Four months later his posthumous daughter Anna was born and baptized in Zion. This youngest child of Braddock's Point Plantation was only five in 1854 when her mother, Catherine Adelaide, herself only 42, was laid to rest behind the carved marble doors of the Baynard Mausoleum.

The site of Zion Chapel-of-Ease and Cemetery is owned by the Hilton Head Island Historical Society which periodically has the grounds cleaned. The Society welcomes gifts for the fund it has established for the preservation and beautification of historic Zion, as well as volunteers willing to devote time and energy in caring for this haven of quiet and rest.

"The Lord loveth the gates of Zion." (Psalm 87:2) □

James and Lydia Davant's markers. She died in 1795, he in 1803.





Joseph Homer/Carolina Morning News

**REMEMBRANCE PLANS:** Austin Thoman of the Sons of the American Revolution visits Hilton Head's Zion Chapel of Ease Cemetery where Charles Davant, a Hilton Head planter killed at the end of the war, is buried.

CAROLINA MORNING

# Recognition sought for war casualty

## Charles Davant was Hilton Head's only loss in American Revolution

By Jim Littlejohn

Carolina Morning News

HILTON HEAD ISLAND — Charles Davant was Hilton Head Island's only military casualty of the Revolutionary War, and the local Sons of the American Revolution want to commemorate that fact.

Davant was fatally shot Oct. 22, 1781, while patrolling Hilton Head Island against possible British and Tory raids.

Ironically, this was three days after British Gen. Lord Cornwallis surrendered to Gen. George Washington at Yorktown, effectively ending hostilities in the war for American independence.

The Hilton Head Island chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution plans to request that Mayor Tom Peeples designate Oct. 22, the 215th anniversary of Davant's death, as "Charles Davant Day," said group spokesman Austin J. Thoman.

Another element of the commemoration might include a re-enactment of Davant's ambush, Thoman added.

Six months before the ambush, according to Hilton Head historian Robert E.H.

Peeples, John Leaycraft and a group of patriot soldiers captured and executed Daufuskie Island Tory leader Capt. Richard "Tory Dick" Pendarvis and Lt. William Patterson.

It took Daufuskie Loyalists several months to plan a retaliation, but in mid-October the Daufuskie Royal Militia raided Hilton Head Island and burned every residence along Skull Creek.

To prevent a recurrence of this type of raid, Davant and other islanders started patrolling the marshes and waters on the Daufuskie side of Hilton Head on Oct. 22, the night of the ambush that killed Davant.

The South Carolina Society of the Sons of the American Revolution, the Daughters of the American Revolution and the Hilton Head Historical Society are all involved in gaining further recognition for Davant, a private in the South Carolina militia and a planter on Hilton Head.

The three groups have ordered a 12-inch by 24-inch bronze marker with the dates of Davant's birth and death and detailing the circumstances of his ambush. They plan to erect the marker on Davant's grave in the Zion Chapel of Ease Cemetery, located at the

intersections of Mathews Drive, Folly Field Road and U.S. 278, sometime in February, Thoman said.

Other improvements also are planned, he said. The 200-year-old cemetery, especially the wrought-iron fence around the Kirk-Baldwin plot, is in "a terrible state of disrepair," he said.

The local SAR chapter received a \$5,000 grant in October from the Hilton Head Foundation to begin the first phase of repair. More money is needed to complete the project, estimated to cost \$17,000, Thoman said.

The SAR chapter also is interested in finding out more about the so-called "Bloody Legion," a group of Davant's fellow militiamen who, a few weeks after the ambush, raided nearby Daufuskie and killed both Phillip and Abraham Martinangele. Davant had identified them as his killers before he died, Thoman explained.

The members of the group who raided Daufuskie were identified in a Charleston newspaper of the period as being "a band of

■ See CASUALTY, Page 2D

3 NEWS Jan. 29, 1996

# Casualty

Continued From Page 1D

banditti."

Peeples described the Bloody Legion assault in "A History of Daufuskie Island and Melrose Plantation."

"At Christmas 1781, the Bloody Legion crossed to Daufuskie in strength. Pvt. Israel Andrews killed Capt. Philip Martinangele. Philip's brother Abraham was killed in his bed while holding his infant daughter," Peeples wrote.

The raiders included Leaycraft as commander, Israel Andrews, James Allen, Isaac Baldwin, Lewis

Bono, John Bull, William Chiswell, James Davant, Isaac Davids, James Erving, John Erving, John Fendon, Charles Floyd, Nathaniel Gamball, Patrick McMullen, John Mongin Sr., John Mongin Jr., Christian Rankin, Meredith Rich, Thomas Roberts, David Ross, Daniel Savage and William Scott.

Thoman said that other than Davant's brother, James Davant, and Isaac Baldwin, little is known of the members of the Bloody Legion.

"We would like their descendants to give us any information available," Thoman said. "We believe that an appropriate marker or plaque of the Bloody Legion Roll of Honor should be erected either on Daufuskie Island or near the site of the former Militia Muster House on Hilton Head."

Beau





IN MEMORY OF  
CHARLES DAVANT II  
BORN ON HILTON HEAD ISLAND, S.C.  
NOVEMBER 20, 1777  
DIED GILLISONVILLE  
APRIL 8, 1846  
AND HIS WIFE  
ISABELLA LOYER  
BORN SAVANNAH, GA.  
AUGUST 23, 1779  
DIED GILLISONVILLE  
OCTOBER, 1860

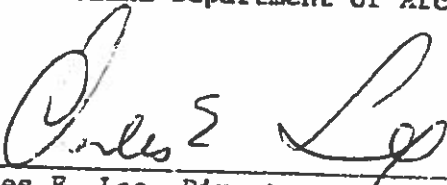
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REVOLUTIONARY WAR 17  
AMBUSH 6

1	In December 1781, returning from	32
2	a patrol with the Patriot Militia,	34
3	Charles Davant was mortally	27
4	wounded from ambush near here	29
5	by Captain Martinangel's Royal	30
6	Militia from Daufuskie Island. He	34
7	managed to ride his horse to his	32
8	nearby plantation, Two Oaks, where	34
9	he died. Captain John Leacraft's	33
10	Bloody Legion avenged his death.	31

Erected by  
Hilton Head Island Historical Society  
1973

Approved: South Carolina Department of Archives and History

By :   
Charles E. Lee, Director

Date : March 8, 1973

**SOME OF MY EXPERIENCES DURING THE CIVIL WAR  
AND THE DAYS IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING**

**Dedicated to my Granddaughter, Maner Davant,  
at whose request this little sketch has been written.**

*Ann*  
**Elizabeth Baker Davant**  
**(18 Feb. 1846 - 24 Apr. 1922)**  
**m. 13 Sept. 1866**  
**Frank Fickling Davant**  
**(16 Feb. 1845 - 27 May 1919)**



In February, 1864, at the close of my vacation which I had spent with my mother and sisters in lower South Carolina, I started on my return to school at Limestone Springs, South Carolina. I had only five months more of study before graduating and, of course, I was anxious to accomplish that event, so important in every school girl's life. I left home about ten days before the time for the opening of school in order to stop in Columbia, South Carolina, for a short visit with two maiden aunts who lived there. I had been with them only a few days when I was greatly surprised by a notice in the paper from Dr. Curtis, our president, stating that he would be compelled to suspend the operations of the school on account of the scarcity and high cost of provisions. This was a hard blow to me and a bitter disappointment from which I have never entirely recovered. Of course the war was the cause of the trouble, and there was nothing for me to do but submit.

The Treasury Department of the Confederacy was established in Columbia and hundreds of ladies were employed there signing, numbering, stamping and trimming the notes and doing the various work required. Both of my aunts were among these workers and through their exertions and influence I soon secured a position, with a salary of \$350 a month, Confederate money.

I had been in Columbia about a year when Sherman began his march through South Carolina. When he was getting uncomfortably near the city the Department was ordered to Charlotte, North Carolina, and arrangements were made for all employees who wished to go. The whole city was in a panic and everybody was trying to get away as quickly as possible. Ten trains were necessary to accommodate the Treasury Department, the first leaving about 10 a.m., the others following immediately after. This was the morning of the night Sherman entered and burned Columbia, February 17, 1865.

We reached Charlotte early the next morning and the citizens turned out "en masse" and served hot breakfast to the weary refugees. The hotels and boarding houses were all crowded so these good people came with their servants bearing trays of food and passed through the coaches until all had been served. Many of these citizens found friends and acquaintances among the refugees and invited them to their homes to stay until better arrangements could be made. In one of these ladies my aunts recognized a friend from their old home, Beaufort, South Carolina, and she immediately asked us to go home with her, which we were very glad to do, and we found ourselves most comfortably and luxuriously entertained in one of the handsomest homes in Charlotte.

Through this family we soon became acquainted with the best people in the city, and they treated us with the greatest kindness and hospitality. But it was out of the question for us to remain long guests of this charming family, so we began to look around for something to do by which to maintain ourselves. The fortunes of war had deprived us of everything, and we were dependent on our own exertions for a living. The kind friends with whom we were staying, when they realized our wishes, interested themselves, and soon obtained for each of my aunts a position as companion in a wealthy family with a salary, not large, but sufficient for their needs. I was offered a position in a wealthy Jewish family

and my duties were light and pleasant.

We had been in Charlotte about two months when our matchless Lee was compelled to surrender to the overwhelming numbers of the Northern army. Our one object then was to get home to South Carolina. We had been cut off from our people by Sherman on his march to the sea and it had been long since we had heard from them.

The taking of Beaufort by the Yankees was one of the early incidents of the war and all the white inhabitants had left in a panic, leaving their houses, furniture and everything just as they were. My aunts never seemed to doubt that they could go to Beaufort and take possession of their home without question. So we began right away to plan our trip, with Beaufort as our objective point.

The Yankee Army never reached Charlotte during the war but after the surrender the place was put under Yankee military rule, so in order to leave the city we had to get passports from the Yankee general in control. This was humiliating, for at that time feeling in the South was very bitter and it was galling to Southern pride to ask any favors of the Yankees. But we must "give the devil his due", and truth compels me to say that we were treated with every kindness and courtesy by the officers with whom we came in contact, and they seemed willing and anxious to do all they could for us.

We left Charlotte the latter part of May and traveled by rail to Wilmington, North Carolina. The railroads all over the country had been torn up by Sherman's army and we had to go a roundabout way to get home. At Wilmington we had to find the officer in charge to get passports and ask for information as to how we should continue our journey, etc. We were told that we could not go by train because of the destruction of the railroads, and that we would have to go by water. There were no vessels going south and our only chance was to secure passage in the "Perit", a fine passenger steamer which would leave Wilmington in a few hours for New York, and once there we could find plenty of boats coming south. As we were assured this was our only chance, we accepted the inevitable. The officer in charge at Wilmington was very kind and courteous and gave us all necessary papers and directions. Before the sun had disappeared in the west we were comfortably seated on the deck of the "Perit", and had begun our trip to New York. It was now the first of June and, notwithstanding all our troubles and regrets, we really enjoyed the cooling sea breeze and the pleasant sensation of gliding smoothly over the quiet waves. There was a full moon, too, and moonlight on the water is always beautiful.

The next morning while the day was still young we stopped at Beaufort, North Carolina, and here occurred an incident, to explain which I must make a slight digression. My grandfather was a Mason of high degree, and believed in the order as he did his religion. He died in 1863, and when he knew the end was near and realized that he would leave his two daughters (these same aunts of mine) alone and unprotected, he told them that he wished them to take the woman's degree in Masonry, and then he could die contented, knowing that no Mason would ever fail them in any trouble.

They consented and he sent for some of his brother Masons and his daughters were initiated. He had several Masonic symbols in silver indicating the degrees he had taken, and after his death his eldest daughter, Aunt Mary, always wore them on her watch chain. To return to the "Perit", when we stopped at Beaufort, North Carolina, a Yankee officer wearing a general's uniform came on board. Observing the Masonic symbols on my Aunt Mary's chain, he approached her and very politely began to question her about them. When she had told him all he wanted to know, and that we were refugees trying to get home, he asked her if she would allow him to have the symbols a little while. She readily handed them to him and he went on shore. I asked her if she was not afraid she would never get them back. She answered, "No, he is a Mason, therefore he is honest." In a little while he returned with his hand full of banknotes, amounting to \$50, and told <sup>her</sup> that the Masons in his command asked that she would accept them and let them know if they could serve her in any way.

A little later in the day we stopped at Fortress Monroe where our President, Jefferson Davis, was then imprisoned. While we were talking about this, expressing our sympathies for him and wishing for his speedy release, the captain came to tell us that he had just learned there was a boat here at Fortress Monroe which was going south and, if we wished to change our plans and go with this boat, he could arrange for us to do so. We told him we would be delighted to make the transfer at once. The only passengers besides ourselves were our South Carolina Governor, McGrath, and the Yankee lieutenant who was taking him to Fort Pulaski as a prisoner. On boarding the steamer we were courteously welcomed by Governor McGrath, who expressed his pleasure at having us as fellow passengers. He introduced us to the Yankee lieutenant and commended him to our consideration as an estimable gentleman, who had treated him with great kindness and courtesy. He was a fine looking young man with pleasing manners, but he wore the despised blue uniform, which could find no favor in our eyes. However, we had to make the best of it. That evening about dark our steamer tied up at Norfolk and the captain told us we would stay there until morning and asked if we would like to go up into the city and walk around. The young Yankee lieutenant very politely asked if we would allow him to accompany us. So we started off, a mixed company - Yankees and Rebels. They took us to the theater and then to an ice cream parlor, and after walking up and down the brilliantly lighted streets we returned to the steamer. The Governor had been left without special guard on the boat while we were gone, and I could not help wishing that he would take advantage of the circumstances and escape. But he had been put on his honor, so we found him where we left him.

Early the next morning we were "under way" and in the fullness of time arrived at Fort Pulaski, where Governor McGrath was left to serve a term of weary imprisonment. There was nothing we could do for him except to give him a small supply of tea, coffee and sugar with which we had provided ourselves to meet any emergencies of the trip. At that time those articles were very scarce and were considered quite valuable. Leaving the Governor under such circumstances saddened the rest of our journey, which was now nearing its end. The captain directed his course towards Hilton Head, where we arrived the next day, and

were fortunate enough to find a beautiful steamer, "The Ocean Queen", just about to start for our dear old home city, Beaufort, South Carolina. We were soon on board and passing along the familiar scenes our hearts were comforted by the thought that our troubles would soon be over and we would be in the dear old home. But not yet was this to be ours. Upon landing at the Beaufort wharf we were met by two gentlemen whom we had known in the years gone by - former citizens of Beaufort. They were much surprised to see us, and asked, "What in the world are you doing here?" Aunt Mary replied, "We have come home to stay." They answered, "Oh, you cannot stay here, this is no place for ladies; the negroes are occupying the houses of their former owners and there are no white people here except the Yankee garrison in control of the city." Fortunately for us these gentlemen had just come to Beaufort in a private carriage to reconnoiter and they kindly offered to take us to Allendale, South Carolina, where my mother and sisters were living.

We started early the next morning for our homeward ride through the country, the gentlemen taking it by turns to ride in the wagon which followed with our baggage. The roads were in a terrible condition, having been cut up by Sherman's army wagons which had passed that way shortly before. The roads had been repaired by putting pine saplings across from one side to the other. It was the roughest traveling I had ever experienced and we were compelled to go very slowly. The weather was exceedingly warm and in the heat of the day we would stop at some shady grove at the side of the road or at a lonely cabin that had escaped Sherman's torch, take our lunch, rest until the cool of the evening, then start again and travel late into the night by the light of the moon and the stars. We frequently met Yankee soldiers, sometimes negroes wearing the Yankee uniform and always heavily armed. One afternoon after we had been taking our noonday rest in an old church by the roadside, which gave evidence of the ravages of war, we were walking on the road when we became aware of about ten or twelve negro soldiers approaching us. When they were within a few yards of us the foremost of the group deliberately pointed their rifles at us. I was more frightened than I had ever been, and I feel quite sure that the others were similarly affected. One of the gentlemen of our party said in a low tone, "Walk right along and do not notice them." We managed to get by with apparent composure, but my knees trembled.

When within about ten feet of us one of the wretches fired off his gun just to the side of us. The miserable creatures could not resist the temptation of giving us a scare, although they did not dare kill us. We resumed our journey and traveled most of that night. The next day before noon we reached our destination. Upon driving into the Allendale neighborhood the first pleasant sight that greeted us was a horseman riding slowly towards us. He wore the gray cavalry uniform of the Confederacy and sat his horse as only a Southern cavalryman could. Upon nearer approach he proved to be an old acquaintance and by way of parenthesis I may add that in the near future he became my husband, and we spent more than fifty years together, encountering many ups and downs as all unavoidably must, especially in those trying times just after the close of the war. But upon the whole we have much to be thankful for and we lived to see our children successful in life and honored by their fellow men. My mother was not expecting us, for we had been unable to communicate with her, and our arrival was a joyful surprise to the family.

In the Allendale neighborhood were many young people and the return of the soldiers greatly augmented the number. The following season was very gay. There were dancing parties, picnics and entertainments of all kinds, with more than a few weddings. The young people were trying to make up to themselves for the gloomy five years of war through which they had passed, and the older people were glad to see them enjoying themselves.

Elizabeth Baker Davant

January 13, 1922.

# Indigo Planted At Point Comfort

S.C. Militiaman James Davant (1744-1803)

S.C. Militiaman Charles Davant (1750-1781)

By Dr. Robert E.H. Peebles

James and Charles Davant were 14 and 8 when their father John settled on Hilton Head's Point Comfort Plantation in 1758, coming from Edisto Island's tired soil to plant indigo.

They knew little about fertilizer then and bothered still less about it. Their brother Isaac, 16, and sister Mary, 10, came too, but were gone before the Revolution; Mary married inland at 16 and Isaac died in 1772. When their father died in 1768 the three boys continued the indigo planting with the help of 12 slaves. The next year James married Lydia Page.

Also in 1769, island planter Richard Bland took to wife Elizabeth Fendin of St. Helena's Island, settling six slaves and 1,600 pounds currency on her in their marriage agreement. When he died in early 1776 Militia Capt. Lewis Bona and Pvt. Charles Davant showed his estate to the appraisers, one of whom was James Davant. The young widow Bland, with two babies and 25 slaves to manage, needed help. That summer Charles Davant became master of Two Oaks Plantation as he married the widow Bland.

By the time war's violence came to Hilton Head, following the December 1778 fall of Savannah to the British, James Davant had lost two of his five babies. Charles was a father, too. Bouncing baby boy Charles Jr. was born in November 1777.

During 1779 and 1780 James was on duty with the Militia 285 days, resisting both the British campaigns from Savannah to Charleston, the first successfully. Charles was also on the mainland on scouting duty under Col. Benjamin Garden in 1779, in company with islander friend Christopher Rankin (who would succeed him as husband to Betsy Fendin).

Happily, both brothers managed to avoid Continental Gen. Benjamin Lincoln's

entrapment when he lamely surrendered on May 12, 1780, 5,000 troops and the City of Charleston, one of the Revolution's most grievous blunders.

Gen. McCrady wrote that "after the 6th of October 1780 there was not a Continental soldier in all South Carolina." Yet from the debacle arose the relentless South Carolina partisans who, under the leadership of Generals Francis Marion, Thomas Sumter and Andrew Pickens, so harassed (in the truest sense of the word) the British that what was left of their grand army under Lord Cornwallis fled northward and collapsed gratefully into the arms of an astonished George Washington at Yorktown in October 1781.

By virtue of their naval superiority the British still easily held both Charleston and Savannah. But Fort Balfour at Pocatigic had already surrendered and Wiggins Hill was won in April, Parker's Ferry in August. Col. William Harden, area commander, could truthfully report to Gen. Marion, "I have been able to keep the area from Purrysburg to Pon Pon (Edisto) clear." On the coast itself the Tories and Indian allies of the British still harassed vulnerable patriots.

Three separate sources tell the story of the Hilton Head Militia unit's receiving garbled intelligence early in October that a war party from Daufuskie's Royal Militia unit was scheduled. Determined to give them a warm reception, the Militia met early at the Muster House and proceeded to Long Island where a clear watch could be kept on all movement across Calibogue Sound. Hours passed and the night grew chilly. They concluded their intelligence had been faulty and eventually headed for their homes, warm firesides and beds. Alas, the wily enemy under Royal Militia Capt. Philip Martinangele had earlier ascended Broad Creek with muffled oars and stationed themselves in ambush at Big

Gate (where present Marshlands Road runs southward from Mathews Road). They had only to wait patiently until some patriot appeared to open the gate en route home.

Charles Davant and John Andrews were riding together. James Davant had turned off onto Point Comfort Road five miles earlier. Suddenly the sound of shots shattered the silence as 31-year-old Charles leaned from his saddle to open the gate. He felt the sting of the hot lead and simultaneously saw Capt. Martinangele and his brother Abraham with their muskets smoking. He spurred his horse homeward to Two Oaks House (on present Leg-of-Mutton Road). There his waiting wife had heard the shots, had roused their four-year-old son and hurried down the front steps towards the approaching horseman. Breathing heavily, Charles managed to keep his balance until he could fall into their loving arms.

Years later his son Charles, then an old gentleman, pointed to a spot in the yard of Two Oaks and told the young Rev. Henry Talbird, "He fell there, and lived only long enough to tell how he had been shot, and to name two of his murderers. Standing over his dead body I, as a boy, vowed that I would kill those men if I lived to be a man."

That fierce duty was taken from him. At Christmas a detachment of Militia styling themselves "The Bloody Legion", commanded by Capt. John Leacraft but significantly including James Davant and Israel Andrews, brothers of the two ambushed comrades, mustered for the trip to Daufuskie. There Israel Andrews delivered the coup de grace to Capt. Philip Martinangele. Others found 27-year-old Abraham Martinangele sick in bed and holding his infant daughter Margaret in his arms. He was, nevertheless, quickly done to death, his wife and three small daughters plundered of most of their possessions. Such is the violence of war.

Pvt. Charles Davant was killed 22 Oct. 1781

Richard Bland died 26 Oct. 1775

Charles & Elizabeth (Fendin) Bland were married 21 Nov. 1776

Elizabeth ("Betsy") Fendin Bland Davant Rankin died 26 May 1812 on Hilton Head Island; she was born Monday 28 Oct. 1754 "about two o'clock in the morning", a daughter of John Fendin.



**G**

GEORGE the

Third, by the Grace of God, of GREAT-BREITAIN, FRANCE and IRELAND, KING, Defender of the Faith, and so forth

To all to whom these Presents shall come, GREETING;

**K**

NOW YE, That GRANT, unto

We of Our special Grace; certain Knowledge and mere Motion, have given and granted, and by these Presents, for Us, Our Heirs and Successours, DO GIVE AND

Heirs and Assigns, a Parcel

*John Howard, his*

*Parish, Grant  
said to belong  
on vacant Land.*

*One hundred Acres, surveyed for him 25. July 1770 situate in S. Lukes  
County on a small tract commonly called Boggy Gut, bounding North East on land  
to John Drayton Esq. south on a Barony belonging to John Drayz Esq. all other sides*

and hath such Shape, Figures, Courses, Profies, Common

and Marks, as appear by a Plat thereof, hereunto annexed: Together with all Woods, Under-woods, Timber-Trees, Lakes, Ponds, Fishings, Waters, Water-priviledge of Hunting, Hawking and Fowling, in any

Acres of Land, and all and singular other the Premises hereby granted unto the said Heirs and Assigns, or ever, in free and com.

the Time being, Yearly and so in Proportion, according to the Number of Acres, contained herein; the same to commence at the Expiration of two Years

Heirs and Assigns yielding and paying therefor, unto Us, Our Heirs and Successours, or to Our Receiver, that is to say, on the Twenty fifth Day of March, in every Year, at the Rate of three Shillings Sterling, or thereunto according to the Number of Acres, contained herein; the same to commence at the Expiration of two Years nevertheless, that the said

General for the Time being, or to his Deputy or Deputies for our Shillings Proclamation Money, for every hundred Acres, from the Date hereof; PROVIDED ALWAYS, and this present

in Proportion, according to the Number of Acres, contained herein; the same to commence at the Expiration of two Years from the Time it

Heirs or Assigns, shall and do yearly, and every Year, after the Date of these Presents, clear and cultivate, according to the Number of Acres herein contained; AND ALSO shall and do enter a Minute or Docket of the same in our Office, within six Months from the Date hereof: AND UPON EXPIRATION, that if the said Rent, hereby reserved, shall become due, and no Distress can be found on the said Lands, Tenements and Hereditaments hereby granted

Rate of three Acres for every hundred Acres of Land and so in Proportion, in the Office of Our Auditor General for the Time shall happen to be in Arrear and unpaid for the Space of three Months; or if the said

clear and cultivate, according to the Number of Acres, contained herein; the same to commence at the Expiration of two Years from the Time it

, and every Year, at the Rate of three Acres for every hundred Acres of Land, and so in Proportion, according to the Number of Acres, contained herein; the same to commence at the Expiration of two Years from the Time it shall become due, and no Distress can be found on the said Lands, Tenements and Hereditaments hereby granted

Heirs or Assigns, shall neglect to pay the same, within six Months from the Date hereof, that then, and every Part and Parcel thereof shall

Given under the Great Seal of Our said Province:

Signed by His

*Excel. Co*

WITNESS

*His Excellency The Right Honorable Lt. Charles C. Montagu Esq. Genl.*

GOVERNOR in Council.

*John Mills pro Co.*

Governour and Commander in Chief in and over the said Province of South-Carolina, this 26<sup>th</sup>

Day of September Anno Domini 1772 the Twelfth Year of Our Reign

*Montagu*



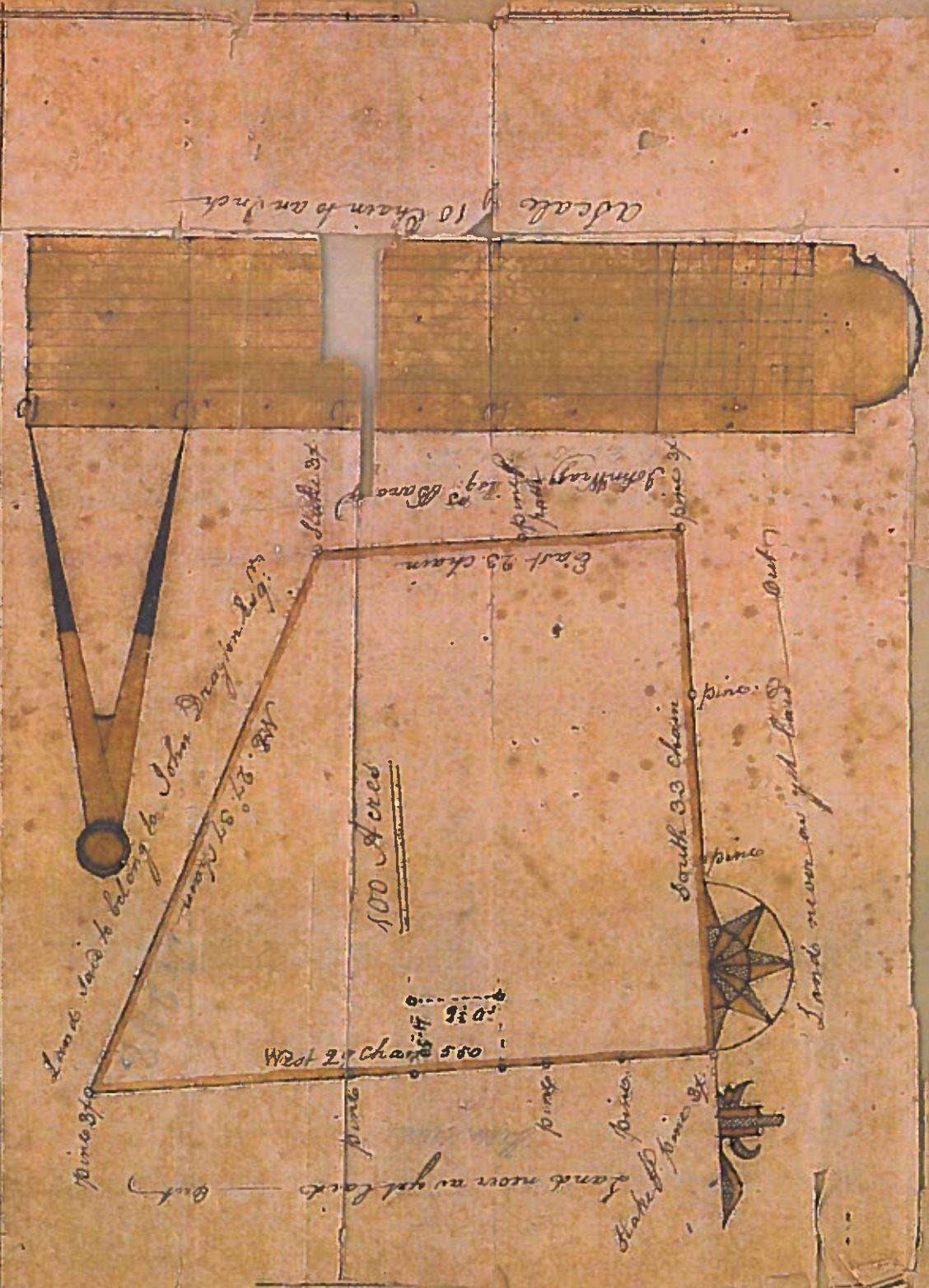
Notice hereof Entered in the Aud. Gen. Office  
Book N. N. 12. Page (A) the 23. Nov. 1792  
Per [unclear] 18 [unclear]

Register Office & Record for District  
Recorded in Book No 17 page  
187. 188 and examined by me  
3<sup>rd</sup> June 1833 W. B. Buckham  
Reg

JOHN HOWARD'S Grant  
For 100 Acres in Grantville County.

Surveyed & Entered in Book  
N. N. N. Page 192 and  
Examined Per [unclear]





South Carolina.

Pursuant to an Order of Council Dated  
 this Day I do hereby certify for John Howard a Tract of One Hundred  
 Acres of Land lying between 25th July 1771 situated in St. James Parish  
 Grenville County, on a small Creek commonly called Boggy Gut, Boundings  
 N. E. on Land said to belong to John Drayton Esq. S. E. on a Runway belong-  
 ing to John Wragg Esq. Call other sides on vacant Land. Make such shapes  
 as Marks as the above Plat represents.

Wm. Maime

Given under my Hand this 4th Aug. 1772

D. Auro. J

John Howard  
 Esq.