



Glimpses

Items of recent and historical interest
from members of The Heritage Library

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June 2010

A Lowcountry Parish Rooted in the Past

By Lyman Wooster*



The separation of church and state doctrine, which is an American constitutional issue, had no meaning in South Carolina's colonial days; the Anglican parishes of the period were consciously political as well as religious entities.

The seven Lords Proprietors who acquired Carolina in 1662-63 from the English Crown drafted a Fundamental Constitution that declared the Church of England to be the official church of the colony. That constitution was never ratified but the Church Act, adopted in 1706 and approved by the Proprietors, provided for establishing the Anglican Church in Carolina, while also allowing for the political participation of religious dissenters. The act created parishes and allocated funds from the taxes on skins and furs for building churches and paying ministers. Church officials in each parish after 1716 also organized the election process and church wardens appeared personally before the Assembly in Charleston to report election results. They also had charge of assessing, collecting, and distributing funds to help the poor; they were, in effect, parish officers functioning as local government. The Bishop of London had sole authority regarding the ordination of colonial ministers.¹

The first parishes established by the Act of 1706 were: St. Phillip's; St. Andrews; St. Paul's; St. Bartholomew's; St.

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1. Suzanne Cameron Linder, *The Anglican Church in South Carolina. Their History and Architecture*, Wyrick & Company, 2000.

*See Page 6

Honey Horn Property Titles Implications for Genealogical Research

by Dr. James M. Rose*



I could not have imagined, on New Year's 1991, where my visit to Hilton Head would lead. My enchantment with the Island and the Honey Horn Plantation had its genesis that year when, with my wife, I first visited the island to attend a New Year's Eve dance. At the time I was an administrator in a middle school in Durham,

North Carolina. As we drove down 278, I was struck by the island's romantic beauty and intrigued by the fact that everything appeared to be hidden behind trees. As I left, I took one last look back over the bridge, hoping that some day I could come back.

In 2006, I did just that when we bought a home in Sun City. At our first opportunity, we drove back toward the island, and found the magic was still there.

In 2008, I made a presentation at the Honey Horn plantation house concerning the WPA Slave Narratives of Beaufort County. When I drove into the long driveway towards the house I was sure I could feel the presence of the African-Americans, both free and enslaved, who at one time lived and toiled there.

In 2009, as I began researching Honey Horn, I found my images changing. Now when I cross the bridge I still feel the beauty of the marshland and its magic, but I always sense myself as having been transported into the Eighteenth Century amid the developing plantations where slaves toiled. This land of Honey Horn, I discovered, was a massive property with a succession of owners, beginning with Dr. John Edward Powell and John Fenwick and ending with the properties sold by A. L.

*See page 4

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165 YEARS AGO THIS JUNE

Congress Votes to Annex Texas

Texas had been hoping for annexation by the United States ever since wresting its freedom from Mexico in 1836. The United States hesitated, however, concerned that such annexation would provoke war with Mexico. Sam Houston, campaigning in favor of annexation, was elected president of Texas, succeeding the first President, David G. Burnet, who had been selected by the constitutional convention meeting at Washington-on-the-Brazos.¹

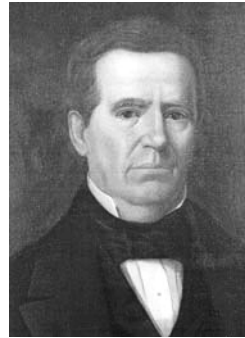


Washington-on-the-Brazos is known as the birthplace of Texas independence. In 1833 it was an important political and commercial center and here the Republic's declaration of independence was signed. When rail supplanted steamboats, and Washington was bypassed, the town withered. The state of Texas built this replica of the building used as a meeting place by the founding fathers of Texas.

Earlier, in 1843, President John Tyler had favored annexation, and had entered into negotiations with the Republic of Texas. But in June of 1844, the resulting treaty with Texas which he had presented to the Senate was defeated, 35-16, in that body.

By November, when Polk was elected president of the United States on a platform of territorial expansion, the Tyler administration came to realize that public opinion was in favor of annexation, despite that year's vote in the Senate. The Tyler administration consulted with Presi-

1. Citizens of the town of Washington-on-the-Brazos later campaigned for the town to be the state capital, but the decision went to the town of Waterloo, later named Austin.



Anson Jones, the 1st president of the Republic of Texas.

dent-elect Polk, and it was decided to admit Texas via a joint resolution, which passed on June 23, 1845.²

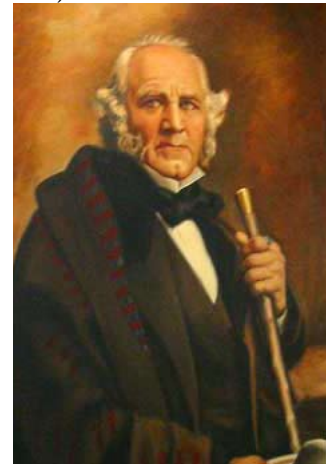
On February 19, 1846, Anson Jones declared "The last act in this drama is finished. The Republic of Texas is no more." He hauled down the Lone Star flag, which was presented to a tearful Sam Houston, who had twice served as president of the Republic.

The state, so anxious for annexation in 1845, was to secede from the Union only 15 years later. Heavily dependent on cotton, with 30% of its population slaves, Texans voted to secede with a 78% majority.³ The Supreme Court was to rule in 1868 that the secession was illegal.

Sam Houston's political career was not over; he was to serve in the United States Senate and as Governor of Texas.

The "last battle of the Civil War" was fought at Palmito Ranch in Texas in May 1865, on the banks of the Rio Grande River, despite the fact that Lee had surrendered at Appomatox the month before.

Events followed rapidly in Texas: on June 18 Union General Gordon Granger and 2,000 federal troops arrived in Galveston to take possession of the state and enforce the emancipation of its slaves. From these events a new celebration was born: see "Juneteenth" on Page 8.



Sam Houston as a senator in the United States Senate.

2. In 1901, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled, in *DeLima v. Bidwell*, that annexation by a joint resolution of Congress is legal.

3. Wikipedia, http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_Texas#Civil_War_and_Reconstruction:_1860.E2.80.931876



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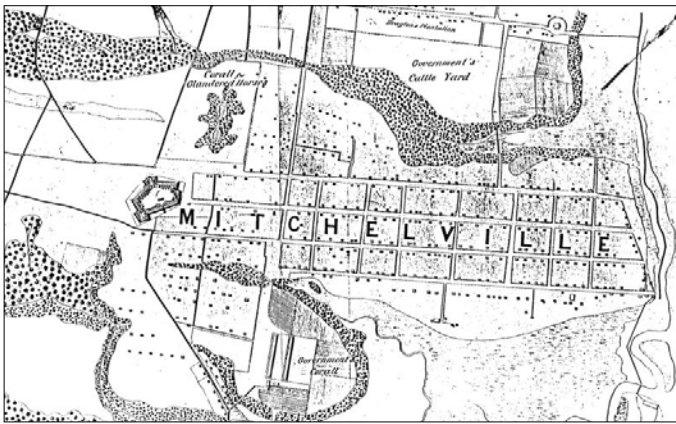
Honey Horn: Cont'd from Page 1

Loomis and Landon K. Thorne to Olin T. McIntosh, C. C. Stebbins and Fred C. Hack, comprising some 10,000 acres of highland and marsh acquired by Thorne and Loomis from May 21, 1931 to April 6, 1944.

Fifty-three parcels of land were sold including acreage from the Buckingham Ferry Lot which was a part of Moorefield Plantation, Cotton Hope, Fish Haul, Fairfield, Marshland and Chaplins, Elliott, Gardner's Grasslawn, Pineland, Muddy Creek, six acres on Broad Creek, Cherry Hill, Roy Rainey lands, Lawton Place, Point Comfort, Possum Point, Brickyard or Shipyard, lands owned by the Browns, and finally 803 acres of Coggins Point, which was a Military Reservation and is presently owned by the town of Hilton Head, and is partly occupied today by the Coastal Discovery Museum, and Honey Horn Plantation House.

The Mitchelville Connection

Mitchelville was one of the first towns organized by escaped slaves (later Freedmen) during the Civil War. It was established in a cotton field on what was then the Drayton Plantation.¹



This map of Mitchelville is from Wikipedia.org, and is an excerpt of 1869 U.S. Government map.

Some of the property owners in the Honey Horn distribution, such as Frank Murray, Backus Ferguson, Phoenix Robinson, Chance Ford, Moses Brown and Prince Brown, Moses and Sarah Polite, Phoenix Robinson, Thomas Wigfall, Cornelia Patterson and March Gardner, had family connections who probably lived in the Mitchelville area. You will find the names of many of them and their descendants in federal census records from 1870 to 1930. Some are also in the Freedmen's Bank records and in death records found at the South Carolina archives.

The first such records appear in the 1869 Beaufort County Census. Backus Ferguson was listed as head of household with two colored males and two colored females. Frank Murray, Gabriel Gardner, and Moses Polite were also enumerated.

W. D. Brown, who was the enumerator in the 1880, 1890, and 1900 censuses, was so active that some called him "mayor" of Mitchelville. I discovered from the 1880 census of Hilton Head that Brown sold 1000 acres of Possum Point—land he had purchased from the government on April 17, 1876 for \$150—to Loomis and Thorne. Among the title owners of Honey Horn properties he listed in the 1880 census were: Chance Ford, his wife Sarah, and sons Amos and Henry; Bacchus Ferguson, wife Rebecca, a daughter, and two sons Edward and William; Gabriel Gardner, wife Susan, and daughter Sarah; Frank Murray, wife Corneila, and son William and one-year-old daughter, Rose; Phoenix Robinson, wife Diana, daughters Lavinia, Georgiana, and sons, George, Andrew, and Jack; and finally Thomas Wigfall, wife Clara, son Willie, daughters Alice and Sarah, and listed stepsons.

Twenty years later, the 1900 Hilton Head Island census found Backus Ferguson, age seventy, his daughter Rebecca, granddaughter, Alice, sons Jamal, Daniel, Nathan, and William. Living in the next household were the son of Chance Ford, Amos, with wife Annie, daughters Eveline, Lucinda, and son Chance (named after Amos's father). Chance Ford, father of Amos and wife Lucinda were listed in the next household. Thomas Wigfall age sixty-five was enumerated with his wife Clara, sons Henry and Jacob, a grandson Peter, and daughter-in-law Violet. Moses Polite (whose heirs sold his Fish Haul property to Thorne and Loomis in 1937) is enumerated in the 1900 census with Sarah, his wife, daughter Agnes, and a son born in 1879. Susan Gardner, widow of Gabriel Gardner, was enumerated on the same census page as Moses Polite.

The 1910 Hilton Head Island federal census found Thomas Wigfall, age seventy-eight, with his wife Clara. Frank M. Murray was enumerated with wife Sarah, and son Willie, next to a Samuel Murray who was probably Frank's son.

Finally, Sarah Polite and Rebecca Ferguson are enumerated and members of the Ferguson, Polite, Murray, Wigfall, Gardner's, Ford, Robinson families are listed in the Beaufort County 1920 and 1930 censuses.

Cont't on Page 4

1. <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mitchelville>. Accessed 6/22/10.

Honey Horn: Cont'd from Page 3

Background

The historical genesis of these properties goes all the way back to the period after the American Revolution when Dr. Edward Powell of Savannah and John Fenwick of Edisto Island acquired land in the middle of south shore between Broad Creek and the Atlantic. The properties were soon acquired by Benjamin Guerard who was born in Charleston to John Guerard and Elizabeth Hill. He studied law in England and was admitted to the South Carolina bar in 1761. He was a member of the South Carolina Provincial Assembly from 1765 to 1768 and in 1778 was elected to the South Carolina House of Representatives. After one term there, he served two years as Governor of South Carolina. He died in Charleston in 1788.²

In 1789, John Hanahan, a planter on Edisto Island, began acquiring land on Hilton Head, including Lot 29 which contained 445 acres in the middle of the south shore formerly owned by Dr. Edward Powell and John Fenwick; Hanahan soon added 403 acres adjacent to the northeast, the land of the late Benjamin Guerard. In 1792, John Hanahan bought Lot 11, the 270 acres between Crooked (Jarvis) Creek and Muddy Creek. This divided plantation soon became known as "Honey Horn." (Legend has it that the name arose from a mispronunciation of Hanahan.)³ According to Hanahan's will probated in 1805, he had expanded this property to encompass several plantations.

Jesus Christ my blefseed Saviour and redeemer. Item I give devise and bequest unto my wife Mary Seabrook Hanahan the following Slaves named Aaron, Prymus, Ned, Sarah, Jack, Rose, Hannah, Nell, Hagar, Nashty, Rachell, Rhiner, Dick, Hester, Tony, Riner, Prince, Harriet, Nann, Sampson, Kate, girl Eloise, wench Pegg and her Children Rhiner, Ceasar and Ned, with the increase of the females of said Slaves, also my fellow Harry, and his wife Dinah, and my old negro fellow named Boston, also my riding Chaise and chair horse Merrell, and the large young Sorrell horse, and the half of my Stock of horses and mares. runing out the one half of my stock of cat-

Wills can be useful for determining first names of slaves. In this excerpt from John Hanahan's will, he lists the slaves he is leaving to his wife, Mary Seabrook Hanahan. Among them are Aaron, Prymne, Ned, Sarah, Jack, Rose, Hannah, Nell, Hagar, Nashty, Rachell, Rhiner, Dick, Hester, Tony, Riner, Prince, Harriet, Nann, Sampson, Kate, Girl Eloise, wench Peg and her children. Another portion of the will mentions his slaves working on Hilton Head.

2. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Benjamin_Guerard. Accessed 6/20/2010

3. <http://south-carolina-plantations.com/beaufort/honey-horn.html>. Accessed 6/20/2010

Soon after John Hanahan's death in 1805, Captain John Stoney and James Stoney purchased the Honey Horn properties. Upon the death of John Stoney, in 1839, William J. Graham, owner of a large estate at Grahamville in St. Peter's Parish, Beaufort, SC, brought some of the Honey Horn properties. Graham, who at the time had a residence on Skull Creek adjacent to Fairfield, began building a house on Honey Horn. But Honey Horn was confiscated in the Civil War, and Graham never occupied the house. He fled to Grahamville when the Union Army took over the Island.⁴³

John Fenwick, Benjamin Guerard, John Hanahan, Captain John Stoney, and William J. Graham (the last owner of Honey Horn), are names well known to those who peruse the history of Hilton Head.

Continued to Lemington Plantation
Toby \$500 Charles \$500 Sandy \$600 -
Nelly \$200 Betsy \$500 (Crick) \$200 Emily
\$250 Charlotte \$450 Rachel \$300
Mariah \$100 Nancy \$150 Rinsab \$50
Kid \$300 Old \$100 Old Judy \$1. Tony
\$250 Balinda \$150 Jane \$100 John
\$100 James \$100 Paul \$250 C.C.
Aimey \$1. Helen \$500 Jane \$100 Emily
\$250 Anne \$150 Stephen \$500
\$100 Anthony \$100 John \$200 Mary \$100
John \$150 Christiana \$150 Mary \$600 William
\$200 Abraham \$200 Terry \$600 George
\$450 Christiana \$100 Tommy \$100
Mary \$100 James \$150 Old (Hannah) \$100
Old (John) \$100

First names of slaves can also be found in estate inventories. The list of John Stoney's slaves at his Lemington plantations includes such names as Toby, Angelo, Sandy, Nelly, Betsy, Charlotte, Hector, Mariah, and their valuations. "Old Judy and "old Adam" were valued at \$1. From Charleston Inventories.

But what about all those whose names are unknown? Now, every time I cross the bridge the names that go through my mind are those of the heretofore unknown, the hundreds of slaves who toiled here, whose first names I found in the inventories. Many of them later settled on Hilton Head, some in what has come to be known as Mitchelville. Perhaps some day some diligent researcher may be able to connect those first names to descendants, some still living here and many scattered throughout this land.



Editor's Note: The illustrations, from those supplied by the South Carolina archives, are difficult to read. The copies at the Heritage Library are somewhat easier to read and may be examined there.

**Dr. James M. Rose is a member of the Board of the Heritage Library Foundation and a nationally-known expert on African-American Genealogy. He is scheduled to present several talks at the National Conference of the Federation of Genealogical Societies in August.*

4. Peeples, Robert E. H., *Names In South Carolina*, "Old Hilton Head Island Names", v. 19, 38

A Lowcountry Parish: Cont'd from P. 5

The Chapel of the Holy Trinity, dedicated in 1820 and located in the community of Grahamville, was originally in St. Luke's Parish, but in 1835 it left the Parish and became a separate congregation.

In 1824 a new St. Luke's Parish Church was built four-tenths of a mile north of the 1786 site; it apparently was the same size as the old one, had arched or fan-shaped windows, and had a balcony at the rear wherein slaves sat. When the Church of the Cross was established in Bluffton, attendance at the Parish church dwindled, and by 1856 it was inactive.⁶ In 1875 the church was sold to the Methodists, who have retained the name St. Luke's. Located on Route 170 near Sun City, it is today an active church with a large cemetery in which Episcopalians as well as Methodists are buried.

Disestablishment of the Anglican Church in South Carolina

The Anglican Church became the Episcopal Church during America's War for Independence, and South Carolina's constitutions of 1776 and 1778 in effect revoked the special role that the Church of England had held during the colonial period. Those documents, however, retained the names and boundaries of certain parishes as districts for electing representatives to the legislature. Later, South Carolina's 1868 Constitution established the county system of local government, thus disestablishing what little political authority remained in the parishes as a result of changes made during the Revolutionary War.

Parishes Today

While St. Luke's Parish was no more following the Civil War, the name prevails today in an Episcopal Church established on Hilton Head Island with ground-breaking ceremonies on April 16, 1964 on land along Pope Avenue donated by Charles Fraser. A communion service was held there on Christmas Eve, 1964⁷ at which silver chalices were used that had been made by a London silversmith and received by Zion Chapel of Ease in 1834. Those chalices had disappeared from Zion by 1867, but were found by a Philadelphian in a pawn shop in the 1920s. The finder sent the polished chalices to Beaufort's St. Helena's church with the proviso that when an Episcopal

6. Spieler, Op. cit.

7. The History of St. Luke's, 1767-2007, www.stlukeshhi.org/history.

Church was founded on Hilton Head they should be returned to the Island.

In 1970, after five years of steady growth, the St. Luke's diocese was officially declared a parish. A Dr. Sparkman was unanimously accepted as the first rector of St. Luke's Parish.⁸

The word "parish" and the return of the silver communion cups historically and symbolically connect the current St. Luke's Parish with the original St. Luke's Parish, of which both the island's Zion Chapel of Ease and Bluffton's Church of the Cross were once part.

Also harking back to South Carolina's colonial days is Hilton Head Island's Church of the Redeemer, an element in the Anglican Province of America. A province is formed by geographically contiguous dioceses, which are groupings of local parishes, and the American Province "seeks to be faithful to the ideals and faith of the first Episcopalians and their descendants."⁸ The local Church of the Redeemer asserts that, as a member of the Anglican Province, it is a "haven for traditional Episcopalians."⁹

Both St. Luke's Parish and the Anglican Church of the Redeemer are parishes but they are quite unlike the Anglican parishes of yore—they are geographically localized rather than regional, and they are solely religious entities with no expressed function whatsoever in local, state, or federal governments.

8. The Anglican Province of America, www.anglicanprovince.org/APA%20History/wisapa.html

9. Church of the Redeemer, notice, *The Island Packet*, June 11, 2010

**Lyman Wooster was born in Kansas in 1917. His colorful career includes stints as a political science teacher at the U. of Pennsylvania, a civilian analyst of Soviet military and political affairs in Army Intelligence, then in Defense Department Intelligence, and subsequently an analyst with the Arms Control and Disarmament Agency. He moved to Hilton Head in 1988. His interest in history led him to the Heritage Library, where he has contributed both research and articles.*



If history repeats itself, and the unexpected always happens, how incapable must Man be of learning from experience.

GEORGE BERNARD SHAW

SIXTY-THREE YEARS AGO THIS MONTH

The Marshall Plan

On June 5, 1947, George L. Marshall, then Secretary of State of the United States, made a seminal address to Harvard University. In which he described the status of war-torn Europe as so dire that “she must have substantial additional help, or face economic, social and political deterioration of a very grave character.”

The remedy, Marshall continued, “lies in breaking the vicious circle and restoring the confidence of the European people in the economic future of their own



Pariser Platz, in the area of the Brandenburg Gate in Berlin, lay in ruins at the end of World War II. Photo from 1945

countries and of Europe as a whole.”

It was an ambitious program; over four years, until the program was abandoned by Congress in 1951, the country spent \$13 billion, over and above the \$12 billion already spent in following the end of the war and before the Marshall plan began. At the time, the Gross Domestic Product of the country was \$248 billion, so the commitment was for about 10% of the GDP.

The plan was not wholly altruistic, however; the money given to the European countries was to be spent in the United States. As a result, both the United States and the European countries prospered.

Twenty-five years later, German Chancellor Willy Brandt went to Harvard to announce plans to create a permanent memorial to Marshall Plan assistance, through a gift of DM 150 million on behalf of the German people. “The memory of the past has become

the mission of the future,” he said. He also stated “The German Marshall Fund of the United States is meant to help keep awake and to strength in present and future generations the spirit of European American solidarity and the awareness of our common destiny.”

The Marshall Plan aid was mostly used for the purchase of goods from the United States. Of the some



Brandenburg Gate and Pariser Platz, in 2004 © Axel Mauruszat

\$13 billion allotted by mid-1951, \$3.4 billion had been spent on imports of raw materials and semi-manufactured products; \$3.2 billion on food, feed, and fertilizer; \$1.9 billion on machines, vehicles, and equipment; and \$1.6 billion on fuel.¹

1. Wikipedia, citing Hogan Michael J. *The Marshall Plan: America, Britain, and the Reconstruction of Western Europe, 1947–1952*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1987

125 YEARS AGO THIS MONTH

The Statue of Liberty arrived in the New York Harbor on June 19, 1885. With the opening of Ellis Island in 1892, Bartholdi’s *Liberty* would welcome more than 12 million immigrants to the United States.

The Ellis Island records are among those librarians at the Heritage Library can help you research. Come visit us.



**145 YEARS AGO
THIS MONTH**

Juneteenth

Two and a half years after emancipation, slaves in Texas learned they were free.



General Granger

Why did it take so long? There are many theories, but it seems that the proclamation had had little effect on the daily lives of slaves in Texas until General Gordon Granger arrived with 2000 soldiers in Galveston, Texas. It was shortly after the battle of Palmito Ranch (see Page 2) and took control of Texas

from the Confederacy. On June 19, 1865, on the steps of a villa in Galveston, he read aloud from General Order No. 3, which read in part:

The people of Texas are informed that, in accordance with a proclamation from the Executive of the United States, all slaves are free. This involves an absolute equality of personal rights and rights of property between former masters and slaves, and the connection heretofore existing between them becomes that between employer and hired labor.

It became a day to celebrate in Texas, and in later years Juneteenth (a portmanteau word combining June and nineteenth) spread to most of the other states, including South Carolina.

Right, Ashton Villa in Galveston, Texas, where on June 19, 1865, General Granger read the historic "General Order."



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