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1969 HUMBLE MARKETING CONFERENCE

June 2-3-4, 1969

HILTON HEAD ISLAND, S. C.

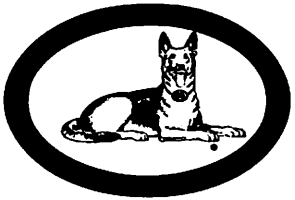


4/3/74

Dear Robert,

Enclosed is a copy of the grant to Captain Thomas Smith dated the 13th day of August 1695. This is the grant referred to on the plat of 1777 concerning the lease by Pierce & Mary Butler to John Dorsier. I ordered this copy for your ^{files}. Is this the II Landgrave Thomas Smith as we thought? Another question also arises as to why the same property was granted again in March of 1700 to Joseph Blake, Landgrave, Governor and Proprietor. Do you suppose that Thomas Smith never did take up his grant? Enclosed is a copy also for your files.

This all fits together and the Michiga - Byrne transaction (copy for your files of Book F Page 44 through page 51) was on the Gilbertson property which bordered the Summit property on the southwest and the Tobedoo Creek on the southeast dated the fifteenth day of September 1705 and is covered by the plat of 1830 showing the property of the estate of John Rutledge Smith Esq. The grant to Gilbertson was for 500 acres and in 1705 when it was granted, it was bounded by the lands of Proprietor Blake. I never could figure out why it wasn't Thomas Smith until I found the grant to Joseph Blake for the same property. Enclosed is a copy of the Gilbertson grant. The run-down on ^{the} above property starts with the Gilbertson grant in 1705 and goes to his nephew in England, by his Will in 1720, then by sale somehow (I wish you would explain the connection between James Gilbertson nephew and George Atchison as referred to in the indenture) to the Byrnes, then it is lost until in 1777 it shows up on the plat



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2

Of Summit as William Ladson Esq, then it went to the 1830 plat of John Rutledge Smith Esq and in 1855 it is shown as ^{Dr.} Ben Burgh Smith. The "in-between" records are either missing, unrecorded, or I missed them in my hurried check at the courthouse. Do you think the archives would have any record of some of these "in-between" records. I know almost exactly where the subject property is, but the 1830 plat does not break it down. It only shows all of the composite acreage in a lump and refers to the grants.

On a run down of Summit, I ran into missing links similar to the above. It begins with the Smith grant of 1695, then to the Blake grant in 1700 (he died in 1700), then to the plat accompanying the lease between Pierce Butler and Mary his wife and John Dorsin in 1777, then in 1816 to settle the estate of Daniel Jenkins and in 1830 as a boundary of the John Rutledge Smith Estate in the name of William Wilkinson, who was the son-in-law of Capt. / Major Daniel Jenkins, then to his son Francis Legue Wilkinson, and then to his son Francis Legue Wilkinson Jr, and finally to his wife and widow ^{and then} to me. Of course it has shrunk up and I only own 32 1/2 acres (I think the best 3/4) of the original.

I still think that Arthur Middleton 1681-1737 or his son Thomas 1719-1766 who was the father of Mary, the wife of Pierce Butler, owned the property for a considerable period between 1700 when Blake got it until the 1777 lease and plat, referred to so many times above. At some how



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3.

seems logical, but I have gotten nowhere on this theory, having checked property transfers in the index every way I knew how. The only thing I haven't checked in the probate court records of Arthur and Thomas Middleton. The Wills as of the above are in the books of Wills as published and no Zoogoodoo Property is mentioned or Colleton property. I also checked Blake transfers and got nowhere. He died in 1700, the same year as the grant. Do you think it may be in the Probate Records? His son and heir, Joseph Blake was not born until 1700. The elder Blake married the daughter of Landgrave Astell and when the younger Blake became of age he inherited Newington and left this part of the country and went to Newington near Summerwell to live. The Proprietor lived on the Wadmalaw River not too far from my plant here at Meggett on plantations known as "Plainsfield" and "Pawlets".

I have very little time to devote to looking up these things, and ^{the} lack of experience makes me slow; so therefore, I like to try to boil these things down as much as possible by processes of elimination, if possible in order to keep from getting too far sidetracked when I do get to the courthouse. If you can make any suggestions, I would appreciate them.

Our love to you and "Miss Cora". We hope to see you both soon.

Very truly yours,
Jack

P.S. Thanks for your last letter giving a run down on the Ladrons.