



The Baynard Mausoleum served as the collecting point for several generations. It remains, across from the present library site, as the largest intact antebellum structure on the Island.

BAYNARD RUINS

A LOOK BEHIND THE LEGENDS

By Rev. Robert E. H. Peeples

Not long ago I overheard a visiting family discussing what they had done the previous day. They had found shells and played tennis and eaten in new places and they had explored the Island.

"Where," asked a red-faced little girl of no more than 9, "do they get a name like Baynard Ruins?"

"Well," said Pop (equally red-faced), "I imagine someone named Baynard lived there at one time, so they named it after the owner."

The whole dialogue set me to thinking, thinking of the place names I know so well — Spanish Wells, Baynard Ruins, Port Howell, Cordillo Road, Pope Avenue, and the questions kept ringing in my head.

Perhaps, I thought —, the readers would like to know — perhaps many

people take names for granted — and never really ask the questions. So, I record here for you the first of several stories that may shed some light on some curious names, and the lovely, graceful Island that bears them . . .

Who built the "Baynard Ruins"? And when? Was there a Baynard Hall? A look at the facts will indicate possible answers and obviate others. When the Lords Proprietors of Carolina granted the southern part of Hilton Head Island to Landgrave John Bayley in August 1698 the Island was well-settled by Yamasee Indians. Lord Cardross had assigned the Island to the initial small group of Yamasees under Chief Altamaha, as they revolted against the Spaniards and fled from Guale in 1685, "to be an Outguard to us." Though the angry Spaniards destroyed Cardross'

settlement in 1686, the Yamasees flourished happily until expelled in 1715 following their ill-advised revolt against Carolina.

The southern tip of Hilton Head lay fallow until Daniel Cutler Braddock, Captain of the Scout Boat maintained by the Colony of Carolina as a lookout against the Spaniards, was stationed there in 1740. By the time the Treaty of Paris was signed in 1763 his name was firmly attached to the area. This area, of course, is the southern tip of Hilton Head, characterized by the now-dredged and widened Braddock's Creek and appending the whole of the Baynard Cove area.

In 1774 Captain Jack Stoney (1750-1821) arrived in Carolina from Ireland with his wife, Elizabeth, and their son, James. He owned a privateer, the



The above area included Baynard Plantation, all once a part of Braddock's Point Plantation.

"Saucy Jack," built for him in Hobcaw Billy Pritchard's shipyard near Charleston. He operated profitably under a Letter of Marque, for in 1874 he bought from the Bayley heirs an area which he named Otterburn Plantation, and later other lands which eventually were inherited by his grandchildren, known as 1,000-acre Braddock's Point Plantation, and the 1,820-acre Calibogue Plantation.

When his son, James Stoney (1772-1827), married Elizabeth Mosse in 1793 at her home at the corner of Broughton and West Broad Streets in Savannah, Otterburn (now called Otter Hole) became his home. It was probably on this occasion that Captain Jack Stoney built, as a home for himself, the imposing residence now known as the "*Baynard Ruins*."

In 1805 his second son, John Stoney (1780-1838), married Elizabeth Gaillard and most of their children were born on Hilton Head. The 1820 census even shows him living next door to his father.

Old Captain Jack, then 71, tripped while hunting on Fish Haul Plantation in 1821, dying instantly as his own rifle discharged into his head. He was buried where he fell. A decade or so ago his remains were removed to Zion Chapel of Ease Cemetery, the Chapel having

been built under his direction in 1788.

The 1820 Census shows Captain James Stoney (1772-1827) of Otterburn, Captain of the Island Militia. The Militia Muster House stood on the west side of present Highway 278 south of Zion Chapel in Chaplin Plantation. Next door neighbor to Captain Stoney was a young planter, William Edings Baynard, whose family became the source of many Island legends, including at least two ghost stories.

William Edings Baynard (1800-1849) was the third son of a colorful and interesting family, and the family history abounds with legends — stories that are best told around beach fires in the burning shadows of Hilton Head Island's ghostly beaches.

William Edings Baynard was born on Edisto Island and always considered the plantation he inherited there as "home." As early as 1820 he was planting 600-acre Spanish Wells Plantation, which he also inherited from his father, and 850-acre Muddy Creek Plantation which he purchased from his Uncle William's estate. He also acquired splendid Buckingham Plantation on the mainland. But not until he was 29 years old did he marry his 16-year-old neighbor, Catherine Adelaide Scott, daughter of planter Joseph Adams Scott (1781-1826) of Grasslawn Plantation.

Baynard was a highly successful planter. He greatly admired his elder brother Ephraim and diligently followed both his advice and his example of industry. He even named his first-born son Ephraim Mikell Baynard, Jr., born 18 April 1830.

Home was still Edisto Island to the Baynards, but their husky slaves could row the plantation boats through protected inland waters to the Spanish Wells dock on Calibogue Sound in only a few hours. A daughter, Catherine McNish Baynard, named for her grandmother, Mary Catherine McNish Scott (1788-1817) was born 19 Sept., 1831. A second daughter, Sarah Calder, was born 20 Dec., 1837.

As late as 1836 Braddock's Point Plantation, the "*Baynard Ruins*," still belonged to the Stoneys, their representative then being the illustrious Dr. George Mosse Stoney.

Dr. Stoney did well by all his children. Daughters as well as sons were given plantations as they married. His eldest son, John Joseph Stoney, was born at Otterburn in 1817. He was given Braddock's Point Plantation as his wedding present and began housekeeping in Braddock's Point House. In Bluffton he built a summer home on the May River which the Yankees burned on the 4th of June, 1863, as reported in



Fall cometh lover and we are bursting but absolutely with goodies! To mention a few, sweaters and slacks by Kasper, Wayne Rogers, Siotk Sport, Jones, New York and Hark—gorgeous dresses from Robert Janan, Crissa, Albert Nipon and Joan Leslie. Just come in sweeties, because we've positively run out of room to say more.

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The Horse's Mouth

the *Charleston Mercury*. He became Colonel Stoney and practiced law, the Court House being in Gillisonville, some thirty miles inland near the center of Beaufort District.

It was not until around 1840 that William Edings Baynard got possession of Braddock's Point Plantation. Unwritten but matching family traditions in both the Stoney and Baynard families report that Col. J. J. Stoney, given to living well and enjoying himself with more than an occasional hand of poker, lost the deed to Braddock's Point Plan-

For William Baynard died on the 2nd day of May, 1849 here on Hilton Head and his body was interred in the handsome mausoleum he had erected in Zion Chapel Cemetery. He died at Braddock's Point House, now the Baynard Ruins. His body was transported on a black-draped wagon-hearse followed by the Baynard's formal black carriage and other buggies and conveyances carrying the mourning family and relatives. It was surely the largest and most impressive funeral cortege ever assembled on the Island. The roads from Braddock's



William Baynard married the daughter of the owner of Grass Lawn Plantation. This 1956 aerial photo of Grass Lawn shows Folly Field on the upper right and the 20 Holiday Homes built to qualify for the James F. Byrnes Bridge.

tation to William Edings Baynard in a poker game.

With the burning of Beaufort District Court House records in Gillisonville by Sherman's army in 1865, it became impossible to verify the deeds from the 1785-1865 period. So here an interesting legend begins. Presumably the Beaufort District records were actually loaded aboard two two-horse wagons and sent northward towards Columbia, just ahead of the federal troops. The wagons, however, never reached Columbia and indeed were never heard of again. What really happened to them, no one knows.

On 16 March, 1843, William E. Baynard, Jr. was born on the Baynard Plantation. He grew up to be a "good-looking" man, as reported by a cousin in the spring of 1864 when he was on furlough in Lawtonville from Captain George Cuthbert's company. He was only 19 years old when he was killed later that same year in a skirmish with federal troops.

Three other children were born to William Edings and Catherine Adelaide Baynard after they acquired Braddock's Point Plantation and later the Davenport House in Savannah: Adelaide Scott in 1845, Joseph Scott in 1847 and Anna Pope, born posthumously 1 September, 1849.

Point through Lawton's Calibogia, Pope's Point Comfort, Fickling's Shipyard, Pope's Leamington and Chaplin Plantations were lined with slaves, who had been given the day off from work to honor the departed. There were clusters of people around each of the heavy wooden gates which separated the plantations. Conversations were kept low, the wide-eyed children repeatedly shushed as the procession passed by.

All the Island planters attended. The front pews in Zion Chapel were occupied by Mrs. Baynard, then five months pregnant, and her seven children, escorted by her brother-in-law, Ephraim. Several of her own Scott brothers and sisters filled the next pews; other Island ladies and girls filled the small chapel, with only a few of the leading planters such as Dr. George Mosse Stoney, Squire William Pope, John Edward Pope, Dr. John W. Kirk, Joseph James Pope, Rev. James A. Lawton, Gen. Thomas F. Drayton and James Seabrook actually inside the building. The other men and boys and servants peered in the open windows as the *Order for the Burial of the Dead* was read from *The Book of Common Prayer*.

Afterwards there was great wailing as the carved marble doors of the mausoleum were closed and locked. Then there was the long procession back

**“Baynard Ruins . . .
passed from
owner to owner
because of a
jack of diamonds”**

down the road to Braddock’s Point House. No wonder the collective memory of the community, enhanced by the emotional depths of the occasion, generated nocturnal visions of that awesome funeral cortege.

Another ghost story sprang full-blown into Island consciousness. Even to this day there are Islanders who claim to have seen the dark, swaying procession making its weary way toward the now gaping-empty mausoleum. So, Baynard Ruins, yes indeed, built by other hands, worked by slaves, and passed from owner to owner because of a jack of diamonds . . . still stands and so does the name. The Baynard family spread itself about every corner of this Island and legends still abound.



The Pope House in 1864

Another time, another place, I’ll tell you more of those. Isn’t it fascinating how many places come alive in the telling of just one story?

Now the Baynard Ruins stand mute and ghostly under an umbrella of moss. After the War Between the States the family’s holdings dissipated and were sold off: the last, but little known, owner was William P. Clyde, but leaving their name behind, the Baynards passed into the haze of history and legend.

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