

BLACK BEARD THE PIRATE



GOOSE CREEK, BERKELEY COUNTY BORN AND BRED

A Historical Booklet by Michael J. Heitzler, Ed. D.

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ABOUT THE COVER

Tony Young drew the cover image employing the modified background illustration that William Johnson used for his book entitled, *A General History of the Pyrates* [sic], 1724. This altered image depicts Edward Beard the Pirate as a teenager. This youth was born and reared on his father's Back River Plantation in the St. James, Goose Creek Parish section of Berkeley County, South Carolina. Young Edward Beard is depicted holding reins for packhorses that carried his father's plantation products to the Back River boat landing. As a young adult, Edward Beard adopted his "Edward Teach" alias to insulate his family from his criminal reprisals, and the nom de guerre, "Black Beard the Pirate" to terrorize his victims, force their submission and appropriate their treasures. Edward Beard pirated for merely twenty-two months and died at the young age of twenty-eight but left a three hundred year-long heritage of immoral angst.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Michael James Heitzler earned a Doctor of Education Degree from the University of South Carolina. He is a Fulbright-Hayes Scholar and a retired school administrator of the Berkeley School District, South Carolina. He served as Mayor of the City of Goose Creek from 1978 to 2018. He is the author of *Historic Goose Creek, South Carolina, 1670-1980*, published in 1983 by Southern Historical Press, Easley, South Carolina, and *Goose Creek, a Definitive History*, volume I published in 2005 and volume II published in 2006, by the History Press, Charleston, South Carolina. *The Goose Creek Bridge* and *The Chicken Trilogy* were published by Author House Press in 2010 and 2015. The City of Goose Creek, Berkeley County Chamber of Commerce, Berkeley County Tourism Department, and the South Carolina Historical Society published many more of his articles, booklets, and lectures.

SELECTED PRAISE FOR THE AUTHOR

- The books I read a lot and leaned on in writing this novel were the two volumes of 'Goose Creek: The Definitive History' by Michael Heitzler. Bret Lott, author of Hunt Club, Charleston Post and Courier, January 7, 2012.
- Mike Heitzler's most interesting and readable history is an extraordinary gift, not only to the current and future residents of Goose Creek, but to the people of this region and all of South Carolina. The sense of place that comes with knowledge of our past can help us build a better future and Mike Heitzler has given us a vivid understanding of a special place in South Carolina. Joseph Riley, Mayor, City of Charleston.
- The Goose Creek Bridge...is a brilliantly researched and written account of South Carolina. This is a must read for any serious student of United States history. D. Clayton Meadows, Military Writers Association of America.
- I want to reiterate my belief as a student of low country history and as a book publisher that the work has an important place in South Carolina's historical literature. Alexander Moore, Acquisitions Editor, University of South Carolina Press.

FOREWORD

Tourism and marketing studies consistently find that heritage and history attract visitors, homebuyers, and investors to growing communities. History impacts the self-perceptions of a place and drives surveys that find that historic sites are popular interests of tourists. A thorough study conducted for the South Carolina Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism found that the most important criteria for visitors in South Carolina included interests in history.¹

Unfortunately, few understand the long-muted story of Goose Creek, in Berkeley County, South Carolina and those who come home to Goose Creek miss opportunities to tell their fascinating tales to friends and visitors. Thus, they should develop strategies that take advantage of this untapped resource. Strategies could include the establishment of a historic commission, to pursue the research begun by others because so much remains to be found and shared. The commission could oversee the maintenance of an historic web page and other media releases, recalling significant events and contributions. The commission could design and erect historic markers identifying memorable sections of Goose Creek, Berkeley County, South Carolina and the Nation. Such strategies could result in a cost-effective basis for improved public relations that emphasizes the protection of historic resources. Also, initiatives that share and explain the community's rich heritage could be a way of finding a marketable brand, such as "Goose Creek, Cradle of the Deep South."

Thus, this exploration of "Black Beard the Pirate," at home in Goose Creek, is one of many initiatives that can help Goose Creek and all Berkeley residents and visitors appreciate and benefit from the community's compelling past. Hopefully this rendering will inspire those who build and protect this place today and tomorrow. But mostly, this work is a labor of love.

¹ Michael Trinkley, Director of Chicora Foundation, Inc. Columbia, South Carolina, 1992 p. 55.

IN APPRECIATION

This publication would have been impossible without the extensive historical research that produced, *The Last Days of Black Beard the Pirate* by author Kevin Duffus.² I was stunned to learn during a conversation with author Duffus, that he believed that “Beard” was a surname, and the pirate, “Blackbeard” may have been born in South Carolina. The “Beard” name emerged occasionally in my many years of historic research,³ but my, “Goose Creek History in Your Back Yard” hobby that I pursued since I began teaching history at Goose Creek High School in 1968, never divulged that pirate family. Thus, Kevin Duffus’s belief presented a formidable challenge for me to present the forgotten chapters of Blackbeard’s mystical saga.

My explorative findings that uncovered the Goose Creek chapters of Black Beards’ story were partially derived from previous publications that I authored including: *Boochawee Plantation: Land and Legacy on Goose Creek*, published by the South Carolina Historical Society. Also, *The Chicken Trilogy, The Family Trials, and Tribulations in the Carolina Frontier*, published by Author House and my publications entitled, *Fox Bank, Bastion of the Deep South*, and *The Goose Creek Men, Founding Fathers of the Deep South*, both published by the Berkeley County Tourism Department.

These works provided invaluable insights into the Beard legacy and divulged critical elements of the Black Beard /Goose Creek story. Moreover, these published works unveiled personalities in Goose Creek who significantly impacted Black Beard’s behaviors, such as Native Commissioner, George Chicken. He lived aside the Beard homestead, interacted vehemently with selective pirates, and undoubtedly impacted that frontier family. Also, trusted Native-American, Wateree Jack, Anglican Minister, Francis Lejau and Carolina Governor, James Moore impacted Black Beard’s ascension from infancy to piracy. These influential personalities in the Goose Creek chapters of the Black

² Kevin P. Duffus, *The Last Days of Black Beard the Pirate*, Looking Glass Productions, Inc., Raleigh, North Carolina, 2011. Historical renderings often spell the subject with one word, “Blackbeard,” instead of two words, “Black Beard.” The distinction remains unexplained.

³ South Carolina Historical Society (SCHS) Beard family history and genealogy research files. Books-Subject: Beard family. Call number C571. 5594 1962. Vertical files (30-4 Beard). File contains miscellaneous family history.

Beard drama explain events that motivated Edward Beard, the youngest of his family to behave in abhorrent ways and implanted that outlaw's notoriety among world-wide villains with the "Edward Teach" alias that he invented to protect his family from his criminal indebtedness.

Consequently, my pursuits tell the Beard family story in the St. James, Goose Creek Parish section of Berkeley County, South Carolina where the Beard family reared a dynamic household including "Black Beard" the pugnacious baby of the brood. This work explores twenty-six- years of Black Beard's life before he became a swashbuckler and then follows his brief twenty-two month reign as a notorious outlaw.

Edward Beard/ Edward Teach/ Black Beard/ Blackbeard's childhood, teen, and adult years were gravely marred by an immoral environment that engulfed him and his pioneer family.⁴ His father, siblings, and neighbors in the Carolina frontier posed exceedingly inappropriate models of behavior and amplified the young pirate's obscenities. Author, Kevin Duffus wondered "...is it possible to learn something new about the pirate known as Black Beard?"⁵ This work conclusively answers, "yes indeed!"

4 Alfred Adler (1870-1937) developed the "Birth Order Theory" that purports that the order of birth significantly influences a child's personality. Accordingly, the youngest is more-free spirited and risk taking. Adler also professed that family, community, and social aspects play major roles in shaping personalities. Edward [Black] Beard, the youngest of a pioneer clan, models the principles of Adler's theory in many ways.

5 Duffus, p.31.

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THE BEARD FAMILY OF THE DEEP SOUTH

Edward Beard, also known as, “Edward Teach” and “Black Beard the Pirate,” was born and reared to adulthood in Goose Creek, South Carolina, where his father, James Beard Sr. and his mother, Margaret settled upon a promising plantation in the Back River watershed of the St. James, Goose Creek Parish section of Berkeley County, South Carolina.¹ Edward Beard adopted the alias, “Edward Teach,” to divert his criminalities from his family liability, and employed the “Black Beard” sobriquet to amplify his ferocity as he plundered the high seas.²

Half a century before Edward [Black] Beard was born, King James of England ordered the Catholic Irish to be sold into servitude.³ Consequently, the slave labor from multitudes of Irish men, women, and children grandly enriched the English Caribbean colonies, especially the island of Barbados. There, many died from harsh laboring conditions, but many non-Cathloic, such as James Beard Sr., patriarch of the

subject family, flourished. He successfully transported goods via his single masted sailing sloop from Barbados to the Carolina Colony in the late 17th century where he settled among the founders of the deep south.⁴

During the first two decades of settlements in Carolina (1670-1690), dozens of European settlers and their slaves arrived by ships from Barbados, renowned as the “richest,” but also the most “horrific” colony in the English-speaking world.⁵ The Barbadian slave culture from that horrific isle indelibly tainted the souls of the pioneers who transformed Carolina into a heinous beacon of sin where Edward [Black] Beard ascended.

4 Colin Woodward, *American Nations, A History of the Eleven Rival Cultures of North America*, Penguin Books, Hudson Street, New York, p. 82.

5 Warren, Alleyne and Henry Fraser, *The Barbados-Carolina Connection*, 2016, Wordsworth International. “Beard” is an English surname of Anglo-Saxon and Old French origin.

1 Duffus, p. 227.

2 Thatch, Thatche, Tach, Thach, Theach, Theatch, and Teach are spelling variations of the same surname used as Edward Beard’s alias. Duffus, p. 98. A two-word title, “Black Beard” was generally replaced with a single word name, “Blackbeard,” after his life of crime.

3 “The supplication of all the papists of England to King James at his first coming to the crown...” A letter sent from Bishop Abbot, Archbishop of Canterbury to the King against toleration of the popish (papist/Catholic) religion.

The seafarers on the first ships, as well as pioneers arriving in subsequent months and years, tracked inland from the briny soils of the Charles Town (Charleston) peninsula to claim arable land spanning both sides of “A Broad, Stately Creeke [sic]...”⁶ Immigrants eventually named that waterway, “Goose Creek,” and sought promising tracts of land aside that freshwater flow-way. Subsequent pioneers trekked beyond the Goose Creek waterway in pursuit of available properties that “lay near the head of a branch of a creek which runneth [sic] into Medway [Cooper] River and called by the Indian name of Oola-Coll [Back River].”⁷ There, on the headwaters of Back River, within the bounds of the St. James, Goose Creek Parish, twenty-five miles from Charles Town, James Beard Sr. with his family, claimed the ground along the “Indian Path” that reached west into the vast frontier. That increasingly busy foot trace steadily widened into a packhorse trail, and eventually a rutted wagon road that accessed emerging homesteads. There, aside shallow creek headwaters of Back River, James Beard Sr., his bride, Margaret, and eventually, three sons and a daughter, hewed their fortunes in the

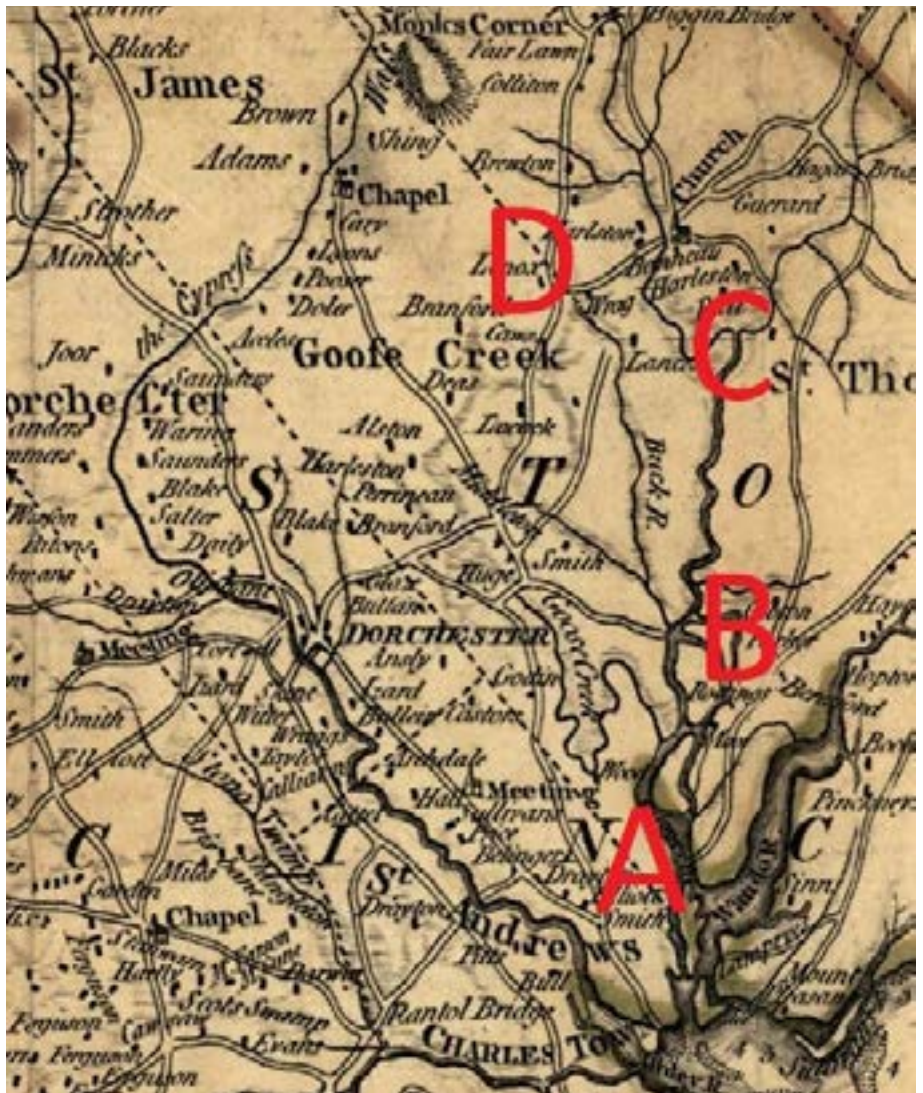
6 John Culpeper, Draught of Ashley River, 1671, notes “A Broad Stately Creeke [sic] Goose Creek] that runs many miles into the Country,” A map among the collections of the South Carolina Historical Society (SCHS), Charleston, South Carolina.

7 Henry A.M. Smith, Smith Papers, Number 1102, p. 379, among the collections of the South Carolina Historical Society (SCHS). Governor Joseph West interpreted “Oola Coll” as the native name for Back River.

Carolina wilderness. There, the Beard family endured the threats of the warring European empires and Native American angst, until their plantation emerged a bastion of the new south in the Back River section of the St. James, Goose Creek Parish, later titled, Berkeley County, South Carolina.⁸

8 *Warrants for Land in South Carolina, 1672-1711*, Salley and Oldsberg Jr. SCHS, University of South Carolina, Columbia, South Carolina. “James Beard had a warr [warrant] out of ye secretary Office for two hundred Acres of land Dated 29th: 1699. James Beard had a warrant for 400 acres Dated 11, Xber [October?] 1704. James Beard had a warrant for 500 acres of land in Berkeley County “this 2d day of February 1710.”

The image (right) is a detail of the map of “Charleston District, South Carolina,” surveyed by Charles Vignoles and Henry Ravenel, 1820. Alpha- letters added to this publication orient the reader to the Beard family plantation vicinity in the Charleston hinterland. The letters indicate: A-Charleston, B- Cooper River, C-Back River, D-The Beard Plantation.



This contemporary photograph (left) shows a section of the ancient roadway that traced the Back River “public canal” from Beard’s Plantation to Durham Boat Landing on navigable Back River. After generations of use, the narrow foot path widened via packhorses and wagons until a worn roadway emerged.



The images (above and left) illustrate innumerable flow-ways which drain the upper reaches of the Back River forests. Often, pioneers used flat bottom boats to traverse the shallow waterways and access navigable Back River. Neighboring landowners, including the Beard, Durham, Singleton, and Chicken families, dug a “public canal” aside the road that reached Durham Boat Landing aside navigable Back River.

Foster Creek, Medway Creek, Durham Creek, and Chicken Creek are navigable water ways that flow into Back River. The image (right) shows Foster Creek near its outflow into Back River.



PLANTERS PIONEERS AND PIRATES

The dynamic military and political cadre of planters, pioneers, and pirates, known as the “Goose Creek Men,” ruled Carolina for half a century (1670-1720), during which time they implanted a sinful culture. Many of the early arrivals⁹ including James Beard, patriarch of the Beard family, and his brother Matthew, emigrated from England to Carolina by-way-of- Barbados, “the most horrendous society in the English-speaking world.”¹⁰ In their relentless pursuit of fortunes, the first Beards to Carolina allied politically with the “Goose Creek Men,” who were determined to dominate Carolina and sequester its riches.¹¹ Consequently, during

their half century of governance, the “Goose Creek Men” identified as “second sons” of royalty and were the first to acquire granted property along the Goose Creek waterway.¹² They also sought expanded tracts aside the Cooper River and its tributaries including Back River, where the Beard family reared four children.

Together, the “Goose Creek Men” implanted the brutal Barbadian caste and slave-based culture in British North America, acquired ill-gotten fortunes by exporting thousands of Native American slaves, conducted business with hundreds of felonious pirates, and perpetuated a myriad of untoward behaviors that eventually spread across the expanding southern colonies. The “Goose Creek Men” used murder, slavery, bribery, piracy, and terror to create a sinful environment, where evil personalities thrived, prompting Anglican Commissary, Gideon Johnson, to lament:

“The Goose Creek Men...are the vilest race of men upon the earth... they are the most factious and seditious people in the whole world.”¹³

9 Although there were only a handful of Barbadians in the first fleet to Carolina, approximately half of the European settlers and more than half of the enslaved Africans during the next two years came from Barbados. Between 1670 and 1690 about 54 percent of the Europeans, immigrated to South Carolina from Barbados and many others arrived from neighboring islands in the English West Indies. Brothers James and Matthew Beard did not own property in Barbados but conducted business there and immigrated to Carolina from there.

10 Woodward, p. 82. During the 1650s, over 100,000 Irish children from 10 to 14 years of age were sold as slaves in the West Indies, Virginia, and New England, of which almost half were sold to Barbadian planters. Also see: J. Handler, “Unshackled Spaces: Fugitives from Slavery and Maroon Communities in America.” Yale University: The Gilder Lehrman Center for the Study of Slavery, Resistance and Abolition, 12/6-7/ 2002. S. O’Callaghan, *To Hell or Barbados*. Brandon Books Pub. Ltd., 2001, pp. 55-65. A Vaughan, *Roots of American Racism*. Oxford University Press. 1995, pp. 41-45, 78.

11 Michael J. Heitzler, Ed.D. *The Goose Creek Men, Founding Fathers of the Deep South*, The Berkeley County Department of Tourism, 1-20-22.

12 English law permitted only the oldest son to inherit property. Consequently, some young men sought land outside of England.

13 Frank Klingberg, *The Indian Frontier in South Carolina as Seen by the S.P.G. Missionary, Commissary Gideon Johnson to Chamberlain, 9-20-1708*. *The Journal of Southern History*, Vol. 5, No. 4 (Nov, 1939), pp. 479-500, Southern Historical Association.



A detail of the map (above), "Islands of the Caribbean," presents a section of the Atlantic Ocean and the Caribbean Sea. An arrow added to this publication near the lower right corner identifies the location of the island of Barbados.



The image (above) depicts the “Goose Creek Men” ahead of a long line of native captives. Governor James Moore is presented on his mount near the left margin. Native officer, Wateree Jack, is mounted near the center right margin. James Beard Sr., father of a daughter and three sons, including Edward [Black] Beard, resided near James Moore’s plantation, and closely associated with the militant Moore family.¹⁴

14 The diorama of horsemen is displayed in the Ocmulgee National Monument Park near Macon, Georgia. The “Goose Creek Men” are depicted returning with Native American slaves.

Sadly, the missionaries from England found few practicing Christians in Carolina and from the earliest days of settlement, most Goose Creek frontiersmen ignored the evangelists who struggled mightily to install God-fearing behaviors. The original goal of the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts, (SPG) was to Christianize the “pagan Indians and Africans,” but the men of God recoiled vehemently at the barbarous sins of the European settlers and soon, redirected their efforts from the “heathen” Natives and Africans, toward the demons lurking among the immigrant families, of which the Beards were not immune.

Reverend Francis LeJau, Minister of the Saint James, Goose Creek Parish, bemoaned the satanic powers in Goose Creek:

I must observe that the last sedition was begun while the Judge was examining evidence relating to the accused witch that is still in our prison. It don't [doesn't] belong to me to judge but she had many friends here. It is a dismal sight to perceive how powerful the spirit of the Devil contrary to that of Christ is here.¹⁵

Adding to the moral conundrum, some of the Christian missionaries displayed bizarre behaviors. The SPG received a complaint concerning Reverend Atkins Williamson, who christened a bear.¹⁶

15 David Duncan Wallace, *South Carolina: A Short History*. Columbia, S.C: University of South Carolina Press, 1951, p. 73.

16 Klingberg, 1956, p. 73n.

Reverend LeJau investigated the incident and found the minister to be “troubled...” but offered no recourse. Abuse of alcohol was a typical factor in many such cases because rum from the Caribbean Islands was widely available and often resulted in untoward behaviors, prompting Colonial Governor Joseph West to write:

Wee [we] find that one of our servants brought out of England is worth 2 of ye [the] Barbadians, for they are soe [so] much addicted to Rum, that they will doe [do] little whilst [without] the bottle at their nose...¹⁷

The common abuse of strong drink resulting from the abundance of affordable Caribbean sugar amplified the spiritual melee to such extent that it aggravated some of the so called “barbaric” Native Americans. One tribal chief complained, “Backarara [white man] drunk grandly, me no lovey that.” Near the time of that defining comment, three pack-horse men, Alexander Muckele, Aaron Cheesbrook, and (no first name) Powel, appeared too intoxicated to travel, and spilled all their pack horse trade items on the trail.¹⁸

17 Converse D. Clowse, *Economic Beginnings in Colonial South Carolina, 1670-1730*. Columbia: University of South Carolina Press, 1971, p. 54.

18 Klingberg, 485. Michael J. Heitzler and Jennie Haskell Rose, *The Chicken Trilogy*, Author House, 2017, pp. 133, 137.

Adding to the abuse of alcohol, the Christian leadership was often informed of “lewd and debauched practices,” some of which were such gross enormities that even the “heathens were ashamed...”¹⁹ Reverend, Francis LeJau recoiled again when, “one of those traders caused a poor Indian woman, a slave of his, to be scalped... she suffered two or three days in miserable condition, until she died alone in the woods.”²⁰

¹⁹ Klingberg, 485.

²⁰ Klingberg, 1956, p. 78.

A detail of the map (below) entitled “A topographical Description and Admeasurement of the Land of Barbados in the West Indies with the Names of Several Plantations,” that Richard Ligon drew for his book, *A true & exact history of the island of Barbados*: illustrated with a horseman shooting Africans.... London: 1673.



Francis Le Jau wrote numerous letters to his missionary society often describing his abhorrent parishioners. He described the murder of James Beard Jr., oldest son in the [Black] Beard family, but never mentioned any other Beard name throughout his eleven-year tenure in Goose Creek. It is likely that the Beard family did not participate in worship services even when congregants assembled near their Back River home. Undoubtedly, Edward [Black] Beard, the youngest of the brood, received little or no spiritual underpinning.²¹

²¹ Prior to the construction of the St. James, Goose Creek Chapel of Ease at the twenty-two-mile marker on the Road to Moncks Corner, Christian services were offered every two months at the Twenty-Three-Mile-House Tavern, merely two miles from the Beard residence.

Within that appalling context of sin, the missionaries persistently proselytized and by it contributed more to the frontier community than any other citizenry. Nevertheless, the Goose Creek pioneers, and pirates, refused to comply with any man-made nor Godly law that slowed their pursuit of wealth. Thus, they traded unabashedly with soulless seaman who robbed the rich and weak. They brutally enforced the strict and cruel slave code to retard slave rebellion, and they propagated hatred between the Africans and the Native Americans to defuse any kind of racial alliance that might overwhelm the sparsely defended European settlements. Predictably, within that vortex of fear of native and slave uprising, and a growing number of murderous sea pirates, the Beard brood, struggled mightily to survive in that Godless wilderness where the baby, Edward [Black] Beard was born circa 1690, during the most aggressive dominance of the Goose Creek Men (1670-1720).

Francis Le Jau (left) (1665-1717) was an Anglican priest assigned to the St. James, Goose Creek Parish from 1706 until his death. His copious report to his missionary society mentions a "Beard" only one time when James Beard Jr. was killed by a native assault. The absence of the Beard name in the minister's records suggests that the Beard family did not associate with the religious community.



THE BEARDS COME HOME TO BACK RIVER

James Beard Sr. and his brother, Matthew, sailed their single-masted sloop, typically laden with kegs of sugar and rum, to Carolina from Barbados near 1680.²² Eventually they acquired proprietary land grants along the Santee River. Matthew improved his Santee River waterfront property and kept it in his family for many decades, where a ferry service long operated.²³ However, his brother, James Beard Sr. settled his growing family among the headwater streams of Back River.

22 Captain James Beard's name appears on custom documents as master of a trading sloop named, The James. In Charleston records, his name appears prior to 1699.

23 Maxwell Clayton Orvin, *Historic Berkeley County, 1670-1900*, Printed by Comprint, Charleston, S.C. 1973. Beard's Ferry served the Santee River, p. 67. John D. Irving, M.D. A Day on Cooper River, R.L. Bryan Co. 2007, p. vii.

James Beard Sr., with his wife, Margaret, daughter Susanna and three sons, James, Matthew, and Edward [Black Beard] the youngest, expanded their Back River tract with additional land grants near the advent of the 18th century.²⁴ The Beard home-place persistently enlarged until it aligned with the emerging Fox Bank plantation that Richard Singleton founded for his family contiguous on the east of the Beards.²⁵ The Beard and Singleton relations enjoyed proximity briefly²⁶ as frontier neighbors on the Santee River before both families settled side by side in the Back River watershed.²⁷

24 Joseph Thorogood received a 3,000-acre land grant in 1682 in the Back River watershed. James Beard Sr. received a land grant contiguous to Thorogood in 1688.

25 Michael J. Heitzler Ed.D., *Fox Bank, Bastion of the Deep South*, Berkeley County September 2023, p. 7.

26 Susannah Beard, Edward [Black] Beard's sister died in 1722, Duffus, 225.

27 A.S. Salley, Editor, Warrants, for land in South Carolina, 1572-1711, South Carolina Department of Archives and History (SCDAH) 1973, p. 596. Benjamin Singleton received a 600-acre proprietary grant on the Santee River. Matthew and James Beard were his Santee River neighbors.

SINGLETON'S FOX BANK

Richard Singleton Sr. received a warrant for 500 acres of land on the “south side” of Goose Creek in 1700, but settled his large family on land he received seven years before on the north side of Thorogood Plantation, contiguous on the east of the Beard’s land and abutting the packhorse trail to Moncks Corner.²⁸ It is conceivable that the family patriarch recognized the health benefits of residing on a well drained estate and left the slaves and overseers to toil in the “miasma,” of the rice sloughs on his Goose Creek property.²⁹ A rutted access path originated at the pack horse trail to traverse one half mile through tall pine forests rising from rich loamy soils of sand, silt, and clay. The plantation avenue terminated atop a gentle knoll overlooking a shallow pond.³⁰ There, the frontier clan

built their first shelter and commenced their familial drama at the place they called “Fox Bank, (Foxbank)” contiguous on the west to the Beard family lands.

Richard Singleton Sr. and his bride, Marianne reared eight children at Fox Bank, most of who rose to prominence in the emerging colony.³¹ Richard Singleton and his brothers aligned with the dominant “Goose Creek Men” as did the neighboring Beards. Similarly, he too steadily acquired more properties until his 120 acre square-shaped tract, with a single pond and reliable streams expanded to more than 600 acres and there, the extended family arose to stand among the richest in Carolina.³² The Beards and Singletons kept a familial interdependence that underpinned their survival during the raucous frontier era and some from both families soon joined the Moore clan in North Carolina.

28 Ancestry Magazine. Com/Operations Inc. – Sept-Oct 2005 - Vol. 23, No. 5, Page 22, Richard Singleton was a ferryman in New London in the 1600s. He insinuated that he was a pirate, including time in the Carolinas, when it was rife with “freebooting.” Richard Singleton of Fox Bank was the grandson of Matthew Singleton and the son of Captain John Singleton.

29 Fox Bank Plantation lay contiguous on the east of the James Beard properties. The Fox Bank land was composed of porous sandy loam type soils according to survey conducted by W.J. Latimer, et. al. for soil map published by the United States Department of Agriculture, Berkeley County, SC. 1916. The prevailing theory of the colonial era blamed a swamp gas called “miasma” for the ills caused by a mosquito-bearing parasite that caused malaria.

30 The old central lake at Fox Bank was expanded and shaped in 2002 as a grand amenity for the modern residential subdivision.

31 “I had in Marriage with my wife Marianne eight of my children viz. Benjamin, Thomas, John, Mary, Rebecca, Anne, Hester and Marianne,” among the Richard Singleton Papers at the SCHS. The Supplement to the South-Carolina Gazette, number 492, August-29-1743 records that Richard Singleton owned two 600-acre tracts.

32 Richard Singleton Proprietary Grant of 120 acres, South Carolina Department of Archives and History, (SCDAH), S213019, Vol. 39, p.23 #2.

JAMES BEARD—JAMES MOORE AND THE FAMILY

Storm water persistently washed across forested lands into narrow streams that carried shallow crafted bateaus and canoes onto navigable Back River. As they matured, the pre-teen Beard boys led single packhorses from their father's plantation to their landing on navigable Back River.³³ As they strengthened, the boys worked to deepen, shape, and employ the mile-long "public" canal. As older teens, the boys trudged five miles from their plantation home to Durham Landing on Back River, where their father's sloop, The James, moored.³⁴ From there, they shipped the marketable goods to trading centers.³⁵ Eventually, James, Matthew, and Edward [Black] Beard led longer lines of packhorses and spent more days fulfilling shipping duties for their father. As they matured, they undoubtedly learned essential skills, such as properly trimming sails, adjusting heavy transport, and navigating the canals, creeks, rivers, dunes and seas.

33 Experienced pack horse traders lead as many as six horses at a time.

34 The George Chicken and John Durham families departed their homes in Northumberland, England to sail together to Carolina where they acquired contiguous homesteads in the Back River Community.

35 Duffus, p. 181. Records from 1704 indicate that the James, sloop carried trade items, as far as Virginia and New York.

Carolina Governor, James Moore Sr.³⁶ and his oldest son, James Moore Jr. frequented the same landing on Back River as the Beards. The Moore family persisted as the dominating household of planters and politicians in the Goose Creek Parish for decades and understandably, James Beard Sr. aligned closely with them to garner security for his family.³⁷ The records are silent regarding the extent to which the Moore and Beard youths interacted, but there were many opportunities for interchange, as the youngsters matured and more closely related in their day-to-day experiences. Understandably, the father, James Beard Sr. and his third son, Edward [Black] Beard eventually relocated aside the Moore family in North Carolina.

Edward Beard was merely twelve years old and stayed at home when his father, James Beard Sr. armed his sloop and joined the flotilla with Governor James Moore Sr. ahead of 600 men and ten ocean vessels

36 Mabel L. Weber, *The First Governor Moore, and his Children*, South Carolina Historical and Genealogical Magazine, January, 1936, Vol. 37, no.1, p. 1.

37 The Beard and Moore families were neighbors. James Beard Sr. resided contiguous on the north of Thorogood Plantation. James Moore Sr. resided contiguous to the east of Thorogood.

to drive the “hated” Spanish Catholics out of St. Augustine, Florida.³⁸ Although the assault failed to “liberate” St. Augustine, James Beard Sr. padded his pockets grandly by “free booting.”³⁹ Consequently, he garnered high acclaim among the leading Carolinians of the day as he enriched his Back River family.⁴⁰

38 Duffus 181.

39 Free booting” is an anachronistic slang term for the act of pirating. The word was common in Carolina during the frontier era. A contemporary definition is “relating to the seeking of pleasure and wealth without responsibility.”

40 The siege of St. Augustine occurred in Queen Anne’s War during November and December 1702. English colonists and their native allies conducted the siege under the command of Carolina Governor, James Moore.

A navigable expanse of Back River (below) flowed from its headwaters aside the Beards homestead into the Cooper River and farther to Charleston Harbor. Undoubtedly, Edward [Black] Beard and his paternal family negotiated these waters frequently. A dam built in 1965 prevents the flow of Back River fresh water into the tidal influenced Cooper River aside the Cote Bas Peninsula. The author took this photograph in 2001.



After the failed St. Augustine attack, James Beard Sr. used privateering commissions to prey upon enemy fleets as the War of Spanish Succession raged (1701-1714). His oldest son James Jr., sailed with his father on many of those pirating missions,⁴¹ and within less than fifteen years in Carolina, James Beard, Sr., and his oldest son, James Beard Jr. emerged as influential brigands.⁴² However, Edward [Black] Beard, the youngest boy, was not old enough to fight when the war started, and undoubtedly, despite his typical youthful yearnings to sail with his father and brother, he did not join them during those early years of violence.

41 Duffus, p. 181 and 182. Among many other joint dealings, the Moore and Beard men were associated in an estate matter when James Beard Sr. served as an appraiser involving Moore's in-laws. James Beard Sr. died in 1711, three years before the War of Spanish Succession ended. His sons were in their early twenties.

42 James Beard Jr. had a warrant for 200 acres of land, August 29, 1699. There was a land Grant to James Beard Sr. for 200 acres in Berkeley Co. 9-23-1702. There was a Land Grant to James Beard for 100 acres in Berkeley Co. 3-14-1704. James Beard had a warrant for 400 acres of land, October 11, 1704. James Beard had a warrant for 500 acres of land in Berkeley County February 2, 1710.

James Beard Sr. nurtured his growing family of children and slaves on his expanding 1000 acre estate aside Thorogood and Fox Bank Plantations.⁴³ The Beard settlement eventually featured a manor house, barns, stables, orchards, gardens and dozens of oxen, cows, and pigs, as well as twelve African and one Native American slave.⁴⁴ Additionally, Governor James Moore awarded to James Beard Sr. a large (640 acres) land grant on deep tidal water in northern Carolina, retitled "North Carolina" in 1710.⁴⁵ That generous grant to Captain James Beard Sr. was in appreciation of his service in defense of the colony, as well as to advance the Governor's designs to shore up the sparsely populated eastern sections of North Carolina for his "family." The Governor promoted James Beard Sr. to Captain, circa 1710, and soon after, James Sr. relocated to Bath Town, North Carolina with his youngest son, twenty-year-old Edward [Black] Beard.⁴⁶

43 James Beard Jr. received two additional land grants for 500 and 200 acres on the Santee River in Craven County (later named Berkeley County) in 1704 but continued to reside on his father's Back River tract.

44 American Historical Association [AHA], by the Committee of the Littleton Griswald Fund, Records of the Court of Chancery, of South Carolina, 1671-1779. Inventory of Beard Estate served as evidence in case of Kineard [Kinloch] vs. Beard, Volume 6, p. 120.

45 The land grant to James Beard Sr. was located on the North side of the Neuse River aside a creek known as Beard Creek today. Martin Frank, husband of Sussanah [Beard] Frank, assumed ownership of land prior to 1733.

46 Duffus, p. 83, Capt. James Beard of Bath Town, North Carolina, died on Sunday, July 21, 1711, in South Carolina.

Edward Beard knew Charleston intimately and especially Goose Creek, where he was born and fleshed into manhood.⁴⁷ Before he and other second sons of Goose Creek planters departed for abundant untilled land in North Carolina, Edward resided during his entire childhood on his father's Back River watershed within a short trot to George Chicken's settlement and three miles farther to navigable Back River.⁴⁸ From there, Edward Beard frequented the interconnecting rivers, and exchanged precious coins, presumably stolen from the hated papists, for products of the flourishing plantations.

47 Duffus, p. 184. "Edward Beard was likely born around 1690 in South Carolina, probably in the Goose Creek area..." "Blackbeard" was his criminal title as was "Black Sam Bellemy," of that era and "Black Bart" of a later period.

48 Kineard [Kinloch] vs. Beard, October 1715, Goose Creek Parish. The Beard Plantation lay in the Back River watershed. These lands lay contiguous on the west of George Chicken's property. Mary Boisseau Memorial sites 750 acres in Berkeley Co. [Ladson, west of Thorogood], with James Beard's name listed as a neighbor. Also see James Beard Land Grant for 200 acres in Berkeley Co. 9/23/1702/James Beard Land Grant for 100 acres in Berkeley Co. 3/14/1704. Mathew Beard vs John Kinnard [Kinloch] Judgment Roll 1717, American Legal Records Volume VI, Edited for the American Historical Association (AHA), by the Committee of the Littleton Griswald Fund, Records of the Court of Chancery, of South Carolina, 1671-1779.

Governor James Moore's "family" included ten sons and a daughter, as well as extended kin and familial associates who relocated from the Goose Creek Parish to the North Carolina tidal waterways.⁴⁹

49 SCHGM, Vol. XXXVII, January, 1936, no.1, p. 1. "The First Governor Moore and His Children." Compiled by Mabel L. Webber.



A red star added to this map (above) detail identifies the Beard estate in the St. James, Goose Creek Parish section of Berkeley County. The west and east branches of the Cooper River converge near the center of the image. The upper reaches of Back River are shown flowing from the Beard estate into Back River and farther to the Cooper River.⁵⁰

⁵⁰ AHA, records of the Court of Chancery, of South Carolina, 1671-1779, Case papers 1700-1720 p.121. "...on lands of Mr. Kinloch together with the dwelling house ...etc." Kinloch, Journal Article by H. D. Bull, The South Carolina Historical and Genealogical Magazine, Vol. 46, No. 2 (Apr., 1945), pp. 63-69.

GEORGE CHICKEN



This pen and ink rendering (above) describes George Chicken as a packhorse trader. He eventually settled in the Back River community where he raised a robust family on his plantation within a mile of the Beard properties. Without a doubt, he dynamically influenced the Back River Community where Edward [Black] Beard matured into adulthood. During his twenty-five-year tenure, Colonel

Chicken served as a Justice of the Peace, Assembly Member, Native Commissioner, Militia Captain, and Indian Affairs Commissioner. Artist, Tony Young drew this George Chicken likeness.

Colonel George Chicken came to Carolina circa 1690 and is recorded as a taxpayer in 1694. George Chicken resided in the Back River section of the parish near the eastern boundary of the Beard family estate, where Edward [Black] Beard matured from an infant child to a young adult.

George Chicken, James Moore, and the Beard men and boys, routinely led increasing numbers of pack horses burdened with plantation and native valuables, to their sloops anchored at Durham Landing on Back River. From there they sailed with ebbing tides down Back River to its outlet in the Cooper River and farther to Charleston Harbor. There, the planters and traders often exchanged directly with ship captains lying at anchor a hundred or more yards off the wharves.

Typically, ship captains offered better barter rates than merchant middlemen. Moreover, “friendly” buccaneers preyed upon the galleons of the hated Spanish, and sometimes paid silver dollars, called “pieces of eight”⁵¹ for kegs of potable water, rum, barrels of meat, all types of fresh country produce and naval stores. Also, deck hands hoisted aboard menageries of live poultry, sheep, and pigs that cluttered the decks of the out-sailing ships, as they glided upon the ebbing tide to disappear below the horizon.

51 The Spanish dollar, known as a “piece of eight,” was a silver coin of approximately 38 mm diameter worth eight Spanish reals (coins).

The colonials sought the versatile silver coins to supplement the rare local currency and consequently the unsanctioned pirate trade expanded unabated for years, adding value to the coastal economy by profiting planters and herdsman, who in turn contributed virtually to every business in Charleston. Undoubtedly, it was during these busy years in the harbor and at sea that the Beard boys learned much about shipping, sailing, and pirating.

In 1706, South Carolina Governor, James Moore bequeathed his large Boochawee Plantation in central Goose Creek to his ten children. He intentionally ignored the legal protocols of entail and primogeniture, which required that estates be devised in their entirety for the eldest son. His aberrant last testament cited Margaret, his wife, and ten children as recipients of shares of all his real and personal estate. All, except the oldest of the Moore sons sold their inherited Goose Creek tracts. Three of the sons acquired new plantations in North Carolina.⁵² Maurice Moore and brothers, Roger, and Nathaniel, purchased land and built plantations along the Cape Fear River in North Carolina. They connected by marriage with other North Carolina families and a strong clan of planters, traders, and merchants called, “the family,” emerged including James Beard Sr, and his youngest son, Edward.⁵³

52 Michael J. Heitzler, Ed.D. *Boochawee: Plantation Land and Legacy on Goose Creek*, The South Carolina Historical Magazine, Volume 111, Nos. 1-2 (January-April 2010), p. 39.

53 David La Vere, *The Tuscarora War, Indians, Settlers and the Fight for the Carolina Colonies*, The University of North Carolina Press, Chapel Hill, 2013, p. 183.

A tourist recorded that Roger Moore was “...the chief gentleman in all Cape Fear...his house is made of brick...”⁵⁴ The traveler noted that Roger Moore’s brother accompanied him to a neighboring plantation where he lodged at “Captain Gibbes,” another Goose Creek transplant, “adjoining Mr. Moore’s.”⁵⁵ The next day the traveler dined at “Mr. John Davis,” a planter from the Goose Creek Liberty Hall Plantation, who married into the Moore family.⁵⁶ The traveler commented that Rocky Point was the “finest place in all Cape Fear.” He continued, “there are several very worthy gentlemen settled there particularly Colonel Maurice Moore, Captain Herne, and several others,”⁵⁷ including James Beard Sr. and son, Edward [Black] Beard.

54 *A new voyage to Georgia*: by a young gentleman; giving an account of his travels to South Carolina, and part of North Carolina; to which is added, a curious account of the Indians, by an honourable [SIC] person; and a poem to James Oglethorpe, esq. on his arrival from Georgia. Published in London and Printed for J. Wilford, 1735, p.43.

55 *A new voyage to Georgia*, p. 46.

56 *A new voyage to Georgia*, p. 46.

57 *A new voyage to Georgia*, p. 51.

The Beard family patriarch, James Beard Sr. recently of Bath Town, North Carolina died on Sunday, July 21, 1711. As per his last will and testament he left his Back River plantation to his oldest son, James Beard Jr.⁵⁸ and his North Carolina property to twenty-one-year-old, Edward [Black] Beard. He soon after sought more land on the eastern shores of North Carolina where he associated with the Cape Fear families from Goose Creek including Robert Howe,⁵⁹ another second son of the prosperous Goose Creek family of the renowned Howe

58 AHA: Volume 6, p.120. “James Beard’s lower plantation containing one thousand acres more or less situate, in Goose Creek Parish [St. James, Goose Creek Parish] aforesaid, butting and abounding to the east on lands called Thowogood [Thorogood] ...west on lands of Mr. Fisheroo [...] south on lands of Mr. [Benjamin] Gibbes, north on lands of Mr. Kenlaugh [Kinloch]...” Volume 6, p.120. SCHS, Vol. 46, no. 2, April 1945, pp. 63-69. “James Kinloch, born 1685, came to Carolina in 1703, lived at Grove Hall,” in Back River watershed.

59 Author interview with Kevin P. Duffus, November 8, 2011, Charleston Exchange Building, Charleston, South Carolina.

Hall Plantation.⁶⁰ Edward Beard also kept an abiding relation with George Chicken, his lifelong Back River neighbor. He frequented his Back River birthplace and traded with George Chicken when he sailed to Charleston. Understandably, under those circumstances, the provincial authorities neglected to enforce mercantile laws of the empire, and persistently ignored the local trade ordinances. Eventually, every businessman in Carolina consorted somehow in the illegal “smuggling” business, and George Chicken and Edward Beard were no exception. Chicken

⁶⁰ Roger Moore, Nathaniel Moore, Maurice and John Moore from the St. James, Goose Creek Parish, moved to New Hanover and Brunswick Counties, North Carolina where they associated with Robert Howe from Howe Hall Plantation and Edward [Black] Beard, both from the St. James, Goose Creek Parish.

operated an official (authorized) native trading center at his Back River home and combined his Native American business profits with bounties from his fields to sate willing buyers including Edward Beard, his Back River neighbor. The numerous clandestine exchanges enriched both grandly.⁶¹

⁶¹ Conceivably, Edward Beard adopted the alias of “Edward Teach” near this time because he was well known by law enforcement officers, such as George Chicken, who knew the Beard family well and may charge that family for Beard’s transgressions.

JAMES BEARD JR. “DIED OF BARKER’S FIGHT”

The Yamasee War raged merely six weeks, but the expansive Native American alliance almost evicted every European and African from South Carolina during late spring and early summer of 1715. At the peak of the melee, Goose Creek militia leaders, Colonel George Chicken and Captain Thomas Barker, alerted hundreds of able-bodied riders to resist a native threat of intrusion into Goose Creek. Colonel George Chicken ordered a “breast work...thrown up [erected]”⁶² and defended aside the Indian trail that traversed Chicken’s, Fox Bank, and Beard’s boundaries. As the breastwork ascended, Colonel Chicken led his militia riders west through the Beard estate to positions near the Cypress/Wassamassaw Swamp, more than twenty miles west of the breastwork. There he waited to spring his trap.

When the call went out for the militia riders to mount, twenty-five-year-old Edward [Black] Beard remained in North Carolina while his older brother, James Beard Jr. trotted two miles from his Back River plantation home to join Captain Thomas Barker’s at Chicken’s breastwork.

From there, Barker’s mounted militia galloped west to intercept the invading natives.

As the sun rose on Tuesday, May 17, 1715, James Beard Jr. rode confidently with Barker’s militia, not knowing that determined native warriors waited in hiding beneath tousel trees, near Eutaw Springs, later named “Barker’s Savanna.” Prior to that day, James Beard Jr., and his fellow calavary men had not seen the twisted and uprooted forest looming over them because a “great Hurricane,” felled the trees merely twenty months before.

Reverend LeJau later reported that the countryside was “thick” with “felled large trees,” but few if any knew the extent of the malaise. As a result, Thomas Barker blindly followed his trusted scout, Wateree Jack deep into the tangled thicket until concealed natives, hunkered among the turned-up roots and twisted trunks encircled the riders. The natives initial report killed Captain Barker and alerted the remaining militia, many of whom soon fell by musket fire, including James Beard

⁶² Klingberg, 153, LeJau to the Secretary of the Society of the Propagation of the Gospel... (SPG) 5-10-1715.

Jr.⁶³ A moment again, stunned horsemen lay pierced by arrows, knives, and hatchets from many directions and bludgeoned with war clubs until twenty-seven “very pretty young men,”⁶⁴ lay moaning and writhing on the ground. The horrified survivors dismounted in confusion to discharge their heavy muskets, but without leadership and more than one third of their comrades dead, dying, or grimacing in pain, they quickly remounted into retreat, leaving twenty-six-year-old James Beard Jr. laying among his slaughtered comrades.⁶⁵

Native American, Wateree Jack betrayed his compatriots that day and intentionally led the militia into a deadly trap. Wateree Jack was “plucked from the battlefield when he was not yet a man...”⁶⁶ and matured as an increasingly reliable slave until Governor Moore, his master, awarded his freedom. Then the freedman rode as a “Jack”⁶⁷ officer in charge of native allies aside the “Goose Creek Men.”

63 Theresa M. Hicks, ed., *South Carolina Indians, Indian Traders, and Other Ethnic Connections*, beginning in 1670 (Spartanburg, South Carolina: Peppercorn Publications Inc. 1998), p. 43. “Natives killed ...James Beard Jr.”

64 Klingberg, 161, Francis Le Jau to John Chamberlain, 8-22-1715.

65 SCDAH, Kineard [Kinloch] vs, Beard, filed in October 1715. “James Beard...died of Barker’s Fight...” James Beard owned the plantation with 11 negroes, 1 Indian slave, and agreed to lease for James Beard who was “killed in war.” Matthew Beard acquired the family plantation.

66 Michael J., Heitzler, *The Goose Creek Bridge, Gateway to Sacred Places*, Author House, Bloomington, Indiana, p. 64.

67 “Jack” was a militia rank assigned to Native American officers responsible for native allies.

Conceivably, after the Governor’s demise, Wateree Jack did not transition his loyalty to James Moore Jr., the Governor’s son, but realigned emotionally with his home tribe. Consequently, Wateree Jack, the long trusted native scout betrayed his new overseer and intentionally led Barker’s cavalry into the deadly trap of twisted trees. No record identifies Wateree Jack again, suggesting that he returned to his home-tribe aside the Wateree River and lived out the last of his troubled years. Officially, the Colonial Assembly claimed that Wateree Jack was “...the author of most of ye mischief they have done us...”⁶⁸

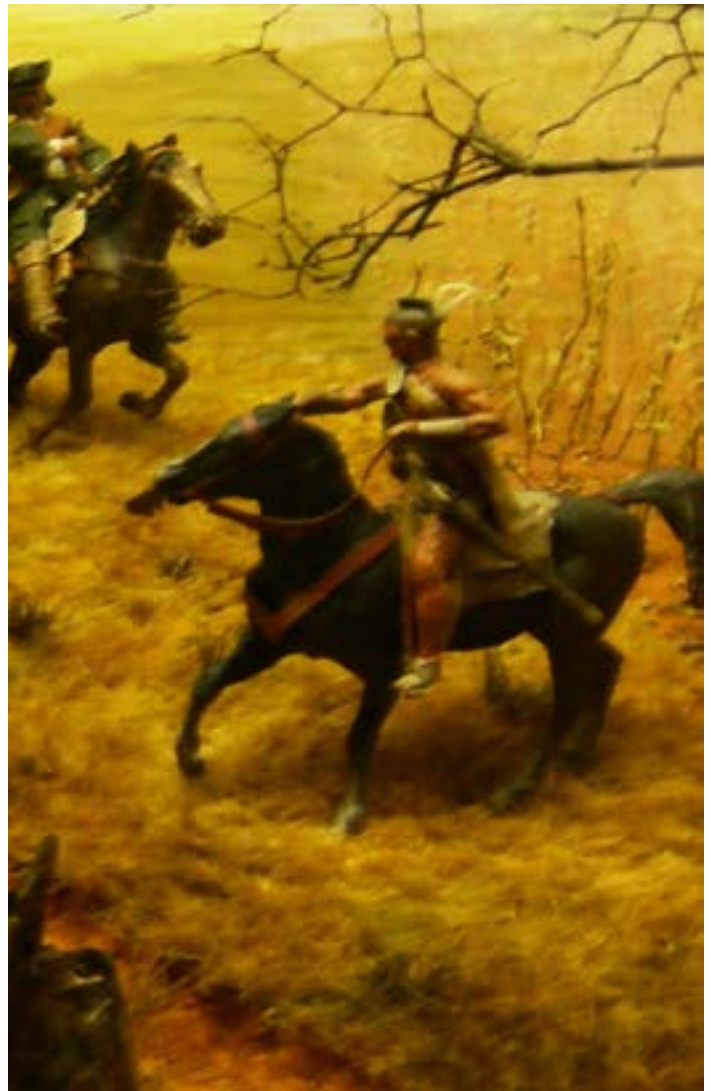
68 Michael J. Heitzler, Ed.D., 2012, *The Goose Creek Bridge, Gateway to Sacred Places*, p. 66. No reliable records tell of the spy after the ambush, but although no one ever identified the body of the native, Colonel Chicken likely settled the score with his decisive charge.



This detail of the Henry Mouzon Map (left), 1775, shows a crossed sword symbol on the left side of the upper margin noting, "Captain Barker defeated in 1715." James Beard Jr died here. A red star added to this publication identifies the notation. A white flaw line crosses the entire upper width of the map.

The detail (right) of a diorama on display in the Ocmulgee National Monument Park near Macon, Georgia, displays Wateree Jack, talented and trusted Native American who was near the same age as his neighbor, Edward Beard. Wateree Jack disavowed his long-standing loyalty to the Goose Creek Men and reaffirmed his alliance with his native tribe during the Yemassee War of 1715.

A detail (left) of the previous map reveals the crossed swords and words, "Capt. Barker Defeated in 1715," above the map crevasse line and left of upper center. James Beard Jr. was among the slaughtered militia. His brother, Edward [Black] Beard remained in North Carolina and did not engage in the Yemassee War.



After the slaughter at "Barker's" entrapment, the large Native American war party was flushed with success, and inspired by rumors that the English were despaired and retreated to Charleston. However, the natives halted at the imposing defensive structures erected strategically along the shallow Beard/Fox Bank/Chicken waterways, later named Chapel Creek.



The photograph shows a section of Chapel Creek in the spring of 2004. The breastwork rose intermittently along the creek and swamps that spanned east and west from the Road to Moncks Corner. It is exceedingly difficult to swab, load and ram a single shot musket without standing upright and holding the wooden stock firmly on dry ground. Thus, the sprawling swamps posed a formidable deterrent to the invading native musketeers. This image is among the collections of the author.

The musketeers stood boldly behind their earthen defenses dashing all expectations of the native's easy passage to the livestock and other plantation treasures. The English were not despaired but reinforced in number by Barker's retreating cavalymen and by determined Africans mounting along the skirmish line.

Hurried legislation allowed the arming of African trusties and in Goose Creek, many slaves eagerly defied the "savages." Anglican Parish Minister, Francis LeJau recalled:

Every family had fled to town (Charleston), except in one place.... at Chickens front door, where... seventy white men and forty Negroes had surrounded themselves with a breastwork, and resolved to remain and defend themselves in the best manner they could.⁶⁹

Colonel George Chicken ordered his male slaves, including his senior servant, "Hercles," [Old Hercules] to mount the defensive wall⁷⁰ and James Beard's male

69 Francis LeJau wrote to his commissioner May 10, 1715 that he met with his parishioners at "our camp 6 miles of me Noward [northward], the greatest part of their women and children are in town."

70 Inventory of Coll (sic) George Chicken deceased, 8-21-1727 Memorandum by John Herbert, Benj. Waring, and Jn. Ouldfield.

slaves undoubtedly shored up the redoubts, as did the other neighboring homesteaders from Fox Bank, Kinloch, Gibbes, Spring Grove, Thorogood Plantations, and others.⁷¹ African American slaves named: Jacko, Quaminash, Bosom, Tome, Tony, Prince, Cudjo, Mole, Dolly, Hannah, and Pussaugh, as well as one native named, Guy, resided at James Beard Jr.'s home place, some, or all of whom accompanied James Beard Jr. to the earthen redoubt when he was enroute to his tortuous demise.

At Chicken's Creek, the black and white sharpshooters proffered a stubborn defense with musketeers behind the firing line aiming deep into the shaded wetland. From their protected positions and within reach of dry gun powder and shot, they defended their positions as the unforgiving swamp bogs slowed the native movements and spoiled their dry powder until the incursion was "fortunately checked."⁷²

⁷¹ George Chicken died in 1727, Langdon Cheves ed. George Chicken Journal, Memorandum by John Herbert, Benj. Waring, and Jn. Ouldfield.

Langdon Cheves ed. George Chicken Journal, 1715-1716, A Letter from Carolina in 1715, City of Charleston Yearbook, 1897. Charleston, South Carolina: SCHS. George Chicken's slaves resided in quarters merely a hundred yards from the redoubt and likely believed it was in their best interests to repel the native assault.

⁷² Francis LeJau to his commissioner, May 10, 1715.

The duration of the attack and the number of casualties remain vague, but no natives penetrated the broad shallow creek that flowed from Beard's homestead to Back River. Instead, the mounting setbacks weighed heavily upon the dispirited warriors and forced their retreat. That day, Saturday June 11, 1715, the natives followed the creek upstream into the forests spanning the deserted Beard estate and rested beside the Fox Bank Pond.⁷³ From there, the natives proceeded the next morning in a wide sweep above the Thorogood wetlands and turned southwest toward the Cypress/Wassamassaw waterway where Colonel Chicken waited with his determined militia. All day Sunday, Captain George Chicken's rangers reconnoitered the diaspora as the natives unwittingly closed within sight of the main body of the Goose Creek Militia. When in range, Colonel Chicken led a mounted charge into the center mass of the stunned intruders. The surprise attack crippled the native assault, destroyed their allied cohesion, and forced the invaders into full retreat through the Wassamassaw bogs and farther west to their home villages.

⁷³ The embanked and expanded detention pond serves as a welcoming amenity in the contemporary Fox Bank Residential community, contiguous to Beard's historic boundary to the west and aside State Highway 52 and Cypress Garden Road.



Alpha letters were added to this detail (above) of a contemporary map of the greater Goose Area to orient the reader to the significant battle of the Yemassee War of 1715. A-Identifies the location of the fateful charge by Colonel George Chicken. B- Orients the neighboring Chicken, Beard, and Fox Bank Plantations. C-The Goose Creek Bridge. D- Back River. E-Goose Creek waterway. F-Charleston Peninsula.

EDWARD [BLACK] BEARD'S REIGN AND RUIN

Edward [Black] Beard remained in North Carolina during the Yemassee War (1715) and engaged in no conflicts as Captain of his father's sloop. After that horrendous native war, North and South Carolinians cautiously reestablished trading arrangements with selected native tribes. Understandably, the native trade depended upon reliable transport of goods to and from world markets and soon the rivers and sea lanes burgeoned again with laden vessels carrying manufactured items to Charleston and back again with deer skins and products of the forests and fields, tempting unscrupulous sailors to seize treasures upon the high seas. It was then that, twenty-six year old Edward Beard employed his "Edward Teach," alias, returned from North Carolina to his familiar home waters and commenced twenty-two months of ferocious piracy.

Edward Beard intimately knew the South Carolina waters and especially Back River above Goose Creek, where he was born and fleshed into adulthood.⁷⁴ Before he and other sons of Goose Creek planters departed from their homes in pursuit of abundant land in North Carolina, Edward Beard resided on his father's versatile tract

⁷⁴ Duffus, p. 184. "Edward Beard...was likely born around 1690 in South Carolina, probably the Goose Creek area..."

northwest of Thorogood Plantation, and aside Fox Bank and Chicken's Plantations.⁷⁵ He knew the land and water intimately, recalling as a boy, leading innumerable packhorses from his plantation home to his father's sailing ship moored at Durham Landing on navigable Back River. Now, as captain of his father's sloop, he skillfully traversed the Charleston waterways where he exchanged precious coins, presumably stolen from the hated Catholics, for products of the flourishing plantations.

Edward Beard was born on the Carolina frontier and reared among the horrendous pioneers of North America. His father was a pirate, as was his oldest brother, who suffered a merciless native ambush and murder. Understandably, young Edward modeled his family's unrelenting avarice as he relocated with his father, James Beard Sr., to untilled land on deep waters along the eastern shores of North Carolina. There he and his father associated closely with the Cape Fear families,⁷⁶ especially sons of

⁷⁵ Duffus, p. 181.

⁷⁶ Author interview with Kevin P. Duffus, November 8, 2011, Charleston Exchange Building, Charleston, South Carolina. According to author Duffus, Edward [Black] Beard associated in North Carolina with "Moore and Howe men" from Goose Creek.

the notorious “Goose Creek Men.”⁷⁷ Under those tedious circumstances, the provincial authorities neglected to enforce mercantile laws of the empire, and persistently ignored the local trade ordinances. Eventually, most businessmen, in North and South Carolina consorted somehow in “smuggling” and combined Native American trading profits with bounties from the plantations to sate willing buyers in the harbors, until the clandestine exchanges enriched them grandly.

The Moore family became renowned throughout both North and South Carolinas for their wealth and influence. Remarkably, the Moore clan imported more than 4,000 slaves into the Carolinas, hundreds of whom were assigned to their extensive plantations in and about Cape Fear. From there they traded briskly with pirates as they did in South Carolina where Edward Beard armed his father’s ship and ventured full time into that unlawful, albeit lucrative scheme bearing his “Edward Teach” alias.

⁷⁷ Roger Moore, Nathaniel Moore, Maurice Moore and John Moore from the St. James, Goose Creek Parish, moved to New Hanover and Brunswick Counties, North Carolina where they associated with the Beards from Goose Creek. *A new voyage to Georgia: By a young gentleman*. Giving an account of his travels to South Carolina, and part of North Carolina, Printed at J. Wilford, London, 1737.



Pirates hoisted the skull and cross bones banner (above) to intimidate ship captains into surrendering their treasures.

When fortunes in exports returned ships laden with valuable imports, the thieves of the sea lanes moved their base of operations to South Carolina to be closer to the lucrative coastal routes. Those increasingly rich cargoes, coupled with weak defenses, made South Carolina a prime target for robbery and bribery. Villainy spanned the south Atlantic-sea lanes, with ships flying skull, and cross bones banners within sight of the Charleston battery. Sadly, greed again reared its ugly head when the thieves of the ocean succeeded in turning trading transgressions into life-or-death circumstances for planters and merchants alike.

Edward Beard [AKA Edward Teach] and his close associate, Stede Bonnet, the so called “gentleman pirate,” from Barbados, terrorized Charleston Harbor. In 1718, months after acquiring the Queen Anne’s Revenge three masted ship, Blackbeard arrived in Charleston harbor with four ships and several hundred men. Then, in the boldest act of his career, he blockaded

the port, took several crew and passengers hostage, and demanded a chest of medicine for his ailing crew. Governor Robert Johnson obliged, delivering 400 pounds of medicines to the disease-ridden outlaws. Soon after, without a provincial navy and absent any assistance from England, the colonists confronted the problem themselves, sending a fleet that captured Stede Bonnet and returned him and his rogue crew to Charleston.



A General History of the Robberies and Murders of the most notorious Pyrates [sic], published in 1724, used the above stylized engraving of Stede Bonnet. The name of the author of the book, Captain Charles Johnson, is generally considered a pseudonym. Colonel George Chicken, Edward Beard's neighbor was one of the judges who sentenced pirate, Stede Bonnet to death by hanging on December 10, 1718.

Flushed with pride and confidence, South Carolina Governor Nathaniel Johnson set a trial date to hear the complaints against Bonnet, amidst social turmoil. Some towns people called for a lynching without a trial while others perceived Bonnet a hero of the high seas and demanded his reprieve. Grog house fights spilled into the streets and noisy riots intermittently spun when bribes from subversive elements added fuel to unruly groups. Somehow, order prevailed even after Bonnet escaped and remained at large on Sullivan's Island near Charleston for nearly a week.

Notwithstanding the discordant weeks during that autumn, Bonnet and his crew stood trial on October 28, 1718 in the most remarkable court session ever convened in the province. Nicholas Trott, Vice Admiralty Judge, a member of the Council and Chief Justice of the province, presided with twelve citizens including Colonel George Chicken, as "assistant judges," in accordance with the law of that era. Additionally, the court appointed twenty-three citizens as grand jurors to sentence the indicted captives in accordance with the findings of the court.⁷⁸

⁷⁸ No author or editor noted, *The Tryals [SIC] of Major Stede Bonnet and Other Pirates*, (London, Benjamin Cowse at the Rose, and Crown in St. Paul's Church Yard), 1719, The Proceedings of the Court of Vice -Admiralty Sessions, held at Charles Town in South Carolina, the 28 Day of Octob. [SIC] 1718 and by Several Adjournments continu'd [sic] to Wednesday the 12th of November following..."

The court ruled Stede Bonnet and his twenty-one crew members guilty of piracy and ordered Bonnet hung by his neck until dead. Although Stede Bonnet pleaded to Governor Johnson for clemency, the governor carried out the decision of the court when the hangman discharged his duty on December 10, 1718 near Oyster Point.⁷⁹ The inglorious deposit of the lifeless carcass into the marsh mud further emboldened the upstart provincial armada. Within months, the South Carolina navy drove off the remaining sea bandits and returned confidence to the city streets and peace to the harbor.

With the demise of those pirates, debate in the Commons House returned to normal with George Chicken and the other “Goose Creek Men,” holding to the anti-proprietary mantra. The lack of assistance from the hapless proprietors during the pirate war added to the calls for revolution. Thus, the following winter, George Chicken and his Goose Creek colleagues signed a petition calling for a royal revolution and during those months of discordance, pirate Edward Beard, persistently used his “Edward Teach” alias, to shield his family from legal reprisals, and to hide his identity from his long-standing neighbor, George Chicken.

⁷⁹ Edgar, 1974, 153.

Edward Beard sailed along the Carolina coasts to the Caribbean Sea, commanding as many as six ships and hundreds of men. In 1717 and 1718, he robbed dozens of ocean transports and earned a reputation for unbridled ferocity. His persona evolved into notoriously evil, “Blackbeard the Pirate,” that he amplified, as tradition purports, by strapping multiple pistols and cutlasses to his body and weaving fuses into his long, black plaited beard that he supposedly set ablaze before boarding ships to kill the crews and steal their fortunes.⁸⁰

English authorities became increasingly frustrated by the persistent discordant behaviors in their colonies and consequently decided to encourage the pirates to abandon their evil profession by offering a pardon to any outlaw who declared loyalty to the English crown and promised to shun criminal behaviors.

In June 1718, after a tumultuous voyage in which Black Beard blockaded Charleston Harbor, beached his famous ship, the Queen Anne’s Revenge and abandoned most of his men, Black Beard reached Bath, North Carolina. There, alias Edward Teach took the oath of loyalty and retreated to Ocracoke Island, where he lived most of his final five months.

⁸⁰ “Black Beard” AKA “Blackbeard,” was a sobriquet for an evil person with the name of “Beard.” Others, such as Black Bart and Black Sam shared the negative nomenclature.



Edward Beard, AKA Edward Teach and Blackbeard, anchored his vessel near the Ocracoke Inlet (above). It was one of the few passages in and out of the Pamlico Sound that accessed mainland North Carolina.

Ocracoke Island was a welcoming refuge for Edward Teach [Beard] to live as a semi-retired pirate. He anchored his vessel between the Ocracoke Inlet and a natural freshwater well on land in what is now called Teach's Hole Channel. The inlet was one of the few routes in and out of the Pamlico Sound, which was much shallower than the ocean shoreline, making it a good place for Blackbeard to maneuver his ship when chased by larger vessels.

The British Naval Lieutenant, Robert Maynard (below) allowed his ship to coast within boarding range of Blackbeard's. As soon as Blackbeard was aboard, Maynard and his men, rushed upon the main deck, and caught the pirates off guard. During the six-minute melee, the combatants slashed, thrust, and shot one another at close range. When the smoke cleared, Blackbeard lay dead with most of his compatriots.⁸¹

81 This art work is in the public domain in the United States because it was registered with the U.S. Copyright Office before January 1, 1928.



Although his pirating career persisted merely twenty-two months, Edward Beard and his men plundered grandly even after taking the oath of abeyance as “Edward Teach.” In an audacious move, their gruesome end occurred in the hands of British naval Lieutenant Robert Maynard, whom Virginia Governor, Alexander Spotswood sent to track down Edward Teach.

Alerted that Blackbeard and his men might be moored off North Carolina’s Ocracoke Island, Maynard’s forces sailed the James River to attack Blackbeard. After Maynard’s sloops reached the southern tip of Ocracoke, they spied Blackbeard’s two sloops at anchor. The following morning, Maynard ordered an attack on Blackbeard, forcing the pirate to order his men to cut loose the anchor, hoist the sail and get underway.

To intimidate their attackers, the pirates began shooting at the approaching ships. It appeared that Blackbeard’s plan was to head out of the channel that the sloops had just entered by engaging them in a running battle. Blackbeard took full advantage of his superior firepower and unleashed a booming broadside that killed the commander and severely wounded five of his men causing the sloop to fall behind. Not wanting to expose any more of his men to blasts from Blackbeard’s cannons, Maynard ordered all of them below decks, while he went into the cabin at the stern of the ship.

Maynard was not only retreating to get out of harm’s way, but he was setting a trap. Before going to the cabin, Maynard ordered the pilot and a midshipman to stay on deck and alert him as to what Blackbeard was doing. If it worked out as Maynard hoped, the pirates would soon come to him. Consequently, Blackbeard brought his ship alongside his opponent’s and led his men over the rails. As soon as Blackbeard was aboard, the pilot signaled Maynard, who, along with his men, rushed to the main deck, catching the pirates off guard. During the six-minute ensuing melee, the combatants slashed, thrust, and shot each other at close range.

When the smoke cleared, twenty-eight year old Edward, the baby of the Beard family, lay dead, as were most of his crew. Soon after, the surviving pirates were beaten and forced into submission, ending Blackbeard’s twenty-two-month chronicle. Maynard reported that Blackbeard “fell with five shots in him, and twenty dismal cuts in parts of his body.” Maynard added, “I have cut Blackbeard’s head off, which I put on my bowsprit, in order to carry it to Virginia.” Blackbeard’s headless body was pitched into the murky water of Pamlico Sound, where legend purports that it stroked a few laps around the ship before sinking out of sight.

The victorious Maynard sailed up the James River with Blackbeard's decomposing and pungent head hung from the bowsprit. As a warning to those who might consider piracy a profitable career, Virginia Governor Alexander Spotswood mounted Blackbeard's head on a pike along the edge of the river, that was later christened, "Blackbeard's Point."



After twenty-eight-year-old Edward Beard was captured, and killed in a fierce battle, his head was suspended from the bowsprit (above), in November of 1718, ending his 22-month venture of evil, horror and sin.

Blackbeard the Pirate, AKA Edward Teach/Edward Beard is typically featured with a black beard covering a gruff threatening face. Legend purports that after his death his skull was kept as a punch bowl and thus, he remained well intoxicated during his hellish eternity.⁸²

82 Captain Charles Johnson, *A General History of Pirates*, 2nd Edition, London, T. Warner, 1724. Edward Teach aka Blackbeard, as engraved by Benjamin Cole in Johnson's 1724 edition.



THE BEARD HERITAGE

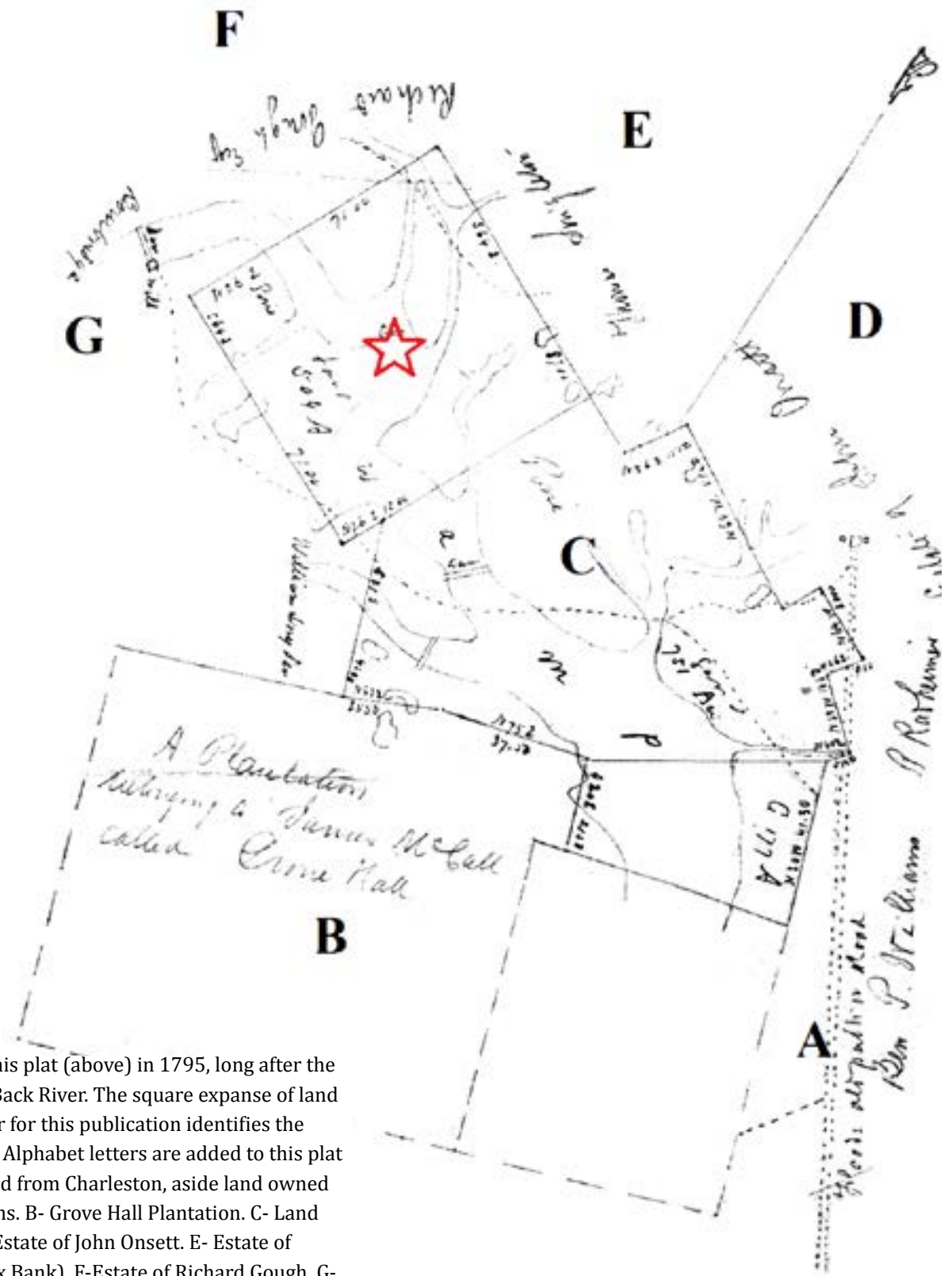
After James Beard Sr. and Junior died in 1711 and 1715, an unknown benefactor paid the taxes on the Beard Back River estate in 1716 and 1717. Also, via his last will, James Beard Sr. left his Back River property to an unnamed son, who paid the taxes on the land until 1718. That is the year British sailors killed Edward Beard, the Pirate. Matthew Beard, the last surviving son of the James Beard family to reside on the Back River estate, retained the property for more years until assertive neighbors purchased his homestead and he relocated to his Beard tracts aside the Santee River.⁸³

83 A Profile of a Mid-Eighteenth Century, South Carolina Parish: The Tax Return of St. James, Goose Creek. Philip D. Morgan lists the Esta.[estate] of Mathew Beard to include 49 slaves, and 3,485 acres in five parishes. SCDAAH, Columbia, South Carolina, Series S111001, Volume 3, Page 123, Item I, 1733-05-24, Description: Mathew Beard, Memorial for Eleven tracts containing 1,950 acres in Berkeley, Craven and Colleton Counties. Beard's Ferry operated on the Santee River. South Carolina Historical Magazine, V.97, p. 204n., 1996. Charleston, SC. Nelson's Ferry was built in 1756 and operated until rights to it were given to James Beard for seven years. Thereafter, the legislature vested ownership to Jared Nelson. Will Book, 1757-1760, South Carolina wills and related probate matters, land, and property records, 1692-1868. See Maxwell Clayton Orvin, Historic Berkeley County 1671-19, Comprint, Charleston, SC., p. 67.

A century and a half later, the State of South Carolina granted a charter to the Northeastern Railroad to establish service from Charleston to the City of Florence in the northeastern section of the state.⁸⁴

Railroads became widely essential during the 19th century, carrying products from the fields to markets and returning with fertilizer for the depleted soils. The train depots kept farms marginally productive and sustained small communities within reach of the rail stops.⁸⁵ Like, "windows to the world," the little train depots allowed farm families to communicate via mail, telegraph, newspapers, gossip, and to buy, sell, borrow and barter.

84 The state chartered the Northeastern Railroad Company in 1851. That rail company commercially tied Charleston to Florence in 1857 and from there the Wilmington & Manchester rail lines proceeded to points north and west.
85 Elias Ball, "Poor white farmers, St. James, Goose Creek Parish." and Forfeited Lands List, and Sinking Fund Commission, Columbia, South Carolina: W.B. McDaniel, General Book and Job Printers, 69 Main Street, Charleston, South Carolina: SCHS.



John Diamond drew this plat (above) in 1795, long after the last Beard resided in Back River. The square expanse of land marked with a red star for this publication identifies the obsolete Beard estate. Alphabet letters are added to this plat for explanation. A-Road from Charleston, aside land owned by Benjamin P. Williams. B- Grove Hall Plantation. C- Land owned by Kinloch. D-Estate of John Onsett. E- Estate of Thomas Singleton (Fox Bank). F-Estate of Richard Gough. G- Dam and grist mill. Also see updated plat produced in 1919.⁸⁶

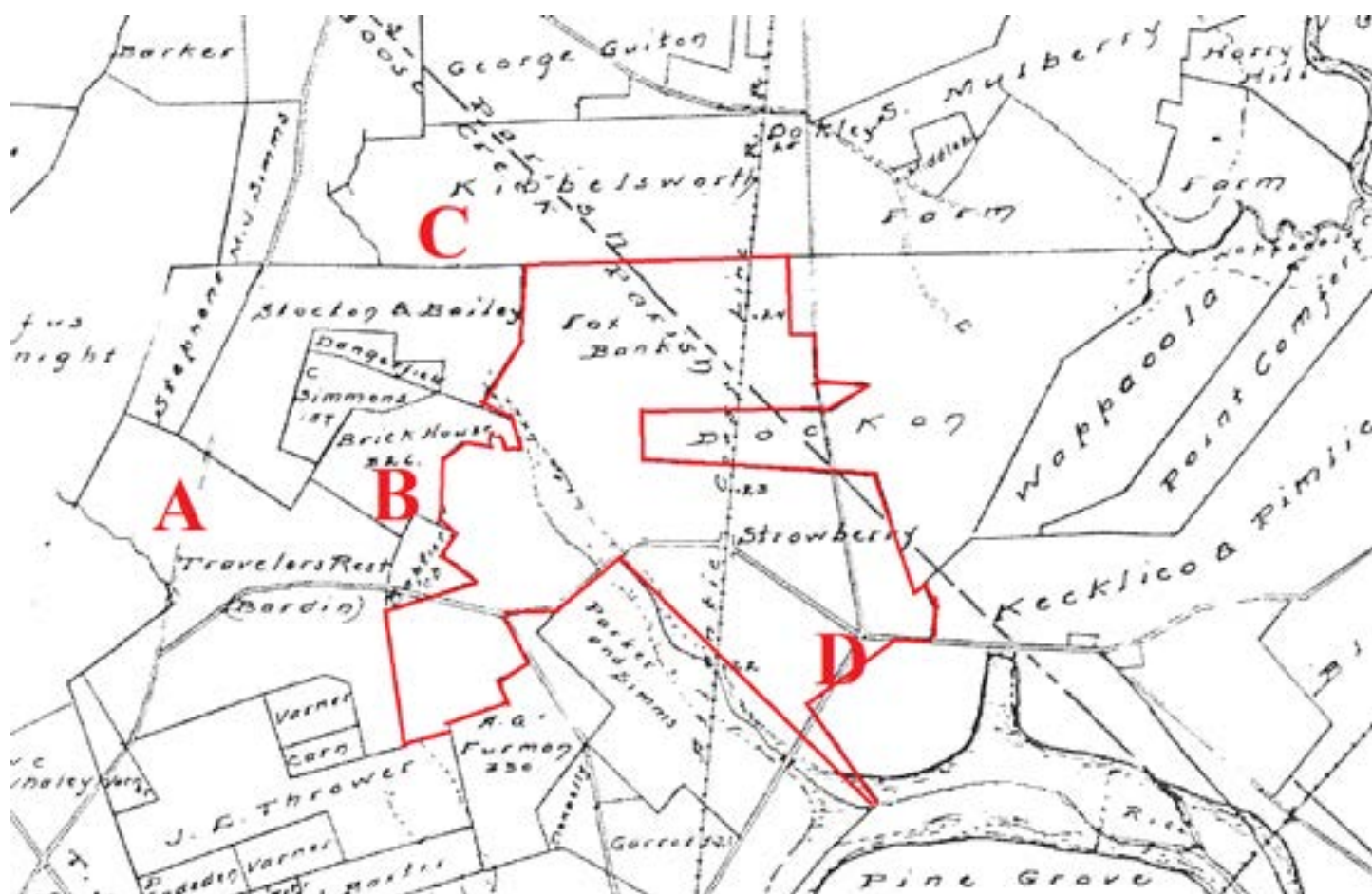
⁸⁶ White. H.W. Plat showing 682.20 acres in St. James, Goose Creek Parish. Surveyed by McCrady Brothers and Cheves Inc. (B15, p.21) Fox Bank. Date: 1/1919 series, McCrady Plat collection: L10005 Reel: 0005 Plat 03039.

Some European-American families conveniently relocated closer to the Strawberry Railroad Depot merely two miles from the obsolete Beard Estate, while many of the liberated African Americans sought scattered farmlands beyond.⁸⁷ The Groom family purchased the obsolete Beard Estate, two miles from the Strawberry Railroad Station and after the train depot commenced service, the proximity called Groomville, enjoyed economic expansion with the construction of a school, sawmill, general store, and a resort.

⁸⁷ The "Strawberry Railroad Station" was so named because it was conveniently located aside the busy "Road to Strawberry Ferry," that operated on the Cooper River six miles east of the station. The title was conveniently truncated to "Strawberry Station."

During those late 19th century years, marketers touted "Travelers Rest," at the original Beard homeplace, as a repose for tired commuters. They also claimed that contiguous Fox Bank was "...a summer seat..." available as a healthy abode, like the pine tree resorts of Summerville, Pineville, and Pinopolis.

This detail of the Gaillard Map (below) shows contiguous properties that were once the Fox Bank and Beard tracts. The Fox Bank tract is outlined in red for this map detail. Alpha letters added to this image indicate: A-Travelers Rest (Bardin/Beard?) The James Beard family occupied this section during the late 1600s and early 1700s. B-indicates "Brick House" that was likely the location of the Beard manor house situated on the highest ground on Beard's property. C- Kibbleworth, a 19th century estate. D-Southeastern extent of the Fox Bank Estate.



For Sale,

THE Plantation Fox Bank, situated in St. James', Goose Creek, 25 miles from Charleston, containing 530 acres of Land, 250 of which is cleared, near 200 under good fence—about 100 acres Rice land, under goods banks. There is a good dwelling house, and other buildings. It is a very healthy situation, it has been held as a summer seat for many years. To suit purchasers, stocks of different kinds, can be had on the said plantation. Terms may be known, by applying to C. S. SIMONSON, in Charleston, *King-street*, or on the Plantation.
December 17. f126

An estate advertisement (left) near the end of the 19th century touts the “...very healthy situation,” at Fox Bank. The ad claims that Fox Bank “had been held as a summer seat for many years.” The Fox Bank/Groomville community enjoyed a brisk but brief awakening as a summer resort. There is no mention of the curiously tenacious Beard family that owned much of that land for several decades, but disappeared from most recollections, and records.⁸⁸

88 SCDAH searched their collections 11-20-2023 and disclosed no Beard records among their data. *City Gazette*, Charleston, December 14, 1797.

A contemporary mowed lawn aside Smyrna Methodist Church (below) reminds visitors of the Traveler’s Rest Resort where a series of wooden cabins entreated travelers seeking healthy reprieves on this section of the obsolete Beard Estate.



William Bun owned the Groomville General Store and Emil Withers clerked there during the 1880s and 1890s, while Jonathan Brogdon labored as an engineer and J. Douglas Bun served as trial justice in a tiny clapboard office aside the train-loading platform. For convenience, the Baptist minister, deacons, and leading “brethren” often worshipped at the Groomville schoolhouse where “Mr. Groom” bequeathed land to the congregation in

1882.⁸⁹ The St. James Baptist (Bethlehem/Groomville) Church leaders met on 1-14-1888 and agreed to “take down,” the old church building, long standing aside the Anglican Chapel of Ease site, and move it to the new location on a section of the ancient Beard estate.

⁸⁹ See the Bethlehem Baptist Church Book of the Covenant among the records held by the church officials. Pastors serving the church during the post-war period include J.M. Kirtin, Samuel Lynes, Wesley Bishop, and R. E. Gibson.



A detail of the War Department, Corps of Engineers, U.S. Army, Map (above) shows the Groomville Community on high ground between two Back River flow way two miles from the Strawberry Railroad station. The School and Church were

constructed between the drainage features, as were the Beard house and settlement buildings one hundred years before.



A detail of the Corps of Engineer Map (left) features a red star added to this detail to indicate the probable location of the Beard family manor house where Edward Beard, the pirate was born and reared. The manor sight is labeled as "Brick House Section," on the Gaillard Map, previously shown. Clay deposits available for baked bricks are replete on this property. Families such as the Beards typically built the main house out of brick on the highest ground. This map indicates with elevation lines the varying altitudes.



The photograph (left) shows the Groomville Baptist Church in 2012. The Bethlehem Baptist Church was built in 1812 aside the ruins of the Anglican, St. James, Goose Creek Chapel of Ease. The Baptist Church was disassembled and relocated to the present site in 1888 and renamed Groomville Baptist Church. The Church site was near the center of the thousand acres that was once the Beard home place.

The image (right) shows the donation record for the salary of the Groomville Baptist preacher in 1913. A pay record is shown with legible names and amounts of contributions for the ministerial salary labeled as "Pay for Brother W. Rhame." Discernable names are listed here: Annie Lynes, Lena McBride, Georgia McBride, John McBride, H.M. Dangerfield, A.Y. Glenn, E. R. Sims, F.T. Burbage, Mrs. M. Phillips, Mrs. M. Sims, Mrs. A.M. Anderson, Mr. Dangerfield, H.M. Dangerfield, Bro Luis Burbage, "Rent from T.L. Gibson, A.Y. Glenn, A.B. Lynes, Julia B. Guyton, Richard Lynes, and "Rent from D. V. Carnes."





The Smyrna Methodist Church (above) stands on property once belonging to John Lewis Poppenheim and donated in 1920 by Doty T. Rhoad. The church burned down in 1919 and was rebuilt in 1921. The site belonged to the Beard family for more than forty years circa 1680 to 1720.

Enduring churches, single family homes, as well as open and dense green space defines Beard's Plantation today. The community is growing rapidly as it expands in all directions from the nearby Cypress Garden / Highway 52 intersection.⁹⁰

⁹⁰ Information provided by Mr. Johnnie Flynn, loyal church congregant and ministerial leader.

BLACK BEARD'S LEGEND AND LORE

William of Normandy, known as the "Conqueror," invaded England and defeated King Harold II at the battle of Hastings in 1066. William of Normandy's reign is partly noted for the compilation of the Domesday Book that recorded the names of all landowners in England. The resulting laws of primogeniture and entail underpinned the Domesday Book by delimiting all but the oldest son from inheriting the undivided family properties. Consequently, some of the so-called "second sons" sought their own land outside of England in the Carolinas.

Most of the second sons of England remained comfortably in their homeland, but a few with tenacious personalities sought opportunities abroad. Those "select few" possessed the verve necessary to sail across an uncharted sea and penetrate a dangerous and unmapped frontier. Their objectives required courage, confidence, vision, and immense determination. Thus, it is no surprise that such pioneers suppressed the laws of the land in the new world and did whatever they perceived necessary to underpin their new-found dominions. Furthermore, it is not surprising that the behaviors of the second sons were often untenable, immoral, and included the vicious sins of piracy.

Edward Beard, also known as Edward Teach, Black Beard and Blackbeard the pirate, was a baby of a frontier family who survived his childhood amidst the evils that defined his home in the St. James, Goose Creek Parish, in what is Berkeley County today. Edward Beard was birthed amongst his pioneer kin and the so called aberrant "Goose Creek Men." These outlandish neighbors dominated Carolina during Edward's entire lifetime. They and his raucous siblings and parents undoubtedly hewed the maturing youngster's untoward conduct into an abhorrent adult.

The image of the Blackbeard character, who is presented as a young man on the front cover of this book, emerged from innumerable hours of historical research. The findings identified a tenacious personality that was common in that time and place. Consequently, the personified individual who emerged from the Goose Creek home place was carefully gleaned from the dynamic influences of the vile community and was merely one among many dreadful personalities in the Goose Creek frontier. He became what would be expected, an undeniably criminal offender.

None the less, the Edward Beard from Goose Creek is unlike the imaginary characters that emerged during three hundred years of pirating fiction, beginning with the 1724 publication of William Johnson's "Pyrate Book."⁹¹ Although the "Beard" name is rare in Carolina today, the Blackbeard legend and lore persists within innumerable fictional books, films, cartoons, and tales that project imaginary imprints of the young pirate's life. Consequently, Blackbeard from Goose Creek, South Carolina will undoubtedly persist as an exceedingly evil personality who persistently contributes to the emotions throbbing within innumerable Carolinian hearts and souls, today and well into the future!⁹²

91 See Figure 34, a copy of the "Pyrate" book in the appendix

92 The contemporary "Beard" name is absent among The South Carolina Department of Archives and History records. The name appears among the Genealogical records kept by the South Carolina Historical Society, mostly in states other than South Carolina.

APPENDICES

THE BEARD CHRONOLOGY

1670: European and African immigrants arrived in Carolina.

1678: Brothers James and Matthew Beard received land grants on the Santee River in Berkeley County.

1680: James Beard Sr. received a land grant on upper Back River.

1690 (circa): Edward [Black] Beard was born in Saint James, Goose Creek Parish.

1710: James Beard Sr. relocated aside Governor Moore's family in North Carolina.

1711: James Beard Sr. died. Twenty-one year old Edward [Black] Beard occupied the family's North Carolina estate.

1711: James Beard Jr. assumed ownership of Back River plantation.

1715: James Beard Jr. is killed.

1716-1718: Twenty-six year old Edward [Black] Beard employs the "Edward Teach" alias and terrorized the sea lanes.

1718: Edward [Black] Beard died in North Carolina.

1720: Matthew Beard acquired the Beard Estate on Back River.

1722: Susannah Beard Franck, Edward Beard's sister died.

1733: Martin Frank, husband of Susannah [Beard] Frank, assumed ownership of James Beard's North Carolina land.

1740: Matthew Beard sells the Back River Beard estate.

A GENERAL HISTORY OF THE PYRATES [SIC]

A GENERAL HISTORY OF THE PYRATES,

FROM

Their first RISE and SETTLEMENT in the Island of
Providence, to the present Time.

With the remarkable Actions and Adventures of the two Female Pyrates

MARY READ and ANNE BONNY;

Contain'd in the following Chapters,

Introduction.	}	IX. Of Capt. Roberts.
Chap. I. Of Capt. Avery.		X. Of Capt. Aspin.
II. Of Capt. Martin.		XI. Of Capt. Wierley.
III. Of Capt. Teach.		XII. Of Capt. Lowther.
IV. Of Capt. Bonnet.		XIII. Of Capt. Low.
V. Of Capt. England.		XIV. Of Capt. Eonar.
VI. Of Capt. Vane.		XV. Of Capt. Middy.
VII. Of Capt. Rackam.		XVI. Of Capt. Spriggs.
VIII. Of Capt. Davis.	And their several Crews.	

To which is added.

A short ABSTRACT of the Statute and Civil
Law, in Relation to Piracy.

The second EDITION, with considerable ADDITIONS

By Captain CHARLES JOHNSON.

L O N D O N :

Printed for, and sold by T. Warner, at the Black-Boy in Peter-
Nefter-Row, 1724.

General History of the Pyrates [sic] (above) is a 1724 book published in Britain containing biographies of contemporary pirates. The name of the author, Captain Charles Johnson, is generally considered a pen name. It is likely that the author also used liberties in his accounts including the name of "Edward Teach" for "Edward Beard." Some assert that Captain Johnson created the modern conceptions of pirates that have expanded during the last 300 years.

HEADS OF HOUSEHOLDS

The abbreviated table lists the heads of households in St. James, Goose Creek Parish, and their assets according to a partial tax report made in 1745. The Foxbank neighborhood residents are printed in bold lettering for this publication. This modified report is among the collections of the SCDAH. Richard Singleton was wealthy and is listed in this 1745 tax roster with 40 slaves. The tax record of the same year lists his total estate with 1,145 acres and 24 slaves.

Name of Head of Household	Number of Slaves in St. James Goose Creek	Total Number of All Slaves in South Carolina	Money at Interest @ 6 percent in pounds.	Number of Acres Owned in St. James Goose Creek	Number of Acres Owned in South Carolina	Total Amount of Tax in Pounds, Shillings and Pence
William Middleton	100	123	18,223	2433	15,275	247-13-11
Henry Izard	218	218	4,887	1696	8,48,	225-4-11.5
Peter Taylor	40	69	0	779	3,880	75-9-3
Mathew Beard *	49	49	0	500	3,485	58-13-11
Samuel Riggs Esta.	0	0	1,000	0	0	3-0-0
William Cator	9	9	0	0	0	6-6-0
William Wood	9	9	0	325	325	8-11-6
John Herbert	0	0	0	835	3,040	21-5-0
Ben. Bulline	32	32	0	412.5	612.5	26-13-8
Thomas Bulline	44	44	0	890	890	37-0-7
Elizabeth Marion	3	3	0	0	0	2-2-0
Mary Auber	7	7	500	165	165	7-11-1
Richard Boddecatt	7	7	0	0	0	5-4-5.25
Richard Tookernan	35	35	0	750	750	29-15-0
James Streater	13	13	0	690	690	13-18-7
James Coachman	18	18	0	2381	2,381	29-5-4
Sarah Filbin	8	8	0	0	0	5-12-0
Thomas Bulline Jr.	11	11	0	0	0	7-14-0
John Frederick	4	4	0	0	0	2-16-0
James Marion	23	23	0	600	600	20-6-0
Thomas Lovely	2	2	0	0	0	1-8-0
Jacob Young	1	1	0	0	0	0-14-0
Joseph Hurst	20	20	0	568	568	17-19-6
Robert Wood	9	9	0	100	100	7-14-0
E. Cooper	2	2	0	0	0	1-8-0
Gideon Faucheraud	58	58	1,284	3484	3,848	68-16-9

Name of Head of Household	Number of Slaves in St. James Goose Creek	Total Number of All Slaves in South Carolina	Money at Interest @ 6 percent in pounds.	Number of Acres Owned in St. James Goose Creek	Number of Acres Owned in South Carolina	Total Amount of Tax in Pounds, Shillings and Pence
Archer Smith	30	30	0	2589	2,589	39-2-5.5
William Flud	15	15	0	384	384	13-3-9
Joseph Harsford	85	85	0	246	2,693	78-10-2.5
John Haille	3	3	0	0	0	2-2-0
Hugh Grange	36	36	0	1200	1,1814	NA
In Trust J. Parker Decd.	47	47	1,200	786	4,513	142-18-4
Charles Faucheraud	71	71	0	150	150	NA
The Honorable Jas Kinloch Esqr.	230	230	10,000	3015	13,356	284-9-8
William Allen	150	150	0	3,300	3,300	128-2-0
James Bagbey	23	23	0	720	1,109	23-17-5
Sedgwich Lewis	5	5	0	500	500	7-0-0
Zachariah Villeponteaux	74	74	0	987	8,879	113-19-3
Gideon Dupont	13	13	0	400	900	15-8-0
Maurice Keating	76	76	0	2,989	2,980	74-1-2
Hannah Goodbey	19	19	0	985	985	20-3-11
Samuel Bacor (Bacot)	15	15	0	800	800	16-2-0
Nathaniel Snow	50	50	0	1,625	4,025	63-3-6
Mary Smith	43	43	1900	4,278	17,945	161-8-6
Benjamin Mazyck	40	40	0	3,070	3,070	49-9-9.5
Mr. Richard Singleton *	40	40	0	600	600	32-4-0
For the Estate of Richard Singleton *	24	24	0	1,145	1,145	24-16-3.5
For the Estate of John Bagbey	24	24	0	1,060	1,060	24-8-5
Joseph Norman	55	55	0	1,560	1,560	49-8-5
Sarah Middleton	215	215	57348	11,104	11,104	400-5-3.75
John Morton	74	74	7117	1,621	1,621	84-8-11
Peter Hume	61	61	0	1,450	1,450	52-3-0
Thomas Middleton	64	64	0	5,371	5,371	82-8-6
Paul Mazyck	79	79	11769	3,247	3,247	113-6-3.5
Richard Gough	6	6	3500	0	0	14-14-0
Robert Brown	35	35	0	0	0	24-10-0

* Mathew Beard was among the top 10% of wealthy households in 1745. Philip D. Morgan, A Profile of a Mid-Century South Carolina Parish: Tax Return of St. James, Goose Creek Parish, SCHS Charleston, SC. Also see: South Carolina Deed Abstracts, 1719-1772. Vol. II, 1740-1755, Books V-P-P, Mathew Beard, planter, son of Mathew Beard of St. James, Goose Creek Parish. Abstracted by Clara A. Langley.

BEARD'S SOUTH CAROLINA LAND AWARDS IN CHRONOLOGICAL ORDER BEGINNING IN 1702

Sources:

Warrants for lands in South Carolina, 1672-1711. South Carolina Governor, Alexander Samuel Salley Jr. Department of Archives and History, Columbia, South Carolina.

Warrants for lands in South Carolina as a Royal Province, 1719-1776. South Carolina Plats for land grants 1784-1961, South Carolina Department of Archives and History.

Will Book, 1757-1760, South Carolina wills and related probate matters, land, and property records, 1692-1868. South Carolina Deed Abstracts, 1719-1772, Langley, Clara A. , Easley, South Carolina: Southern Historical Press, 1984.

James Beard Land Grant for 200 acres in Berkley Co. 9/23/1702

James Beard Land Grant for 500 acres in Craven Co. 3/14/1704

James Beard Land Grant for 200 acres in Craven Co. 3/14/1704

James Beard Land Grant for 100 acres in Berkley Co. 3/14/1704

Benjamin Mortimore vs Thomas Beard Judgment Roll 1711 - 1712

William Beard vs Tilford Attwell Judgment Roll 1717

Mathew Beard vs John Kinnard Judgment Roll 1717

John Bailey to Mathew Beard, Lease and Release for 560 acres in John's

Island 1727-1729

John Crosskeys, and John Bailey to Mathew Beard Indemnity Bond of 1250 pounds for security of 560 acres in Colleton Co. 1727-1729

Mary Boisseau Memorial for 750 acres in Berkley Co. James Beard's name is listed as neighbor. 1732

Gillson Clapp Memorial for 6 tracts containing 296 acres in Berkley Co.

Matthew Beard's name is noted. 3/13/1732

Mathew Beard land grant for 1500 acres in Granville Co. 3/16/1732

William Middleton Memorial for 350 acres in St. James Goose Creek Parish, Berkley County. James Beard's name is noted. 11/30/1732

William Middleton Memorial for 1543 acres in St. James Goose Creek Parish, Berkley County. Mathew Beard's name is noted. 11/30/1732

Matthew Beard plat for land for 1500 acres in Granville Co. 12/28/1732

George Beard Memorial for 500 acres on Santee River. 2/8/1733

Mathew Beard plat for 300 acres of land in Colleton Co. 2/26/1733

Daniel Green Memorial for 5 tracts totaling 1100 acres on Ashley River; Berkeley County, Edisto River; Granville County; St. James Island. James Beard's name is mentioned. 5/12/1733

Robert Miller Memorial for two tracts containing 1025 acres in Dorchester Township, Berkley Co. Mathew Beard's name is noted. 5/18/1733

Jacob Motte, Memorial for 900 acres in Berkley Co. Combahee River; Granville Co. Mathew Beard's name is mentioned. 5/12/1733

Matthew Beard Memorial for 11 tracts totaling 1950 acres in Berkeley, Craven and Colleton Co. 5/24/1733

Benjamin Child Memorial for 42.75 acres in St. Georges Parish, Berkley Co. Mathew Beard is noted. 5/24/1733

William Griffin Memorial for 2 tracts totaling 42 acres in St. George's Parish; Berkley Co. Mathew Beard's name is mentioned. 5/24/1733

Mathew Beard land grant for 300 acres in Colleton Co. 7/11/1733

Plan of various tracts of land owned along the Santee River formerly belonging to James and George Beard. Belvedere Plantation and Walnut Grove Plantation. 1735-1772

George Beard plat for 200 acres in Berkley Co. 3/27/1735

George Beard plat for 200 acres in Craven Co. 8/15/1735

George Beard plat for 100 acres in Berkley Co. 8/15/1735

George Beard land grant for 200 acres in Craven County 12/4/1735

George Beard land grant for 100 acres in Berkley Co. 12/11/1735

George Beard land grant for 200 acres in Berkley Co 12/11/1735

George Beard land grant for 200 acres in Berkley Co. 12/11/1735

James De St. Julien plat for 500 acres in Berkley Co. George Beard's name is mentioned. 6/16/1736

Peter De St. Julien plat for 500 acres in Berkley Co. George Beard's name is mentioned. 12/9/1738

Mathew Beard to John Macktier lease and release for 300 acres in Colleton Co. 1739-1740

William Middleton Memorial for 4 tracts totaling 1960 acres in St. James Goose Creek and St. Johns Parishes; Berkeley Co. Mathew Beard's name is noted. 4/11/1739

Capt. Joshua Sanders plat for 600 acres in Granville Co. Mathew Beard neighbor.
8/18/1741

John Macteer memorial for 300 acres on Pon Pon River, Colleton County summarizing a chain of title to a grant to Matthew Beard. 3/23/1743

John Crockatt and Kenneth Michie vs Mathew Beard Judgment Roll. 1745

Charles O'Neal plat for 300 acres on the north side of Santee River in Craven County. Matthew Beard was mentioned. 5/18/1752

James Beard plat for 650 acres in Craven County 12/4/1752

Benjamin Singleton plat for 600 acres in Craven County. James Beard neighbor.
12/5/1752

Mathew Beard to Paul Smithzer, bill of sale for one negro fellow named Guy. 4/7/1753

Margaret McKelvey Memorial for 500 acres on Santee River, Craven County summarizing a chain of title to a grant to James Beard of March 14, 1707. Mathew Beard's name was mentioned as well. 4/5/1754

William Walter, memorial for 5 tracts totaling 2403 acres in Berkley Co. Mathew Baird and James Beard's name is listed. 7/7/1755

Francis Kinloch plat for 1000 acres in Berkley Co. George Beard's name is mentioned.
12/18/1755

William Jameson plat for 400 acres in Craven Co. James Beard neighbor. 8/20/1756

Walnut Grove Plantation plat showing 3 plantations near Santee River, 990 acres in Walnut Grove, 300 acres in Austin and 1000 acres in Brakey [Berkeley?] Names indexed are Mathew Beard, Francis Kinlock, Charles O'Neal, John Palmer, James Roberts, and James Thomas. April 1757

Francis Kinloch plat for 400 acres in Berkley County/ James Beard is mentioned.
7/6/1758

William Jameson plat for 400 acres in Craven Co. James Beard and George Beard's names are mentioned. 9/1/1758

William Jameson memorial for 400 acres on Santee River, Craven County. George Beard is mentioned. 3/12/1759

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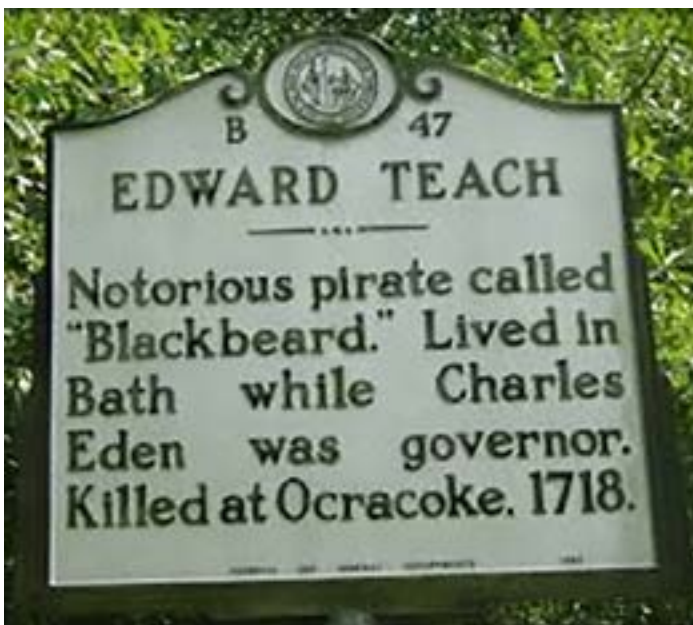
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This obsolete bridge (above) crosses Chapel Creek, one of the innumerable streams that flows into Back River. The author took this photograph in 2010.



The embanked and expanded detention/retention pond (above) serves as a welcoming amenity in today's Fox Bank Residential community aside State Highway 52 and Cypress Garden Road. Foxbank bordered the Beard estate on the east.



"Edward Teach?" How many more untruths (left) will we discover?

BRITANNICA ARTICLE WITH CORRECTIONS NOTED IN RED FOR THIS PUBLICATION.

Blackbeard (born c. 1680, [1690] Bristol?, England [St. James, Goose Creek Parish, South Carolina]—died November 22, 1718, Ocracoke Island, North Carolina [U.S.]) one of history's most famous pirates, who became an imposing figure in American folklore.

Little is known of Blackbeard's early life, and his origins have been left to speculation. He has been widely identified as Edward Teach (or several variations thereof, including Thatch and Thack), [Edward Beard] though pirate custom at the time was to use a pseudonym when engaging in acts of piracy, and his true name [Edward Beard] [will now] be known. Edward Beard's father was a privateer during the War of the Spanish Succession (1701–1713). Blackbeard was first heard of as a pirate late in 1716. The following year he converted a captured French merchantman into a 40-gun warship, *Queen Anne's Revenge*, and soon became notorious for outrages along the Virginia and Carolina coasts and in the Caribbean Sea. In 1718 Blackbeard [Edward Beard] established his base in a North Carolina inlet, forcibly collected tolls from shipping in Pamlico Sound, and made a prize-sharing agreement with Charles Eden, governor of the North Carolina colony. At the request of Carolina planters, the lieutenant governor of Virginia, Alexander Spotswood, dispatched a British naval force under Lieutenant Robert Maynard, who, after a hard fight, succeeded in killing Blackbeard. The pirate's body was decapitated, and his head was affixed to the end of the bowsprit of his ship.

Apart from the luxuriant black beard [Beard was his surname] the most prominent aspect of the Blackbeard legend is his great buried treasure, which has never been found and probably never existed. The wreck of the *Queen Anne's Revenge*, however, was discovered off the coast of North Carolina by divers in the mid-1990s. Hundreds of artifacts were recovered from the site in the following decades, including navigational devices, cannons, and a sword hilt.

The Editors of Encyclopedia Britannica

RESEARCH FINDINGS OF THE BEARD NAME

The following primary research information identifies the “Beard” surname for Berkeley County. The South Carolina Historical Society (SCHS) cites Beard family history and genealogy research files. Also. Search books- subject: Beard family. Call number C571. 5594 1962. Vertical files (30-4 Beard). File contains miscellaneous family history. White, H.W. Plat shows 682.20 acres in St. James, Goose Creek Parish. The property records were surveyed by McCrady Brothers and Cheves Inc. (B15, p.21) Fox Bank. Date: 1/1919 series, McCrady Plat collection: L10005 Reel: 0005 Plat 03039.

ABOUT THE BACK COVER

The upper reaches of Back River are replete with beautiful green ways that served the Beard family. The photograph was taken by the author July 11, 2023.

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“Preserve the Past, Protect the Present and Plan for Progress”

Michael J. Heitzler, Ed. D.