A GOOSE CREEK HISTORICAL BOOKLET

BOOCHAWEE PLANTATION

GOOSE CREEK LAND, LABOR AND LEGACY

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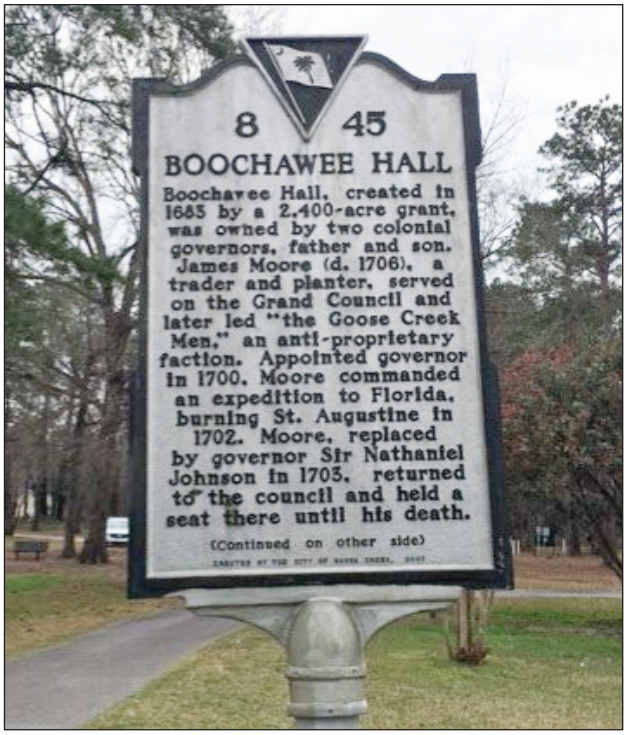
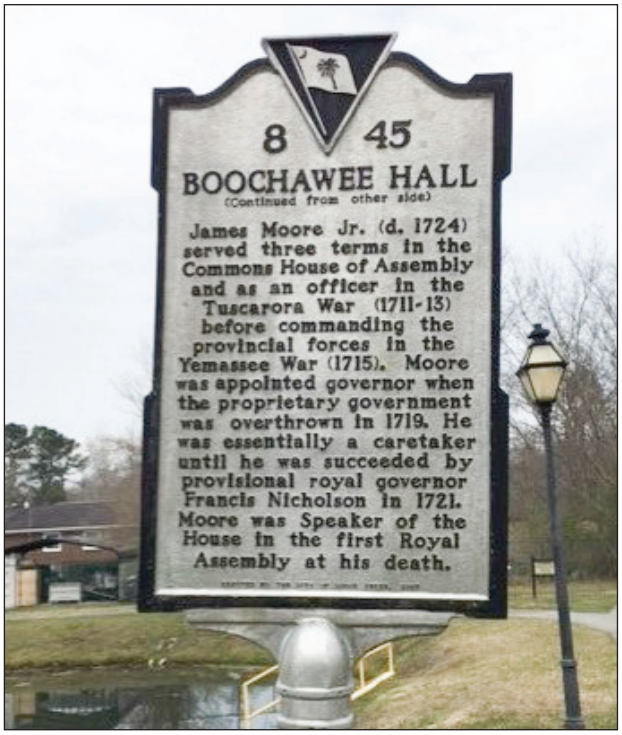
Henry A.M. Smith

This description of Boochawee and the plantations that evolved from it, continue the historical research pursued by Henry A.M. Smith during the 19th century. Henry Smith descended from prominent Goose Creek landowners and served as an attorney, judge and vice president of the South Carolina Historical Society. He explored plantation sites for more than 50 years, copied plats and assembled volumes of personal notes detailing the land and people of large sections of the Charleston heartland. However, his research abruptly ended when he became ill, and although his unfinished draft was published after his death, the incomplete work terminated in mid-sentence as he began penning the history of Boochawee Plantation.[1] This historical rendering of Boochawee is an attempt to explain the legacy within the tradition pursued by Judge Smith, and to contribute to his life-long work that terminated when he began to divulge the lessons of Boochawee and its Goose Creek land, labor and legacy.

While serving as a federal judge, Henry A. M. Smith lived at 25 Meeting Street, Charleston, South Carolina.





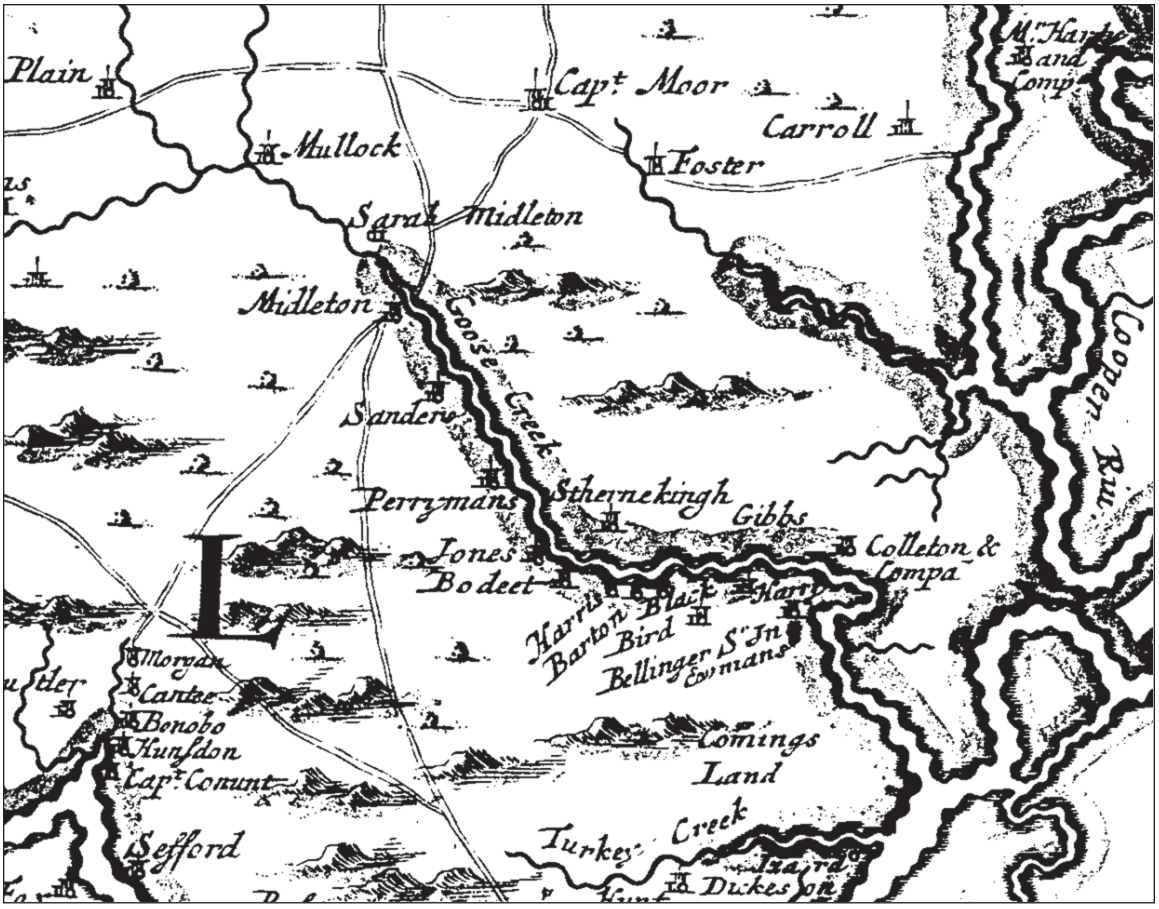
Boochawee Plantation

Goose Creek Land, Labor and Legacy

On Sept. 20, 1683, the Lord Proprietors of Carolina granted to James Moore a 2,400-acre tract called "Boochaw and Wapensaw" in Goose Creek near Charleston in the Carolina colony. From its start, this large tract, usually referred to as "Boochawee," enjoyed an auspicious occupancy. James Moore built and lived at the original frontier house, explored inland to the Appalachian Mountains, traded with the Native Americans and rose to the office of Governor of South Carolina. His son, James Moore II, followed his father as a trader and a renowned military hero, and he too ascended to the governor's office during the turbulent transition period ending Proprietary rule. Notwithstanding the ambitions and talents of those two landowners, Boochawee Plantation faded into obscurity unlike better-known neighbors, such as The Oaks, Crowfield, and Medway Plantations. Eventually, the Boochawee manor attached to The Oaks Plantation owned by the renowned Middleton family, and other Boochawee divisions melded with five bordering estates named Schenckingh's, Springfield, Liberty Hall, Howe Hall, and Button Hall Plantations – all homes of important personalities during the heady colonial era.

The community of patriarchs residing at Boochawee and its subdivisions made durable contributions to the political, economic and social institutions of South Carolina. Thousands of bound African-American slaves built inland rice systems that produced fortunes for the landowners, and later generations of Africans eked sufficient sustenance from subdivided parcels to feed their extended families, and support whitewashed churches and schools well into the 20th century. Today, these lands comprise central sections of the City of Goose Creek, a burgeoning municipality near Charleston, South Carolina.

Above, the City of Goose Creek's two-sided historical marker in Lake Greenview Park marks the proximity of the Boochawee Plantation main house and settlement. The images present both sides of the marker.



A detail of the map entitled Carte Particuliere De La Caroline, shows “Capt. Moor” at upper center. “Foster” is also noted on Foster Creek, and the head water of Foster Creek is shown reaching to the Moore properties. The map, circa 1696, is among the papers of the North Carolina State Archives and a copy is accessible at the South Carolina Historical Society, Charleston, South Carolina.

The Land

Boochawee Plantation was arable land coveted by the immigrants to South Carolina. Soon after the first Englishmen arrived at Charleston in 1670, frontier families joined a land rush to settle the best properties. Within 10 years, hopeful immigrants claimed all of the tracts bordering Goose Creek and Back River, both fresh water tributaries of the Cooper River. These streams were navigable for miles, which increased the accessibility and value of the planting grounds, but the lands occupying the shallow headwater creeks and swamps that drained into these outlets were coveted as fertile and irrigated soils for agriculture and stock grazing. Thus, by 1680, estates with great promise, such as The Oaks and Otranto plantations on Goose Creek, as well as Thorogood, Medway, and Parnassus Plantations on Back River, were sustaining frontier families and promising fortunes. Subsequent arrivals sought the remaining unclaimed grounds that lay between.

The wide swath of lowlands situated between the preferred places along Goose Creek, Back River and their headwaters bordered on the northeast and east by lowlands that slowly seep into Back River. The lands bordering on the northwest and west emptied into Goose Creek, and the surface runoff of both waterways eventually washed into the Cooper River, but that river flowed beyond the borders of the inland territory. Thus, except for one narrow stream, Boochawee lacked direct access to any navigable waterway. Notwithstanding the lack of direct deep-water access, the land remained enticing with fertile soil and abundant wildlife and woodlands.

Foster Creek flows through Joint Base Charleston at the Naval Weapons Station, until flowing into Back River, one mile from its confluence with the Cooper River. The author took the photograph in March 2010.

Native Americans at Boochawee

The Native American Etiwan tribe hunted and planted that central section and called it "Boochawee," probably in reference to the abundant freshwater swamps and rivulets. The word, "Appeebee," was the native name given to the waterway where all these inlands drained, and both of these labels feature an "ee" ending that typically references water in the Etiwan tongue. Europeans

Etiwan Natives traveled the Back River and Foster Creek waterways in pursuit of subsistence. The break in the tree line of the Back River image indicates where Foster Creek flowed into Back River. The author took the photograph of Back River on November 23, 2017.

continued for decades to use the "Boochawee"[2] moniker for James Moore's original 2400-acre tract and its subdivisions, but "Appeebee" was immediately relabeled "Foster Creek," when John Foster settled along its shore. Foster Creek drained Boochawee via dozens of streams to Back River that emptied into the Cooper River ten miles above Charleston Harbor.

The mild-mannered Etiwan natives, in small groups of two dozen or more extended family members, wandered throughout Boochawee camping in semi-permanent villages along low ridges that gently rose to 45 feet above Foster Creek. The creek was tidal, and produced sea life that supplemented the Indian corn and other garden produce. The creek was sufficiently salty to support oysters, and it yielded a bounty of crab, shrimp and fish, the later which was usually speared, smoked and dried for the winter. But, occasionally a hungry pod of dolphins herded schools of small fish into roiling shallows and unknowingly drove the sea-life into woven traps set by the natives. Boochawee was rich, and beckoned the land hungry Europeans who chanced the voyage to America, longing for the security and independence that only property ownership brought.

A diorama in Ocmulgee National Monument depicts Colonel James Moore departing the Ocmulgee trading-post near modern day Macon, Georgia. He is depicted returning with Native American slaves from his assault in Spanish Florida. In the diorama, Moore is atop his mount in the left foreground facing Wateree Jack, his Native American "war captain" sitting astride his horse at the mid-right margin.

James Moore

James Moore was an educated and ambitious young man who emigrated from Ireland by way of Barbados to serve as plantation manager for Lady Margaret Yeamans, who was the wife of the early governor of the colony. By 1674, Moore served as her attorney and soon wed Margaret Berringer, the governor's step-daughter.[3] With these significant family connections, he was elected to the Colonial Council,[4] and soon elevated to Deputy to the Governor, and with that status, he acquired Boochawee.

At Boochawee, Moore built a sturdy settlement at the terminus of a ¼ mile avenue that traced the Lower Road to Back River from its intersection of the main route near the 17-mile marker close to the Goose Creek Bridge. His main avenue proceeded inland to a slight rise at the intersection of Lower Road to Back River and Upper Road to Back River.[5] At this crossroads, he erected shelter for his family, slaves and livestock, and began the arduous task

of clearing fields. He traveled the convenient half-day horseback ride south to Charleston where he kept quarters, but one mile from his avenue in the opposite direction, the road branched. One leg of that road was called the "Road to Wassamassaw." The road continued ten miles to a swamp of the same name where Moore obtained a second grant of land. The other branch of the road reached to Moncks Corner, a busy trading post. From Moncks Corner, the narrow path continued much further into the western frontier.

The principal Native American trading route passed Moore's front door and predictably he engaged in that lucrative exchange by first dealing directly with the natives, and later underwriting traders who foraged deep into the interior. He purchased laden pack trains and chartered sea captains to rush the animal skins and peltries to Europe where they converted into expensive purses, vests, jackets, gloves and other accessories. But he also debauched into the nefarious native slave trade that returned huge profits, but caused heated political quarrels and desperate native conflicts. Throughout his lifetime, Moore used the ever broadening native footpaths to keep in contact with the merchants and seats of power in Charleston, to access his Boochawee and Wassamasaw lands, and to trade deep into the interior.

During his tenure, James Moore and his family improved the living conditions at Boochawee and the robust household flourished until there were four girls and six boys.[6] A substantial two-story brick home replaced the small frontier shelter and eventually, pleasure gardens featuring ponds, terraces, walkways, and ornamental plantings flanked the sturdy manor house.[7] Slaves carefully tended the orchard and a stand-alone brick kitchen, as well as barns, sheds, shops, stables, pens and coops supported the growing family that included more than 60 African and native workers residing in small crude cabins.[8] "Boochawee Hall," was stately, and its demesne bespoke wealth, with hundreds of cattle and horses grazing freely, dozens of sheep and hogs fattening in pens, and wide fields of corn and rice, but it was native trade more than husbandry that brought immense fortunes.

Within ten years of occupying Boochawee, James Moore accompanied Colonel Maurice Mathews on a trek to explore the distant Appalachian Mountains. Reportedly he sought trade opportunities with the western tribes, but more likely he coveted gold.[9] They found no precious metals, but nonetheless Moore returned to his service as a "gentleman of good estate," in the Grand Council where he kept an alliance with Mathews and nurtured the support of the ever broadening political party composed of many of his neighbors called the "Goose Creek Men."

James Moore skillfully mixed politics and business by consistently opposing any law that slowed his quest for fortune. His opponents countered his contentiousness by questioning his loyalty to England. Some claimed he descended from Roger Moore, the hated leader of the Irish Rebellion. During one roaring debate he was derided as "the heating Moore" and "the next Jehu of the party." [10] Undaunted, Moore grew more wealthy, more influential, more determined, and never repentant. He named one of his sons, "Maurice," the first name of his political ally, Maurice Mathews and he bestowed names with which he had been chided upon two of his boys. He named one son, "Roger," and proudly titled the youngest heir, "Jehu." [11]

The Goose Creek Men tightened their political grip on the colonial government and successfully engineered Moore's ascent to the governor's chair in 1700. From that office, he enhanced his pugnacious reputation by leading a siege of the Spanish in St. Augustine and an expedition against the same foe in Guale (Georgia) the following year.[12] Upon his triumphant returns he was cheered and remained unapologetically in public service until succumbing to fever in 1706.[13] At 56 years of age, he had lived longer than most, and stubbornly prepared a last will and testament in which he ordered the division of Boochawee among his ten children. [14]

When Moore ordered the division of Boochawee, he violated the traditional practices of entail and primogeniture, which required that estates be kept whole and devised entirely to the oldest son. Again Moore did not comply with prevailing norms but devised to Margaret his wife and each of ten chil-

The author took this photograph of Back River forest and grass land on March 4, 2015.

dren shares of all of the real and personal estate. His wife Margaret received the plantation at Wassamasaw, as well as some slaves and two "Indian men," while the oldest son, James Moore Jr. acquired two-ninths of Boochawee, amounting to less than 500 acres. The other sons and daughters each obtained a one-ninth share of the remaining properties.

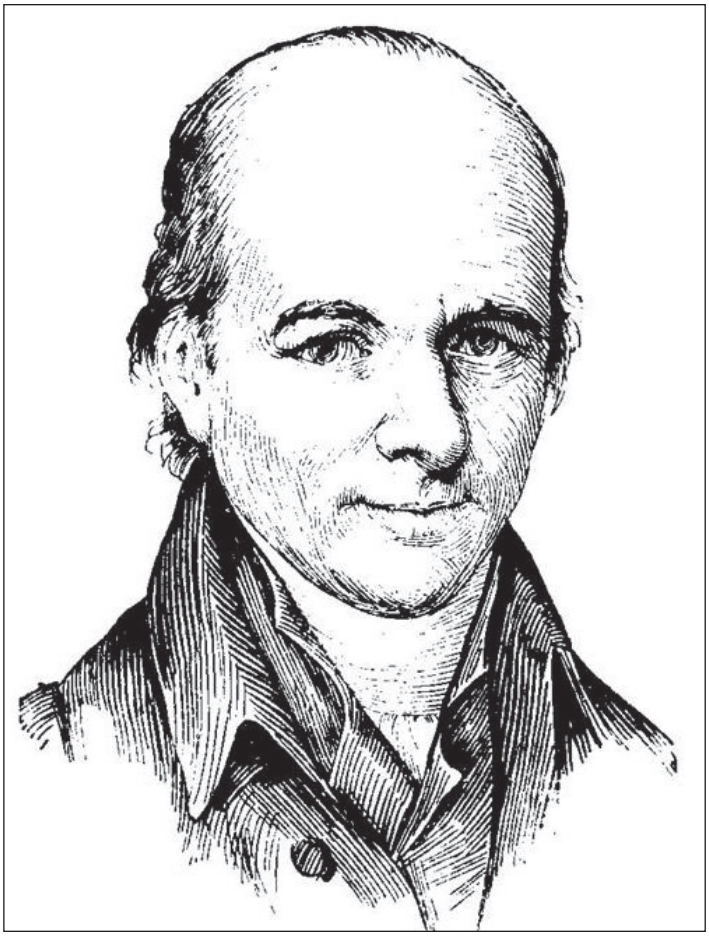
The inherited sections of Boochawee eventually attached to neighboring plantations through sale transactions or transfer of dowry at the time of marriage. All but one of the Moore sons sold their tracts and found new plantations elsewhere but, each of the four daughters married men residing on plantations contiguous to Boochawee, and attached their sections to the lands of their spouse. Marga-

ret, the oldest daughter was married to Benjamin Schenckingh when her father died. She combined her share with his and raised cattle on 1000 acres. Ann Moore married Captain David Davis and joined her land with his. That property was soon divided. One section merged with Springfield Plantation and another with Liberty Hall Plantation. Mary Moore attached her lands to Howe Hall Plantation when she married Job Howe and finally, young Rebecca with her Button Hall lands, married Thomas Barker and after his death, William Dry. Consequently, after the demise of the patriarch, the subdivided Boochawee sections attached to five separate plantations except the two-ninth share retained by the oldest son.

James Moore II preserved extant Boochawee for another generation when he merged the inherited land with his own. According to the wording of the father's will, James Moore II received his two-ninth share of Boochawee prior to his father's death and he assumed the patriarchal duties. First, he followed in his father's footsteps as church warden for the St. James, Goose Creek Church, which was under construction less than ½ mile from his avenue. Soon after, from his advantageous location near the center of political power of the newly established St James, Goose Creek Parish, he led the militia, fought real and perceived injustices, and advanced his father's work against inept Lord Proprietors.

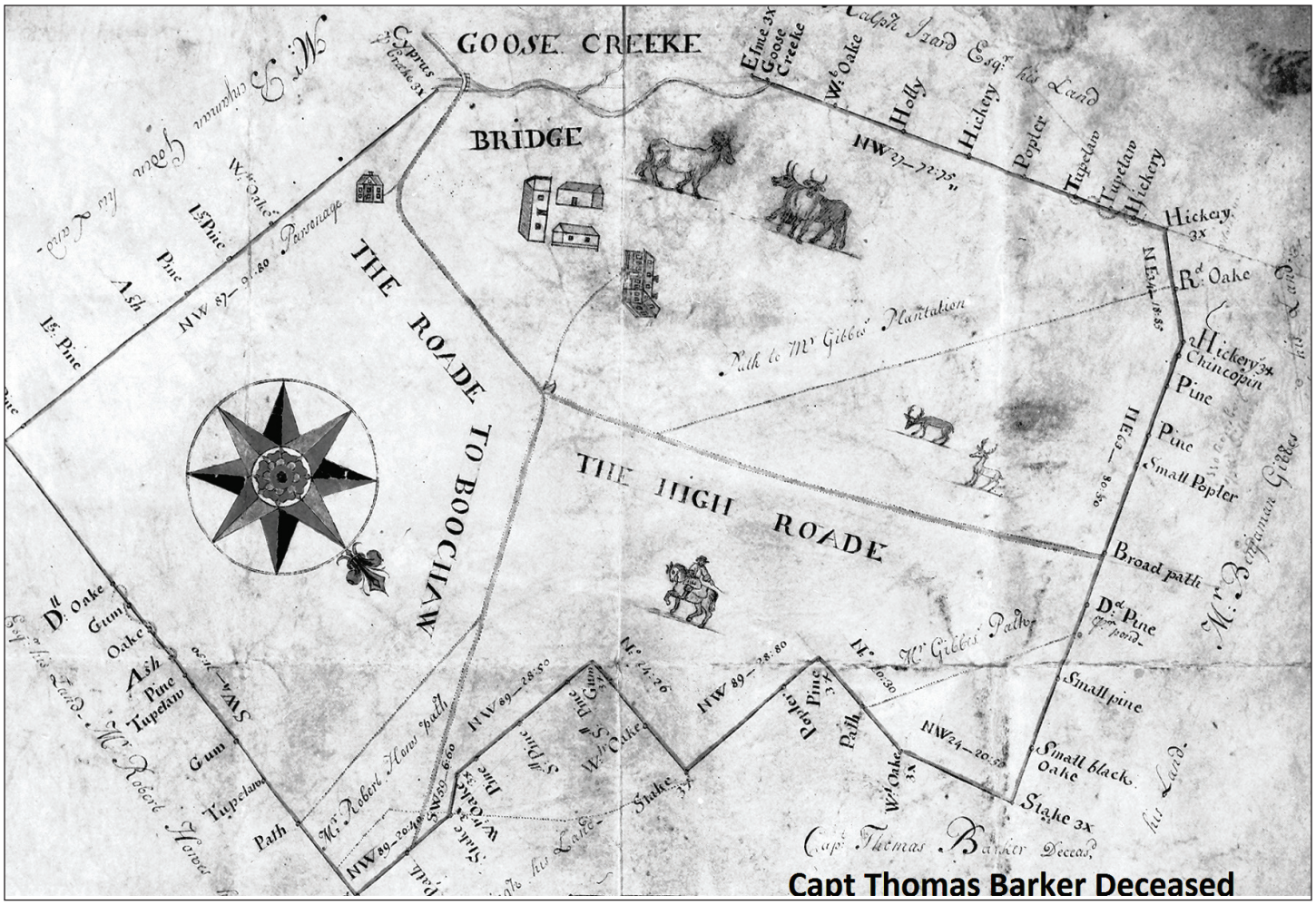
The temptations of riches wrought from native deerskin and slave trade and the increasing responsibilities of political office consumed more of his time during the first decade of the 18th century. He, like many wealthy Charleston merchants, assumed the role of gentleman planter by keeping a lucrative business in town and a mere "country seat" in the rural landscape. He sold 1000 acres of Boochawee in 1711 to his brother-in-law, David Davis for £800, and mortgaged 1900 acres to three Charleston merchants, keeping only 900 acres for his retreat.[15]

In 1712, James Moore, Esquire, country gentleman, and now militia commander, collected his saber and sidearm, donned boots and buckskin, mounted his best steed, and galloped from Boochawee Hall with a cadre of family members, neighbors, and armed slaves. He joined with hundreds of native allies in a month-long trek to New Bern, North Carolina to rescue besieged families from the Tuscarora Natives. He helped force the natives out of North Carolina, and returned to South Carolina with a fortune in captives who he sold to slavers bound for the Caribbean sugar plantations. And, as was his father nine years earlier, he was hailed a hero.



The pen and ink rendering depicts James Moore II. He inherited two ninth of his father's land including the Boochawee settlement and the main house. He later served as Governor of the Carolina Colony.

Unfortunately, the lessons of the Tuscarora War escaped James Moore II and his colleagues resulting in grave consequences three years later. The cost of that expedition in lives and money should have forewarned the South Carolinians of the perils of mistreating, enslaving and cheating Native Americans to the point of desperation. Foul and murderous trading practices had brought on the conflict in North Carolina, resulting in an expensive and deadly war, but the same type of abuses per-



The plat indicates “THE ROADE [sic] TO BOOCHAW” intersecting “THE HIGH ROADE [sic], near The Oaks Plantation main house and the “GOOSE CREEK BRIDGE.” The plat shows 1,630 acres of land granted to Edward Middleton in 1680. The plat was drawn from a survey made by John Herbert, Deputy Surveyor in 1716. The plat is courtesy of the Charleston Museum, Charleston, South Carolina.

sisted in South Carolina, and James Moore II and his neighbors were called upon to defend South Carolina when allied native tribes attacked, commencing a bloodbath known as the Yemassee War.

The people of Charleston and its hinterland repulsed the advance of the hostiles in 1715, but after the war their angst erupted against the inept Lord Proprietors who failed to rush aid to the desperate colonists. The Goose Creek Men cagily seized upon that lapse to direct pent up fear and anger against the distant authorities. By that they successfully affected a coup that placed James Moore II in the governor’s office. Thus, remarkably in 1719, the man from Boochawee, and the son of a governor stood in the highest office in South Carolina, where he remained until the first Royal Governor arrived two years hence.

Governor James Moore II kept Boochawee until his death in 1723 when the remaining lands divided among his three sons. Elizabeth, wife and mother of the sons and two daughters, retained the right to use “one room in the dwelling house’’ and the messuage. James III received the old home and the 300-acre manor when he came of age. The second son, John received another 300 acres and the third son, Jehu was given the remainder plus 200 acres purchased from Thomas Smith.[16] When James Moore III came of age, he continued his grandfather and

father's trade with the natives and entered politics representing Goose Creek in the 10th Royal Assembly, but after the demise of his mother, Moore and his wife, Sarah Waring sold the plantation, divided the return among the three brothers and relocated to St. George, Dorchester.[17]

The capital house called "Boochawee Hall" and 900 acres sold in 1739 to Sarah Middleton, widow of Arthur and matriarch of the neighboring The Oaks Plantation.[18] When transferred, Boochawee was a fraction of its original expanse, but some of its splendor remained. The advertisement for its sale depicted the 50-plus year old hall as a "very good brick two story house," and the ground "convenient for damming, and growing corn and rice." Additionally, the sale included outbuildings and 15 "choice" slaves.[19] The bound servants were absorbed into the larger work crew of The Oaks Plantation, and the boundaries of The Oaks extended to include the last section of extant Boochawee. Thus, the sale transaction at public auction on February 13, 1739, marked the passage of Boochawee out of the Moore family, and the end of an unparalleled era. Eventually, old Boochawee Hall crumbled, The Oaks Plantation flourished, and the dominant Middleton name forever obscured the Moore title in Goose Creek and beyond.

Notwithstanding the purchase of extant Boochawee by the Middleton family and the dominance of that prestigious name, the dissolution of the grand Boochawee Estate began years before when the daughters of James Moore I attached their dowries to the land of their husbands, melding sections of Boochawee with neighboring lands called: Schenckingh's, Springfield, Liberty Hall, Howe Hall, and Button Hall Plantations. The division began when Margaret, the oldest daughter married Benjamin Schenckingh.

Schenckingh's Plantation

A 700-acre proprietary land grant to Barnard Schenckingh in 1680 was the origin of Schenckingh's Plantation.[20] This land was flat and wooded and bordered upon The Oaks Estate to the north, and extended along the waters of Goose Creek southward from the Goose Creek Bridge. It gently rose from the flooded Goose Creek lowlands eastward to Red Bank Road and followed that road toward the Cooper River. The Boochawee lands lay contiguous and east of Red Bank Road, and were unclaimed at the time of Schenckingh's award, but a section of Boochawee later joined with Schenckingh's through love and marriage.[21]

Barnard Schenckingh immigrated to South Carolina from Barbados with his wife Elizabeth, his daughters, Elizabeth, Katherine, Amarinzia and Hannah and his sons Barnard and Benjamin.[22] Upon arrival, he immediately entered into public service as a sheriff while he searched the countryside for suitable planting grounds.[23] Although a landowner in raucous Goose Creek during the frontier era, he kept quarters in Charleston between the present Calhoun and Line Streets,[24] and by 1688, he owned three town acres known as "Schenckingh's square." [25] He skillfully tacked before the political winds that raged during the frontier era, whether prevailing from the Lord Proprietors or surging from his rural neighbors, known as the "Goose Creek Men," [26] and within that dicey political context he rose to the powerful position of Judge of the Court of Common Pleas in 1692 where he might have wielded considerable influence had he not perished the same year.

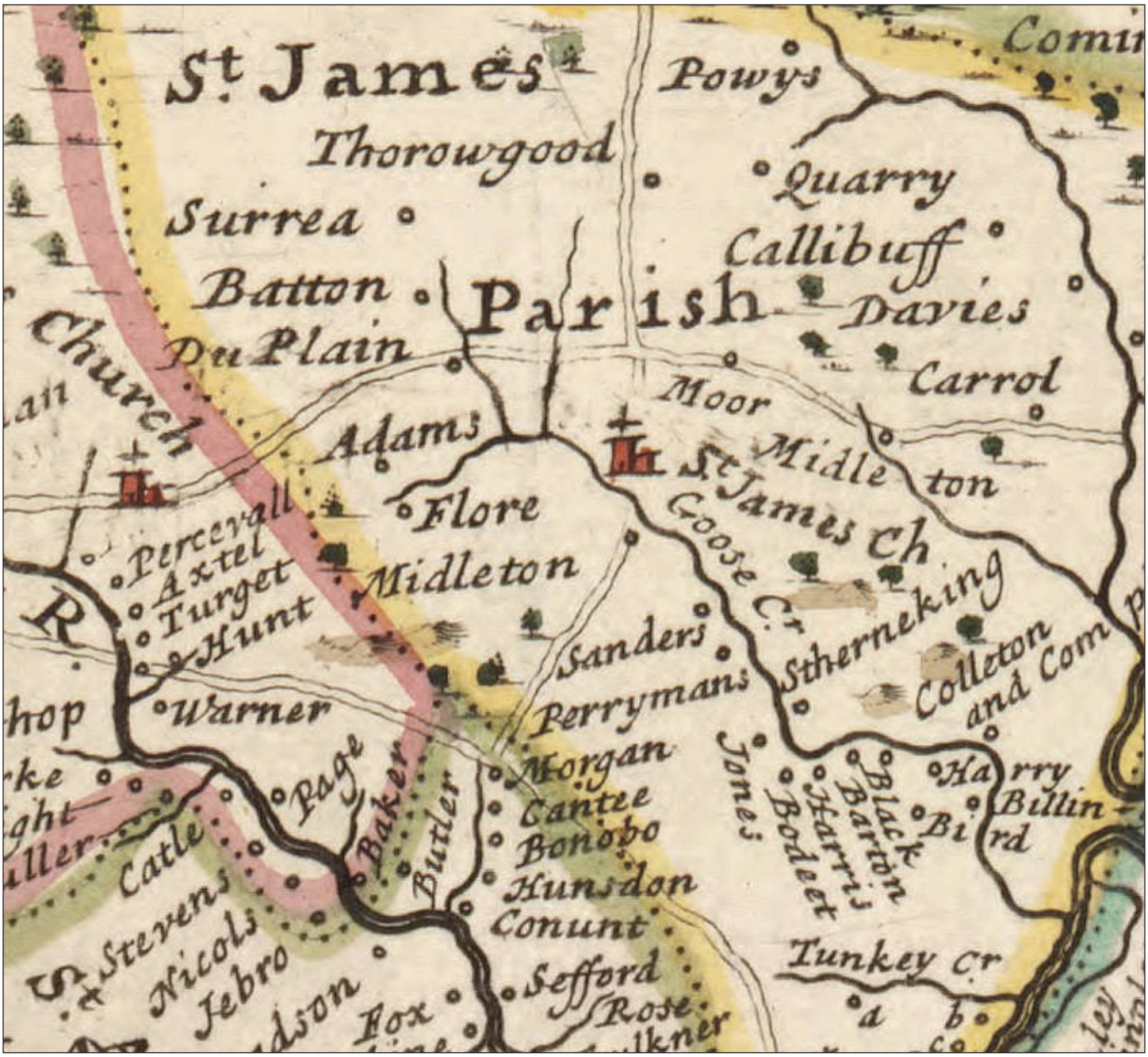
Barnard Schenckingh's land grant was one of the last unclaimed tracts in Goose Creek that lay contiguous to navigable waters, and as those who arrived before him, his deed required a perpetual rent wherein he promised to pay annually, "one penny in lawful money of England and or the value thereof for every acre…" to the Lord Proprietors.[27] Interestingly, unlike his neighbors, his agreement postponed the first payment until 1689.

He free-grazed livestock on the lush fauna and watered the beasts in a substantial freshwater stream that flowed across most of his land. He conveniently forded his cattle, horses and sheep through the shallows near the recently erected Goose Creek Bridge, and drove them to Charleston markets. Much to his credit, he refrained from the illicit native slave trade although tethered natives increasingly passed near his avenue.

He remained loyal to his benefactors. By 1685, the Lord Proprietors and the Fundamental Constitution fell out of favor with his neighbors, yet that year Schenckingh signed a letter of promise and allegiance to the King, the Proprietors and the Constitution,[28] and skillfully remained non-controversial despite the growing political strife in Charleston and the countryside.

Barnard Schenckingh's oldest son and namesake, died shortly after him, requiring Elizabeth Schenckingh, widow and mother to serve as administrator to the estate.[29] The second son, Benjamin assumed the right to the Goose Creek land, as well as the town lots. He increased the properties with a grant of 102 contiguous acres in 1702 and his marriage to Margaret Moore of neighboring Boochawee Plantation added her dowry to his estate, so that their combined 1000-acre plantation expanded beyond Red Bank Road toward Foster Creek.[30] Benjamin and Margaret worked the land for more than thirty years, during which time, they sold 200 acres, and mortgaged the rest, securing the loan with their slaves.[31] During these transfers, officials referred to the Boochawee tract as "Bonds Bank" and "Bens Bank" [32] but when the Schenckingh's finally offered the remaining 800 acres for sale in the South Carolina Gazette in 1733, they recalled the native moniker:

To be sold by Benjamin Schenckingh, Esq: A plantation in Goose Creek containing 800 acres commonly known by the name of "Boochaw," one mile from a landing and two miles from Goose Creek Bridge, 300 acres are good un-cleared oak and hickory land the other 500 acres are good for corn, rice, with dwell-



A detail of a map drawn by Cartographer Herman Moll shows the St. James, Goose Creek Church at the center of the image. The names of prominent Goose Creek Men including "Stherneking [Schenckingh]" are given on this 1732 map entitled, A New and Exact Map of the Dominions of the King of Great Britain… The map is among the Wilson Special Collections Library, University of North Carolina, at Chapel Hill.

ing house, barn, stables and other outhouses, garden, orchard and other improvements on the same. [33]

The property did not immediately sell, except for 56 acres that were transferred to Arthur Middleton, but Benjamin empowered Margaret to sell it all,[34] which she did to Arthur Middleton the following year. Soon after Middleton devised, "…all that plantation called 'Boochoy' sold me by Mrs. Margaret Schenckingh…" to son, Thomas.[35] It was five years hence, when James Moore III and his brothers sold Boochawee manor to Sarah Middleton, expanding The Oaks boundaries further and erasing Boochawee from all land maps.[36]

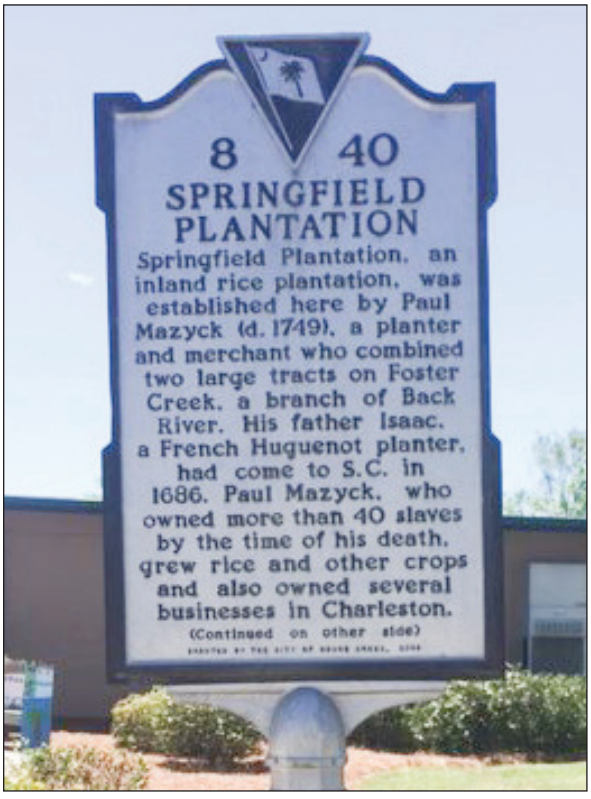
Springfield Plantation

Springfield Plantation spanned east of Schenckingh's tract, originating when James Moore II sold a large section of Boochawee to Captain David Davis. Davis transferred the property to Paul Mazyck, a French-American who developed Springfield into a successful inland rice plantation where he worked as many as 100 Africans and built an elegant home.[37] Paul Mazyck's father, Isaac was a French Protestant Huguenot who sailed to South Carolina in 1686 to escape religious persecution. Isaac and his three sons established successful mercantile businesses in Charleston, enjoyed townhouses near the harbor and developed several rural tracts. Their home at Springfield Plantation remained the family's "country seat" for more than a century.[38]

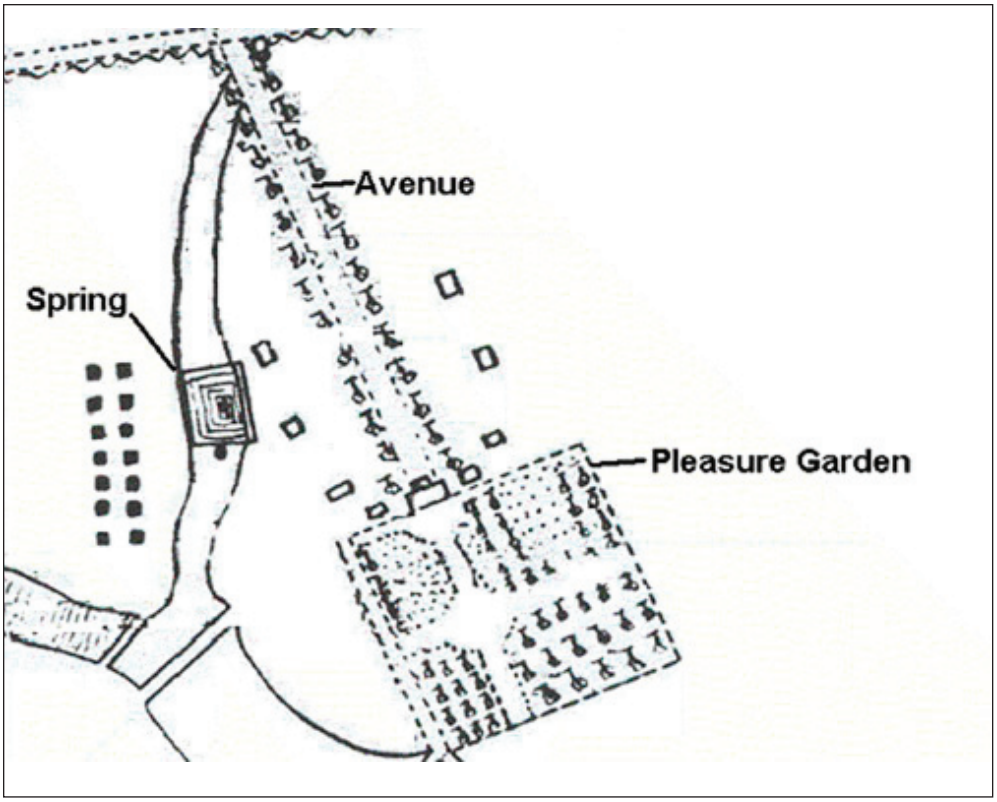
Paul Mazyck, son of Isaac the immigrant, purchased tracts of land from John Davis (son of David Davis) and his wife, Anne in 1728 (later named Springfield Plantation) and from Benjamin Smith and his wife, Anne in 1741 (later named Liberty Hall Plantation). He combined the two tracts into a single estate where he worked more than 40 slaves to build rice fields on both sections, and a manor house on the old Springfield lands.[39]

The family and slaves erected the settlement, consisting of a large home with expansive ornamental gardens and many outbuildings along the rivulet head waters of Foster Creek. A tree-lined avenue intersected the Goose Creek Road, approached the settlement from the west, skirted the main house and continued until it intersected the Upper Road to Back River. A well-planned ornamental garden resplendent with varying trees, shrubs, vines and flowering plants spanned from the back of the house. A formal walkway led from the rear of the family abode to the "pleasure garden." From there a path culminated in a central mall where it radiated from a circular greensward to four parterres.[40]

The typical pleasure garden of the colonial era



The Springfield historic marker stands near the front entrance to Boulder Bluff Elementary School in the Boulder Bluff residential area.



The partial plat shows the main house, outbuildings, avenue, spring and ornamental gardens of Springfield Plantation in 1791. Source: Microfilm number L10005, Reel 0009, Plat 05025 and L 10005, Reel 0002, Plat 01329, South Carolina Department of Archives and History, Columbia, South Carolina.

featured sculptured lawn ornaments presented upon earthen mounds, and the most lavish were traversed by walkways buffeted with imported crushed gravel. The 1791 plat of the home and garden indicates that the Springfield manor was a carefully designed and elaborate arrangement.

There are scant descriptions of the main house and other structures, but the February 2, 1734 issue of the South Carolina Gazette reported that Paul Mazyck's 900-acre plantation in Goose Creek featured a "fine, eight-room house," and an early plat indicates that the main house may have featured a large portico or anteroom. It was probably a large brick structure with columns and expensive masonry work and a slate roof similar to neighboring plantation homes at the Elms, Bloomfield, and Crowfield. But, it is possible that the house was a simpler, two story wooden structure. If the latter is true, it likely featured four rooms on each floor, two fireplace chimneys, and battens with overlapped cypress shingles for the roof.

The 1734 advertisement described two large stables, "sixty by thirty and sixty by twenty feet each," and listed a coach house, stock barn, sheep stable and slave quarters, but a plat drawn from a survey made almost 60 years later shows an expanded messuage. By 1791, the settlement featured substantial buildings that probably included a kitchen, smoke house, carpenter shop and space for coopers to fashion wooden staves for the banded rice barrels. Also, a bellows barn was probably erected, where a blacksmith hammered the rice-barrel bands and forged horse, mule and oxen shoes, plow points, wagon and cart wheel rims and various hinges and fasteners. Nearby "Brick Barn Plantation" and "Brick Bound Swamp," feature names that suggest that brick-making was an important activity. Certainly, the clay at Springfield was mined, chopped, mixed, molded and baked for bricks to construct footings and chimneys at the settlement, but it is doubtful that the heavy and bulky blocks were transported beyond the settlement. In this area, bricks baked for market were commonly worked at sites near Foster Creek where

sloops could float the heavy loads to Charleston. Nevertheless, one of the structures indicated on the 1791 plat may have been a brick-drying barn.

Notwithstanding the certainty that bricks were baked at Springfield, they were probably not used to build the 14 slave houses that stood separated by shallow water from the main house. Archaeological findings at neighboring Liberty Hall Plantation owned by a Mazyck relative suggest that the little slave cabins at Springfield were "pole houses," built with vertical logs sunk in a trench, and sealed with clay chinking, but no clay fireplaces or chimneys.

The versatile 940-acre estate consisted of 643 acres of forest and pastureland where horses, sheep, cattle, mules, oxen and other livestock grazed freely,[41] 208 acres of cleared highlands where corn and other food crops were produced, 78 acres of low rice lands and an 11-acre water reserve. The Mazycks converted the nearby freshwater swamps into productive planting grounds, and a 20-acre reserve pond held irrigation water for five distinct rice fields, ranging in size from 10 to 22 acres, each of which were banked, and dammed. They excavated a wide and deep cistern adjacent to an outbuilding as a fresh water "spring." The brick-lined cistern featured five nested levels that provided broad steps descending to a fresh water pool.[42] A similar application was employed at the nearby Elms Plantation where a brick stairway descended to its freshwater source near the family home. Also, there was a brick-lined pond fed by a spring at Bloomfield Plantation, less than two miles away.[43]

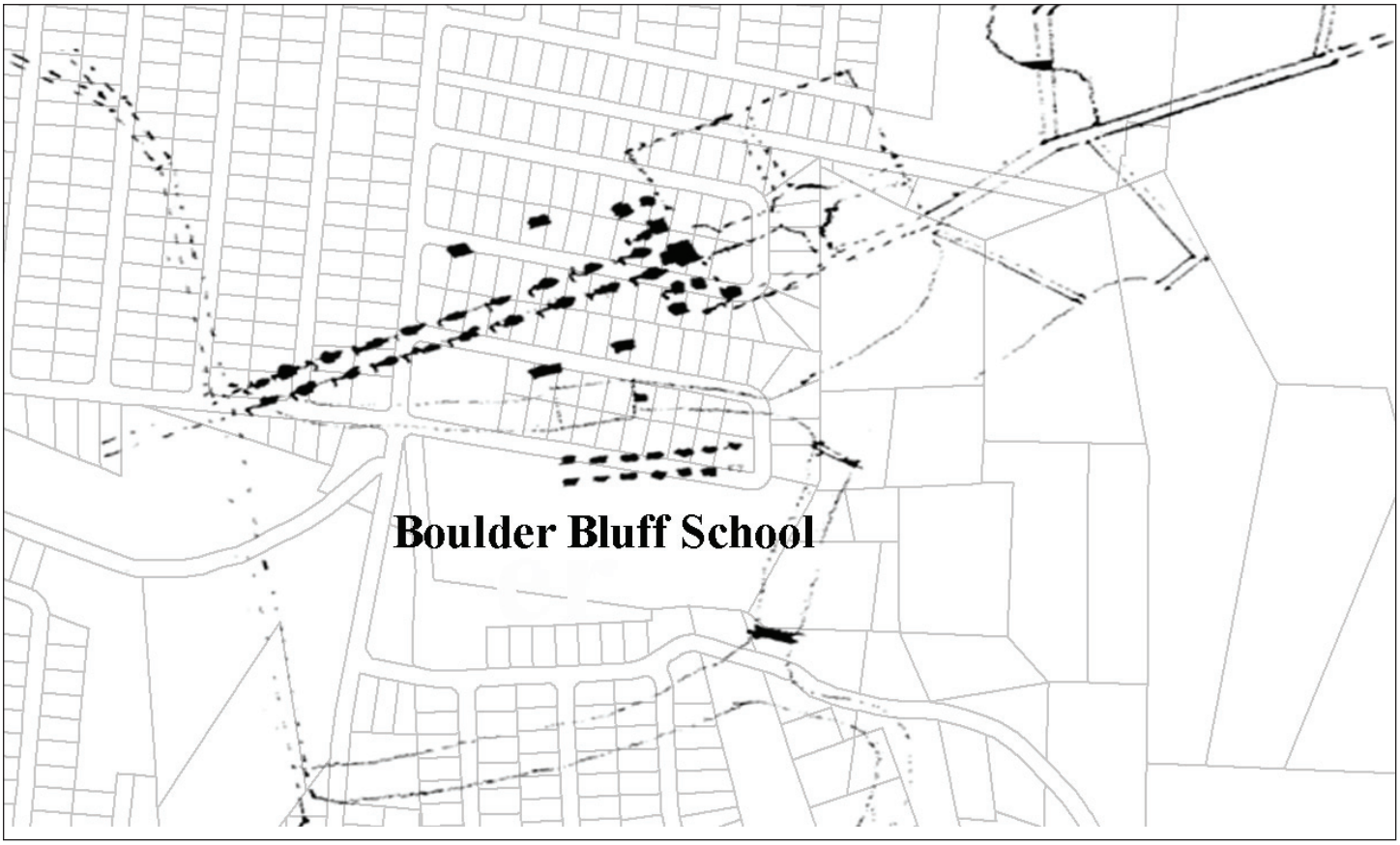
Paul Mazyck, son of Isaac the immigrant and founder of Springfield was elected twice to the Royal Assembly, but declined both of these demanding positions. He was however charitable with his money. He contributed to the St. James, Goose Creek Church Ludlam School Fund in 1744 and to the French Protestant Church for the relief of the poor. He and his wife Catherine Chastaigner reared five children: Charlotte, Mary, Alexander, Mary Anne and Catherine.[44] When Paul Mazyck died in 1749, he bequeathed all of his Foster Creek properties to his only son, Alexander.

Paul recommended in his will that his executors "not clear any land whatsoever on my Plantation on Foster's Creek or to cut any timber or trees, more than is barely required for fencing and making barrels for the use of the [rice?] crop…"[45] He probably intended to preserve the value of the marketable timber and firewood for his only son, Alexander, who held all of his father's land for a quarter of a century before selling the 1,205-acre Liberty Hall section for £17,955 to his uncle Benjamin in 1773.[46] Alexander retained the Springfield section with the family retreat and gardens.

Alexander resided at Springfield as a typical merchant-planter of his day. He owned a townhouse and several lots in Mazyckborough, a Charleston neighborhood where other members of his extended family kept residences, and he endured the warm months near the harbor breezes, returning to the country plantation after the first frost to enjoy the winter holidays, assess the work of his overseers, and reestablish his dominion. He lived as well as any, purchasing the finest home accompaniments from Thomas Elfe, a renowned furniture maker.[47] Alexander served as a vestryman for the St. James, Goose Creek Church when a section of the church property was sold, but like his father, he did not participate in civic affairs except by contributing to the patriot effort during the American Revolution.[48]

Springfield Plantation continued as the family retreat during the Revolutionary War years. When the invading British occupied Charleston, Stephen Mazyck abandoned his Charleston townhouse to reside with his cousin Alexander at Springfield. He wrote from the family seat in February 1776 reporting upon the trials of the war, "I am now at Cousin Alexander Mazyck's house at Goose Creek… I pass my time more agreeably than I can in Charleston, which now has the most melancholy appearance…." The bulk of the population retreated into the countryside and he lamented that the, "whole province is in such a melancholy disturbed situation that there is no peace, satisfaction or happiness to be enjoyed in it…"[49]

Alexander lived three years after the Treaty of Paris (1783) concluded the revolutionary struggle,



A plat of Springfield Plantation is overlaid on a 2006 Berkeley County Tax Map. The plantation main house is shown near contemporary Boulder Bluff Elementary School, and slave quarters are shown on the school parking lot. Source: Berkeley County Tax Map, 2006, Office of Geographic Information System, Berkeley County Office Building, Moncks Corner, South Carolina and Springfield Plantation plat from microfilm number L10005, Reel 0009, Plat 05025 and L 10005, Reel 0002, Plat 01329, South Carolina Department of Archives and History, Columbia, South Carolina.

dying after a short illness at his Mazyckborough townhouse in March of 1786.[50] He bequeathed a town lot to his wife Elizabeth Charlotte Mazyck and ordered that a "neat single two story house," be built upon that lot for his widow. He also bequeathed to Elizabeth Charlotte £1500 sterling, all household items and goods, his riding chair, selected horses and favored slaves including: "yellow Lizette" and her sons, Pollydore and Matthew. Nine additional servants were bequeathed to her as well as were the future children of the "females." His principal dwelling at Springfield was also promised to his widow and he ordered that it not be sold until her demise. He bequeathed his remaining lots and wealth to his sons, Alexander Jr., Paul and Nathaniel and his daughters Mary, Catherine, and Charlotte.[51]

Within ten years Springfield was again combined with the contiguous lands of Benjamin Mazyck, Alexander's uncle. Benjamin purchased the plantation and worked the rice lands along with his property (later named Liberty Hall) until his death in 1800 when he devised the Springfield lands to his son Stephen.[52] The family was wealthy and his residence was nicely furnished with mahogany tables and chairs, carpets, silver and glass china and much more.[53] Stephen worked 47 slaves in his Goose Creek rice fields, but annually realized diminishing returns from that increasingly labor intensive enterprise.[54]

Grand oaks that once shaded the ancient pleasure gardens of Springfield Manor stand hidden behind modern homes in Sophia Landing.

The early years of the 19th century witnessed the rapid decline of inland rice production, and Springfield, as well as the other Mazyck rice plantations in Goose Creek, declined noticeably.[55]

The third generation of Mazyck planters was less successful than their fathers even as they attempted to diversify by including the cultivation of cotton. But, whether Stephen was unwise or unlucky, the worn Foster Creek soils brought only marginal returns until his descent into increasing debt resulted in the country home falling into disuse.[56] When Stephen died in 1808, the 600-acre tract with the Springfield house and gardens devised to his son Benjamin. In that transaction, Springfield was described as that tract which was "made of so much of my Brick Barn plantation purchased by my father from Alexander Mazyck, as lies south of Back River Road…." [57]

The Springfield settlement passed out of the Mazyck family ownership during the antebellum period, and by 1846, Dr. Matthew Irvine owned the land and amenities.[58] Twelve years later (1858), Dr. J. Keith Furman purchased all of it.[59] When Furman bought the property, the house and gardens were still useful but the depressed economy, the exhausted soils and the emergence of competitive tidal rice culture that attracted available investments, greatly reduced profits. Finally, the emancipation of the slaves, seven years after the Furman acquisition, caused the dissolution of the last vestiges of the grand manor.

Langdon Cheves, a Charleston businessman, purchased and managed Goose Creek tracts including Springfield during the waning decades of the 19th century and well into the 20th. He leased plots to tenant farmers such as J.H. and J.G. Harmon, W.H. Bell, Joel Huff and Joseph J. Driggers for $2.00 an acre as annual rent to work the worn grounds, while Toney Gilliard and Josiah Green purchased nearby property and eked meager livings.[60] The families produced vegetables, corn, peas, beans, and sweet potatoes to feed themselves, and hay and corn to nourish their horses, cows, pigs and chickens.[61] They worked the Springfield lands in this fashion until it converted to modern housing during the second half of the 20th century.

Liberty Hall Plantation

Liberty Hall was another plantation that evolved from the original Boochawee proprietary land grant.[62] Isaac Mazyck purchased 900 acres of Boochawee from Nathaniel Moore, son of James Moore, for £3,500 in 1726.[63] Isaac Mazyck, son of the Huguenot immigrant was educated in England and served a short tour with the British cavalry before returning to South Carolina to work in a mercantile partnership with his successful father. He became a well-to-do merchant-planter, and an astute political leader who was elected 23 times to the Royal Assembly from five different parishes.

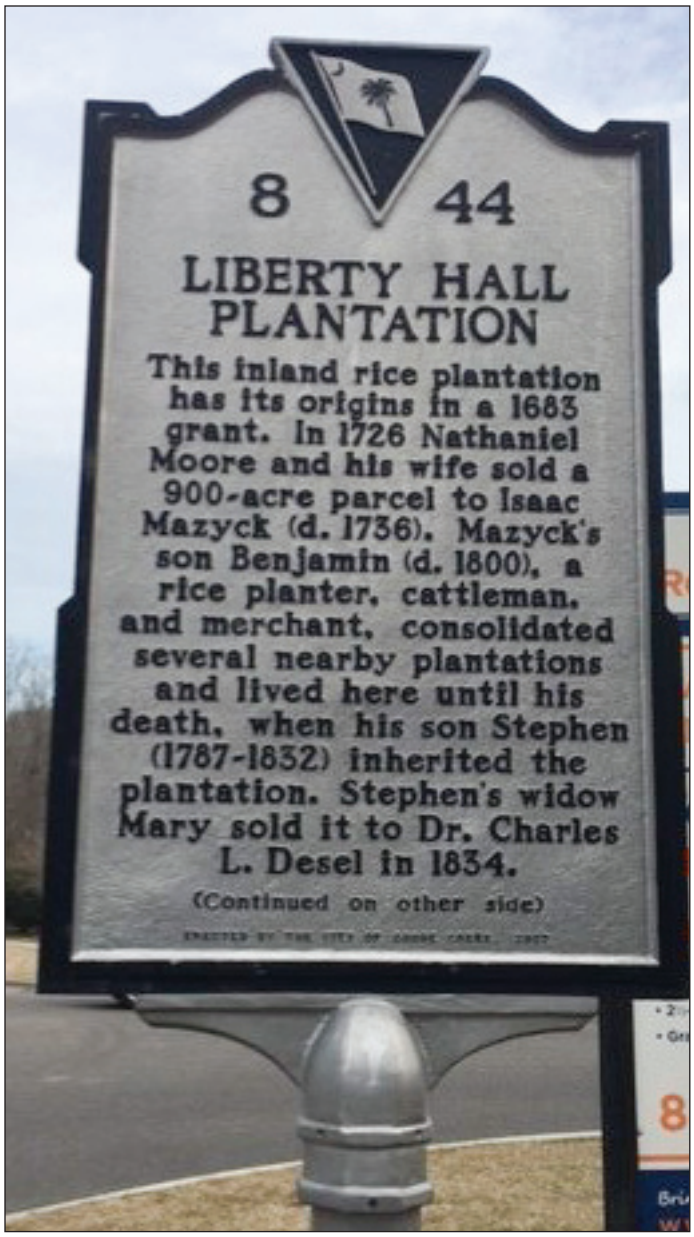
Isaac Jr. and his brother, Paul acting as their father's executors, sold the 900-acre Foster Creek plantation to their younger brother, Benjamin for £5,200. Benjamin resided at his country home approximately ½ mile from the family Springfield manor during his 50-year ownership and enjoyed a house near his downtown trading business.[64] He added contiguous lands and successfully developed a diversified plantation that produced seasonal bounties. He baked brick during the fall, cut lumber during the winter, planted and harvested rice during the spring and summer, and worked livestock year-around. He raised hogs, sheep and horses, branded his free ranging cattle with a *fleur-de-lis* sear[65] and drove the beasts to market along the *Lower Back River* and *Goose Creek Roads*. But he shipped tons of home-grown rice and heavier orders of brick from his deep-water dock on Foster Creek to Charleston, where he advertised his bricks for sale in the South Carolina Gazette.[66]

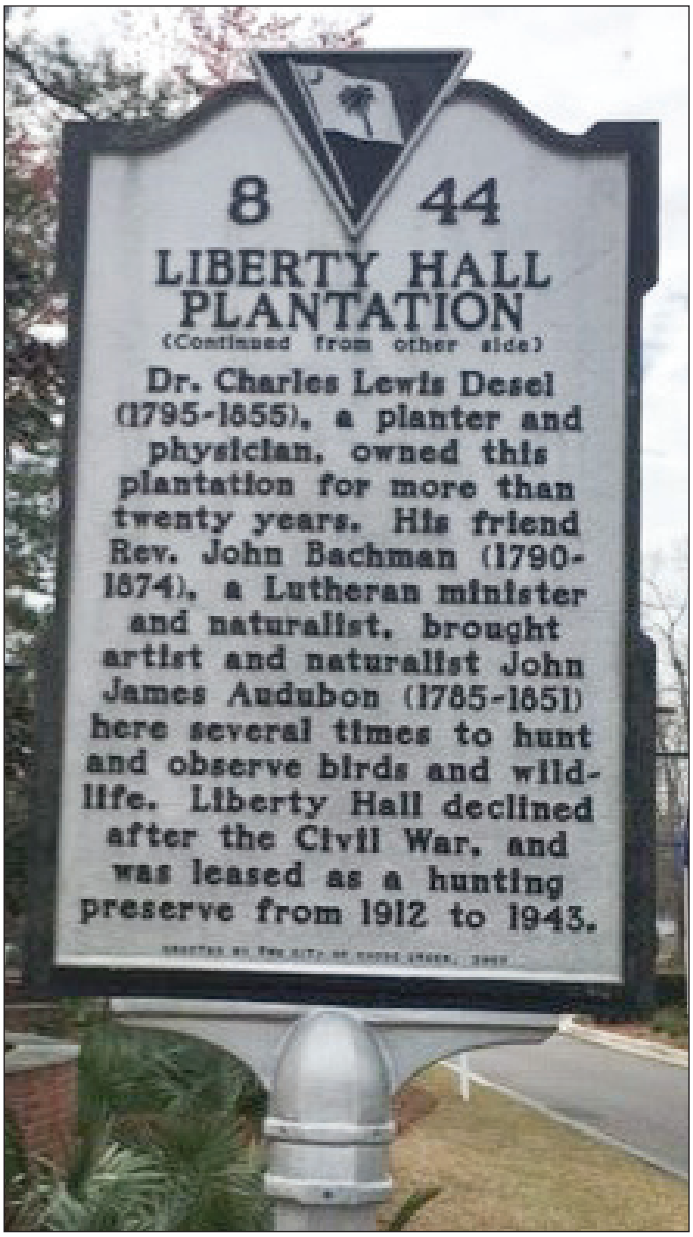
The Mazyck slaves cleared large rice fields from the thick fresh-water swamps and erected miles of banks, dams, ditches and drains, but they also channeled the water to float commodities to market by digging a canal from Brick Bound Swamp near the center of the property to the northernmost reach of Foster Creek.[67] The canal carried flat-bottom barges, laden with agricultural and timber products and pushed by pole men or pulled by mules to larger and heavier drafted craft on deeper water. Slaves transferred the bulky loads at his dock onto floating transports destined for Charleston and beyond. In 1749, Mazyck advertised for an open boat that could carry 120 barrels of rice or 15 cords of firewood…also a large quantity of bricks…" [68]

Benjamin Mazyck eventually purchased the neighboring Springfield Plantation from his nephew, Alexander and acquired several additional properties to expand the original 900 to a consolidated 2,288-acre holding. He was a patriot during the turbulent Revolutionary War, when he supplied the Continental troops and South Carolina State militia on several occasions with food, fodder and lead,[69] but his property was not pillaged by the marauding British military that patrolled all of the nearby roads.[70]

By the end of the war, Benjamin was a wealthy middle-aged man who built a small, two and one half story single-house at today's 12 Magazine Street, as his second town home. With his expanding family, he enjoyed his country and town houses, furnished with fine mahogany furniture and household effects valued at more than £418,[71] and he managed each with the labor of 55 slaves at Liberty Hall and 15 in town. His combined enslaved work force was valued in excess of £4600. He also kept wild and work horses, enjoyed books and jewelry, and used shot guns and blunderbusses, but Benjamin Mazyck was the last successful owner to reap significant profits from the Foster Creek land.[72] His son Stephen Mazyck fell heavily in debt during his short ownership of the combined Springfield and Liberty Hall properties.[73]

Usually, success for a planter depended upon skilled diversification of production to provide returns throughout the year that could feed the hungry labor force and provide a steady stream of reinvestment income, but although Mazyck diversified the production of the plantation, meager returns made the effort futile.[74] His workers baked brick, harvested lumber, grew rice, and he owned two cotton gins, indicating an interest in cotton production,[75] but all efforts failed forcing him to sell valuable slaves to settle mounting debts.

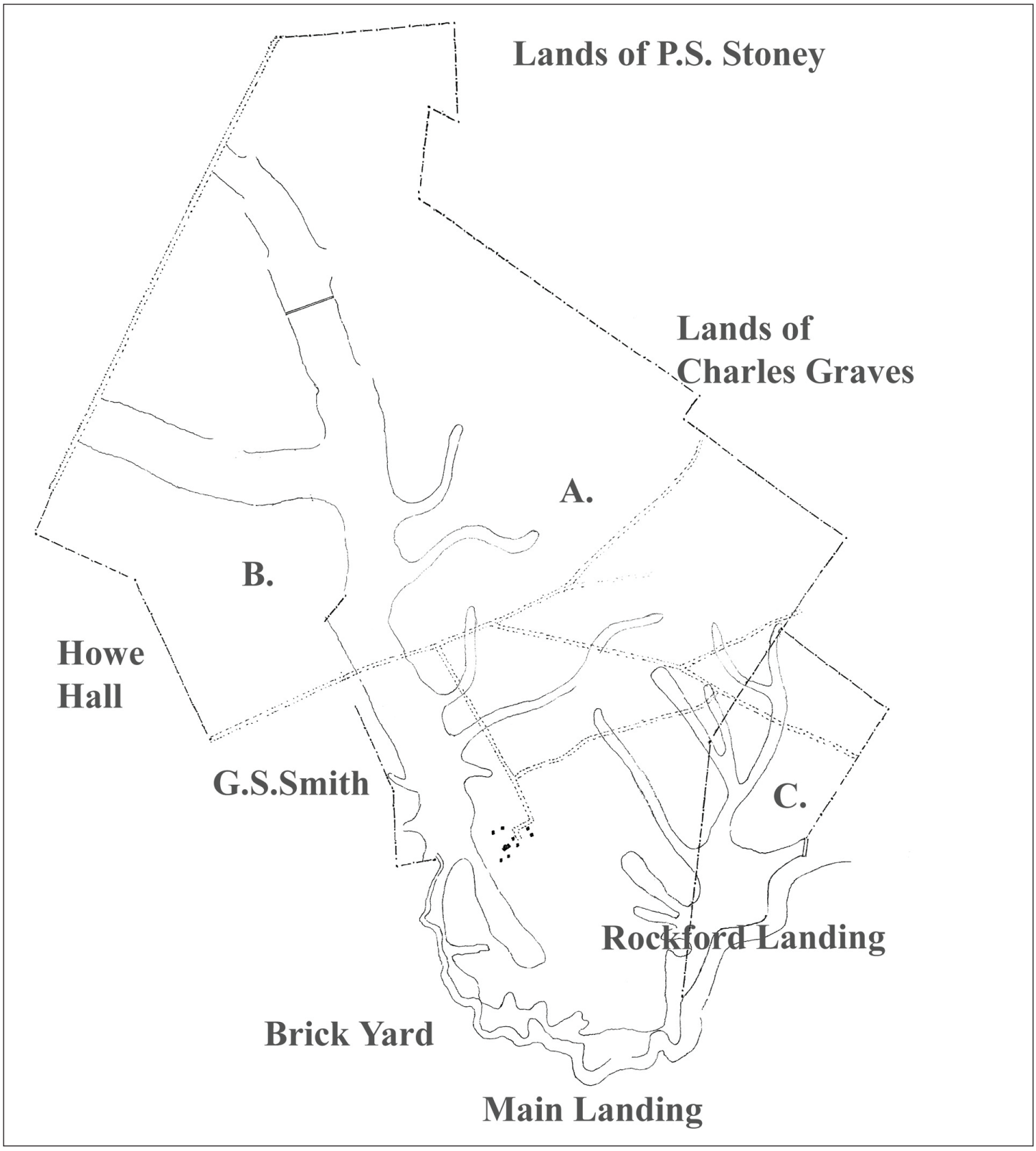




The City of Goose Creek erected a historic marker on Adler Drive near its intersection with Liberty Hall Road.

Upon the death of Stephen Mazyck, the estate was subdivided among his three sons,[76] and the family was able to keep the land for 20 more years until an equity case forced Mary Mazyck, the widow of Stephen, to sell a large part of the old plantation to Charles Desel at auction in 1834.[77] This conveyance of 2,740.5 acres for $7,800 included, "…all that plantation on the northern side of Foster Creek …"[78] Mary died in 1845 at the age of 82 and is buried at the venerable Saint James, Goose Creek Parish Church.

Charles Desel increased the acreage during his 20-year tenure, including buying back 506 acres of old Boochawee land from Jacob I. Moses in 1842, who briefly owned The Oaks Plantation.[79] Desel eventually amassed 3,252 acres by 1849,[80] and constructed a settlement near the site of earlier Mazyck residences on Foster Creek.[81] He was the son of a Charleston cabinet maker,[82] and a wealthy physician who did not rely on the bounty of the countryside but, instead enjoyed the role of a country planter of by-gone days. Nevertheless, Desel's



The partial plat shows the boundary lines of Liberty Hall Plantation in 1854 and a settlement at the lower center. Source: Liberty Hall Plantation, Surveyed by W.H. Mallard, William Hume and Simons and Howe, 1854, Charleston County RMC Deed Book O15, p. 521 and Plat Series L10005 Reel 3, McCrady plat 1598, South Carolina Department of Archives and History.

John James Audubon (1785-1851) and Reverend John Bachman (1790-1874) rode horses and camped together as they collected animal specimens in Liberty Hall Plantation. John James Audubon used his specimens to perfect his world renowned paintings of birds and jointly, the two men produced the Viviparous Quadrupeds of North America.

country home was a working farm house, not an elegant plantation garden home like neighboring Springfield, and he produced a variety of agricultural products including rice in small quantities.

The fresh water swamp that dominated the topography in the center of his land was clearly the best rice fields in the area, but the rice lands lost its fertility by the time of Desel's purchase and the difficulties caused by slumping market prices thwarted his efforts. Furthermore, Desel did not work the plantation year around, but spent more time enjoying the sea breezes in Charleston.

Charles Desel did not attempt to diversify his plantation production as did more successful neighbors, and although his settlement sat in a brick baking neighborhood, he never engaged in that industry. Within a short walk of his country home, Foster Creek was lined with drying barns, brick works, kilns, landings and docks. Furthermore, Charles Grave was his neighbor and hunting companion and the successful brick baking owner of Brick Hope Plantation, but Desel never baked bricks to sell.[83] Consequently, plantation production was not impressive and although he was one of the larger slave holders in Goose Creek with 86 bound workers, he kept only 3 horses, 8 mules, 50 head

The image shows Susie Jenkins serving coffee at the Liberty Hall Hunting Club. She was born into slavery in Goose Creek in 1858. She died at the age of 79 in 1937 and is buried at Brick Hope Plantation. The photograph is courtesy of Mrs. Susie Simpson of Liberty Hall Road, Goose Creek, South Carolina.

of cattle and 30 hogs. The limited number of livestock was barely enough to support his laborers. Additionally, his Goose Creek settlement seemed less important to him as he aged. By the time of his death, his country home was barely furnished with only $250 appraised value of personal effects.

Charles Desel was a good friend of Dr. John Bachman, a noted naturalist and rector of St. John's Lutheran Church in Charleston. Bachman was a frequent visitor to Desel's Foster Creek home and on several occasions he brought his close acquaintance, John James Audubon. For half a century, Audubon was the dominant wildlife artist in the nation. His Birds of America collection of 435 life-size prints, circulated around the world, and he increasingly drew upon Bachman's knowledge and help in securing specimens. Both men collaborated on a significant natural history project that was a series of plates illustrating North American quadrupeds, which drew both to explore Boochawee lowlands. During their visits, they stalked the trails on swampy banks and rode horses through shallows to penetrate the grounds, gather animal specimens, and note the movements and habits of wildlife for Audubon's paintings and both men's publications.[84] The fresh and salt water habitats attracted diverse

The photograph of Liberty Hall Hunting Lodge is among the private papers of Terrence Larimer at the Naval Weapons Station, Goose Creek, South Carolina,

sea and land birds for their observation, and the fresh water swamps ideally suited wading birds and migratory fowls. Additionally, there was a wide range of fur-bearing quadrupeds, such as mice that fascinated Bachman.

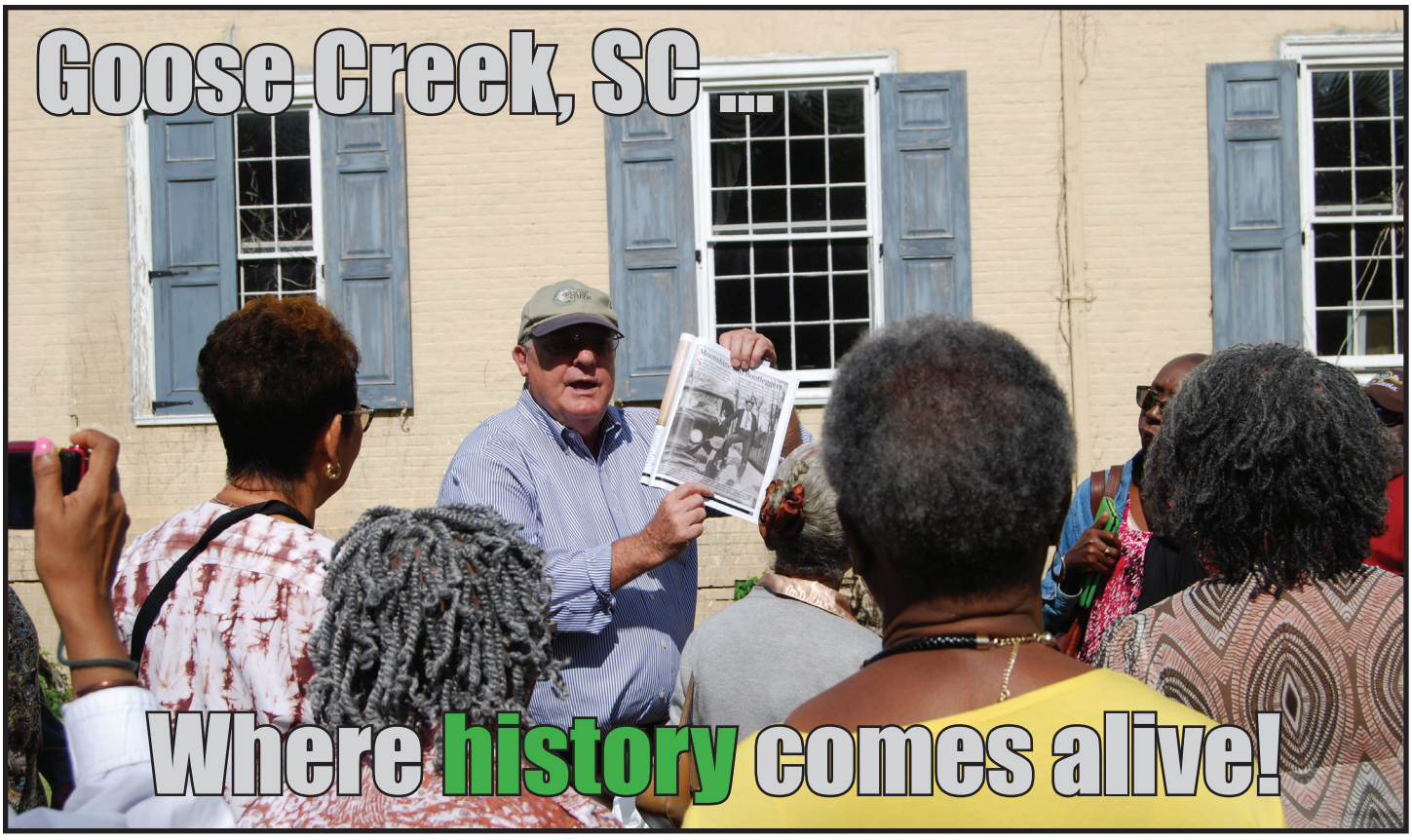
When Desel died in 1854, he devised his land to his wife, Catherine and upon her demise, it was divided equally among his children, until it was reconstituted and sold intact in 1859 to Ephraim S. Mikell for $10,800. In that transfer the land was referred to on record as "Liberty Hall" for the first time. Shortly after that sale, the chaos of the Civil War and the depressed economy that ensued made large land holdings difficult and farm failures common. Consequently, Liberty Hall passed through several more hands during the waning years of the 19th century.

An 1877 plat shows that Charles Graves, owner of neighboring Brick Hope Plantation, acquired much of Liberty Hall for a short time, but the old plantation was sold again and marginally worked by Louis Seel who, in 1880 planted merely 40 acres of his 3561 acre tract.[85] Joseph C. Blaney held it about five years, and Edward G. Hanahan purchased the land in 1888 to mine phosphate deposits, but was forced to sell at auction to Colin Mackay Grant who

leased lumber rights to the E.P. Burton Lumber Company.[86]

Early in the 20th century some of the St. James, Goose Creek Parish lands were owned and farmed by African-Americans, but Liberty Hall remained in a large unproductive yet undivided holding. In 1912, a group of Charleston men, including Edward Frost Lowndes, Frank C. Ford and David Huguenin leased the rights from Colin McKay Grant to use it as a hunting preserve. They built a clubhouse approached by the avenue of ancient oaks that once led to the residential settlement.[87] The clubhouse stood on the site of Desel's house and included four bedrooms, a large dining room and a member's space with dressing lockers. A kitchen stood behind the clubhouse near a caretaker's home, horse stable, corncrib, and dog pens.[88]

A Liberty Hall Hunt Club certificate granted one share of stock in the club for $500,[89] and the first hunt of the 30-year incorporation commenced in 1912.[90] At its zenith, the hunting grounds were expanded to include Brick Hope, Parnassus, Medway and Pine Grove Plantations and the great expanse was fenced-in as a single game park with two hunts a week during deer season. During that era, Colin McCay Grant released the right-of-way to the Carolina, Atlantic and Western Railway (1914), which later became CSX Railway.[91] This railway is the dividing line between the 21st century Liberty Hall Tract and the Federal Department of Defense Properties. During the early decades of the 20th century, the Burton Lumber Company retained at least one lumber settlement on Liberty Hall, which was known as "Stokes," consisting of barracks and a kitchen for the timber men.[92] After Grant sold the land in 1943, it passed through a number of hands, including more lumber companies until the section east of the rail line was conveyed to the United States Department of Defense. Richard Friedburg and W.A. Moncrief purchased the western section in 1977.[93] Today, the western sector of Liberty Hall Plantation is transected by Henry Brown Boulevard and provides convenient home and commercial sites for growing families in the Liberty Hall and Brick Hope sections of the City of Goose Creek.

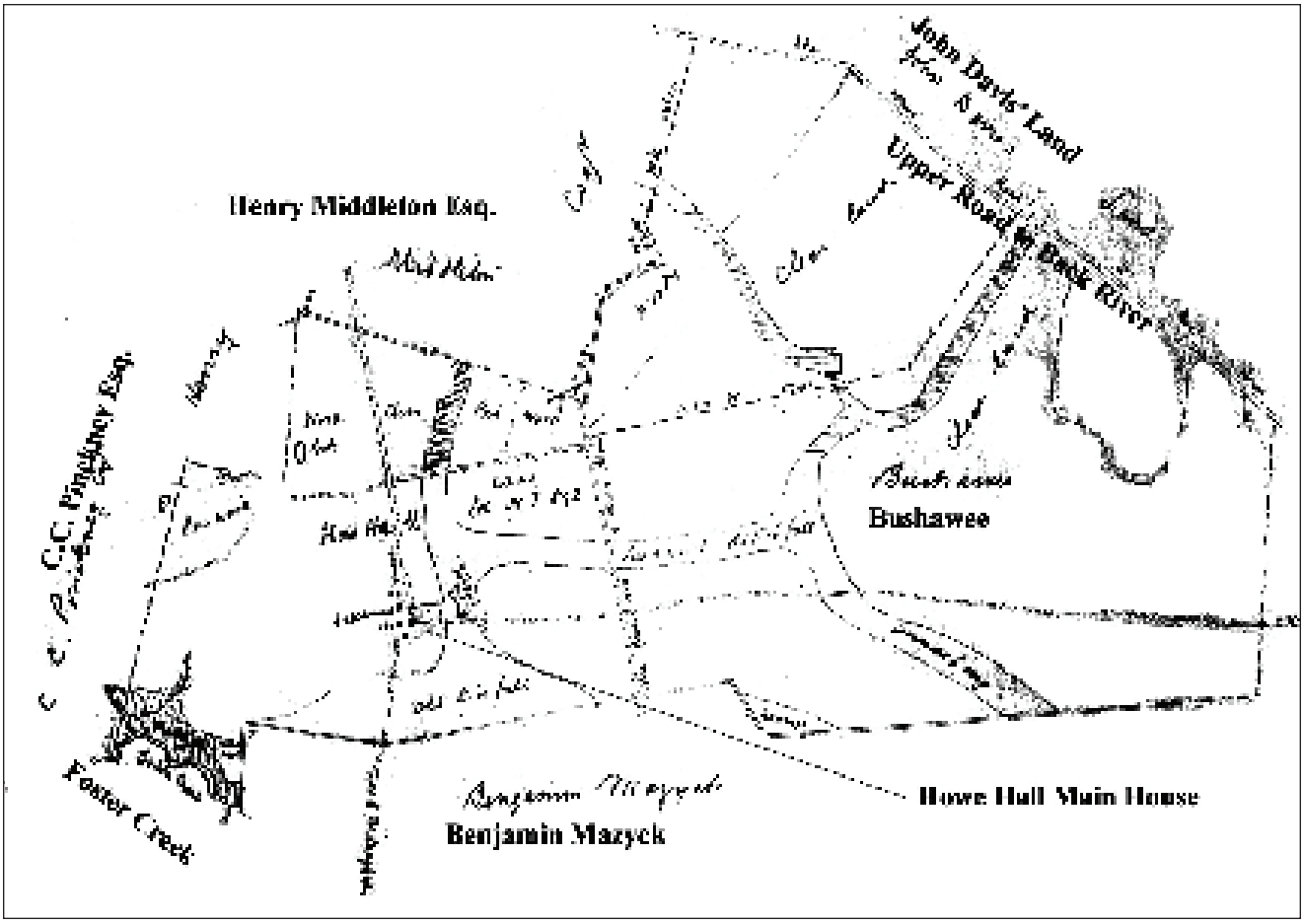


The City of Goose Creek erected an historic marker at Dogwood Park on Liberty Hall Road to summarize the Howe Hall Plantation legacy.

Howe Hall Plantation

The origin of Howe Hall Plantation was a 290-acre proprietary grant to emigrant Robert Howe in 1683. An additional 800-acre grant was awarded 23 years later to Robert Howe, grandson of the emigrant [94] and another 100 acres were added the same year.[95] This 1190-acre estate was contiguous to Boochawee on two sides, and eventually absorbed a section of that plantation through marriage, but the "Howe Hall" name supplanted the "Boochawee" moniker and remains associated with that neighborhood today.

Robert Howe immigrated to South Carolina prior



The plat shows Howe Hall Plantation with a section of Bushawee (Boochawee) in 1775. The manuscript labeling was added for this publication to improve legibility. Howe Hall Plantation, including a section of Boochawee, was surveyed in 1775 and traced by H.A.M. Smith. The manuscript 1102.00 is among the collections of The South Carolina Historical Society, Charleston, South Carolina.

to 1683 and soon acquired land. Although the granted tract was not large, its location was advantageous because of its proximity to navigable water, and the well-traveled Goose Creek Road. Howe's land gradually rose from the main road for almost a mile to a small inland rise before descending to the banks of navigable Foster Creek. He approached his settlement via a shaded avenue that conveniently intersected the Goose Creek Road at the 17 mile-marker (today's intersection of Old Back River Road) in the busiest section of the colonial community. He constructed his home "after the rustic order…" [96] upon a clay knoll above three freshwater springs and surrounded by shade trees, lawns and gardens. His sturdy wooden home remained useful until it was replaced by a brick structure 50 years later.

Howe Hall was a successful inland rice plantation, but it is best remembered as the home of dynamic political leaders during the Proprietary era. Job Howe, son of Robert the immigrant grew up in Goose Creek working the land with his father, but soon after he came of age, he diverted his attention from planting and stock-raising toward political interests. He joined the "Goose Creek Men," and with them dominated the civil scene during the early 18th century until he eventually ascended to the powerful office of Speaker of the Common House

An unidentified mother and children at Howe Hall exemplify the farm dwellings after emancipation and well into the twentieth century. The photograph is courtesy of the Library of Congress, among the collections of the South Carolina Historical Society.

of Assembly in 1704. Two years after his ascent to that influential seat, he greatly expanded his Goose Creek land holding with two grants amounting to 900 acres, and successfully replaced the onerous one "pence" per acre annual quit rent requirement from his land deed with a token "one ear of Indian corn." [97]

Job married Sarah, the widow of Richard Fowell of Barbados and later Edward Middleton of The Oaks. Job and Sarah reared their son, Robert as a farmer and stockman who succeeded as a planter with the assistance of 64 African-American and Native American slaves.[98] Robert Howe wed Mary Moore, the daughter of Governor James Moore of Boochawee.[99] Consequently, his father and father-in-law led the "Goose Creek Men," and those connections by blood and marriage propelled him into the raucous political arena.

Robert Howe rode on horseback along a half mile path from his main house to nearby Foster Creek from where he conveniently rowed or sailed to Charleston. Also, he rode along his personal avenue to Goose Creek Road and proceeded 17 more miles to town where he continued his father's work in the General Assembly. He remained influential all of his life, but was the last Howe to directly serve the colony. He, the grandson of the immigrant saw much of his political work completed when South Carolina converted from a Proprietary to a Royal Colony in 1719. He died seven years later without a will, and when his widow married Thomas Clifford, an attorney, the Howe estate was divided with ⅓ of the slaves and wealth converting to the widow and ⅔ transferring to his only son, Job.[100]

Job Howe inherited Howe Hall Plantation but spent much of his time in town and advertised the sale of the property ten years later in the South Carolina Gazette where he touted "800 acres great part of which is corn land," and "100 acres rice land," with "great quantity of good timber for sawing and for cooperage and fire wood." [101] A 1736 advertisement described "about 200 acres under a very good fence for pasturage or planting and 600 acres moderately well wooded…a tolerable dwelling house…" [102] At that time the original grant consisting of 290 acres was subdivided from the whole and not offered for sale.[103] Notwithstanding, the advertisements failed to interest a buyer, and the family was compelled to undertake considerable improvements. Consequently, when the plantation was advertised for sale three years later, the buildings were described as:

…a large Brick House, a House adjoining it of two rooms on a floor, one story high, a very large store house, a coach house and stables, a barn, smoke house, and several houses for all kinds of stock, all strong and completely built...but two years ago.

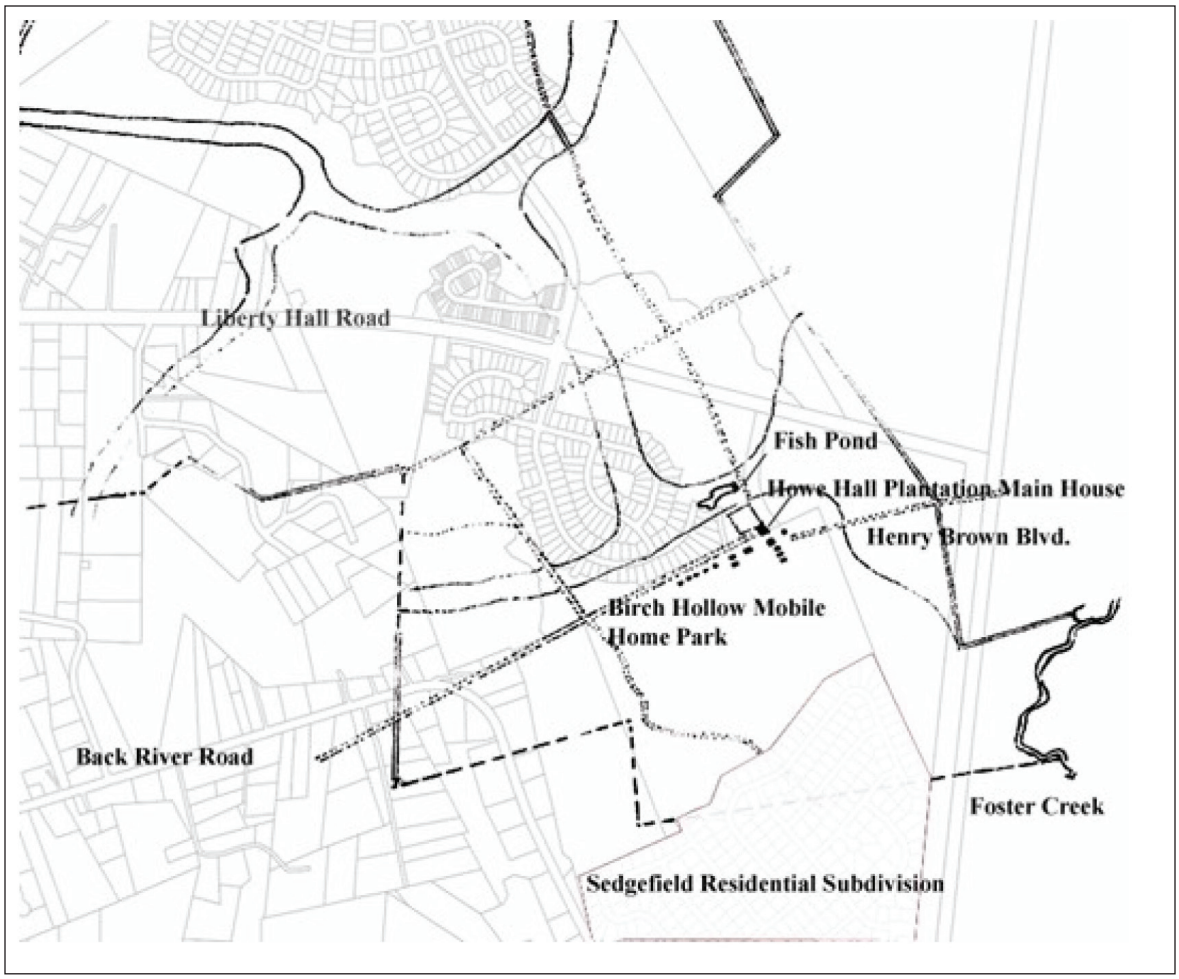
Included in the purchase was a "stock of cattle, horses & 32 Negroes…" [104]

Intermittent ownership of all or part of the old estate ensued including a sale to Arthur Middleton of the neighboring The Oaks Plantation. That transaction included 340 acres of Howe Hall and 305 acres of contiguous land called "Pineland." [105] Thus, Middleton came into possession of Howe Hall and much of Boochawee, which more than doubled the size of The Oaks by the time it was devised to Thomas. [106]

Middleton owned the tract until 1752 when he departed to travel abroad for two years and upon his return engaged most of his time in commerce and banking. He offered to sell Howe Hall and Boochawee consisting of 1,397 acres in 1752 when he described the "commodious brick dwelling house," for sale with convenient outbuildings, as well as "corn, indigo and some rice lands." [107]

James Irving, from the Island of Jamaica acquired the plantation and held it for three years when he sold it to Richard Dun Lawrence for £3,000. Lawrence defaulted on the purchase four years later causing the land to revert to Irving's ownership who resold it in 1769.[108] Wealthy Benjamin Smith, the influential son of the second landgrave, Thomas Smith and Mary Hyrne of Yeamans Hall purchased Howe Hall for £4300 that year and renamed the old mansion, "Smith Hall."

Benjamin Smith purchased 752 acres of the old Boochawee lands, in addition to Howe Hall as part of that transaction, but he kept only 17 of his slaves there to raise cattle and harvest timber products. During much of his tenure he relied upon Joseph Cantey, a wealthy slave owner, to oversee the op-



Howe Hall Plantation, drawn from a 1775 survey, is overlaid on a contemporary Berkeley County tax map. The main house, outbuildings, avenues, and fish pond are indicated near the entrance road to Birch Hollow Mobile Home Park. Source: Berkeley County Tax Map, 2006, (Office of Geographic Information System, Berkeley County Office Building, Moncks Corner, South Carolina) and Howe Hall Plantation, and Boochawee, surveyed in 1775 and traced by H.A.M. Smith, manuscript 1102.00 is among the collections of the South Carolina Historical Society, Charleston, South Carolina.

erations. Overseer Cantey and his wife worked as many as 69 of their own bound laborers.[109] Benjamin Smith remained an absentee landowner with two houses in Charleston where he kept five slaves, and he worked many others on thousands of additional acres elsewhere, but he was referred to as "Benjamin Smith of Goose Creek" from where he was elected seven times to represent St. James, Goose Creek Parish in the Royal and General Assemblies, and to represent Goose Creek at the state convention that ratified the independence of the United States.

Benjamin Smith married four times. He wed Elizabeth Ann Harleston, with whom he reared

A detail of a photograph entitled “Family in Goose Creek” is among the collections of the South Carolina Historical Society.

three children and after her death, he wed Catharine Ball, who also died. Smith then married his cousin, Sarah Smith, daughter of George Smith. With her, he fathered five children, but after her demise, he fathered no others with his fourth wife Rebecca Singleton, widow of Benjamin Coachman. When Benjamin Smith died in 1790, he devised the lands and 16 slaves not to his widow, but to his two sons from the previous marriage. One son, Thomas Smith received Howe Hall, the home site and part of the “Bowehoie” tract; and Benjamin, another son received the remaining land including the section of “Bowehoie” not devised to Thomas. The dividing line between the two devised tracts followed, “The Lower Road to Back River.” [110]

Prior to the Civil War, James Vidal purchased 1,505 acres of land between Liberty Hall Plantation, Charles Grave’s Brick Hope Estate and Foster Creek.[111] Most of his lands were at one time part of Howe Hall, and his tenure as a successful pre and post Civil War farmer is especially notable because unlike most European-American planters of the era, he sold parcels of land to African-Americans, providing opportunities for minority farmers to achieve greater independence.

James Vidal sold large sections of his Goose Creek properties to two white farmers, Edwin J. Wright and William Tennent, but he also sold a 200-acre section to African-Americans Frank Ladson, a 26-year-old black farmer from Charleston, and James Rivers. Frank Ladson married Amey, who was 10 years younger than he. Together they worked their lands with their son Peter, until he came of age and acquired his own farm.[112] Ladson and James Riv-

Howe Hall AIMS, Arts infused Magnet School stands on Howe Hall Road.

ers formed a business enterprise called a "society," which was an innovative scheme that awarded land ownership to disenfranchised freedmen.[113] These pyramid-type investment schemes promised possession of acreage, but provided mixed results because most arrangements were conducted through mutual understandings secured by mere handshakes. Consequently, most arrangements were not properly recorded and resulted in questionable titles, clouded ownerships, and disputes among heirs.

Vidal also sold 11 small parcels to minority farmers from 1869 to 1872 including 20 acres each to: William and John Gaillard "Trustees," Iden Butler, Daniel Wood, Samuel Middleton, John and Caroline Dawson, and Richard Yeardon. He also sold

22 acres to William Durant,[114] and 140 acres to James Gaillard.[115] These Howe Hall land sales were rare opportunities for emancipated African-Americans to obtain farmlands, and the Reconstruction Government assisted some buyers, when trustees were assigned to supervise the purchase of lands. Both William and John Gaillard, African-Americans, served as trustees to assist with in the land transaction records, and both men bought parcels of Howe Hall Plantation on behalf of minority residents. It was rare for white land owners to sell outside of their race, but immigrant Vidal was a first generation South Carolinian,[116] and he did not feel obliged to abide by the unwritten social mores that compelled most. Consequently, James Vidal sold "white land" to "black farmers."

Because much of Howe Hall was subdivided through small land sales after the Civil war, some characterized the division of the "grand" old plantation as a sign of poverty and despair. One writer derided the small Howe Hall farmsteads by referring to that section as "Hog Hall," because the grand estate had been replaced by small homesteads with hogs.[117] Conceivably, such derision was credible from the perspective of white planters, but the liberated African-Americans cherished their homes, whether they owned the land with a recorded deed or some dubious society promise. Furthermore, those hogs were private property of liberated families and to them the hams, shanks and bacon from "Hog Hall" were not signs of desperation, but long anticipated slices of freedom.

The new-found liberties of the emancipated Howe Hall farmer were expressed in neighborhood institutions. Local governments emerged as churches and schools - the only organizations allowed until the second half of the 20th century. The Greater Mount Zion AME Church on Howe Hall Road began when slaves gathered under shade trees to worship prior to the Civil War.[118] By 1861, the group was meeting regularly in a small wooden structure, but across the next 25 years a more formal assemblage evolved. The first ministerial hierarchy was officially established in 1885 with Reverend T. Smalls, Pastor; Reverend R. Weatherspoon, Presiding Elder; and Right Reverend James A. Shorter, Bishop.

African-American families remained sequestered at Howe Hall until the second half of the 20th century when the boundaries of racial segregation slowly dissolved. Within the context of segregation and shortly after his inauguration in 1952, Governor James F. Byrnes prepared South Carolina for the impact of the impending Supreme Court Brown vs. Board of Education decision that eventually forced school integration. Prior to acquiescing to the demands of the Supreme Court, the state and some local school districts, including the Berkeley County School District that included the St. James, Goose Creek Parish, significantly improved funding for minority schools and built better institutions in an effort to evade demands for racial integration of the schools.[119] Consequently, a new facility was built that consolidated the one, two and three room "Negro schools" in Goose Creek.[120] Casey, Grove Hall, Howe Hall and Bowen's Corner Schools were closed and the boys and girls bussed to the new Howe Hall Elementary School on Howe Hall Road in 1956.[121] Notwithstanding the concerted efforts of many to retain the "separate but equal" status in Goose Creek, Howe Hall Elementary School was racially integrated under orders from the United States Justice Department in 1967. Since then that institution has aptly served children of varying complexions, and excels today as the Howe Hall School of the Arts.

Foxborough Lake in the Foxborough residential section of the contemporary City of Goose Creek is a remnant of the ancient savannah that Thomas Barker and subsequent owners channelized into a water reserve pond and rice fields.

Button Hall

James Moore devised a portion of Boochawee to his daughter, Rebecca in 1706. She brought the 615-acre dowry to her union with Captain Thomas Barker Jr. when they married three years later, and together built a settlement above freshwater lowlands near the center of their "Button Hall" property.[122] Their main avenue reached approximately 500 yards from its intersection with the "High Road" near the 18 mile marker, approximately ½ mile north of the entrance to her childhood home at Boochawee Hall.

The land near the 18-mile stone on the main road to Charleston was characterized by a large "savannah," which they converted into rice fields. Here, the surface waters sheeted slowly across a broad area until Barker's slaves channeled the surface drainage into manageable reserve ponds and away from the savannah soils, which when drained, emerged free of weeds and brush that had long been drowned by the standing flood. These silted

and fertile lands were ideal for planting, and the water was conveniently stored and released from the ponds as needed to irrigate the entire breadth of the tract. Such slow sheeting waters were essential to successful inland rice fields.

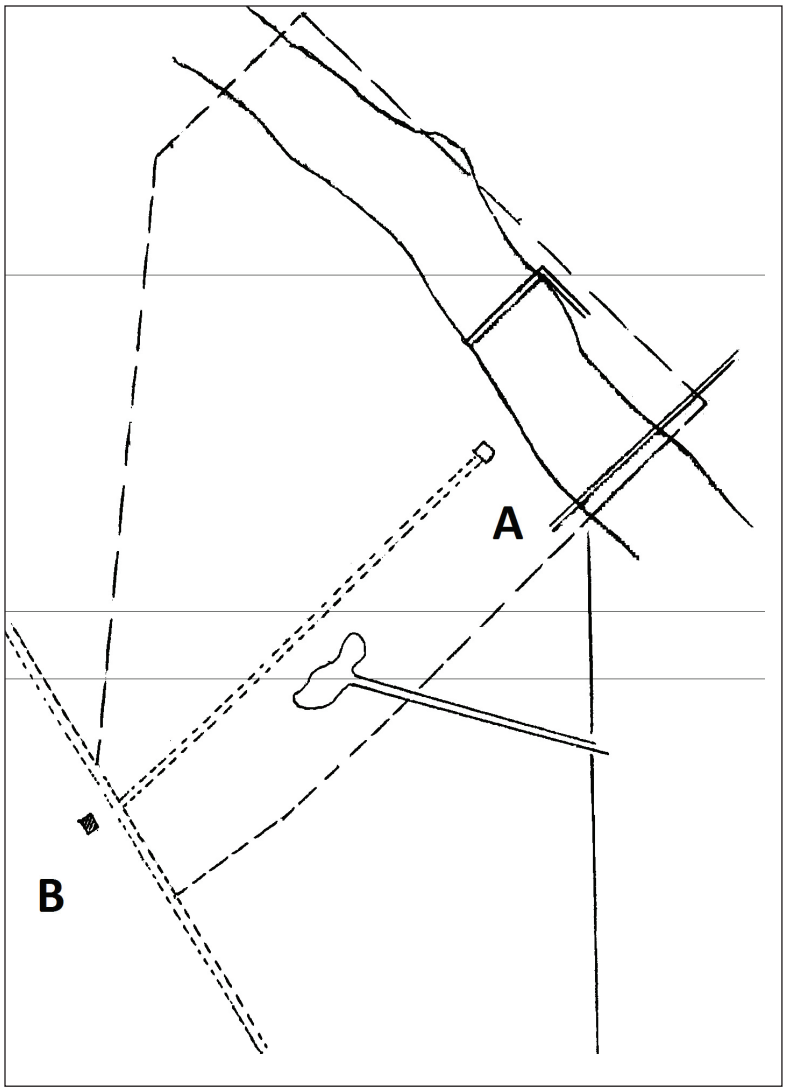
The Barkers lived together for eight years rearing one son, before their lives were jolted by the Yemassee Native War.[123] When Thomas Barker learned that hostile natives were approaching Goose Creek, he sent Rebecca to safety and dispatched "alarm" riders to call out available men. He was a militia captain, but the main militia body, consisting of prominent leaders including his brother-in-law, James Moore, and his neighbor, Captain George Chicken.[124] Chicken's mounted band was a formidable force with muskets for all of the horsemen and several cannons mounted on carriages, but it was assembled too far west to assist Barker. Thus, Thomas Barker called together one hundred and two mounted men and hurried north on the Road to Moncks Corner to meet the enemy.[125]

Two days later, he was betrayed by a native scout, ambushed and killed with 26 of his riders when they were struck down by musket shot, knives, war clubs and hatchets.[126] The skirmish scattered the remnants of Parker's force, leaving the field to Captain George Chicken who hurried to fill the dangerous void. Within a month, Chicken roundly repulsed the invaders with grape shot and disciplined lines of musket-fire, and so successfully struck the warriors that the several prominent native bands lost inertia and cohesiveness and retreated one tribe by one.[127]

Distraught Rebecca Barker, now a widow, was comforted by her family, but mostly she drew upon her own sturdiness to endure the closing weeks of the war without her young husband. She remained on her land, relying upon overseer and drivers, but was compelled to sell 201 acres of land to one of her brothers for £300, to pay steadily mounting debts.[128] Her fortune greatly improved when she married William Dry, an energetic young man who immediately made improvements to the neglected settlement. He rebuilt the main house and all important outbuildings[129] and added to his wife's Boochawee acres with his own contiguous land grant.[130] Furthermore, he enlarged the plantation to 975 acres with purchases of properties from his neighbors, Benjamin Gibbes, John Moore, and Benjamin Schenckingh.

William and Rebecca Dry developed their home into a well-conceived inland plantation that showcased rice production. The main road to Charleston, then called the High Road, ran through Button Hall. It separated the estate leaving 100 acres that Dry purchased from Benjamin Gibbes on the west side of the road. There, near the entrance to the main avenue, a small house with a brick chimney was built as an overseer quarter or guest cottage. The messuage at the terminus of the ¼ mile avenue featured a main house flanked by gardens. Nearby was a fishpond stocked with perch, roach, pike, eels and catfish and used for "great diversion."[131] There was a spring within "three stone throws of the house" where the waters were diverted under a lavatory for a "cold bath."[132] Nearby, dams created three more large ponds for water reserves, which irrigated an apple, pear, and peach orchard.[133] William and Rebecca Dry planted 400 irrigated acres, using topography and the flow of the surface drainage to produce a small fortune in rice exports. They employed the best technologies and infrastructures of the day, such as thrashing machines, and winnowing and storage barns, shops for coopering and packing, rice mills, and mortars as well as an oven, a large "Stable & Coach house," and "a house built for a smith shop." The wooden and banded barrels, heavy with cleaned rice, were rolled up ramps to wagon bottoms and pulled to Charleston where seaworthy ships awaited. The payoff supported a model rice plantation that touted "a good Brick Dwelling House."

Dry searched for labor saving tools to clean thousands of pounds of rice that overflowed his barns. He was especially interested in an animal powered thrashing machine invented by his Back River neighbor, Peter Villeponteaux, who advertised it for sale in the South Carolina Gazette.[134] Two closer neighbors, Samuel Knight, who rented their overseer cottage,[135] and Rawlin Lowndes of Crowfield, appealed to the Legislature for patents for machines they had designed.[136] Undoubtedly, Button

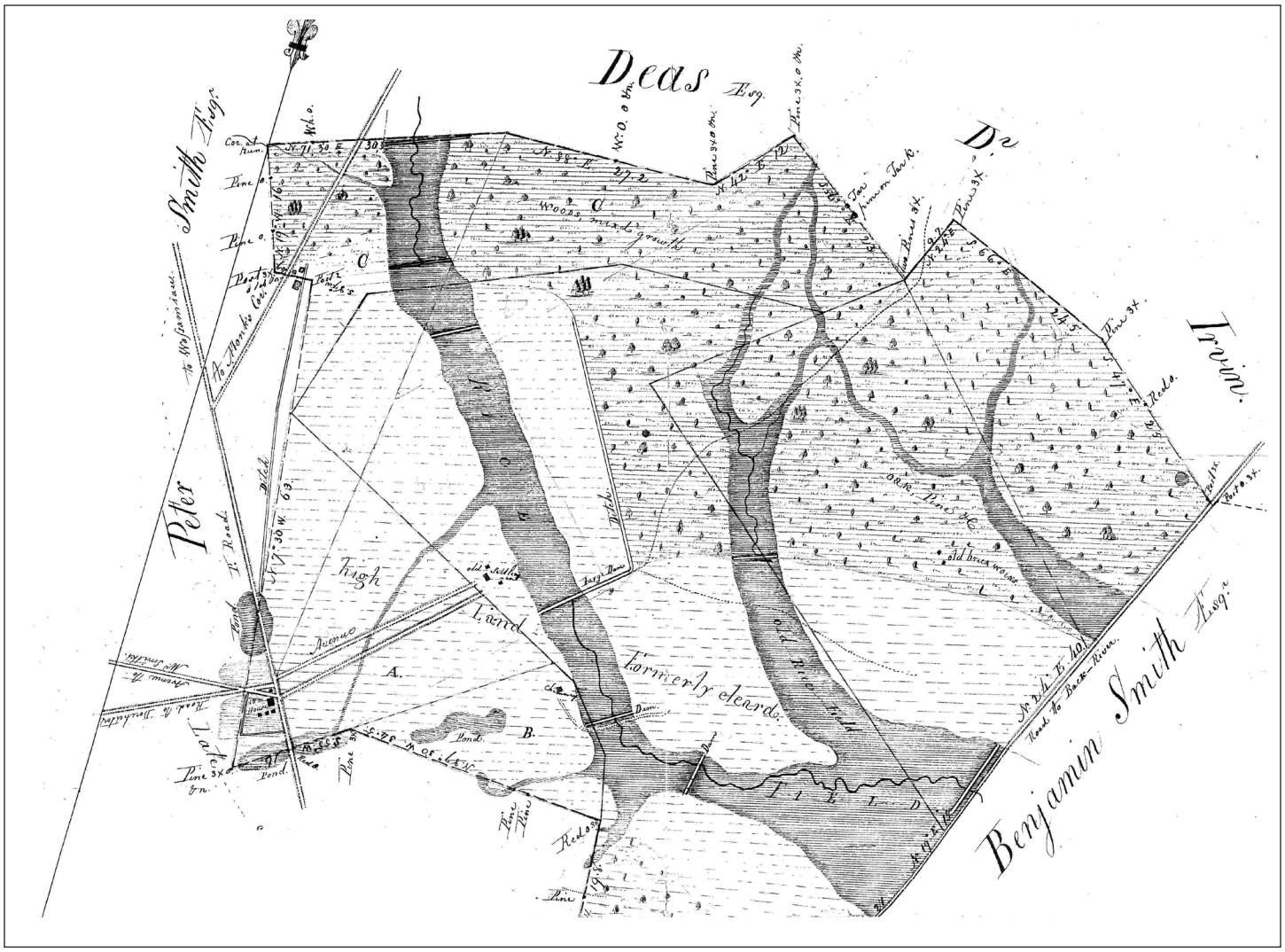


A detail of a Button Hall plat shows: A-the main house at the terminus of the avenue and B-the Eighteen-Mile House Tavern at the intersection of the avenue with the "Broad Path to Town." The plat describes a long narrow rice field with dams to control the flow of water in the rice fields near the main house. A large pond in the center of the plat provided water for livestock that frequently grazed near the 18-mile tavern.

Hall was at the center of the most competing rice technology of the day.

William McKenzie purchased Button Hall for £5,700 in 1734.[137] When he died from a fever four years later, at the age of 45 his widow, Sara McKenzie offered the estate for sale in the Gazette,[138] but it did not sell and remained in the family when their only son, John McKenzie inherited the land. John McKenzie was a capable young man, educated at Cambridge, and who added to the family fortune by working 207 slaves on 6,900 acres in several parishes. He acquired an elaborately accommodated town house, and converted Button Hall into a personal resort for rest and recreation. He kept 38 slaves at Button Hall that he renamed "Castle Brawn."

At Castle Brawn, John McKenzie kept an elaborate library valued at £2,100, experimented with hay production, represented the St. James, Goose Creek Parish in the Royal Assembly, served as churchwarden and allied with Christopher Gadsden as an ardent patriot. He found much more than country diversion at Castle Brawn when he met the girl next door and on an April morning married Sarah Smith, the daughter of Thomas Smith and Sarah Moore of Bloomfield (Broom Hall).[140] This union greatly increased his fortune and political and social connections, but he died at the early age of 33, at his father-in-law's home in 1771. His body was carried by wagon along the shaded avenue from Bloomfield



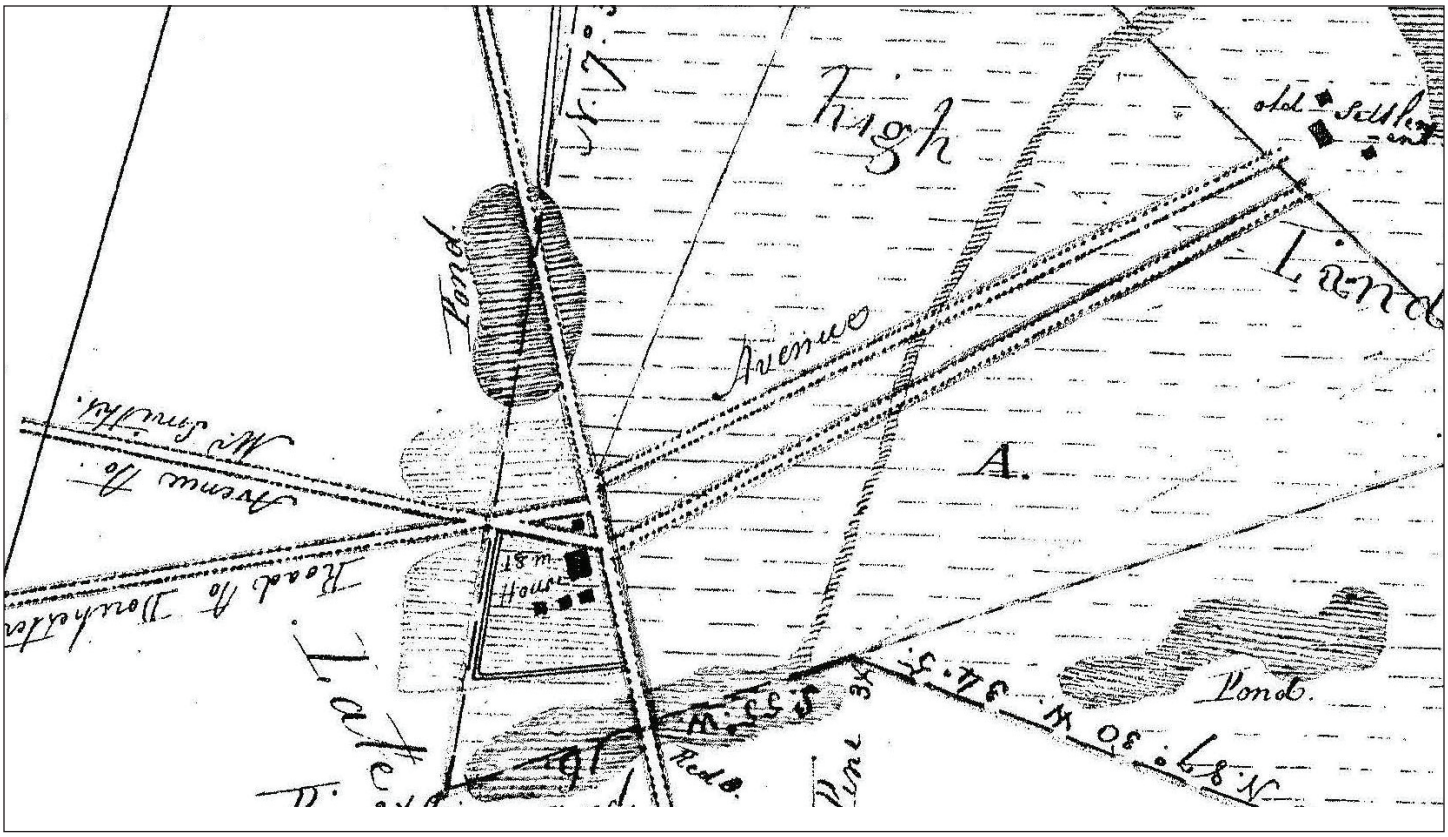
A detail of the John Diamond 1805 plat shows the rice fields shaped from the wetlands that flowed across the full width of Button Hall Plantation. The plat is among the collections of the South Carolina Historical Society, Charleston, South Carolina.

House to his final resting place at Castle Brawn, less than one mile distant.

The South Carolina Gazette eulogized John McKenzie as that "inestimable member of the Community…that zealous, disinterested, and unshaken Patriot…that true friend to America and the English Constitution…that excellent Man in every social relation…" [141] He left his widow the £12,000 Button Hall Estate and devised £1,000 to begin a college in Charleston. He also bequeathed an 800-volume library on law, political science and history to that college whenever it was established. [142]

Governor William Bull acquired the land seven years after John McKenzie's demise and resided there until he retired to England. When he purchased the tract he reclaimed the "Button Hall" label, but the borders of Castle Brawn extended the Button Hall boundaries by more than 200 acres.[143] Daniel and Elizabeth Tharin owned the 976-acre plantation in 1778, when they sold it to Lewis Lestergette for £40,000, but when they purchased it from the Governor is uncertain.[144]

William Laughton Smith (1758-1812) acquired the tract in 1785 from Lewis Lestergette.[145] He was the son of Benjamin Smith and Anne Laughton, who sent him to study in England. He returned to South Carolina in 1783 to pursue a career as an attorney, and he gradually amassed a fortune through his



A detail of the John Diamond 1805 plat shows the convergence of plantation avenues at the "18 m House" (Eighteen-Mile House) intersection. Inexplicably, two parallel avenues lead to the "old settlement" at the site of the Button Hall main house. The Eighteen-Mile House Tavern is indicated with four auxiliary structures. The large pasture and ponds near the Eighteen-mile House Tavern attracted travelers who wished to graze and water their horses. The plat is among the collections of the South Carolina Historical Society, Charleston, South Carolina.

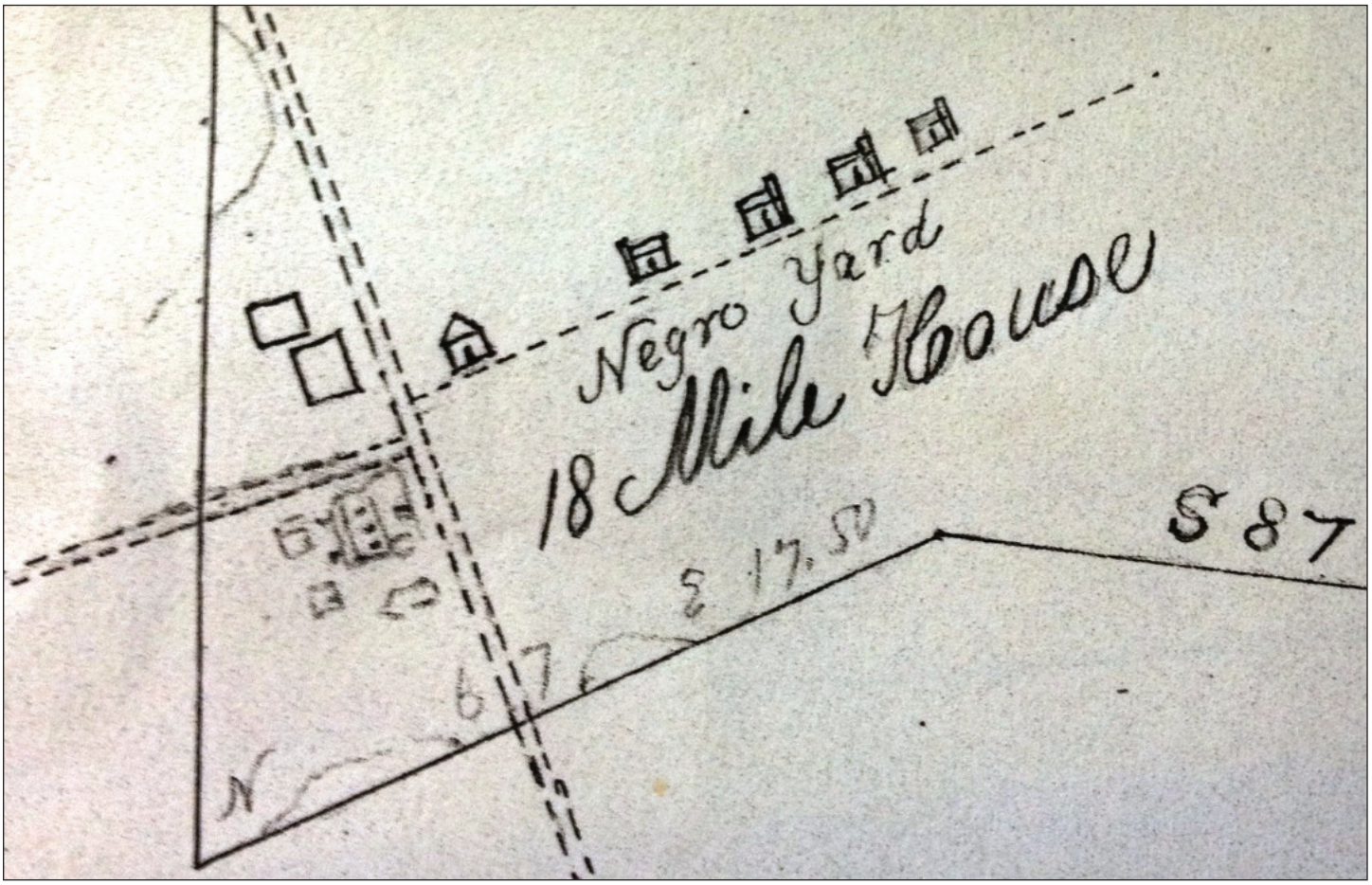
own skillful services, but it was his marriage to Charlotte Izard, daughter of Ralph Izard and Alice Delancey that assured his ascent to high political office.[146] With his father-in-law, Ralph Izard and brother-in-law, Gabriel Manigault, he became the third party in one of the most powerful political factions in the nation. The Izard-Manigault-Smith camp provided strong support for the Federalist Party on all political levels and the party repaid those favors during its tenure.

William Laughton Smith represented Goose Creek in the General Assembly before serving in the United States House of Representatives in 1788. He favored a strong central government and judicial system, and staunchly supported Alexander Hamilton's schemes for a Federal Bank, causing him to be widely controversial. Nonetheless, his treatises on the Constitution became required reading at the College of New Jersey (Princeton), and President John Adams nominated him as Charge d' affaires of the United States to the Court of Portugal in 1797.

When he assumed his duties in Portugal, he was the agent through whom the tribute to the Barbary pirates was transferred. Smith ardently opposed the American policy of paying bribes and advocated a strong navy instead. In 1799, he was appointed ambassador to Turkey, but Napoleon's advances in Italy delayed and finally suspended his mission, until the election of Thomas Jefferson pushed the Federalists out of office and terminated Smith's appointment to Turkey.

William Laughton Smith returned to a prosperous law practice and married Charlotte Wragg. He amassed a fortune and upon his death in 1812,

The Masonic Lodge and Pit Stop Auto Repair business stand today near the footprint of the 18-Mile House Tavern. The photograph is among the collections of the author.



W.K. Mellard drew a plat describing the Eighteen-Mile House tract in 184[?]. The image shows a detail of the Mellard plat depicting a cluster of buildings at the vicinity of the Eighteen Mile House. Smaller structures with single chimneys are aligned near the intersection and labeled “Negro Yard.” Button Hall Avenue, once, a prominent feature at that important intersection, is indicated with a single broken line faced by the slave quarters on this plat. Button Hall contained only 387 acres when it sold in 1821.The plat is among the collections of the South Carolina Historical Society, Charleston, South Carolina.

Features of Button Hall are indicated on a contemporary Berkeley County Tax Map. Highway 176 is the western boundary and Highway 52 transects Button Hall. A: Road to Wassamassaw, B: Road to Moncks Corner, C: Avenue to Bloomfield Plantation, D: Road to Ladson, E: Button Hall Main House. A Star provided for this publication indicates the location of the Seal of the City of Goose Creek. Source: Berkeley County Tax Map, (Office of Geographic Information System, Berkeley County Office Building, Moncks Corner, South Carolina, 2006), and Plat of Button Hall Plantation, owned by Governor William Bull, (St. James, Goose Creek Parish, John Fenwick, surveyor, 1778), manuscript 33-40-09 among the collections of the South Carolina Historical Society.

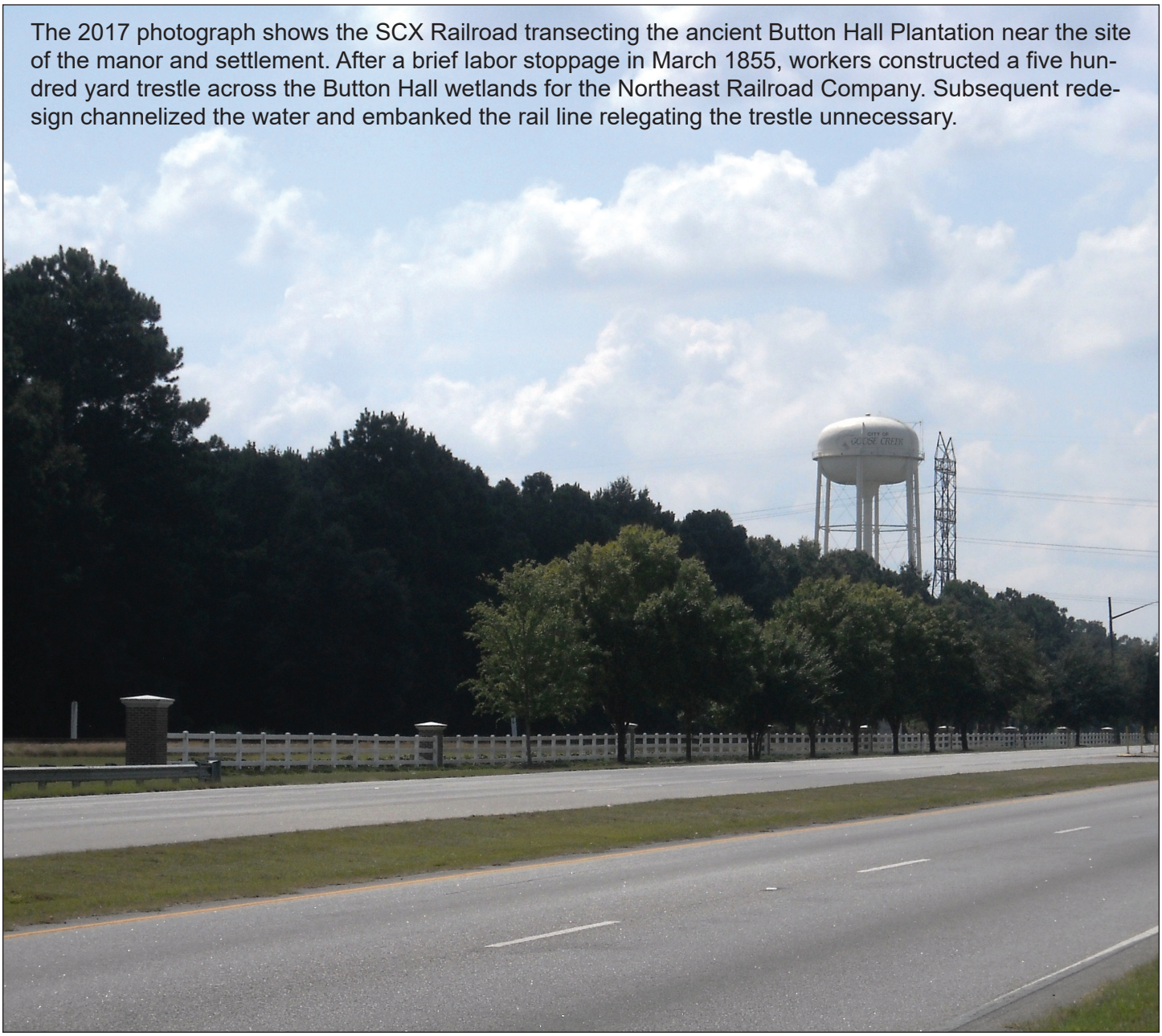
bequeathed an estate worth $140,000 including his Goose Creek lands to Charlotte.[147] Two years prior, he had sold 109 acres of Button Hall to Lewis Breaker, the proprietor of the 18-Mile House Tavern. Thus, Button Hall contained only 387 acres when Charlotte sold the manor and acreage in 1821 for $2,710.

The old estate was bought and sold into and out of the family until it reverted to J.J. Screven Smith and Thomas Smith, two of Charlotte and William's grandsons.[148] These two Smiths owned a larger tract into which Button Hall was absorbed in 1871, melding old Boochawee lands along the State Road by combining the 17-Mile House tract, the 18-Mile House parcel, the 19-Mile House land and a part of The Oaks Plantation with the Boochawee Manor site, totaling 1,111 acres in 1871.[149]

The difficult economies of the post-Civil War era required many old estates be divided and sold or temporarily segmented and rented as small farms to African-American freedmen. Most of the Smith properties were rented for $6.00 annually, and managed from afar, relying upon managers to collect rents, but some sections of old Boochawee were sold to African-American farmers.

Robert and Mary Austin purchased a tract from the Smith family and farmed the land until Robert's demise. Widow Mary relocated to Charleston and sold 200 acres of Button Hall for $750.00 in 1874 to Richard and Margaret Myers, emancipated African-Americans. The Myers farmed that tract for more than 40 years, selling parcels from time to time to African-American neighbors until Richard's death in 1899. Finally, Langdon Cheves purchased the last of Myers' properties in 1914 including his little house on Lindy Creek Road.[150]

The familiar City of Goose Creek Logo, cast in bronze, set in clay brick and anchored in blue granite, marks the pedestrian intersection of Etiwan and Central Avenue at the heart of Button Hall Plantation.



The 2017 photograph shows the SCX Railroad transecting the ancient Button Hall Plantation near the site of the manor and settlement. After a brief labor stoppage in March 1855, workers constructed a five hundred yard trestle across the Button Hall wetlands for the Northeast Railroad Company. Subsequent redesign channelized the water and embanked the rail line relegating the trestle unnecessary.

Conclusion

Langdon Cheves negotiated with the Berkeley County Highway Commission to lay out a road through his property parallel to the Atlantic Coastline Railroad that transected the old boundaries of Button Hall. Today, that road is a section of U.S. Route 52, (Goose Creek Boulevard) - a busy byway through the center of the City of Goose Creek. There the commercial nexus of the community ascended from the old Boochawee Plantation that once spanned 2,400 acres, but disappeared when it melded with its neighbors. Gnarled oaks at Schenckingh's, Springfield and Howe Hall Plantation sites, silted canals at Button Hall and Liberty Hall, and overgrown rice lands throughout, are scant remnants of that earlier era. Those places were the homes of important personalities who influenced the colony, state, and nation at the highest

The image is a detail of the Gaillard, J. Palmer, Compiler, Map of Berkeley County and parts of Charleston and Dorchester Counties S.C., among the collections of the Berkeley County Museum and at the Berkeley County Office Building.

levels and led during formative times. Furthermore, thousands of bound souls toiled on those lands at the most fundamental levels, and by their dogged persistence altered the foundation from which essential 20th century institutions emerged. Today, Boochawee is rediscovered within the context of the 21st century, as the progenitor of a burgeoning commercial center, and as an important historic backdrop where many enriched the Goose Creek land, labor and legacy.

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Back River, Plat of 100 acres on Upper Back River Road sold by James Vidal to James Gaillard in 1871, William Hume, surveyor, among the collections of the South Carolina Historical Society, Charleston, South Carolina.

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Wills and Inventories, Berkeley County, South Carolina, Probate Court, Berkeley County Probate Court, Moncks Corner, South Carolina.

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Vermell Watson, interview by Michael Heitzler at Westview Elementary School, Goose Creek, South Carolina, November 4, 2002.

Gertrude Trescott, interview by Michael Heitzler at Westview Elementary School, Goose Creek, South Carolina, April 15, 1979.

End Notes

1 Henry A.M. Smith, "Goose Creek," *South Carolina Historical and Genealogical Magazine*. v. 29, no. 4 (October, 1928): 279.
2 Spelling variations for "Boochawee," include the two-word title "Boochaw and Wapensaw." A consistent "Boochawee," is used herein, unless within a quotation.
3 Verner Crane, *The Southern Frontier*, 1670-1752 (Durham, North Carolina: Duke University Press, 1928), 119.
4 Crane, 119.
5 The Boochawee Manor lay in today's Greenview/ Liberty Hall Road section of the City of Goose Creek.
6 Mabel L. Webber, contributor. "The First Governor Moore and His Children," *South Carolina Historical and Genealogical Magazine*. v. 37, no.1 (January, 1936): 5.
7 Cheves Papers, Land papers of Langdon Cheves, 1735-1932, 2/182/9, among the collections of the South Carolina Historical Society, Charleston, South Carolina. Langdon Cheves recorded, "extensive ruins of terraces, walks, ponds and signs of gardens."
8 Webber, 4. Also, the slaves are categorized in the Charleston County Inventory Book, Works Project Administration (WPA).
9 Webber, 2, 3.
10 J.G Stewart, "Letters from John Stewart to William Dunlop," *South Carolina Historical and Genealogical Magazine*. v. 32, no.1 (January, 1931): 24-28 also see Eugene M. Sirmans, *Colonial South Carolina: A Political History 1663-1763* (Chapel Hill, North Carolina, University of North Carolina Press, 1966), 41.
11 Before his reign as king of Israel, Jehu functioned as a commander in the army of Ahab in the northern kingdom of Israel. The name means, "Yahweh is he." It portrayed his "God-given task to obliterate the house of Ahab along with the worship of Baal that pervaded Israel at the time."
12 Webber, 2.
13 Webber, 4.
14 Webber, 4.
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"we must preserve the past protect the present and plan for progress"

Michael J. Heitzler