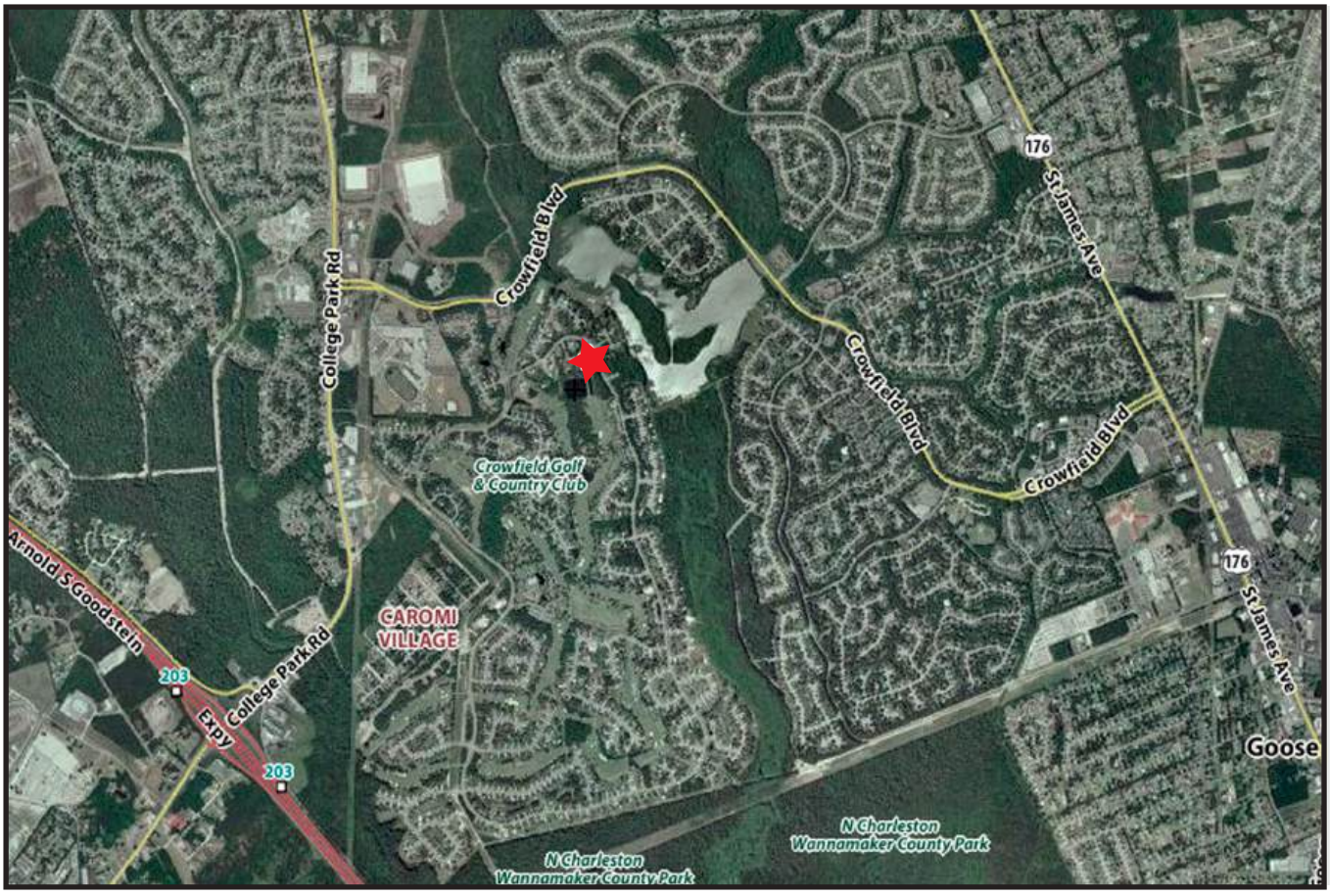
City of Goose Creek:
History in its Own Backyards

Crowfield

This intriguing story describes the ascension of Crowfield Plantation.

My Capital Mansion on Goose Creek.....

Crowfield Plantation, on the headwaters of Goose Creek and Middleton Place on the Ashley River were the best-accommodated plantations of colonial Carolina. The renowned Middleton family owned both grand places and each of the estates featured elegant gardens, water displays, flowing lawns, shady avenues and stately brick mansions. Some exalted Crowfield as the most "elaborately beautiful place in the province,"[1] and when Crowfield emerged more than a decade before the famed Middleton Place, it reigned with unmatched panache and touted its moniker on both sides of the Atlantic. Unfortunately, soon after Crowfield ascended, the mansion and its accoutrements showed signs of neglect. After declining for more than fifty years through several owners, a landlord relegated the desuetude to subsistence farming. Nonetheless, Crowfield mirrored the grandeur of the finest English manor during the colonial era and its long and dulcet legacy prevails into the twenty-first century as one of the most interesting parcels of property in North America.



The aerial image shows the location of the Crowfield Plantation settlement on the northern headwaters of Goose Creek. A star indicates the location of the main house.

The Merchant Retires

On May 17, 1701, the Lord Proprietors granted John Berringer a wide span of thick woodland where the Crowfield manor ascended three decades later. The tall, multilayered forests spanned the northern bend of Goose Creek, affording essential resources of shelter, fuel and food for natives and settlers. Reliable rain brought abundant life to the tall woods and enriched the alluvial soils that washed for millennia into its central basin before emptying into the headwaters of Goose Creek. That wet basin (Lake Crowfield) divided the forested tract, drained the higher lands, and produced a luxuriant ground cover from which a plethora of wildlife sprang. Predictably, John Berringer sought the thick flora, slashed a clearing in which to settle, plowed the fields and grazed livestock. However, among all of the growing and living things, the suede hides of the small yet abundant grey deer sparked his attention most.

Shortly after the earliest English settlement in Carolina, ambitious traders exchanged imported manufactured goods with Native Americans for deerskins and peltries and sea captains hurried the skins and furs to Europe. Soon an elaborate merchandising system reached hundreds of miles into the interior and elevated the trade to the most lucrative in the colony.

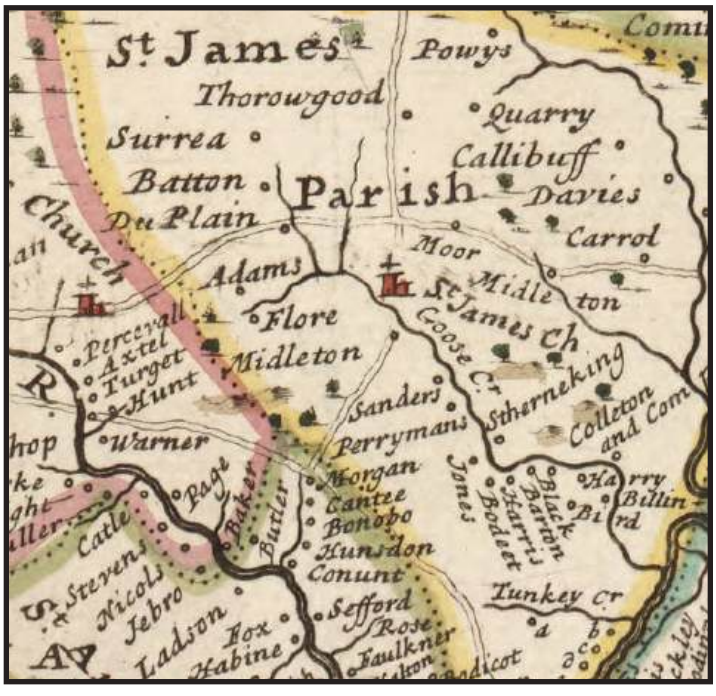
The road through Goose Creek was the most convenient ingress to the larger, better-organized Native American tribes of the interior and it became a busy byway for packhorse traders. Long lines of burdened animals led by hostlers of varying ages and pedigree forded the Goose Creek shallows and slouched toward the backcountry at all hours of most days. Each horse carried up to one hundred pounds of imported merchandise into the wilderness, and returned with a similar weight in skins and peltries, providing large monetary returns for minimal risk.

The business returned hefty fortunes to many. Traders typically returned each packhorse with one hundred fully dressed doeskins, seventy-five buck skins, or an equally weighty collection of various cuts of furs, all coveted by wealthy shoppers in Europe. There, the fashionable classes sought leathers and furs for the finest coats, vests, jackets, shoes, boots, purses, valises and more.[2] Furthermore, within the first decade of deerskin trade, most indigenous chiefs discovered the European outlets for native hostages. Soon, long lines of tethered Native American captives regularly forded Goose Creek to mount the sale blocks in Charleston and board the slavers bound for the sugar plantations of the Caribbean. For many decades, the sordid native slave-trading business streamed ill-gotten wealth into Charleston and its hinterland, bringing fortunes to many, but curdling the moralities of generations of immigrants and smirching the values of their new-world estates.

By 1680, all of the properties on navigable waters near Charleston were "taken up," and by 1700, James Moore and others were developing large inland estates, which displayed their wealth. Moore owned the 2,400-acre Boochowee Plantation.[3] His land featured no deepwater frontage, but relied upon a single surface outfall into lesser Foster Creek[4] to drain his landlocked forests. Without the convenience of water transport and thus by necessity, he exploited the long packhorse trains that passed near his door, and eventually he underwrote convoys into the wilderness until he emerged as one of the richest men in Carolina.

The Lord Proprietors relied on James Moore and other men of ingenuity to increase the worth of the lands as well as the volume and value of exports. However, by 1701, the year the Lord Proprietors granted the last two tracks of Goose Creek property,[5] political unrest that Moore and others fomented worried the proprietors as much as the meager returns from their mercantile schemes. Consequently, when the proprietors awarded 1,800 acres to John Berringer, they expected him to develop the untapped forests, export something of value, and temper the roiling politicians of Goose Creek.[6]

John Berringer was an ideal candidate for a land grant. He was a shrewd businessman who possessed sufficient wealth to purchase the labor, and accoutrements required to clear, plant and harvest virgin properties and he was a trusted stalwart Englishman from the first ship to Carolina.[7] He emigrated from Barbados as a teenager in 1670, coming ashore with his sister Margaret, stepdaughter of Governor John Yeamans. Across the years, he earned his stead as a successful merchant and finally acquired land contiguous to Boochawee Plantation, where Margaret, his sister resided with her husband, James Moore. Thus, the well-connected Berringer navigated among the elites of early Carolina and like many invested his fortune in a country manor.[8]



Cartographer Herman Moll noted "Dee Plain," and "Moor," but not Crowfield located between them on his 1732 map entitled, *A New and Exact Map of the Dominions of the King of Great Britain*...The map is courtesy of the North Carolina Collection, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hil

By 1701, Berringer owned town lots and a home in Charleston, but the buckskin-clad merchant coveted a "country seat" and wanted to test his hand at the emerging rice culture. Nonetheless, he never abandoned dreams of reaping greater riches from packhorse breeding, grazing and trading. Four years before, James Moore sent traders John Herne and Robert Stevens and his Native American slave "Jack" with "one hundred pound Stering in money," to Virginia and to return to Goose Creek with ponies.[9] The rapidly expanding pack horse business in South Carolina consumed more animals than bred and the price of the beasts of burden increased markedly. As Berringer delivered labor and rice-planting implements to his rural properties, he garnered dozens of horses to graze great swathes of pastures spanning along his central waterway and the shallow headwaters of Goose Creek.

That year (1701), John Berringer atop a wagon pulled by two horses traveled from his town home on the south side of Queen Street to his emerging country manor.[10] Pursuing the "New Broad Path," (Road to Goose Creek), the middle aged trader drove the wagon ahead a procession of mounted riders and a band of slave porters, traversing the sixteen mile journey to the Goose Creek Bridge on an improved byway superior to the onerous cow paths of earlier days. His oaken wagon, with iron-rimmed wheels easily laded one thousand pounds, effectively displacing ten, expensive packhorses and two mounted hostlers, but wagons were limited to the best roads, and traders needed packhorses for the lesser paths. Furthermore, many traders lacked the means to fund entire wagonloads of expensive imported merchandise, and that day Berringer passed the homes of three such packhorse peddlers, John Fraser,[11] John Wright,[12] and Thomas Rose[13] with whom he often associated. Each managed five or six horses, lived in "Indian towns" much of the year, and deposited their hides and furs with Berringer of Charleston. However, that day as each moment faded, he trundled past their homes, rolled farther from his trading responsibilities in town and closer to the pleasures of creek-side living.[14]

When Berringer arrived at the Goose Creek Bridge, the squat structure moaned beneath the weight of the loaded wagon, but that low, wooden conveyance was the busiest land nexus in the young colony and carried heavier transports everyday. Thus, Berringer confidently crossed and soon passed an avenue of stripling oaks leading to the Oaks Plantation settlement. There he turned northwest past Moore's alee (Back River Road) and rumbled two more miles to the eighteenth marker.

By 1701, a stone by the side of the road, eighteen miles from Charleston, denoted the approaching divergence of the ancient passage toward the west. For untold millennia, deer and other animals skirted the higher ground above the northernmost reach of Goose Creek, creating an animal trace and for almost as long, native hunters followed the game, wearing a ten-inch-wide foot-path in the clay. The old foot-trail commenced four hundred yards above the stone at a narrow tupelo swamp where the topography broke imperceptibly, but sufficiently to separate two drainage fields. Wetlands on the south seeped into Goose Creek, and the other meandered north then east into streams feeding the headwaters of Foster Creek.

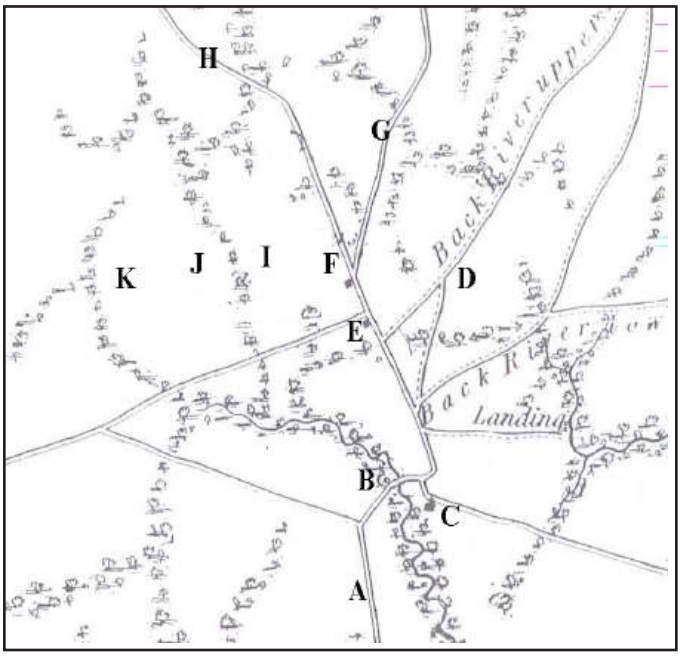


Figure 3: The author modified the Mills Atlas Map to describe a section of Goose Creek. The landowners and the State of South Carolina abandoned the Road to Dorchester that originated near the Eighteen-Mile Stone, soon after the Civil War. That road is no longer discernable but a power line easement traces the route today. Key= A: The Road to Goose Creek from Charleston/ B: The Goose Creek Bridge/ C: The St. James, Goose Creek Church/ D: Boochawee House /E: Eighteen-Mile House Tavern /F: Nineteen-Mile House Tavern/ G: Road to Moncks Corner/ H: Wassamassaw Road/ I: Bloomfield House/ J: Crowfield House/K: Abraham Fluery's (De la Plaine's) Plantation House.

That slight division relieved the ground sufficiently to allow dry passage west through the lowland strip, and across the decades that trace above the eighteen-mile stone emerged as the busiest intersection in Carolina and the front door to the place called "Crowfield."

John Berringer found that travelers before him improved the old "run," sufficiently to carry his loaded wagon west past his avenue more miles to the Ashley River. The tupelo swamps and the nearby drainage fields provided water and pasture for livestock, and as the Road to Dorchester and the Road to Charleston evolved into busy byways, more travelers favored the intersection as a campsite. Eventually, entrepreneurs cobbled together a way station featuring an open-air shelter, grazing fields, watering ponds, and corrals, and later still, an energetic proprietor built a cabin with a hearth. He hung pots of corn mush, or peas and sometimes onions and beans over coals; and served full bowls with flat biscuits to hungry men in exchange for a penny or two.

Mostly, young horsemen loitered there, some sitting near campfires, others milling about or sleeping in the tall grasses and scrub. They waited with their ponies all day, or longer for packhorse trains to assemble into longer lines. The departing convoys sometimes counted more than one hundred laded packhorses, trudging in single-file along the ten-foot wide wagon road to Moncks Corner where a horse trail of three-foot breadth led west into the dangerous backcountry.

That day John Berringer departed the way station, parted the little tupelo wetland and pastures and traversed the slightly undulating but steadily descending wagon trail a mile westerly where he traversed a wide shallow swamp, then continued a quarter mile farther to his alee. At his property he diverged north another mile to the highest and driest forest. That day he joined a distinguished planter/trader community featuring the homes of seasoned woodsmen. James Moore of Boochowee resided to the east, Arthur Middleton of the Oaks owned land to the southeast, and Andrew Allen worked Thorogood Plantation contiguous to Berringer's northern boundary.[15] Those men were epitomes of frontier success and reined from the finest country homes of Carolina.[16]

The three neighbors and others comprised the notorious "Goose Creek Men," who increasingly challenged the Lord Proprietors, the governor, the assembled representatives or anybody who got in the way of power and prosperity. A year before John Berringer arrived in Goose Creek James Moore requested that the Lord of Trade in London underwrite an expedition into the western frontier. Denied, Moore stubbornly departed without proprietary support, reached the inland mountains in pursuit of gold but returned empty-handed. Nonetheless, the bold adventure amplified his reputation, as did several military expeditions in the 1690's, until his celebrity spun to mythical proportions in some circles. As his fame and fortune increased, he climbed the political ranks until he emerged as Governor of Carolina in 1700.

The following year (1701), Governor James Moore led an unsuccessful siege of the Spanish fortress in St. Augustine. In 1702, he rode against the same foe in Guale (Georgia), and although both ventures commenced at the pasture near the eighteen-mile stone, Bellinger participated in neither. However, in the waning weeks of 1703, after too brief a hiatus at his country retreat, the spell of adventure and lust for bounty enticed him to join Moore on another expedition.

James Moore assembled riders in 1703 to confront Appalachian Natives. When his troop gathered at the eighteen-mile pasture, they consisted of three hundred white and native cavalrymen. Berringer increased the number when he appeared at the rendezvous with twenty white and as many native mercenaries. "Captain" John Berringer underwrote his sizable band, and each of his buck-skinned riders arrived flushed with hope of fame and fortune, astride fresh ponies, and tugging loaded packhorses.

Late that winter morning the entourage pursued the road west. That afternoon they skirted the headwaters of the Ashley River toward the Savannah. At the end of winter, they cantered onto Spanish Florida, and the following month (April 1703), an unknown assailant, on a nondescript skirmish-field, knocked John Berringer from his steed and slew him.[17]

The Men from Barbados

After the death of John Berringer, his sister Margaret Moore and her husband, the governor, supervised Berringer's overseers and servants for a few years until the duty passed to Berringer's nephew, Colonel James Moore, son of Margaret and James.[18] However, Berringer did not devise his land to Margaret, but instead to his younger sister, Mary in Barbados, who held the prize for six years before selling it to Colonel John Gibbes.

John Gibbes was a wealthy and somewhat influential planter who served several times in the Assembly in Barbados. There, an adverse economy forced the tobacco planter to seek new opportunities in British North America. Arriving in Goose Creek, John Gibbes found a settlement constructed mostly with sawed and split cypress logs, including a tolerable single story main house, slave cabins, small barns, sheds and corrals. Unlike his predecessor, he held no interest in native trade, but fancied himself a planter. He enjoyed camaraderie among his likeminded neighbors, who were busy reaping third and fourth year harvests from the wetlands, buying as many slaves as they could afford and expanding every low field where feasible.

During the first decade of the eighteenth century, the bulk of the Goose Creek economy shifted from native trade to rice culture. The packhorse rendezvous relocated fifteen miles north to a trading post on the Cooper River first owned by John Monck. By then the easiest path to wealth for men with land and capital in Goose Creek involved clearing wetlands, purchasing slaves and growing as much rice as possible. Consequently, John Gibbes put his servants to work embanking his exceedingly fertile lands that reached north and south across the full extent of his property.

His flow-way spanned more than a mile and a half, rising as broad wetlands (later Deas Swamp) near the Wassamassaw Road (later St. James Avenue / South Carolina Hwy 176) and descending to the headwaters of Goose Creek. The long narrow wetland afforded easy access all along its way and Gibbes embanked water reserves for irrigation, coaxing the lands to produce most of the year. Rice, like most grasses, grew rapidly beneath the bright and reliable Carolina sun, but he lacked cost effective transport for his bulging barrels.

After laborers removed the husks, separated the chaff, filled wooden casks with the cleaned brown grain and hammered closed the rigid lids, a single barrel typically weighed fifty pounds. The best marketplaces were accessible via merchant ships anchored 20 miles away in Charleston Harbor, and while Goose Creek planters on deep-water reaped bounties, the wagon road connecting Gibbes' land to navigable water at the Goose Creek Bridge added many complications. After successfully negotiating multiple soft patches on the wagon trail and crossing two muddy streams, the slaves transferred the barrels from the wagon onto bateaus at a landing down-stream of the bridge, before rowing the expensive shipment to the harbor. The extra labor, time and unreliability of the wagon road delimited profits, causing innovative Gibbes to seek another means of moving the precious harvest.

This photograph shows the St. James, Goose Creek Church.

As most of his neighbors,[19] slaves dug canals to float the rice sheaves out of the Gibbes' fields where they dried on higher ground before moving to barns for husking and winnowing. Gibbes expanded that idea by digging a narrow canal from his lowest wetlands to Middleton's rice field where both men finished the channel to the landing. When completed, slaves poled or pulled barges and sleds, heavy with rice drums, along the narrow ditch. Under favorable conditions, the little waterway exponentially reduced the amount of muscle power required to bring sheaves to shore and loaded barrels to the bateaus. Nevertheless, unpredictable rainfall and shifting sediments varied the depth of the water and too often heavy barges grounded, until Gibbes abandoned use of the canal most of the year.

The channel innovation did not solve the transport problem for Gibbes but the project put him in frequent contact with Reverend Francis LeJau, Rector of the St. James, Goose Creek Church. The church and parsonage lay within sight of the Goose Creek Bridge and Gibbes became fascinated with the prospects of a brick structure to replace the derelict wooden sanctuary. After 1706, Reverend LeJau supervised the project and enthusiastically watched stacks of brick rise when wobbly wagons delivered heavy loads from local kilns on both sides of Goose Creek. During the doldrums of winter, as fields lay fallow and forests stood barren, Gibbes fired ovens to produce barges of bricks for the rising parish center. He delivered the weighty loaves by way of the little canal when conditions allowed or lesser numbers via the wagon road, until The church slowly ascended.

Sadly, John Gibbes Sr. died in 1711 before the incomplete sanctuary received its first congregation. His son John Gibbes Jr., took up his father's work; but, eight more years and a violent war intervened before artisans completed the stout little sanctuary with sturdy thick walls, tall airy windows, three wide doors and a jerkin roof of cypress shingles.[20] John Gibbes assumed his father's work as the colony transitioned from the "starving times," to the bountiful era of rice culture. However, before the Royal Government replaced the hapless Proprietors to complete the transition, Gibbes feared that all was for naught when hostile natives thrust him into the vortex of war. In the spring of 1715, native war erupted that traumatized every South Carolinian and nearly terminated the British colonial experiment in Carolina.

John Gibbes supervised nearly four dozen bound workers on rice fields along the entirety of the central drainage basin and was a wealthy man when he married Anne Broughton, daughter of Thomas Broughton of Mulberry Plantation on the Cooper River, twelve miles north of Goose Creek.[21] Thomas Broughton erected a large two-story residence on the river, completing the project in 1711, the same year his daughter, Anne joined John Gibbes. She called her father's home, "Mulberry Castle," because of the mulberry shade trees that delineated its long perimeter and the imposing fortress - like appearance of the edifice. The "castle" lived up to its celebrity four years after the marriage when natives on the warpath forced Cooper River families to seek refuge behind its shuttered walls. At the same time, most Goose Creek families evacuated behind the battlements of Charleston, while others hunkered in fortified plantations in Goose Creek, listening to rampant rumors of war-painted "savages," encroaching ever-closer, murdering, and torturing as they came.

Thomas Barker, Captain of the Goose Creek militia sent Rebecca, his wife of six years, and their little son, to her familial home at Boochawee Hall, where other families including Anne Gibbes, hunkered behind fortified shutters and ramparts. Barker dispatched alarm riders to muster John Gibbes and all remaining able-bodied men to the regular eighteen-mile bivouac where the avenue to Barker's Button Hall Plantation intersected the main road. From there the captain departed ahead of one hundred and two riders at sunrise, Sunday, May 15, 1715 to "compel the allegiance of the Congarees," and divert the native advance.[22] Two nights later, near mid-night, an exhausted messenger shouted through the parsonage door to alert Reverend LeJau, his wife and two daughters of a catastrophe. Merely hours before, hostiles ambushed and killed Barker and twenty-seven of his riders. The natives were trotting south unopposed from the hills of Santee.

The photograph above shows the Goose Creek Bridge circa 1904. By the turn of the 20th century, a raised causeway and road traversed all but a narrow channel of the waterway. The image is among the collections of the South Carolina Historical Society, Charleston, South Carolina.

At first, the remnants of Thomas Barker's cavalry scattered, leaving a defenseless void between the hostile frontier and the families at Boochawee, then exposed to debauchery and destruction. Fortuitously as they waited within the fortified Boochawee house, a flash of luck and a flush of determination saved them from destruction.

On June 13, remnants of Barker's militia and a cadre of black and white volunteers shored up a redoubt on the banks of a small creek near the twenty-two mile stone and stood along a firing line against the native advance. Incredibly, that resistance turned the war party away merely four miles north of Crowfield, when the natives moved north to avoid the obstruction at the creek, then diverted west of the Gibbes settlement, where they met Captain George Chicken. The brave captain charged ahead of three columns of cavalry into the center of the four-hundred-strong native contingency, and as that hot afternoon on June 15, 1715 faded toward evening, the Goose Creek militia killed as many as sixty hostiles and forced the survivors to shed their plunder and flee into the Wassamassaw Swamp.

The native conflagration (Yemassee War) ended that afternoon, ten miles west of Gibbes' home, but during the harrowing months that followed that fateful charge, small bands of five or six, and occasionally more natives probed the Goose Creek settlements causing mischief. Captain George Chicken's bravery smote the invaders and allowed residents to plant, harvest and return to normalcy. Consequently, John and Anne Gibbes came home with renewed confidence to their settlement late that summer. However, while the eight-week war stiffened their resolve, they remained keenly cognizant of the awful possibilities. They kept their house fortified, armed and supplied with water and provisions until they conveyed several parcels of land to their immediate neighbors five years later. In 1722, the Gibbes, with cash from the land sales, departed to more civilized residency in Charleston, selling the last and largest tract of 1,440 acres, including the cypress settlement and the embanked fields for £4,000[23] to Arthur Middleton, their wealthy neighbor on the south.[24]

The Builder of a Legacy

The Honorable Arthur Middleton of the Oaks Plantation served as President of the Council and Commander and Chief of the Province. Through several purchases, he applied his immense wealth to reconstitute most of the original forested tract granted to John Berringer. Arthur Middleton preferred the Oaks Plantation, and never resided at the old Berringer settlement; and after owning the reconstituted 1,543 acres for a few years, he transferred it to his eldest son, William in 1729.[25] William, the oldest Middleton of his generation enthusiastically took up the Herculean task of transferring the comfortable but rustic countryseat into a "Capital Mansion," and converting the practical farmland into a showcase of gardens, lawns and luxuriant fields.

William Middleton[26] married his neighbor, Mary Izard of the Elms Plantation two weeks after Easter in 1730 and soon relocated to the property they tagged "Crowfield" similarly to the grand manor named Crowfield Hall, owned by his great-aunt in County Suffolk, England. He intended to replicate the status and ambiance of a European manor in the Charleston hinterland. Thus, William and his bride commenced construction of the finest messuage in Carolina.

The massive transformation of the ancient forests into a splendid manor occurred during a period of immense wealth for Goose Creek rice planters, and the prosperity reflected in a more accommodating Eighteen-Mile-House Tavern, a faster Road to Dorchester and more refined homes and gardens. During the first half of the eighteenth century, successive owners of the tavern modified it to serve travelers at the busiest intersection in Carolina excepting Charleston.[27] They improved the old horse corrals and fenced the pasture to graze herds of cattle. The owner purchased cows, one or two at a time and when he assembled a sufficient number, he hired wranglers to drive the entire herd to the slaughter barn on Charleston neck. There butchers cut, salted, packed and hauled the barrels to transport ships for conveyance throughout the British Empire.

The tavern accommodated cowboys as well as other riders of all descriptions, some astride thoroughbred horses, some atop large heavy-duty transport wagons and others in fine carriages. No one traveled as well as William Middleton. He arrived upon a four-wheeled chaise, "neatly carved and gilt, lined with crimson coffroy [?] with iron axletrees," behind four thoroughbred steeds.[28] He typically by-passed the tavern, preferring his personal cooks and dining room, but many others stopped to eat, drink, water horses, repair harnesses and re-shoe their beasts. A blacksmith in a small barn aside the tavern, worked bellows and anvil fashioning horse and mule shoes, buckles, hinges, rivets, wheel rims, doubletrees, coal tongs, hearth hooks, grids, plowshares, tools, barrel bands and more. Soon the owner accumulated a small assortment of hardware and converted the barn into one of the first general stores in South Carolina. Additionally, several small cottages appeared at the convenient intersection, where the owners of Button Hall Plantation housed overseer and sometimes guests.

The profits from rice production allowed Middleton to invest the labor of his slaves and overseers in effecting improvements to the Road to Dorchester leading to his avenue from the tavern on the east and from Ladson on the west. The Middleton laborers as well as many from neighboring plantations improved the old wagon road to accommodate most traffic. Fast carriages with large circumference wheels, but thinner widths glided the passengers above the mud and mire on corduroy surfaces, raised causeways and piled bridges. The improved byway encouraged local use and both highways converted more trekkers to the accommodations at the busy 18-mile intersection, a convenient one-day walk from Charleston.

By mid-century, the Eighteen-Mile-House Tavern welcomed travelers to some of the grandest estates in North America. For example, the Broomfield (later Bloomfield) home appeared on the northern side of the road west of the tavern, after which Crowfield and De La Plaine's Plantations came into view.

Additionally, travelers easily accessed the Oaks and the Elms Plantations south of the road and the intersection conveniently connected to the extraordinarily well developed Button Hall, Springfield and Parnassus Estates by way of private avenues running east from the tavern.

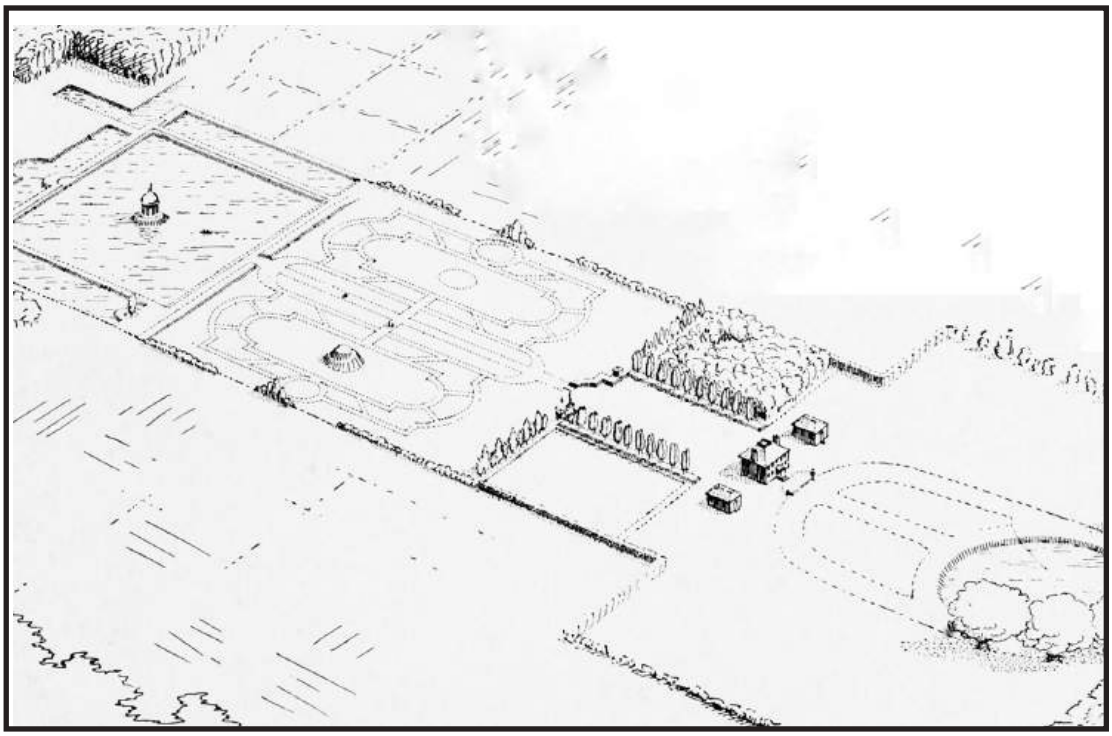
The Eighteen-Mile-House Tavern became the foyer to Crowfield, and both places shone within the epicenter of the most technologically advanced inland rice cultural zone in South Carolina. Inventors Peter Villeponteaux of Back River Plantation[29] and Samuel Knight, who resided in a cottage next door to the tavern,[30] frequented the establishment. They built competing animal powered thrashing machines, consistently improved the efficiency of their creations and advertised for sales in the South Carolina Gazette, published in Charleston. Thus, William Middleton was well- positioned at his premiere inland rice plantation to take advantage of the newest labor shaving devices such as winnowing barns, trunk gates, and horse-drawn thrashers.

During those years of innovation, William Middleton put his laborers to work moving tens of thousands of yards of top soil, clay and fill to create a masterpiece country retreat. His overseers and slaves shaped ponds, raised lawns, rolled pathways, leveled malls, and appropriately placed ditches, drains and dikes to irrigate the orchards, groves, lawns, gardens and parterres and to sustain preferred water levels in the decorative water features.

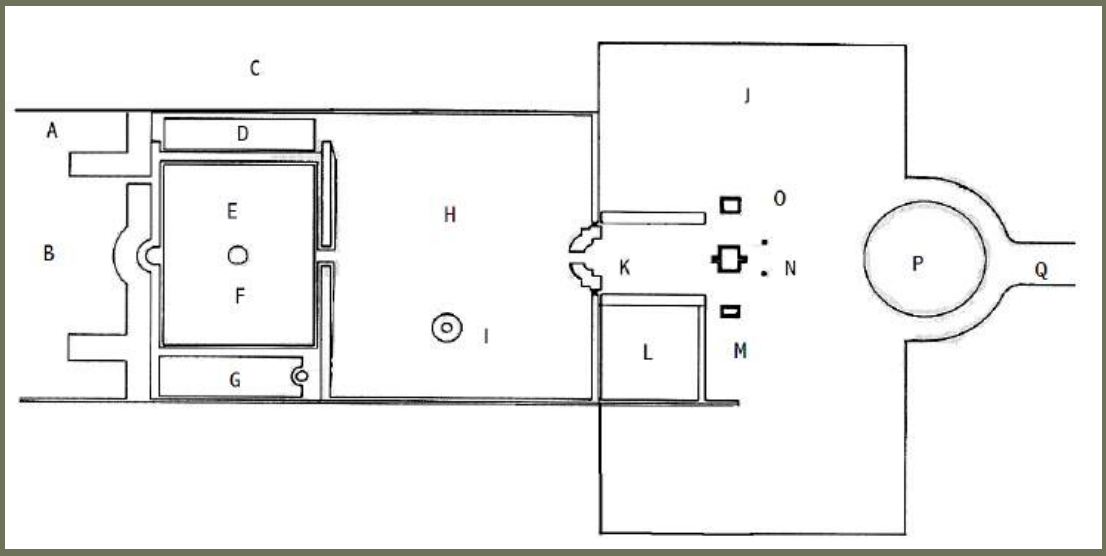
The centerpiece brick edifice stood upon a raised basement, with windows on both levels, looming imposingly above the manor lands.[31] Thick white masonry blocks studded the four edges of the edifice as quoins. The stucco blocks adhering to the brick walls, appeared to be heavy imported chiseled stones framing the three-dimensional structure and enhanced its commanding impression.[32] Moreover, a tall brick wall tied the main house to two flanking buildings, presenting a long, solid and massive form rising from the forests.[33]

Before the tenure of William Middleton, one accessed the settlement by way of a mile-long-avenue that originated at the Road to Dorchester and proceeded north to the highest forest, forty feet above the central basin. There John Berringer built the first cypress settlement and the Gibbes modified and expanded it to accommodate their rice workers. The enslaved workers resided in a small village of huts at the lower elevations near the ever-expanding fields, but William Middleton reversed that arrangement. He ordered his workers to raze the slave village and rebuild it on the high ground where the cypress barns, sheds and one-story house marked the site of the old settlement. Soon the new manor rose on the site of the razed slave village. The workers used all available materials rebuilding the slave cabins on the high ground including notched and chinked logs, applied clay over sticks (daub and waddle), and cypress boards salvaged from the derelict frontier-era structures. The workers erected several "duplex," cabins with daub and waddle wall construction and central brick hearths and chimneys to serve both sections of the two-room shelter.[34] Nearby they fashioned long ovens to bake tens of thousands of bricks for the huge construction project, and the showplace of Carolina ascended below the eclectic community that facilitated it.

When William Middleton converted the cypress village to slave use, he diverted the entrance avenue toward his new showplace messuage on the lower land near the rice fields. He planted small oaks every twenty yards along both sides of the avenue, keeping the imposing brick manor framed by the trees and in the view of anyone approaching along its mile-long length. One visitor in 1740 noted that the house stood in sight from the Road to Dorchester, presenting "a very handsome appearance."[35]



The partial drawing to the left shows the Crowfield house and two flanking buildings at the terminus of an oval drive. The drawing indicates a widow's roost atop the peak of the roof and chimneys on two ends. The drawing does not show the brick-connecting wall. Samuel Gaillard Stoney produced the above drawing. It is taken from Plantations of the Carolina Low Country, New York, Dover Publications Inc. 1938, p. 119. Image is courtesy of Gibbes Museum of Art/Carolina Art Association©.



Samuel Gaillard Stoney produced the original image in his Plantations of the Carolina Low Country. This modified drawing describes the Crowfield house and gardens. The manuscript letters represent selected features: A-Rectangular shaped retention ponds / B- Shaped pond/ C-Rice fields / D – Ornamental rectangular pond/ E- Lake / F- Lake gazebo/ G-Ornamental rectangular pond/ H-Court yard / I- Mount / J –Forest and Lawn/ K- Court foyer/ L - Bowling green / M- Western flanking guest house / N- Main house with carriage bollards / O- Eastern flanking guest house/ P - Moon pond (250 feet south of the front door, 816 feet in circumference, 130 feet in diameter) / Q – One-mile avenue to the Road to Dorchester.

Furthermore, within one hundred yards of its terminus, the grand pathway separated to pursue circumfluous routes along the shallow "moon pond," meeting at the front door. Gravity-flow waters replenished the pool that was round as the moon and reflected the house and lunar glow together like a watery mirror at appropriate times of the month and year.

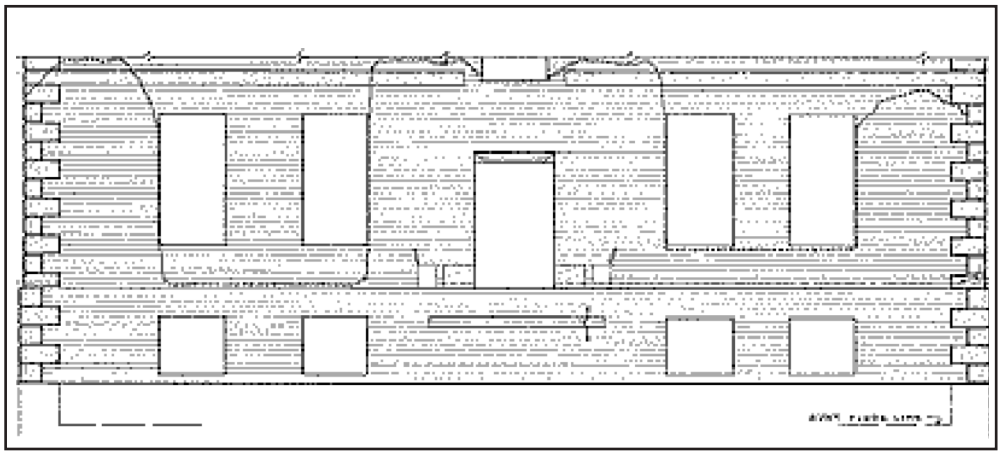
Carriage lanes approached the front door of the main house where equestrians dismounted and lashed their mounts to a carved stanchion, and two bollards demarcated the parking place for carriages.[36] Orange trees lined the entire partition wall, absorbed the southern sun, scented the spring breezes and delighted unsuspecting visitors with tropical blossoms and fruit. The imposing brick bulwark protected the citrus trees from northern winds during all except the bitterest nights when slaves lit smoky fires and tented the vulnerable roots to thwart damaging frosts. Sheep grazed near the citrus screen shearing the lawn and workers tended the grasses incessantly, irrigating, weeding and spreading dried manures.

The stately brick home emerged on a north-south axis upon a sturdy basement, fifty-four feet long and forty feet wide. Middleton described his home as "My Capital Mansion on Goose Creek…with twelve good rooms … fire places in each, besides four in the basement with fire places."[37] The house stood before an impressive backdrop approachable along a wide central mall, with parterres of gardenias and other flowering shrubs to the west and a shady forested wood to the east. A wide walk parted the inner court reaching from the back door of the elegantly furnished house onto wide expanses of lawn and live oaks.

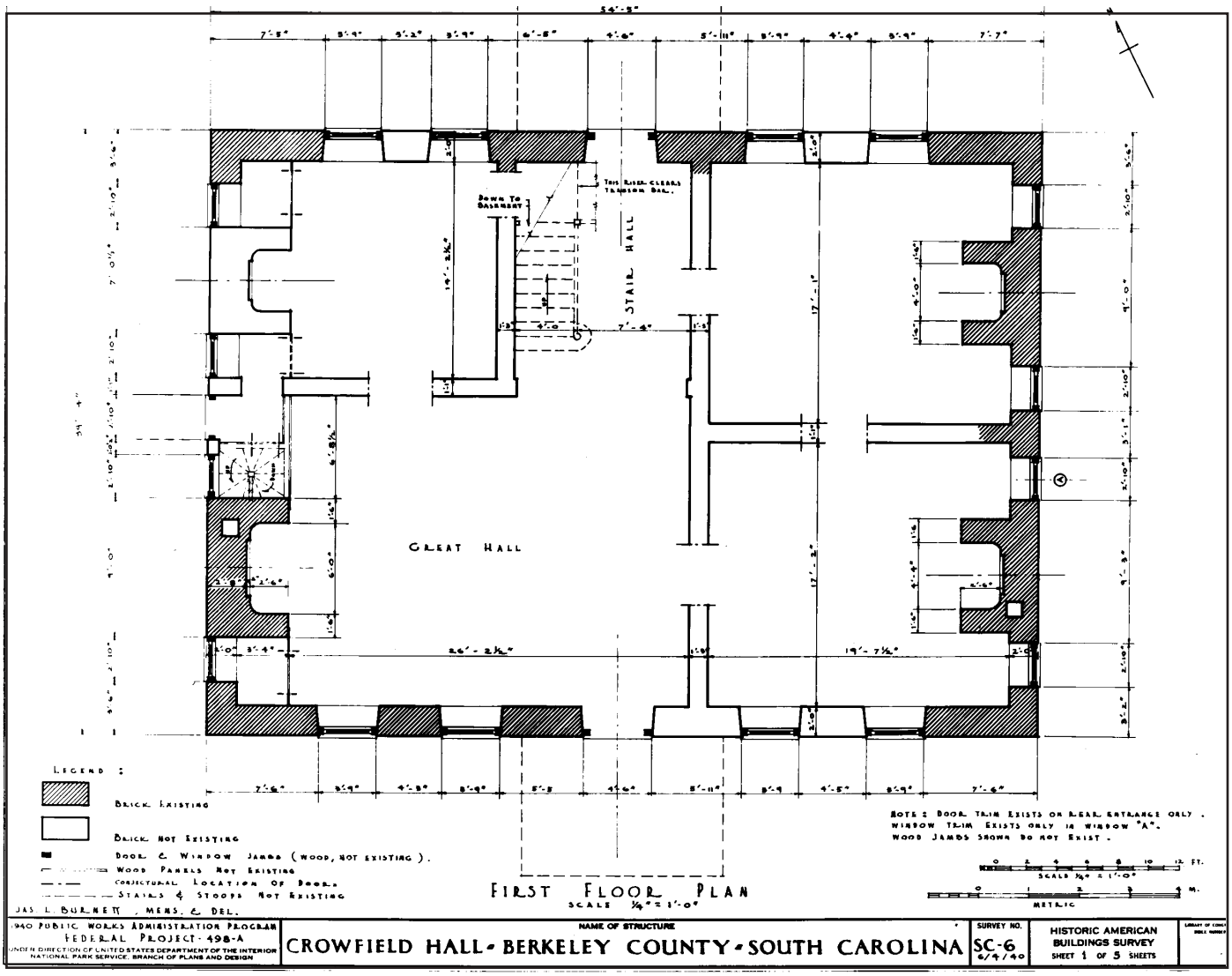
Immediately behind the rear portico, visitors passed along a mall through a funneled threshold created by two high brick bulwarks that channeled pedestrians into a whimsical and artful display of water and earth sculptures unsurpassed in North America. Visitors marveled at the massive brick pediments that lined the elaborate gardens and a large pond "situated in the midst of a spacious green…"[38] Middleton punctuated the visitors' experience with a striking Greek temple, a grotto and finally three large rectangular reflecting ponds, replete with fish, water fowl and other wild life.

William Middleton lived a life unsurpassed in British North America. He worked 100 slaves at Crowfield keeping the grand appearance and gleaning an impressive income from the sale of rice, indigo, and cattle; but his family fortune in Charleston and England supplemented his lifestyle and the hard wrought returns from the woodland rice plantation never substantiated his grand experiment. The delivery of rice barrels to the distant markets required expensive maintenance of the road and bridges, and each labor hour dedicated to road upkeep deducted from agricultural profits.

As mid-century approached, William Middleton and his family spent less time in Goose Creek, relegating the management of Crowfield to overseers and multi-generational slave families. As additional years faded, William Middleton moved more of his experienced workers to productive fields fronting the Cooper, Ashley and other coastal rivers and in 1750, merely twenty-one years after his father awarded the property to him, he abandoned it entirely, leaving neither caretaker nor watchman.



The image shows the south elevation of the Crowfield main house. The drawing centers the front door and indicates four windows in the basement. The rendering does not indicate a second story. The drawing is among the collections of the United States Library of Congress, Prints and Photograph Division, Historic American Buildings Survey (Library of Congress), Washington, D.C.



The drawing shows the floor plan of the Crowfield House. The Historic American Building Survey made the drawing in 1940. The stairwell leads to the basement and the drawing shows no stairway to a second floor. The original is in the possession of The Library of Congress.

After the workers departed, the subtropical elements that nourished the elegant gardens and groves brought the resurgence of a thick unkempt forest. Consequently, the carefully cultured land reverted to a deer park, with tranquil waters, wide pastures and shady woodlands favored by Native American hunters. Late in the spring of 1753, a large band of "Northern Indians" camped at the long abandoned domicile, greatly alarming some of the neighbors. After feasting on the bounty from the plentiful land, the natives moved on to an undisclosed destination.[39] Later that summer, William Middleton announced plans to sail with his family to England, and advertised the sale of 1,800 Crowfield acres in the South Carolina Gazette. He truthfully touted the place as suitable for rice production and he claimed that corn and indigo flourished, but he offered no advice regarding ingress or egress. A subsequent advertisement a few months later described the large brick house with many convenient outbuildings and a "neat regular garden."[40] Another advertisement appeared early the following year:

> On Monday 25 February will be sold by the subscriber at his Plantation in Goose Creek the said plantation of 1800 acres (150 of which are good rice lands) also furniture, china, plate and between 200 and 300 books as the subscriber intends to Embark for Great Britain some time in March next. S.C. Gazette, January 15, 1754.

That year William Walter and his wife, Mary Cattell purchased "furniture, china, plate and 300 books," as well as the house and out buildings and soon relocated to the country manor.

Mary and William Haggett

William and Mary Walters were the first of several owners during the turbulent decades leading to the American Revolution. They purchased the grand old manor in 1754, the year the French and Indian War commenced in America. That long worldwide conflict hardly affected South Carolina and neither of the Walters expected events spinning from it to reach Crowfield decades later. Thus, as the French and British armies engaged on two continents, the Walters renovated Crowfield, once again elevating the "deer park" to a practical and enjoyable working farm that sustained the enslaved families and sent some rice to market. However, they never resurrected the place to the esteemed level of their predecessors and after twelve determined years, the aging couple abandoned it in exchange for the conveniences of town life.

In 1766, Mary and William devised the manor to their widow daughter Elizabeth, who later married William Haggett of London. Neither she nor her new husband wished to invest their middle ages surmounting the many challenges needed to reclaim the forest and fields at Crowfield. Consequently, they never relocated to the old plantation nor assigned an overseer to the place, but enjoyed occasional day trips to their creek-side wilderness estate. During their six-year tenure, the old house and guests cottages deteriorated further and the forest encroached until the house was no longer inhabitable.[41]

In 1772, near the end of their tenure, "Sons of Liberty" Samuel Adams and Joseph Warren in Boston formed the first Committees of Correspondence to fuel the rising storm of rebellion against Great Briton. The South Carolina Gazette carried conflicting political editorials and understandably, many curious townsmen gravitated to a stranger who arrived by packet on a southern tour from New England that year.

William Dillwyn, a tourist from Boston disembarked during the autumn of 1772 as the artisans in Charleston were organizing against English taxation. He merely wished to visit the southern city and explore its countryside for rest and amusement, but the leading men of Charleston sought his northern political views and Peter Smith, a well read merchant and owner of Broom Hall Plantation sought his company. Within three days of his arrival, Dillwyn ventured to Goose Creek at the invitation of Smith. He passed the evening at Broomhall enjoying stimulating conversation and the finest wines and brandies. The next morning, he ventured by horseback along the Road to Dorchester in search of mythical Crowfield. There he found that news of his travel proceeded him, when William Haggett appeared near the moon pond and "politely shewed [sic]" Crowfield. Dillwyn penned notes of the visit in his journal:[42]

> Myself with a Negro boy for a guide went to the next plantation at which has been as much money expended in improvements as I believe has been the case anywhere in America tho [sic] now much in decay…The Gardens, Fishponds and walks occupy about 20 acres, which has been well planned.[43]

As the Revolutionary War years approached, William and Elizabeth Haggatt took diminishing interest in Crowfield and after Elizabeth died, the property conveyed through William's second wife to Samuel Carne of London, who did nothing to renovate the place until he sold it to Rawlins Lowndes for £2,000 sterling in 1776.[44]

The 1928 photograph shows some of the stucco masonry that smoothed and protected the interior walls. The image also shows a tall airy window openings designed to capture breezes. The photograph is among the William Henry Johnson Scrapbook collection at the South Carolina Historical Society, Charleston, South Carolina.

Rawlins Lowndes at Large

Under better circumstances, Rawlins Lowndes may have returned the old place to its former glory. He was an accomplished manager, experienced planter and an agricultural innovator, clearly capable of undertaking the huge task necessary to renew a working plantation, but 1776 was a pivotal year and the roils of politics and war consumed most of his energy.

Rawlins Lowndes played a significant role in the history of Carolina prior to and during the Revolutionary War as well as during the early years of statehood. He was a planter at heart and an innovator who appealed to the Legislature for patents for his rice thrashing machine, which he advertised as a horse-powered machine in the South Carolina Gazette.[45] Nonetheless, when the rebellious colony called him to lead, the fifty-five year old Carolinian applied his inventive and planting genius to the affairs of state.

Rawlin Lowndes (1721-1800) and other South Carolina patriots devised a temporary constitution for South Carolina in March of 1776 merely four months before the first British attempt to invade Charleston. Delegates to the convention elected John Rutledge as President of the South Carolina Provincial Government and two years hence, while battles raged, delegates within the parameters of the same constitution, elected Rawlins Lowndes to succeed Rutledge. Subsequently, Lowndes spent most of his energy advancing marshal forces in defense of Carolina and keeping the noose from around his own rebellious neck.

During those troublesome times, Thomas Middleton, son of William returned from England wishing to reclaim the familial lands and gentry. Soon after his return, he married Elizabeth Deas,[46] daughter of John Deas of neighboring Thorogood Plantation and leased Crowfield from Lowndes as a strategic step toward purchasing it. Middleton resided at Crowfield and effected sufficient improvements to make the home tolerable for his new bride. However, the sixty-three year old planter died unexpectedly in 1779, leaving an uncompleted project at a time when the policy-makers in London were considering a southern military campaign to occupy Charleston and its hinterland.

Notwithstanding his dutiful attention to the affairs of South Carolina, Rawlin Lowndes continued to hold the deed to the land and prepared it to receive his family, servants and slaves as the battle boiled in Charleston Harbor. Wisely, when the British occupied the city in 1781, he sent his family to the seclusion and safety of isolated Crowfield with the hope of avoiding the turmoil of partisan warfare, and to wait for peace to return to the denuded countryside.

As was the case with many patriots after the British occupied Charleston, Lowndes acquiesced and negotiated for the safety of his wife and children at Crowfield, within the arch of British control. Even with the promise of British protection, Sarah Lowndes, wife of Rawlins was "often alarmed & sometimes a good deal frightened," by marauding cavalry plundering the estates while husbands and sons were away at war. Her letters tell of frequent perils, and she informed her husband sequestered in Charleston, "There are vast numbers of plunderers up this way,..." Once she bravely told the raiders that they would receive nothing except what she willingly gave, and then she provided breakfast, "plenty of drink" and dismissed them a short time later.[47] Lowndes complained to a British official about the abuses at Crowfield with some success, and after the war, he requested the return of stolen slaves including a favorite mulatto girl, but he never received compensation for his loses.

After the war, the Lowndes family remained mostly in Charleston and later at their plantation in Beaufort, advertising the sale of Crowfield in the South Carolina Gazette soon after the hostilities ended. He described "that elegant most admired seat called Crowfield in the Parish of St. James Goose Creek …" The plantation contained 1,400 acres at that time and the advertisement claimed that the "commodious dwelling house of excellent brick work…wants very little repair." The advertisement also described the extensive gardens and claimed that the fishponds and canals were "superior to anything of the kind in the State and abound with excellent fish." Furthermore, he touted Crowfield as the "most desirable abode where profit and pleasure may be as well combined as at any place in the State at the same distance from Charleston."[48]

The Middletons Return

John Middleton, the youngest son of the former owner, purchased the estate, but when he died shortly after in 1784,[49] the property devised to his only child, John Middleton III. This Middleton probably resided from time to time in Goose Creek but did not regularly use the old house and after his tenure, the manor remained unoccupied throughout the nineteenth century.[50]

The successful rebellion against England increased competition in the world market places, and the loss of royal subsidies dulled American competitiveness, until all but the most diversified and efficient plantations were self-sustaining. Such was the case at Crowfield when the fortunes of many along with the luxury of countryseats vanished during troubled economies of the 19th century. Lewis Breaker, proprietor of the Eighteen-Mile House Tavern and his blacksmith brother, Jacob successfully reared large families at the old crossroads, but no longer enjoyed the robust business of pre-war decades.[51] Families who once frequented their store and inn seldom ventured from Charleston and fewer travelers used the derelict byways through the increasingly denuded lands. When Crowfield devised in 1826 to Henry A. Middleton, the new owner seldom visited, never occupied or leased the main dwelling, nor did he use the new State Road from Goose Creek to Columbia. Additionally, he expressed no interest in the rail stops that offered salvation to many isolated corners of the old parish. By mid century, rail depots provided logistical support for struggling plantations and farms close enough to benefit from the convenience. However, two miles of bad road separated Crowfield from the station in Ladson and the same distance east to the Mount Holly Depot.

Consequently, Middleton's Crowfield benefited from neither, and when a rebellious banner announcing separation of the Union went up near the front porch of the Eighteenth-Mile House on a chilled morning in 1861, it just as well signaled the demise of the old stopping place and the "capital mansion," nearby.

Almost all able-bodied white males in Goose Creek rushed to volunteer against the "northern fanatics," in 1861 and Carlston-William Vose, Captain of the Goose Creek Company attached to the 18th Regiment was no exception. He was the proprietor of the Eighteen-Mile House, and eager to enlist, but when his advanced age disqualified him, he joined the home guard for the duration of the conflict reporting to Captain Peter Porcher of nearby Otranto Plantation.[52] His son, John George Vose joined the Confederate Army, participated in numerous engagements, and vividly remembered the excitement after the proclamation of secession:

> I got up about 9 o'clock at night and found the whole family making a flag of a Palmetto tree and the words "Southern Republic" sewed on under the tree. You see, the state had just seceded! The flag was hung across the road in front of Pa's store the next morning and I expect it was one of the first flags of the Confederate States.[53]

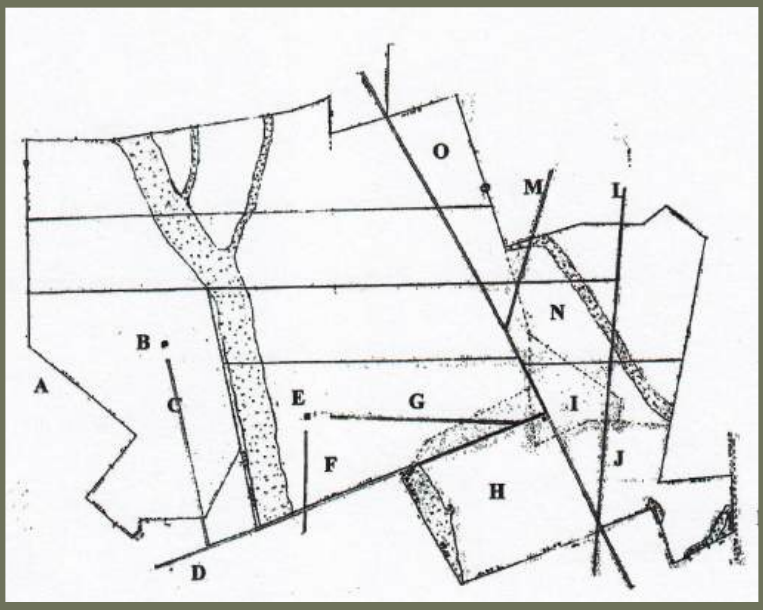
In late February, four years later, flanking units of Union General William Tecumseh Sherman's army disembarked at Porcher's Station at Otranto, marched across the Goose Creek Bridge and advanced to the intersection near the old stone. The young black infantrymen in navy blue uniforms found the Eighteen-Mile House Tavern ransacked and deserted, and the Crowfield lands nearby occupied by barefooted, chilled and hungry, but exhilarated and instantly liberated African Americans.

Descendents of Henry Middleton kept Crowfield during the bitter years of reconstruction and the waning years of the 19th century when Thomas Middleton consolidated several smaller but contiguous tracts. He rented small parcels to dozens of farmers in sections he called "Crowfield," "Bloomfield," "Magnolia," "18 Mile," and "19 Mile," eking out a few dollars of rent a year from each. Henry A. Middleton continued the practice into the twentieth century as the Road to Dorchester became impassable during most seasons. Scavengers stole boards, bricks, posts and pillars from the derelict tavern and the nearby estates to build tiny cabins with crooked brick footings and chimneys.[54] Langdon Cheves[55] acquired the property and rented parcels to farmers such as Jon Jenkins, John Knight, Morris Boden and dozens more from the closing decades of the nineteenth century. He charged one to two dollars an acre to plant the land and relied upon J.P. Clarke to manage the properties and collect rents.[56] He and his colleague, Judge Henry A.M. Smith visited Crowfield from time to time to assess their investment and reacquaint with farmers. One observer wrote that Crowfield was, "the most haunting spot in the low country" and in 1882, Judge Smith found that someone dug away the lower dike and drained the rectangular ponds to "get at the fish." Nonetheless, the walls of the "Capital Brick Mansion" stood intact to the eaves of the old roof. The roof, floors and all the staircases were gone, but the thick walls were solid and the outlines of the old lawns and gardens remained with the mounds, earthwork, pond and grotto discernable.[57] Judge Smith believed that an industrious owner could rebuild the house and return the land to its earlier splendor.[58] Sadly, four years after the optimistic assessment, a devastating earthquake tumbled the walls to the ground in heaps and dashed any reasonable hopes of resurrection.[59]

A section of the Abernathy and Walker map published in 1794 shows the busy intersection near the Eighteen-mile stone. The Road to Wassamassaw, and the Road to Moncks Corner intersect near the Nineteen-mile stone. The map describes the Avenue to Button Hall Plantation (W.Smith Esq.), the Avenue to Broomhall Plantation (W.P. Smith Esq.), the Road to Dorchester, Knight's Tavern and the Eighteen-mile stone.

The New Century

The West Virginia Pulp and Paper Company purchased Crowfield for the valuable stand of pine trees during the early twentieth century to harvest wood products for lumber and chips for nearby paper mills. Twentieth century silva culture severely modified the land when plowmen prepared fields for pine seedlings and inadvertently disturbed the ruins. Also workers ringed and girdled most of the giant oaks near the home and along the avenue to kill the grand trees and reduce competition for sun and moisture. When housing demands increased after mid century, the value of the pine forests surged until the West Virginia Development Company, a subsidiary of the lumber and pulp division subdivided the woodlands for residential, commercial and industrial uses.



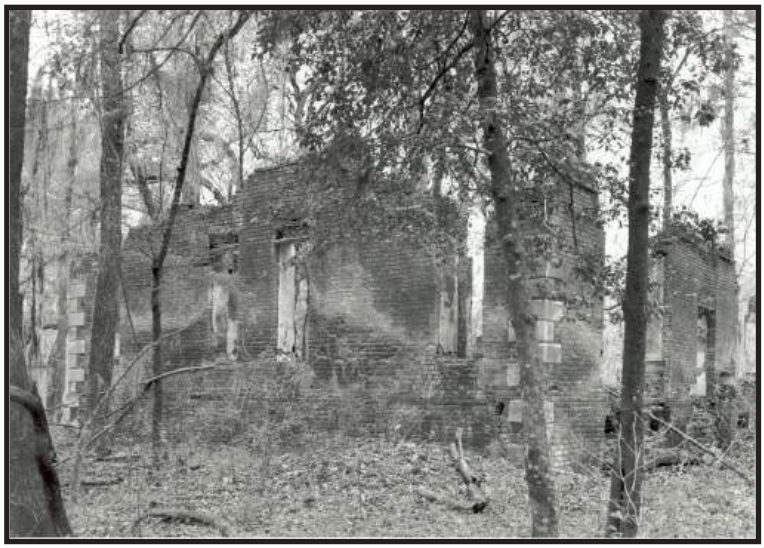
The plat describes Crowfield and other plantations owned by Henry A. Middleton in 1872 containing 3971 acres. The manuscript letters indicate: A-Land owned by William Ancrum. The site of the Abraham Fluery main house / B- The site of the Crowfield main house. / C- The main avenue connecting the Crowfield main house and messuage to the Road to Dorchester. / D- The Road to Dorchester originated at the 18-Mile Stone and connecting to the Ashley River. / E. The Bloomfield main house. / F- The avenue to the Bloomfield settlement and connecting to the Road to Dorchester. / G – Bloomfield Avenue connecting to the Road to Dorchester at the 18-Mile House. / H – Northern section of the Oaks Plantation. / I- The Eighteen-Mile House Plantation. This section contains the 18-Mile House Tavern at the intersection of the Road to Dorchester and the Road to Charleston. / J – Seventeen-Mile House Plantation. / K – Back River Upper Road. / L - North Eastern Railroad. / M – Road to Moncks Corner. / N. Nineteen-Mile House Plantation. / O – State Road. / P. Magnetic North. The original plat is recoded April 23, 1873 in the Mesne Conveyance Office of the Charleston County Office Building, Book B, p. 40.

The photographs show the State Road (St. James Avenue) at the intersection with the Road to Dorchester (parallel to Westview Boulevard). William Henry Johnson took the photographs in 1928. The obscured and overgrown intersection was the most convenient access to Bloomfield, Crowfield and De La Plaine's Plantations.

The photograph below shows State Road continuing west past its intersection with the Road to Dorchester. Today Westview Boulevard intersects St. James Avenue here. These photographs are in volume I of the William Henry Johnson Scrapbook among the collections of the South Carolina Historical Society, Charleston, South Carolina.

My Capital Mansion...

The wilderness woodland that became Crowfield emerged during the dangerous Carolina frontier on the backs of European immigrants, and native and African slaves, and ascended from a simple family settlement to colonial splendor during the heady decades of rice production and opulence. After its brief glory, the ancient place declined in tandem with the troubled lowcountry economy and did not resurrect until late in the twentieth century. Today, some artificial ponds remain and others filled with centuries of silt. Land developers dredged the upper lake to accommodate modern housing and recreation, and the lower rice fields reverted to natural wetland. The ruins of the main house are marked and protected in a small park owned by the Crowfield Homeowners Association, but the old alee that tied the main house to the Road to Dorchester, a mile south of the moon pond, is no longer discernable, save a few grand oaks gracing a section of the Crowfield Golf and Country Club. Nonetheless, across more than three centuries, every generation of Carolinians and visitors alike tell the Crowfield story and preserve its legacy of grandeur that once graced a small corner of Carolina.



This image shows the ruins of at Crowfield in 1940. The Library of Congress provided the image. It is one of the Historic American Buildings Survey, Library of Congress, Prints and Photograph Division, Washington, D.C. 20540 USA, Historic American Buildings Survey Photographers C. O. Greene and F. D. Nichols 1940.

The image above shows the ruins at Crowfield in 2006. The photograph is among the collections of the author.

Notes

[1] St. Julien Ravenel, Charleston: The Place and the People, The Macmillan Co., New York, 1929, p.125.

[2] Goose Creek Traders purchased imported items to exchange for deerskins and peltries from the hides of bear, beaver, cat, elk, fox, martin, mink, raccoon, wolf and other.

[3] James Moore later reduced his Boochawee Plantation to 1,000 acres with a two-story "country seat."

[4] Foster Creek is a minor tributary to Back River.

[5] The Lord Proprietors granted the last tracks of land on Goose Creek in 1701. The land granted to James Child in 1701 became Windsor Hill Plantation and the land granted to John Berringer the same year became Crowfield Plantation,

[6] South Carolina Deed Abstracts 1783-1788 Books I-5 through Z-5, by Brent Holcomb, 1996 p 31 K-5,390-397: Lease and release "15 and 16 March 1784, Rawlins Lowndes of S.C. and Sarah his wife to John Middleton, late of London but now of Charleston ... land formerly of the devisees of Andrew Allen deceased, Benjamin Marion, Benjamin De La Plain deceased... part of a tract of 1800 acres originally granted by the Lords Proprietors 17 May 1701 to John Berringer."

[7] Agnes Leland Baldwin, First Settlers of South Carolina 1670-1700, Easley, South Carolina, Southern Historical Press, 1985, p. 268.

[8] The Goose Creek neighborhood included lands bordering the stream and headwaters of Goose Creek, Foster Creek and Back River.

[9] Richard Traunter, Travels of Richard Traunter of the Main Continent of America from Appomattox River in Virginia to Charles Town in South Carolina, Two Journals 1698, 1699. Typeset pages among the collections of Alexander Moore, University of South Carolina Press, Columbia, South Carolina, p. 4.

[10] Susan Baldwin Bates and Harriot Cheves Leland, Proprietary Records of South Carolina, Volume 3, 1678-1698, The History Press, Charleston, South Carolina 2006, p. 138. The proprietary grant is dated 17 May 1701 to John Berringer, but he lived and worked upon the land for two years before the formal grant issued.

[11] "Fraser Family," SCHM, 5:56

[12] HAM Smith, Goose Creek, SCHM, Jan. 1928, 29:277, John Wright was one of the emissaries murdered at Pocataligo in 1715 at the start of the Yemassee War.

[13] Thomas Rose had the dubious distinction as the only man to survive a scalping.

[14] B.R. Carroll, Historical Collections of South Carolina, (New York: Harper & Brothers, 1836), v. II, 199.

[15] Abraham Fleury Sieur De La Plaine was Berringer's neighbor to the east. De La Plaine was a French Huguenot herdsman who did not engage in native trade nor participate with the Goose Creek Men political party.

[16] Oatis, p. 35. Lord Proprietors to Joseph West March 13, 1684/1685 in SC Records 2:33 and Daniel Defoe, "Party Tyranny." In "Narratives of Early Carolina 1650-1708, Edited by Alexander Salley Jr. pp. 219-264, New York, Charles Scribner's Sons, 1911.

[17] SCHGM, vol. XV, p. 64. John Berringer perished in April 1703.

[18] James Moore Senior died in 1705 and Margaret relocated to Wassamassaw.

[19] Canals were common in Goose Creek rice fields where shallow bottom barges and sleds transported sheaves across wet fields to drying barns. Alexander Mazyck, owner of Springfield Plantation, east of Crowfield, directed his slaves to dig a two-mile canal from his rice fields to Foster Creek.

[20] A roof constructed of slate shingles shields the sanctuary today and retards the spread of fire. The original roof consisted of shaved and split cypress thatching.

[21] Thomas Broughton briefly occupied Broomhall Plantation contiguous to John Gibbes', before relocating to the Cooper River. John Gibbes and Ann Broughton probably met as neighbors.

[22] Klingberg, 159. Francis LeJau wrote on May 21 that Barker departed on May 15, and did not know of Herne's fate at the time of his departure. See Klingberg, 159. Also see Crane, 172, and Eliades, 105. The colonial policy was "playing one Indian tribe off against another…"

[23] Langley, Lease and Release Book E, pp. 277-80. MCO Charleston, Bk. E, p. 280.

[24] MCO, Charleston, Book L, p. 260 and Book E, p. 280. John Gibbes conveyed 132 acres to Peter Bacot and 230 acres to Benjamin Marion on April 5, 1720.

[25] MCO, Book E, p. 280 and Memo Book vol. 7, p. 98 and Vol. 1, p. 275.

[26] William was the older brother of Henry Middleton of Middleton Place on the Ashley River.

[27] The Goose Creek Bridge, two miles south of the Eighteen-Mile-House-Tavern was the only bridge crossing between the eastern half of South Carolina and Charleston. Thus, the crossing concerted the greatest number of land travelers. The intersection at the stone, two miles north of the bridge was the busiest intersection.

[28] St. Julien Ravenel, Charleston: The Place and the People, Macmillan Co., New York, 1929, p. 393.

[29] Arthur Henry Hirsch, The Huguenots of Colonial South Carolina (London: Archon Books, 1962), p. 212.

[30] Charleston County RMC Book M-5, pp. 330, 331. The Button Hall overseer usually lived in the cottage, but Samuel Knight rented the abode for a time.

[31] Contemporary testimony purports that the main house stood two-stories upon an elevated basement. However, documentary and archaeological evidence indicates that the structure stood as a single story upon a raised basement.

[32] Similar stucco application created the appearance of stacked stone blocks framing the edges of the St. James, Goose Creek Church.

[33] "Drayton Hall Painting, A Little Less Mysterious," in The Post and Courier, Newspaper, September 7, 2009, Charleston, South Carolina. A painting depicts Drayton Hall on the Ashley River with a screening wall connecting the main house with two flanking structures similar to the Crowfield layout.

[34] Michael Trinkley, Ph.D., Management Summary of Archaeological Data Recovery at a Portion of Crowfield Plantation (38BK103) and its Slave Settlement (38BK1011), Berkeley County, South Carolina, Chicora Foundation Inc. Research Contribution 205, 1996, Columbia, South Carolina.

[35] Elise Pinckney, Editor, The Letterbook of Eliza Lucas Pinckney 1732-1762, University of South Carolina Press, 1972, p. 61, and Henriette Kershaw Leiding, Historic Houses of South Carolina, Philadelphia: J.B. Lippencott, 1921, pp. 24, 25.

[36] Pinckney, p. 12.

[37] The South Carolina Gazette, 9-23-1783. William Middleton reported that the structure contained "twelve good rooms…" His count probably included rooms in the two flanking structures, thus including four rooms in each of the three structures.

[38] Elise Pinckney, Editor, The Letterbook of Eliza Lucas Pinckney 1732-1762, University of South Carolina Press, 1972, p. 61, and Henriette Kershaw Leiding, Historic Houses of South Carolina, Philadelphia: J.B. Lippencott, 1921, pp. 24, 25.

[39] South Carolina Gazette, June 3, 1753 reported "… 17 northern natives were seen on Mr. Middleton's place on Goose Creek."

[40] The South Carolina Gazette, August 1753 and January 1754.

[41] SCHGM V.29: p. 269.

[42] Ibid.

[43] SCHGM V.36: p.109 and Henry Ravenel Dwight, Some Historic Spots in Berkeley, (Pinopolis, South Carolina: Women's Auxiliary of Trinity Church, 1921); reprinted 1944, pp. 23, 24.

[44] RMC Office, Charleston County Office Building, Charleston, South Carolina., Deed Book E5: pp. 197-200.

[45] Memorial, S165015 Year 1788 Item 29, South Carolina Department of Archives and History.

[46] Thomas Middleton married Elizabeth Deas on December 22, 1778.

[47] Carl J. Vipperman, The Rise of Rawlins Lowndes (University of South Carolina Press, Columbia, South Carolina, 1976) p. 226.

[48] SCHGM V.29: p. 271.

[49] John Middleton married Francis Motte in July 1783 and died in November of the following year.

[50] This road fell into disrepair during the 19th century and today is no longer discernable. It connected the Road to Charleston at the 18 Mile House to Ladson by way of a bridge over Huck Hole Swamp and another across Ancrum Creek.

[51] Richard.Hrabowski, Directory for the District of Charleston, Comprising the Places of Residence and Occupation of the White Inhabitants of the Following Parishes towit[sic],…St. James (Goose Creek, Printed by John Hobb, no.6. Broad Street, Charleston, South Carolina, 1809, among the collections of the South Carolina Historical Society, Charleston, South Carolina.

[52] Dordal Family Papers. The papers are in the possession of the Dordal Family, Goose Creek, South Carolina.

[53] Dordal Papers.

[54] Michael Trinkey, Ph. D. Landscape and Garden Archaeology at Crowfield Plantation: a Preliminary Examination (Columbia, South Carolina: Chicora Foundation 1992), p. 49.

[55] Langdon Cheves was a lawyer on Broad Street in Charleston who owned and managed thousands of acres in Goose Creek in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. See the Fourteenth Census of the United States, Charleston, South Carolina.

[56] Langdon Cheves, Statement of Rents of Middleton Lands (1887-1898), List of Tenants, letter from J.P. Clarke to Langdon Cheves, April 10, 1904, Statement of Rents collected by J.P. Clarke for the year 1903-1904, etc. in the Cheves Papers among the collection of the South Carolina Historical Society, Charleston, South Carolina.

[57] SCHGM V.29: p. 266.

[58] Henry A.M. Smith, HAM Smith papers, 12/182/9 among the collections of the South Carolina Historical Society and SCHGM V.29: p. 266. HAM Smith recorded, "There are signs of a garden still, a fine brick spring, magnolia walks, dead cedars and other garden things."

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South Carolina Social Studies Standards

Grade 8
South Carolina: One of the United States
Standard 8-1: The student will demonstrate an understanding of the settlement of South Carolina and the United States by Native Americans, Europeans, and Africans.

Indicators

8-1.1 Summarize the culture, political systems, and daily life of the Native Americans of the Eastern Woodlands, including their methods of hunting and farming, their use of natural resources and geographic features, and their relationships with other nations. (H, G, P)

8-1.2 Categorize events according to the ways they improved or worsened relations between Native Americans and European set tlers, including alliances and land agreements between the English and the Catawba, Cherokee, and Yemassee; deerskin trading; the Yemassee War; and the Cherokee War. (H, P, E)

8-1.3 Summarize the history of European settlement in Carolina from the first attempts to settle at San Miguel de Gualdape, Charlesfort, San Felipe, and Albemarle Point to the time of South Carolina's establishment as an economically important British colony, including the diverse origins of the settlers, the early government, the importance of the plantation system and slavery, and the impact of the natural environment on the development of the colony. (H, G, P, E)

8-1.4 Explain the growth of the African American population during the colonial period and the significance of African Americans in the developing culture (e.g., Gullah) and economy of South Carolina, including the origins of African American slaves, the growth of the slave trade, the impact of population imbalance between African and European Americans, and the Stono Rebellion and subsequent laws to control the slave population. (H, G, P, E)

8-1.5 Summarize the significant changes to South Carolina's government during the colonial period, including the proprietary regime and the period of royal government, and the significance of the Regulator movement. (G, P)

8-1.6 Explain how South Carolinians used natural, human, and political resources to gain economic prosperity, including trade with Barbados, rice planting, Eliza Lucas Pinckney and indigo planting, the slave trade, and the practice of mercantilism. (H, G, E)

Author
Michael J. Heitzler

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