

Medway



The peace of Medway permeates my soul!

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

MEDWAY

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ABOUT THE COVER

The Medway Manor is one of the oldest structures in South Carolina. Overlooking the headwaters of Back River in Berkeley County, South Carolina, it presents a striking reminder of the tenacity of the families who settled in the Carolina frontier. Gertrude Legendre, twentieth century owner of Medway Plantation, declared, "The peace of Medway permeates my soul." Author, Michael J. Heitzler took the cover photograph of the Medway House on April 8, 2005.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Michael James Heitzler earned a Doctor of Education Degree from the University of South Carolina. He is a Fulbright Scholar and a retired school administrator of the Berkeley School District, South Carolina. He served as Mayor of the City of Goose Creek, Berkeley County, South Carolina from 1978 to 2018. He is the author of *Historic Goose Creek, South Carolina, 1670-1980*, published in 1983 by Southern Historical Press, Easley, South Carolina. He also wrote *Goose Creek, a Definitive History*, volume I published in 2005, and volume II published in 2006, by the History Press, Charleston, South Carolina. More recently, he penned *The Goose Creek Bridge, Gateway to Sacred Places*, published by Author House in 2013 and *The Chicken Trilogy*, published by Author House in 2017. The Berkeley County Chamber of Commerce published his work, *George Chicken, Carolina Man of the Ages* in 2011. Additionally, the City of Goose Creek, the South Carolina Historical Society, and the Berkeley County Department of Tourism, publish a growing number of his booklets featuring the St. James, Goose Creek Parish, in Berkeley and Charleston Counties.

FOREWORD

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

The people of Berkeley County miss opportunities to tell their story to residents and visitors. Thus, they should develop strategies that take advantage of this untapped resource. Strategies could include the establishment of an historic commission composed of interested citizens to continue the research. The commission could oversee the maintenance of a website dedicated to history and other media releases, recalling significant local events and contributions. The commission could design and erect historic markers identifying historically significant parts of South Carolina and the Nation. Such strategies could result in a cost-effective basis for improved public relations that emphasize conservation and protection of historic treasures. Also, initiatives to share and explain the community's long and rich heritage could be a way of finding a marketable brand, such as *Berkeley County, Cradle of the Deep South*.

This exploration of Medway Plantation is one of many initiatives to help understand, appreciate, and benefit from the community's compelling past. Hopefully, this rendering will make Berkeley County more complete by keeping the residents and visitors better informed and by inspiring those who build and protect this place today and tomorrow. But mostly, this work is a labor of love.

¹ *Discussing the archaeologist's role in public interpretation...*Michael Trinkley & Chicora Foundation, 1992 p. 55.

OVERVIEW

Governor Thomas Smith was likely the one who named the ancient plantation. He grew up in the Exeter Township on the Medway River in Devon, England. After this valuable plantation in Carolina passed through a series of distinguished owners, Sidney and Gertrude Legendre purchased the ancient Medway Estate in the twentieth century. Sidney was buried at the estate after his premature death in 1948, but his wife, Gertrude, “Gertie,” established the Medway Environmental Trust to manage the lands as a nature preserve. Today, the ancient plantation is privately owned, closed to the public, and home to many rare mammals and birds within conservation easements that prohibit commercial development.



The setting sun graces the western face of the remarkable Medway mansion(above). The author took this photograph in the summer of 1998.

MEDWAY PLANTATION

The peace of Medway permeates my soul!

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Pioneers from Africa and Europe dropped anchor off the Carolina coast in 1670. Their crowded vessel with immigrants, slaves, and crewmen hailed from England by way of Barbados, an island in the Caribbean. The seafarers on that first ship, as well as immigrants arriving in subsequent months and years, pushed inland from the briny soils of the Charles Towne [Charleston] Peninsula in pursuit of fresh water and arable land spanning, “A Broad, Stately Creeke [sic]....”³ Subsequent arrivals named that waterway “Goose Creek” and sought grants for land aside its winding shores. Subsequent arrivals trekked further inland from the Goose Creek waterway in pursuit of planting grounds that “lay near the head of a branch of a creek ... Oola Col [Back River].”⁴ There,

on the fresh headwaters of Back River, more than twenty miles inland from Charles Town, resolute frontier families sought opportunities to own expansive property such as Medway, which was unthinkable in their native lands.

Medway’s early history records show a complex series of land transactions, until near the end of the seventeenth century when that sprawling plantation consisted of three parcels totaling 2,550 acres. Sometime near 1687, the earliest Medway landowner, Signeur D’Arssens arrived in South Carolina. He was probably related to Franciscus Van Arssens who was born at The Hague and who negotiated the marriage of Prince of Orange and Mary, daughter of Charles I of England.⁵ The Lord Proprietors of England informed the South Carolina Governor that:

Mr. John D’Arssens seigneur of Wernhaut, being a Person of Quality and the First of his Nation that hath undertaken to Plant in our Province of Carolina...⁶

2 Author interview with Gertrude Legendre, owner of Medway Plantation, at the Medway Plantation Hunting Lodge, 3-12-1996. Gertrude Legendre relayed to author Michael Heitzler, “The peace of Medway permeates my soul.”

3 John Culpeper, *Draught of Ashley River*, 1671, notes “A Broad Stately Creeke [sic] [Goose Creek] that Runs many miles into the Country.” Among the collections of the South Carolina Historical Society (SCHS), Vol. 5. Charleston, South Carolina.

4 Henry A.M. Smith, Smith Papers, Number 1102, p. 379, among the collections of the South Carolina Historical Society (SCHS). It is generally assumed that “Oola Col” is the Native American name for Back River.

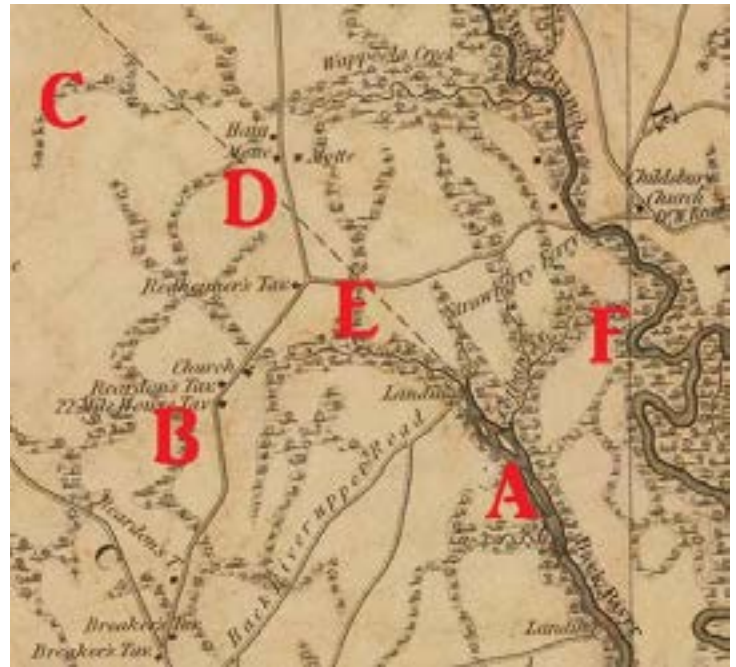
5 South Carolina History and Genealogical Magazine (SCHGM), V. 33: pp. 245.

6 SCHGM V. 33: p. 246.



This detail of the map (left) of “Charleston District, South Carolina, surveyed by Charles Vignoles and Henry Ravenel, 1820,” indicates the location of significant waterways in the Medway Plantation vicinity. Alpha letters added for this publication identify: A-The Charleston Peninsula bounded by the Ashley and Cooper Rivers, B-Cooper River, C-Back River, D- Headwaters of Back River. Medway Plantation is located aside Back River.

This detail of the map (right) of “Charleston District, South Carolina, surveyed by Charles Vignoles and Henry Ravenel, 1820,” indicates selected locations aside the headwaters of Back River in the vicinity of the Medway Plantation. Alpha letters added to this publication identify: A-Medway Plantation, B-Road to Moncks Corner, C-James Beard’s Plantation, D-Fox Bank Plantation, E- Spring Grove Plantation, F-Cooper River.





Back River (above) flowed into the Cooper River at the terminus of the Cote Bas Peninsula until 1965, when the State of South Carolina erected a road/dam to connect the Cote Bas Peninsula to the mainland and to prevent the saline

waters of the Cooper River from mixing with the fresh Back River current. The above photograph taken by the author in September, 2024 shows Back River at the Bushy Park Boat Landing flowing aside the Cote Bas Peninsula.



This photograph (right) taken by the author September 9, 2024 shows Back River at the Medway Creek outfall. The freshwater river was navigable to the Cooper River before the road/dam was erected in 1965.



A detail of the John Palmer Gaillard Map shows the outlines of significant properties in the Saint James, Goose Creek Parish section of Berkeley County. Medway Plantation is noted with a red star aside Back River for this publication. The waters of Foster Creek and Back River are indicated as flooded by the road/dam shown at the lower right margin of the map.

This photograph (right) taken by the author in the summer of 2013 shows one of many flow-ways that comprise the headwaters of Back River. Innumerable creeks flow to Medway and beyond.

Laborers manually deepened and shaped selected Back River creeks (below) to accommodate flat bottom boats that carried plantation products to Medway Plantation aside navigable Back River and beyond to Charleston.



Van Arssens resided in the colony for merely two years before he died, requiring his widow, Sabina De Vignou, to appeal to Governor Colleton for administration of his vast three-parcel estate. The first relatively small tract was a 400-acre parcel granted to Thomas Smith upon which the present Medway house is standing.⁷ The second tract was part of the 12,000 acres originally granted to Van Arssens. In 1689, Smith petitioned the Proprietors for permission to adjust the Van Arssens claim to 12,000 acres. The Proprietors acknowledged Van Arssens' original right to the 12,000-acre grant and transferred those rights to Thomas Smith in 1693.⁸ The third tract was 50 acres of unclear origin, situated on the dividing line between the two larger parcels.⁹ This 50-acre grant was awarded, and a 350-acre award replaced the 400-acre grant in 1694.¹⁰

Sabina Smith died in 1689 and was buried near the Medway house in the presence of several Goose Creek "gentlemen."¹¹ After her death, Thomas Smith was the sole owner of the large estate with a handsome house and outbuildings. He was appointed governor of southern (South) Carolina in 1693 and served with distinction.

However, during Thomas Smith's term he was faced with controversies regarding the tenure of selected lands, payment of quit rents, naturalization of French Huguenots and other disturbing issues with the Proprietors. Nonetheless, he appears to have aptly overcome the troubling conflicts but died young at the age of 46. His children buried him at Medway beside his wife, Sabina. She received no grave marker, likely because gravestones were imported at great expense, and she had no children to make that personal investment on her behalf. Governor Archdale described Thomas Smith as "a wise sober and moderate well-living man" and the Proprietors, writing to Governor Archdale in 1695, stated:

He [Smith] appears to us to have been a man not only of great parts, integrity, and honesty but of a generous temper and a nobleness of spirit as to the public good as is scarcely to be met withal in this age.¹²

12 SCHGM V.13: p. 16.

7 S.C. Archives Abstract Series S213019 V.38: p. 247 Item 2.

8 S.C. Archives Series S213019 V.38: p. 76 Item 1.

9 S.C. Archives Series S213019 V.38: p. 253 Item 1.

10 S.C. Archives S213019 V.38: p. 91 Item 1.

11 L.A. Poyas, *The Olden Times of South Carolina*, Charleston, South Carolina, Courtney and Company, 1855. p. 3.

HOME OF THE BRAVE

In his will, Thomas Smith devised his Charleston house and medical instruments for his son, George. He transferred his landgrave patent to his friend, Joseph Blake, and the rest of his extensive, valuable estate, including Medway to his son, Thomas. In 1702, Thomas Smith II recovered his father's patent from Joseph Blake and graciously established himself as Landgrave.

He, the second Landgrave Smith, was a planter and large-scale native trader whose agents trekked throughout North and South Carolina. He served several terms in the Commons House of Assembly and held local commissions. The younger Landgrave Smith, unlike his father, was a fighter and not a negotiator, and after instigating riots to usurp the governorship, he was forcibly removed from his seat on the Royal Council and forced to reluctantly retire to his home.

Thomas Smith sold his Medway house with its contiguous three parcels of land to Edward Hyrne for £800. Edward Hyrne was a merchant from Norfolk, England who came to Carolina in 1700. His young wife, Elizabeth Massingbred joined him the following year. Hyrne's finances, as well as some questions of character, figured into his emigration. He was accused of misappropriating more than £1,300 sterling, while he served as a port collector in England. Nevertheless, Thomas Smith granted him credit to purchase Medway.

Edward Hyrne described his "brave plantation," in a letter he wrote to his brother-in-law. He briefly described his home:

2,550 Acres of land, whereof 200 clear'd & most fenc'd in, tho wants repairing; 150 Head of Cattle, 4 Horses, a native Slave almost a Man, a few Hogs, some House hold stuff, & the best Brick-House in all the Country; built about 9 years ago, & cost £700, 80 Foot long, 26 broad, cellar'd throughout.¹³

Sadly, soon after writing the optimistic letter, Edward Hyrne and his bride suffered a series of extreme misfortunes. Their small child died of injuries, they lost their leading slave to a rattlesnake bite, and their home burned to the ground. Elizabeth Hyrne described the fire by letter:

we was burn[ed]... out of all, our house taking fire I know not how in the night and burned so fiercely that we had much to do to save the life of poor burry [Burrell, their son] and two beds just to lye (sic) on which was the chief of way we saved we also had all our rice and corn and all sorts or our provisions burned. Close [sic] and everything nothing escaped the fire so that if it had not bin [sic] for some good people we must have perished.¹⁴

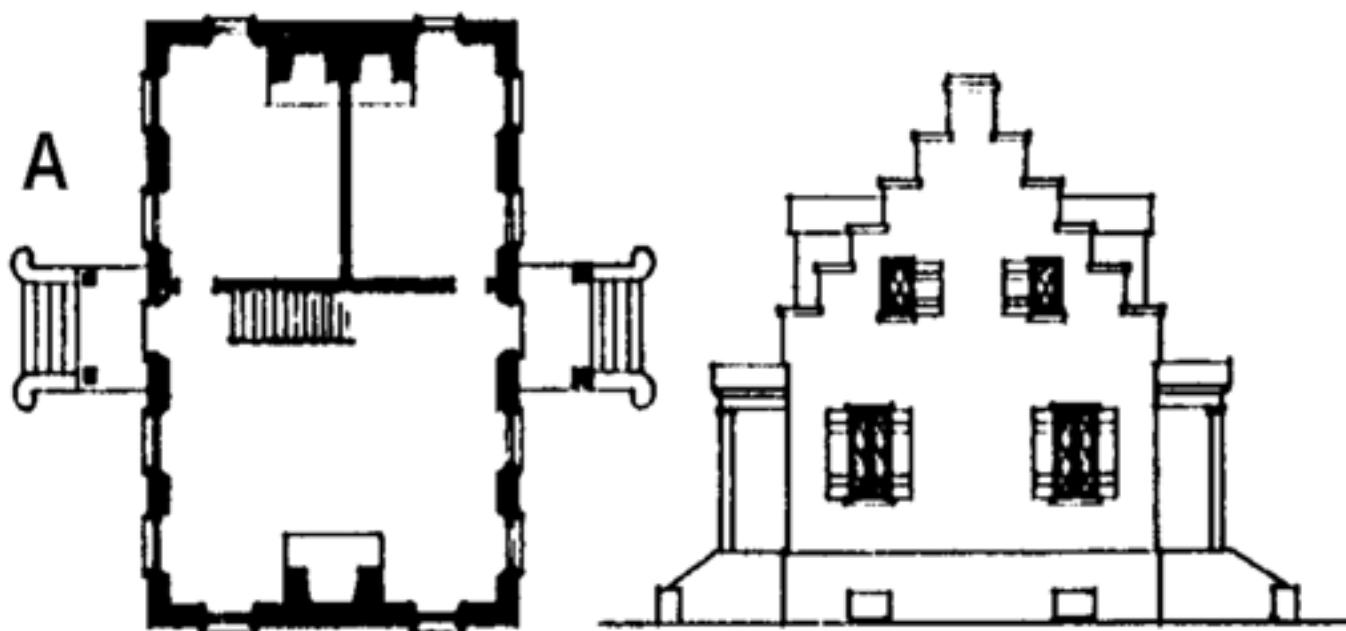
13 Virginia Christian Beach, *Medway*, (Wyrick and Company), Charleston, South Carolina, 1996), p.10.

14 Virginia Christian Beach, *Medway*, (Wyrick and Company), Charleston, South Carolina, 1996, p.13.

Undaunted, the Hyrnes rebuilt a smaller version of the original structure on the same site, but bad luck persisted and culminated in the loss ownership of Medway due to their failure to pay the mortgage.

The "A" (below) identifies the front door where the Hyrne seals were found.

Remarkably, the Hyrnes left an indelible mark on their home when they imprinted their family seal on the wet clay bricks used in the front doorway of the smaller abode they erected after the fire. The impressed bricks were not discovered until 1984, when a misaligned door required renovation. The repair work exposed the hidden bricks with the indented seal that the Hyrne family imprinted in the clay-block doorway hundreds of years before.



THE ANCIENT RETREAT

The Medway plantation house was altered several times. The original structure was built of handmade bricks and styled by Van Arssens as a typical one-story stucco Dutch house. The second home was a smaller replica of the first with evidence that the Hyrnes built onto the surviving floor joists and foundation of the original burned home.

After the death of Landgrave Smith, the house and plantation employed many owners including James Hasell,¹⁵ James Wathen, Thomas Wright,¹⁶ Aaron Loocock, and Thomas Drayton. Thomas Drayton sold it to John Bee Holmes who owned Medway for more than 20 years.¹⁷

15 S.C. Archives, Memorial S111001, V. 5: p. 217.

16 S.C. Archives Memorial, S111001, V.14: p. 230, Item 1.

17 .C. Archives Plat Series L10005, Reel 8, Plat 4260. A 1775 plat made by Joseph Purcell lists the owner. His name appears as owner of Medway in 1792 and 1796. These plats may be the only surviving drawings of the property lines prior to the twentieth century.

John Bee Holmes probably managed the estate as an absentee landowner because he is listed as a resident of St. Michaels/St. Phillips Parish on the 1790 census. He lost the estate due to his failure to pay the taxes and Theodore Samuel Marion, son of Job Marion and the nephew of General Francis Marion purchased it in 1797.¹⁸ Theodore Marion died in 1827 leaving the land to his grandson, Theodore Samuel Dubose who married Jane Porcher. She planted large oaks and other ornamental trees in a careful pattern near the house. During that period, a second story to the house was added that retained the stepped gable style.

18 John Beaufain Irving, *A Day on Cooper River*, (A.E. Miller, Charleston, South Carolina, 1869), p. 68.



The first trees that Jane Porcher planted (above) persistently expanded until a shady curvature drive emerged to greet all to the elaborate estate. The long main avenue divides into a circular drive before reaching the abode. Sculptured stone lions guard the passage. The author took this photograph in May 2010.

THE STONEYS COME HOME

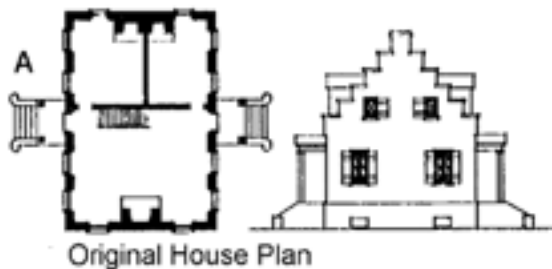
Peter Gaillard Stoney and his wife, Anna Maria Porcher, bought Medway in 1833. They added an unsymmetrical wing in 1855 but blended the new with the older Dutch architectural style. Additional rooms were added before 1875.¹⁹

Medway was a versatile and profitable plantation that endured longer than most. At first, the occupants produced timber products and livestock but transitioned to rice production as it became an increasingly lucrative export. That profitable commodity remains evidenced today by the ruins of a nearby rice mill, as well as numerous and voluminous rice storage and drying

barns. Rice drains and dikes at Medway are visible on a survey made in 1796 of White Hall Plantation, the neighbor on its north boundary. The survey also shows dammed water reserves that remain evident today. The deep water at Medway made water transport possible, so when rice production no longer brought sufficient returns, clay deposits aside Back River were extracted for profitable brick manufacture. Brick was produced on Medway from an early date, but Peter Gaillard Stoney is credited with greatly improving the quality. The “Carolina Gray” brick produced at Medway was used widely including within the walls of sturdy Fort Sumter.²⁰

¹⁹ Records do not indicate when the last section of the house was completed. Thus, there is debate on the distinction of “oldest house in Carolina.”

²⁰ John D. Irving, MD. *A Day on Cooper River*, Reprinted by The Lord Berkeley Conservation Trust, R.L. Bryan Company, 2007, p. 68.



The images (left and below) show the elevations of the Medway house. Albert Simmons measured the floor plans and elevations and Frank E. Seef created the drawing. The sketch describes Medway House from various perspectives. The labeled sections identify: “A” Original front door location. “B” Addition built in 1855 by Peter Gaillard Stoney. “C” Addition added prior to 1875 by an unknown builder. The drawing is courtesy of the South Carolina Arts Association.





Remnants of a brick rice mill (above) shared by neighboring planters stands aside the Cooper River within sight of Medway Plantation. The author took this Photograph in July, 2006.

Peter Gaillard Stoney was a successful planter who developed profitable water reserves for his rice fields. Additionally, he and his six sons raised thoroughbred horses and became renowned for their public service, including Confederate service with distinction. Grandson, Thomas Porcher Stoney was born at Medway and served two terms as Mayor of Charleston. Two other Peter Gaillard Stoney's grandsons, Arthur Jervey Stoney and Pierre Gaillard Stoney were serving with the old Charleston Light Dragoons, of the 30th Division, when they broke the Hindenburg Line in World War I.²¹

²¹ Irving/Stoney, p. 68.



The image (above) presents Medway when Peter Gaillard Stoney purchased it near 1855. The photograph is courtesy of the South Carolina Historical Society.

In 1906, Medway plantation transferred to Samuel Gaillard Stoney, the nephew of Peter Gaillard Stoney.²² At that time Samuel G. Stoney surveyed the tracts that composed Medway and determined a total of 5,492 acres. Medway consisted of Parnassus Plantation with 1910 acres, the Cottage tract with 60 acres, Prioleau's Plantation with 1,651 acres, Back River Plantation with 1,671 acres and Donnelly's Plantation with 200 acres.²³

²² Irving/Stoney, p. 68.

²³ 1906, Stoney Plat.

Samuel's wife, Louisa Cheves Stoney, restored the old gardens, but the ancient plantation house and fields fell into disorder and became part of a large hunting club. As the twentieth century opened, Medway emerged the largest of the Back River estates, that included Pine Grove, Parnassus, Brick Hope, Back River, White Hall and Liberty Hall.

THE STONEYS COME HOME

During the Civil War (1860-1865), Medway Plantation emerged as a cornerstone of confederate defense in Saint James, Goose Creek Parish section of Berkeley County. That so-called “cornerstone,” underpinned six plantations contiguous to Medway, where river, rail and roadway passages served each. Confederate P.G. Stoney, age 55, owner of Medway Plantation, defended that stronghold until he was reassigned to serve as a militia commander. Consequently, Medway and its neighbors depended upon the fragile, though determined “home guard” to protect and defend them.

In addition to cornerstone Medway, each of the five militia companies in the St. James, Goose Creek Parish remained undermanned and poorly supplied but diligently commanded by Confederate Captain, Philip J. Porcher of Otranto Plantation. He persistently enforced the laws of the parish and protected the locals in the absence of all capable men serving on the front lines of the war.

The photograph (right) presents Philip J. Porcher, as a young officer, years prior to his service as Captain of the Goose Creek Militia during the Civil War (1860-1865). The image is with the Frederic A. Porcher Papers, 1826-1922, number 1082.02.01, among the collections of the South Carolina Historical Society, Charleston, South Carolina.

Possessing few resources with which to repair failing infrastructure, the war persistently damaged the roads and rail lines and consumed the meager supplies required by the home guard to maintain order. Nonetheless, Captain Porcher worked resolutely to lead and safeguard the five St. James, Goose Creek Parish militia companies of the 18th Regiment of South Carolina Militia.²⁴

24 Return of Men Liable Under the Recent Call, for each of the militia companies in the St. James, Goose Creek Parish on September 12, 1864. The record describes the 18th Regiment of South Carolina Militia. With the papers of the Adjutant and Inspector General Office, SCHS. Also, see the Ford Family of Charleston Papers, 5-21-1810 to 7- 28-1907, among the manuscripts in the collections of the University of South Caroliniana Library, Columbia, South Carolina.



Steadfast to his duties, fifty-eight-year-old Captain Philip Porcher persisted in command of the five militia companies in the St. James, Goose Creek Parish, each of which consisted of a shrinking body of men: too old, too young, or too feeble for the front lines. Additionally, Captain Porcher directly led the parish company where his Otranto Plantation home stood and with fewer than a dozen men, he regularly visited nearby Medway Plantation to underpin its endurance by encouraging the eighteen women and children residing there and by suppressing any rebellious intentions among the slaves.²⁵

That worn Medway estate was accessible by road and rail and lay strategically aside navigable Back River as a cornerstone in that increasingly important section of the war-worn parish. The railroad tracks ran from downtown Charleston to Porcher Station in Otranto and four miles farther to Mount Holly Station aside Medway and beyond. Consequently, the home guard visited Medway regularly to shore up the six neighboring plantations that were within sight of navigable Back River and convenient to the Mount Holly Railroad Station.

At Medway, the home guard found opportunities to project its law enforcement presence and to enjoy a meal and fellowship with the women, children and a lone mercilessly crippled man. Porcher's men

²⁵ Michael J. Heitzler, *Goose Creek, A Definitive History*, Vol. 2, *Rebellion, Reconstruction, and Beyond*, The History Press, Charleston, S.C. p. 54.

typically supplied venison and other gifts from the forests and fields for the Medway table, and all of the neighboring plantation families relied upon the home guard to impart civil justice and exercise the authority to keep the Africans at work. Slave labor supplied food, fuel, and patched the dilapidated road and rail systems upon which all depended on for precious news from the warfront.

As the union navy persistently bombarded Charleston, the Porcher family retreated from their Charleston town home to refuge at their Otranto Plantation.²⁶ The sheltering family members at Otranto then placed greater responsibilities on the Porcher commanded militia,²⁷ and the front lines persistently sapped the waning energy of the home guard until the exhausted militia joined the evacuating Confederate forces fleeing from Goose Creek to Summerville and beyond in February 1865. Desperately, the retreating home guard consigned the bound servants to the disposition of the union forces and the white women and children to the mercy of each.

²⁶ Marianne Porcher letter to Clelia Misroon, Charleston, May 25, 1865, Porcher Family Correspondence, 1865-1866, among the F.A. Porcher Papers, 1082.02.01. Marianne Porcher's letter reported that a shell hit their house in Charleston causing them to retreat to their plantation home at Otranto.

²⁷ Letter of January 15, 1865 indicates that Marianne Porcher sequestered at Otranto with her sister, mother and two elderly aunts, Annie and May. Marianne's letter of May 25, 1865 described the troops at Otranto. See the Ford Family among the collections of the South Caroliniana Library.



The unkempt Medway House (above) featured a decayed porch “protected” by two obsolete canons.

UNION CAVALRY ARRIVES

On the evening of February 27, 1865, Captain Henry Orlando Marcy, a twenty-eight year old Union Army Surgeon, with the fifty-sixth United States Corps, enjoyed a dry mattress in the one-story brick farmhouse at the Oaks Plantation ½ mile from Otranto where the Porcher woman sheltered.²⁸ While Marcy waited for horses and supplies to “come up,” he depended on meager personal effects he toted in a saddlebag with, “one change of underclothes, two rolls of blankets... a good supply of medicine,” and his medical instruments. He was in no immediate need of his surgical tools of trade because his unit encountered no enemy resistance for more than a week. Consequently, when the quartermaster assigned a spirited black Morgan horse to him, he commenced regular patrols into the countryside.²⁹

²⁸ Henry Orlando Marcy, *Diary of a Surgeon*, US Army, 1864-1892, November 25, 1864 to March 3, 1865. The Diary is among the collections of the SCHS, 34/0496. Henry Orlando Marcy diary entry, Goose Creek, South Carolina, 2- 28-1865, “We quarter in the house and get a good supper. The Colonel furnishes music...Colonel and I sleep in the house. Lt. Col. Remained with the men.

²⁹ Marcy Diary, Goose Creek, South Carolina, 3- 1-1865, “Spring opens with plenty of rain...our men are almost afloat.”



Dr. Henry Orlando Marcy (above) was born in Cambridge, Massachusetts, June 23, 1837 and died January 1, 1924.

On March 1, 1865, as hundreds of Union soldiers reconnoitered the parish, Marcy, warmly dressed but lightly armed, embarked ahead of six mounted men. He carried only a pistol, but his six riders brandished swords in sheaths, side arms, and short Enfield rifles in black leather saddle holsters. That well-armed company set out to liberate the bound slaves at Medway Plantation, five miles north of their camp at the Oaks, as part of the strategy of occupation employed by General William Tecumseh Sherman.

The Confederate Army discordantly evacuated Savannah, Georgia with more than 10,000 men, and reluctantly abandoned precious resources including 180 rail cars. Union forces, supported by gunboats, and railroad engines sequestered the rail cars and pushed steadily north, encountering little resistance. Persistently, cadres of armed men visited each plantation to liberate the slaves through force or persuasion.³⁰

Union patrols typically found overjoyed servants at every stop and received prayers for thanksgiving. Marcy recalled, "...they thank God, and say they have long prayed for freedom...and ...they don't want Massa anymore."³¹ Hundreds of visitations ensued, and each scene of personal emancipation supplanted the prevailing southern order based on slavery. The new and untested arrangements exhilarated the emancipated slaves but anguished the stunned and subjugated landowners. Within that conflicted context, Marcy and his comrades departed The Oaks Plantation farmhouse on a gloomy March morning in search of Medway Plantation.

30 Marcy Diary, Headquarters, Pocotaligo South Carolina, 11-26- 1864. Marcy Diary, Savannah, Georgia, Saturday, 12-24-1864, "We find 5000 bales of cotton and 18 engines, 180 cars in Savannah." Marcy, Charleston, Monday, 2- 27-1865, "A.M. rainy. Moved baggage to depot and placed it in store. Rode through King Street. The damage done by our bombardment has not been exaggerated. Half the houses are injured and long since deserted... train engine a poor one. [it] gave out several times..."

31 Marcy Diary, Headquarters, Pocotaligo, South Carolina, 11- 26- 1864.

The riders departed the Oaks Plantation by way of the utility trail egressing onto State Road near the Seventeen-Mile House Tavern. A fire of unknown origin severely damaged that old hostelry several years before, leaving it to totter obscenely in want of strong hands to raze it and build anew. However, all capable men and boys departed the parish years before to supply the Confederate Army with lifeblood.

Henry Orlando Marcy learned of his mission to Charleston from a staff officer for General William Tecumseh Sherman in Pocotaligo, South Carolina thirty days before. That morning Colonel Charles Van Wyck of the fifty-sixth New York Volunteers acquired command of Marcy's brigade and announced his intention to occupy Charleston.

Marcy felt optimistic when he learned the rebels were fleeing and when Sherman announced, "...the way to Charleston is through Columbia," Marcy celebrated, expecting that bold strategy to awaken all from a fitful nightmare. Nevertheless, the war persisted, propelling the surgeon deeper into rebellious Carolina, but unlike frantic alarm riders galloping across the Goose Creek Bridge with news from the hostile Native Americans at Pocotaligo one hundred and fifty years before, Marcy simply stepped aboard a train at Pocotaligo with his saddlebag and orders to "...take the

cars for Goose Creek.”³² Then, a few days later, he and six riders carefully picked their way along Back River Upper Road in Goose Creek toward Medway Plantation, the ancient manor of the Peter Gaillard Stoney family of which the father commanded a local militia, and the four sons were away on the Confederate line.

Back River Upper Road was a road in name only. Rice planters of the colonial era depended upon the route to reach deep water at Back River, but locals long allowed it to overgrow until it resembled the ancient packhorse trail. Thus, after accessing the abandoned pathway, Captain Henry Marcy ordered three lengths between the riders to reduce the amount of injury if an unlikely assault occurred from the opaque undergrowth.

The previous week, before arriving in Goose Creek, he heard a sharp click of gunlocks in a similarly dense bush and instantly saw two rifle barrels protrude from thickets toward his chest. Nearly fainting but frantically holding fast to his leather reins, he heard shouts not shots from the undergrowth when two alert African- American Federal sharpshooters “almost overcome with their emotions...”³³ instantly pulled up their heavy rifles barrels and yelled out to spare him from mortal wounds.

³² Marcy Diary, Pocotaligo, South Carolina 2-1-1865.

³³ Marcy Diary, “...near Charleston, South Carolina, Monday, 2- 20-1864.”

Now, Marcy keenly assayed the thicket along the first mile of Back River Upper Road until it opened onto five or more acres of abandoned high ground. There, Boochawee Hall, once the Governor’s plantation home, stood upon a slight rise, under a grand canopy of oaks, but the northern horsemen did not recognize the remnants of the brick house and though they suspected that it was once an important place, abundant litter from the unkempt forest shrouded its ghostly footprint.³⁴

Pressing on another careful mile, the riders navigated clinging vines and foliage that obscured their way as they crossed the eastern boundary of the once elegant Springfield Plantation and within ten minutes approached its wasted manor. Dr. J. Keith Irving owned the ancient place since 1858, but he resided in Charleston and the white tenants relegated their care to Black families. That morning, in service to some unseen master all the villagers deserted the place in pursuit of an unfathomable destination, taking their livestock with them. Eerily, the random chimneys emitted faint whiffs of gray smoke from dying fires broadcasting the time of the exodus shortly after sunrise.

³⁴ Michael J. Heitzler, *Boochawee, Goose Creek Land, Labor and Legacy*, South Carolina Historical Society, p. 13.

Pressing on, the seven riders skirted the silent settlement without pausing and persisted two more miles until the higher pine woods descended into a mixed grove. There, great swathes of palmetto understory spanned beyond their sight to the rice bottoms of Medway.

The last quarter mile rose markedly, requiring a slight spur to encourage the laboring beasts forward toward the intersection of the trail with the southern shoulder of the main avenue to the Medway House. The softer surfaces surrendered to a firmer, slightly crowned wagon road that allowed the riders to canter east in two columns through the thinned and managed woodland. A collection of minor clapboard slave quarters came into view aside barren fields, several large utility structures punctuated the tree line to the north, and partitioned rice lands and water reserves spanned to the southern horizon all along the way until an ancient dwelling emerged a quarter of a mile distant.

In the closing distance, the riders saw people near a tiny portico, assembling into a tight cluster as if drawing confidence from each other. The riders, sitting tall but keeping firearms holstered, neared the cohort of “rebels” - eighteen women and children, and one disabled man, when as a precaution, Marcy signaled his troopers to scout the perimeter of the large menage while he approached the lone adult male, propped on crutches in front of the stiff and silent assembly.

The appearance of the unkempt Medway house (right) attests to the lack of maintenance during the Civil War.

Collectively, the “intelligent, but bitter rebels”³⁵ personified the ancient Medway House looming behind them in tribute to the fading Confederacy. The aging structure stood proud but poorly kept; with the fifty-five-year-old family patriarch, Peter Gaillard Stoney serving in the home guard³⁶ and his five sons on the front lines, the family was the epitome of the fading southern cause.

The matriarch, Mrs. Anna Maria Stoney stepped forward to confront the marauders with “sharp talk.”³⁷ She “plainly spoke ... glorified in their [her] struggle,”³⁸ and vigorously confronted the northern interloper. Marcy, unimpressed by her rude boasts, waited patiently in deference to her, and as she railed, he assayed the Medway house moldering at her back. Long ago, that ancient abode reigned as the “best brick house in all the country...” but now it tottered pitifully barely at attention like an exhausted old soldier in a threadbare uniform.

35 Marcy Diary, Goose Creek, 3-1- 1865

36 *Return of Men...Report*: “Men over fifty...”

37 Marcy Diary, Goose Creek, 3-1- 1865

38 Marcy Diary, Goose Creek, 3- 1-1865. P.G. Stoney, age 55 is listed on the 18th Regiment South Carolina Militia (Home Guard) commanded by Captain Philip Porcher. See *Return of Men Liable Under the Recent Call...*



When the six Union scouts reported from the perimeter, followed by gaggles of curious workers, Anna Stoney abruptly ended her harsh lecture, changed her tone markedly and invited the riders to dine with the family. An hour before noon, suspecting no danger, and ill inclined to confront the “attractive women,” Marcy accepted the invitation on behalf of his men and followed Mrs. Stoney through the parlor door unsuspecting her ulterior motive.³⁹

The Stoney’s sought common ground with the northern intruders because

³⁹ Marcy, *Goose Creek*, 3- 1-1865. Also see Virginia Christian Beach, *Medway*, Charleston, South Carolina: Wyrick and Company, 1996.

throughout the countryside, as Union Troops raided one plantation after another, slaves walked away in the wake of their liberators creating chaos and leaving the fields unplanted. Also, Union soldiers harbored no desire to lead, feed and care for hordes of dependent people. Mrs. Stoney informed Marcy that Union gunboats fired rounds into their forest from Back River a day before and her workers were increasingly “unruly.” She “feared immense trouble...” if Marcy did not convince her, “servants” to “take up” spring planting. Marcy agreed to try and waited as she called all 150 workers to assemble before the little veranda.



The image (above) shows the Medway House prior to twentieth century renovations. Captain Henry Orlando Marcy delivered a fifteen-minute oration from this “low portico.” The image is among the collections of the Library of Congress, 308417.

The souls standing in front of the surgeon from Massachusetts chilled him deeper than the damp March clouds hanging low over the old plantation. Black people of all ages and sizes stood within arm’s reach, staring up at him atop the steps. They wore all sorts of clothing, of typical homespun shirts and pants, to “whole suits” made of old carpets and blankets. Almost all the laboring souls arrived without hats or shoes, and none dressed appropriately “to prevent them from suffering.”⁴⁰

⁴⁰ Marcy Diary, Goose Creek, 3-1-1865.

Notwithstanding his uncertainty before the pathetic throng, Marcy diligently explained the benefits of remaining with the land during the important months ahead, and with professional confidence he spoke of smallpox and other dreaded ailments that awaited careless and unclean workers. However, the slaves knew the words of “Massa Linkin,” and “couldn’t exactly see how they were free if they must do as before....” Nevertheless, the huddled multitude politely listened as Marcy spoke and after the fifteen-minute oration each man, woman and child passed before the little stage. Each reached up and touched Marcy’s woolen uniform, as if to test the reality of the moment, and shook his hand, “...as was their particular custom.”

Marcy harbored grave doubts that his words reversed those of the Emancipation Proclamation recently signed by President Abraham Lincoln, and the stark expression on the dour face of his host convinced him that he did not abate her fears. She rued the uncertain future and feared the retribution that haunted every white resident since the earliest years of human bondage in Carolina.

A somber mood descended upon the riders as the Stoney family waved farewell, prompting Marcy to forsake the return route along the dismal Back River Upper Road for a longer but safer course. Thus, the returning posse pursued the two-mile-long Medway path to its intersection with the deeply rutted Road to Moncks Corner, one-tenth mile above the Mount Holly Railroad Station. In the following days, the emancipated African Americans at Medway walked off the plantation in pursuit of unknown destinations as the landowners searched for refuge in Charleston.

When John Stafford Stoney was discharged from his Confederate duty, he sought his home on the Medway Plantation grounds. He found his slaves scattered, his personal family abode burned to the ground and all households missing. Chaos prevailed within the abandoned homeplace but only a few bodies were left behind including a single slave lying dead with a gnawed potato in his hand. In anguish he hurried to Charleston to find his family upset but safe at the Ball Family town house. There he learned that his family, fearful of the restless slaves and Yankee gunboats, had sailed their brick sloop to Charleston with the neighboring Ball and Fitzsimmon families aboard with them.⁴¹

41 SCGM, Vol. 60: 218. Michael J. Heitzler, *Goose Creek, A Definitive History*, Vol. 2, p. 54.

TWENTIETH CENTURY MEDWAY

The Stoney family of Medway Plantation contributed grandly to the State of South Carolina during the early years of the twentieth century. In 1906, Medway plantation sold to Samuel Gaillard Stoney, the nephew of Peter Gaillard Stoney.⁴² He made significant improvements, and his descendants persistently impacted the Carolina story. Thomas Porcher Stoney was born at Medway and served two terms as Mayor of Charleston, and two of Peter Gaillard Stoney's grandsons, Arthur Jervey Stoney and Pierre Gaillard Stoney were among the old Charleston Light Dragoons, with the 30th Division, when it broke the Hindenburg Line in World War I.⁴³ Also during the first decades of the twentieth century Medway expanded to more than 5000 acres.⁴⁴

42 Irving, p. 61.

43 Irving, p. 61.

44 1906, Stoney Plat among the microfilm collections of the South Carolina Historical Society. The estate included Parnassus Plantation with 1910 acres, the Cottage Tract with 60 acres, Prioleau's Plantation with 1,651 acres, Back River Plantation with 1,671 acres and Donnelly's Plantation with 200 acres.

Samuel Stoney's wife, Louisa Cheves Stoney, restored and expanded the old gardens, and although the anachronistic home-place persistently faltered, its acreage expanded. Medway emerged as the largest Back River Plantation where, near the turn of the twentieth century, it became the destination of Japanese Christians.

At the urging of Christian missionaries and counter to the wishes of their parents, 24-year-old, Hisa Aona (1885-1968) and 25-year-old, Takai Kodama (1885-1941) emigrated from Japan to the United States on their wedding day in 1906. The Kodama couple, in pursuit of "opportunities,"⁴⁵ landed in California and from there pushed persistently through the deep-south until they found work on the Back River rice fields of Medway Plantation.

Sadly, devastating hurricanes in 1910 and 1911 damaged the Medway dikes so severely that agriculture was no longer profitable, forcing the Stoney family to abandon the rice fields and the Kodamas to seek work at neighboring Marrington Plantation. There, the Kodamas met John F. Poppenheim, the successful plantation owner, and accepted his sharecropping agreement.

45 "Aunt Ida Kodama" recalled that her parents sought opportunity. Author interview with Eugene Kodama 1-14-2022 at Goose Creek Community Center.



The photograph (left) displays the Kodama Family at the Poppenheim Plantation. The names of the individuals on the back of the image are not legible.

Early in the twentieth century, several Medway occupants greeted two men with horses aside the back porch of the Medway house (below). Samuel Gaillard Stoney remained seated on the upper step of the porch entry.



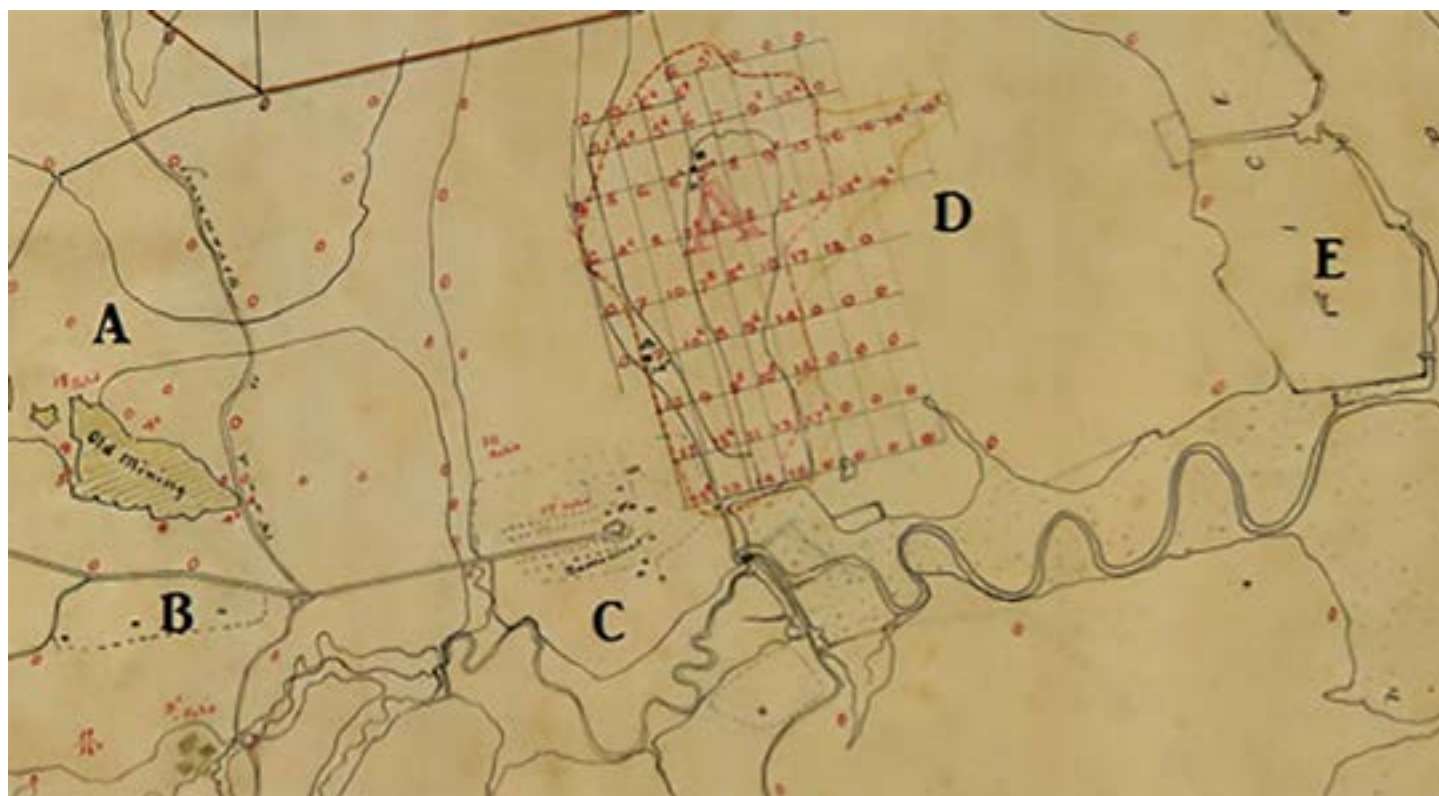
This photograph (right) shows Captain Samuel G. Stoney and his bride Louisa. He was an avid hunter and fisherman at Medway and she, a garden enthusiast in the early twentieth century. The couple spent twenty years reclaiming the ancient grounds.



Samuel G. Stoney was the patriarch of the last of five generations of the Stoney family to reside at the ancient manor house. After their rice fields were flooded and destroyed, the family shaped and baked clay muddle into bricks and shipped the heavy loads in the bottom of their sail powered “brick-sloop” to Charleston for five decades. Finally, the need for bricks declined and the huge steam tank fell into disuse. Today, that tank lay aside a forest-line at the edge of a fallow

field snared by twisted vines like the huge carcass of an extinct beast. That carcass once was the large boiler that drove steam beaters for mixing clay.⁴⁶ It remains today as an ugly remnant of a defunct industry that was never resurrected. Similarly, as did many before them, the Stoney family departed to take up residence in Charleston.

⁴⁶ Gertrude Legendre informed the author Michael J. Heitzler of the obsolete boiler when he questioned her about a large object he saw in the tree line in 1988.



A detail of a plat (above) entitled, “Tracing of a Map of Back River showing result of an examination of some Phosphate Rock made in December 1908 by James O’Hear, Certified Engineer and Surveyor.” This map shows a section of Medway Plantation after it was examined for phosphate mining. Alpha letters added for this publication indicate. A: Site noted as “Old Mining.” B: Medway Avenue from Mount

Holly Station to the Medway main house and settlement. C: Medway settlement with manor house and outbuildings. D: Examined sections noting phosphate at varying depths. E: Old rice fields along Back River. Phosphate mining and export emerged as lucrative business in Berkeley County during the first decades of the twentieth century.

THE LEGENDRES COME HOME

Five generations of Stoney ownership of Medway ended in 1930 when Sidney and Gertrude Legendre, of New Orleans, purchased the ancient estate. The newlyweds enjoyed a trip to South Carolina, Gertrude's birthplace,⁴⁷ and while horseback riding, came upon the neglected Medway Plantation, which they soon purchased for \$100,000.

47 Beach, Virginia Christian, *Medway*, (Wyrick and Company, Charleston, South Carolina, 1996. P.36,37.



As "windows to the world," the nearby train station (right), post office, church, general store and residences emerged as "Mount Holly," the nearest neighborhood to Medway prior to the incorporation of the City of Goose Creek in 1961.

That remarkable couple brought worldwide experience and verve to the ancient cornerstone. While her future husband served in the Navy, Gertrude became the first American woman to be captured as a Secret Service Agent during World War II. After suffering six months of German captivity, she escaped to Switzerland.⁴⁸

48 When notified of his future wife's predicament he paid the ultimate tribute by stating, "God help the Germans." Gertrude Sanford Legendre, *The Time of My Life*, Wyrick & Company, Charleston, SC. Pp.154-175.



The images (left and right) feature Sidney and Gertrude Legendre with their puppy, "Clippy". They worked tirelessly to preserve the ancient plantation structures and grounds.



When Sidney and Gertrude Legendre moved to Medway, they found a “wonderful family living there, the Gourdines.”⁴⁹ The extended Gourdine family resided there for multiple generations, managed the homeplace and enthusiastically accepted the Stoney and then welcomed the Legendres.⁵⁰

49 Gertrude Legendre, *The Time Of My Life*, p. xv.

50 Beach, p.36.

Walter and David Gourdine were experienced caretakers and seasoned hunters, and their sisters Rosa and Lizzie managed the house and kitchen.⁵¹ With the Gourdines’ support, the Legendres brought unique talents to Medway. Together they revived the grounds, added extensively to the outbuildings and improved the interior of the old home. Their work at Medway received worldwide notoriety following World War II, when the celebrated “Medway Plan” was employed for the rehabilitation of Europe. American cities adopted French cities and sponsored rehabilitation after the devastating war. The “Medway Plan” employed the name of the Carolina message to reinforce the idea of rehabilitating worn but worthy structures.

Multitalented David Gourdine created large pieces of pottery and carved couplets and other genres in the wet clay. Dave created hundreds of pieces, but most have been lost leaving scant few. Among the many, one quote stated, “I wonder where is all my relations...friendship to all and every nation.” He wrote in clay, “The forth (sic) of July is surely come/to blow the fife and beat the drum.”⁵²

51 Gertrude Sanford Legendre, *The Time of My Life*, p. xv.

52 A Stoney donated several carved pieces of Dave’s pottery to the Charleston Museum.



The undated photographs (above) entitled "David's House" shows the front of the Gourdine home and a closeup of the David Gourdine family at Medway Plantation. This photograph, 1001.15 is among the Berkeley County Collection at the Caroliniana Library, University of South Carolina, Columbia, SC.

MEDWAY GHOSTS AND GHOULS

Ghosts abound in the Medway house, and of all the eerie spots in Carolina, Medway is without rival. John Bennett, author of *The Treasure of Pierre Gaillard* wrote that Medway, "...was just the place for ghosts to walk, for strange voices to be heard, for unusual things to happen." In his book, Bennett immortalized the atmosphere of that ancient plantation. He revived the eerie sense of desolation and haunting allurement found within the walls. He penned:

...we rode through a desolated country, from which the old plantations had almost vanished; even the brick foundations of the ancient houses had been carted away by the Negroes to build crooked chimneys to their cabins, after the great plantations had been destroyed during the war. The old corduroy road was half sunken into the bottomless swamp...It was certainly true that there was something ghostly and sad and strange about the whole demesne.⁵³

53 John Bennett, *The Treasure of Pierre Gaillard* (New York, 1906), pp. Intro, 3, 5, and 9.

Two miles of shaded avenue bordered by tall pines and moss-laden live oaks divert from the ancient Indian trail, (Old Moncks Corner Road/ US Highway 52) twenty-one miles from Charleston. The shaded avenue leads to the home atop an expanse of flowing lawn falling gracefully to the river. Jan Van Arrsens built the home for his wife, Sabina de Vignou soon after the first immigrants founded the Carolina Colony in 1670. The Dutch settler fashioned stepped gables that were popular in Holland at the time, and some contend that the steps induce evil spirits to walk down and away from the structure leaving the home in peace. Still, many ghosts haunt the low-ceiling rooms formed by unusually thick brick walls, large fireplaces and small narrow windows in the "quaint and ancient mansion...Medway House."

The image (right) shows the western exposure of the Medway House circa 1930. The antique windowpane glass distorts images that may explain eerie faces peering out of the upstairs rooms.



Some believe that Jan Van Arrsens, the old Dutchman, returns to his ancient house to assert his possession. One with sufficient nerve to sleep in the upstairs bedroom on the south side, a part of the original structure, is likely to wake in the night to see old Van Arrsens seated before the fireplace. Some say his spirit often sits there contently enjoying his pipe and his ancient abode.

Downstairs there is another ghostly visitor in the illusion of a beautiful girl whose heart was broken by the death of her husband. The Medway Plantation grounds abound in deer, wild turkey and other sporting animals, and hunts occurred there for hundreds of years. At one such event, a gathering of deer hunters and their wives met at the ancient home. One young wife

felt a foreboding fear of accidental disaster as she watched her husband leave with his hunting comrades. Near dusk the men returned, carrying her husband's body on an improvised stretcher. The girl's eyes fell upon the lifeless form a few seconds before she collapsed in shock. They carried her inside where she died shortly thereafter. For many years, she haunted the spot where her heart failed at the sight of her husband's body. Night after night, she reappears at the place of her anguish to wait for her young husband. Some reported that the hunter's bride stands by the north window peering through the small panes of glass. Others say they heard only the rustling of her gown as she waits by the window.⁵⁴

54 I bid. 9.



The young bride longs for her husband and patiently waits for his return. The author caught a glimpse of this image (left) in the upstairs window overlooking the circular drive, April 8, 2005. Further inspection revealed distorted images reflected in the antique glass panes that were likely mistaken for the image of this mournful bride.

Another story tells of a romantic young lady who is sometimes seen waiting to greet the spirit of her lover, who promised to appear to her after his death. It seems that old Mr. Samuel Marion and young Miss Polly Seed believed in the possibility of a dead friend reappearing to a loved one. They promised each other that whoever died first was to return to meet the other in the upper north room. After the old gentleman died, Miss Polly waited patiently, but the tryst was not kept.

Ghosts and ghouls project the unknowns of ancient places to the modern mindsets of today and although most readers will skim over the spiritual stories it is those moments that most will recall in the years, decades and centuries to come.⁵⁵

⁵⁵ Andrew Riceoet, *Gertie's Ghost*, New York Times, October 14, 2011.

Although a thorough rendering of Medway provides much, there is more to learn and understand. The sturdy construction of brick and mortar, the victories and failures of its occupants, and the love and hatred that underpin the ancient story leave much to understand. Nevertheless, this labor of love will persist as an effort to portray the truths and challenges of bygone days. The Medway Manor is the oldest structure of its kind in South Carolina. Overlooking the headwaters of Back River in Berkeley County, South Carolina, it presents a striking reminder of the tenacity of the families who settled the Carolina frontier and those who persisted into the twentieth century and beyond.

TODAY AND TOMORROW

Many Black families lived in the ways of their ancestors by remaining on the lands as caretakers while receiving wages and/or planting rights. When Sidney and Gertrude Legendre purchased Medway, the African American Gourdine family remained as caretakers as they had for many generations with the Stoney families.⁵⁶

David Gourdine and his brother, Walter, maintained the structures and grounds and served as hunting guides while their sisters Lizzie and Rosa cooked and cleaned in the grand old house.⁵⁷ Today, the Gourdines continue to reside in the Goose Creek community as a “living bridge from the past to the present.”⁵⁸

56 Beach, 30, 31. “David Gourdine worked for Captain Stoney...”

57 Michael J. Heitzler, *Goose Creek, A Definitive History*, Vol. 2: p. 131.

58 Beach, p. 58. Four Gourdine family members remain employed on the plantation today.

The image (right) presents Larry Gourdine, 1949 – 1968. Goose Creek is his home of record, and he is related to the extended Gourdine family of whom the forefathers resided at Medway. He lies buried in the Casey Cemetery in the Mount Holly neighborhood.⁶⁰

60 Author interview with Tim Gourdine, family patriarch, February 26, 2025.

The Gourdines cared for the ancient estate as it opened its doors as a popular social gathering locus for widely known personalities and friends of the family.⁵⁹ It was also the ancestral family name of Private Larry Gourdine, First-Class Marine Corps infantryman, who died in Vietnam in 1968 and is honored on the Vietnam Memorial in Washington, District of Columbia.

59 Author interview with Tim Gourdine, family patriarch, February 26, 2025.





Multi-talented David Gourdine (above) often waited with “Miss Gertie” at the Mount Holly Train Station. He also served as chauffeur when she traveled via her limousine.⁶¹

⁶¹ Author, Michael Heitzler occasionally witnessed these Medway residents in their distinctive limousine traveling through the nearby City of Goose Creek.



David Gourdine served as an expert deer hunter and led dozens of celebrity hunters to success including Gertrude Legendre (left).



Today, much of the old splendor of Medway remains. No one plants rice, but water reserve ponds and fields remain vibrant. One of the old tracts is still referred to as “Smithfield,” after the landgrave. Thoroughbreds are no longer raised, but the old racetrack can be traced. When the Legendres purchased Medway in 1930, they also acquired adjoining properties, including Spring Grove, Pine Grove and portions of several more sprawling tracts that brought the total size to 7,600 acres.

Gertrude Legendre lamented that almost all the adjoining plantations had fallen victim to strip malls and industrial development, and as a result, Medway emerged a vital refuge for many animals, some of them endangered by the relentless expansion of urban sprawl that consumed their habitat.

The beautiful gardens and timeless pride of the ancient brickhouse are memorials to the Goose Creek Plantation Society. Gertrude Legendre owned and loved Medway from the time she and her husband, Sidney, purchased the home until her death in 2001. The Legendres are buried on the ground just a few yards from Landgrave Thomas Smith and his wife, Sabina.

Mrs. Legendre wished to place the property holding into a trust for perpetuity to forever protect the wildlife that thrives there. After several failed efforts, the Medway Environmental Trust was established, and easements were placed on the property for perpetual protection.

Gertrude Legendre placed the property in a non-profit foundation with a conservation easement to preserve the pine forests, wetlands, and wildlife.⁶² Today, the ancient plantation grounds are recognized as breeding sites for endangered red-cockaded woodpeckers, bald eagles, wood ducks and wintering ring-necked ducks. It also provides habitat for deer, turkey and quail. Their daughter, Bokara, inherited the plantation and operated it with the same dedication to conservation as her mother and father.

Gertrude treasured her low-country estate and worked tirelessly to conserve the land by protecting it from encroaching development. Gertrude whispered "...the peace of Medway permeates my soul!" several months before she died in 2001.⁶³ True to her utterance, a timeless sense of eerie spirituality permeates Medway Plantation to this day.⁶⁴ The beautiful gardens and timeless strength of the ancient gray-brick house are memorials to the Goose Creek plantation society where founders labored, lived, and loved timeless Carolina.

62 Beach, pp. 99-111.

63 Author interview with Gertrude Legendre, May 14, 1999 at the Medway Hunting Lodge.

64 Andrew Riceoct, *Gertie's Ghost*, New York Times, October 14, 2011.

Christie's International Real Estate announced the sale of Medway Plantation to Tradeland Investors Inc. in 2012 with the intention to restore it to its former brilliance by turning it back into a world class hunting destination. That sales underscored the luxury sector of the real estate market globally.⁶⁵

Surrounded by thousands of lush acres with protecting easements for traditional land uses, the magnificent home was carefully renovated and holds an impressive array of superior amenities. The main house features a living room graced with 10-foot ceilings, heart-pine flooring, and wainscoting. The dining room offers cypress-paneled walls, and the commercial-grade kitchen includes a pantry. The inviting master suite boasts a fireplace, and the five additional bedrooms, five full and one-half baths are comfortable and convenient. Other highlights include four guest houses, three staff houses, indoor and outdoor pools, a boat landing, a lakefront lodge, a 12-stall horse stable, a greenhouse, a double avenue of oaks, and traditional formal gardens. The property also features 13 lakes and deep ponds.

65 Rick Moeser, Senior Vice President for Christie's International Real Estate, "Both domestic and international buyers are appreciating the value of prime real estate as safe havens ..."



A visitor (above) enjoyed the back porch of the beautiful Medway House.



A structured water feature (right) greets the motorists arriving at Medway.



A tiny schoolhouse (above) accommodated employee children during the first half of the twentieth century.

CONCLUSION

Medway persists as a distinctive cornerstone of South Carolina. Built in 1686, only sixteen years after the founding of the colony, it is considered the oldest house in South Carolina. The core of the original home was built in 1704-1705 by Edward and Elizabeth Hyrne, and the present structure was likely built by Jan Van Arrsens, Seigneur de Weirnhoudt who led a small company of Hollanders to Carolina. The second story, added to the original building, and copied its stepped gables. The 19th century Medway enjoyed a sound economic mixture of agriculture and industry by growing rice while the weather was hot and making brick when it was cold. Confederate Captain Philip J. Porcher of Otranto Plantation blessed that cornerstone

with four years of conscientious protection before Union Captain, Henry Orlando Marcy arrived to free the slaves and overtake the battlefield. Multi generations of the Stoney and Gourdine family, as well as a brief chapter of Kodama service underpinned the manor site until Sidney and Gertrude Legendre brought a passionate verve to the cornerstone that persists to this day. Hilton Waring Bunch resided and maintained the Medway grounds until he relocated to Goose Creek in 1955. He helped establish the original Goose Creek Baptist Church and served as the first Mayor of the Town of Goose Creek in 1961.⁶⁶ Medway was listed on the National Register of Historic Places, July 16, 1970.

⁶⁶ Michael Heitzler, *Goose Creek, a Definitive History*, Volume Two, p. 167.

APPENDICES

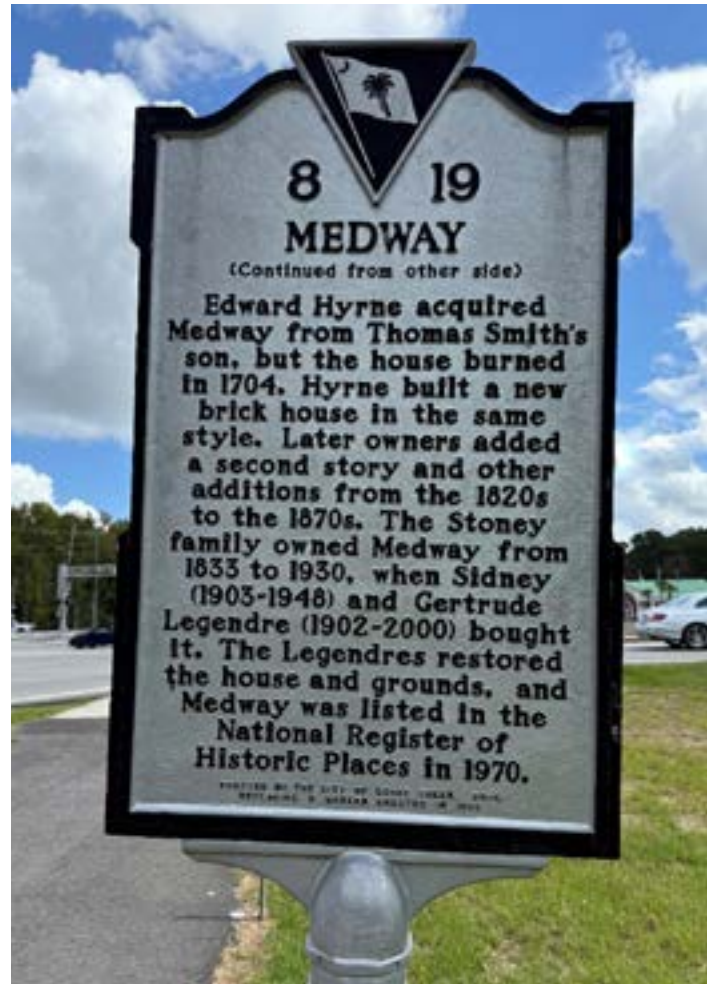
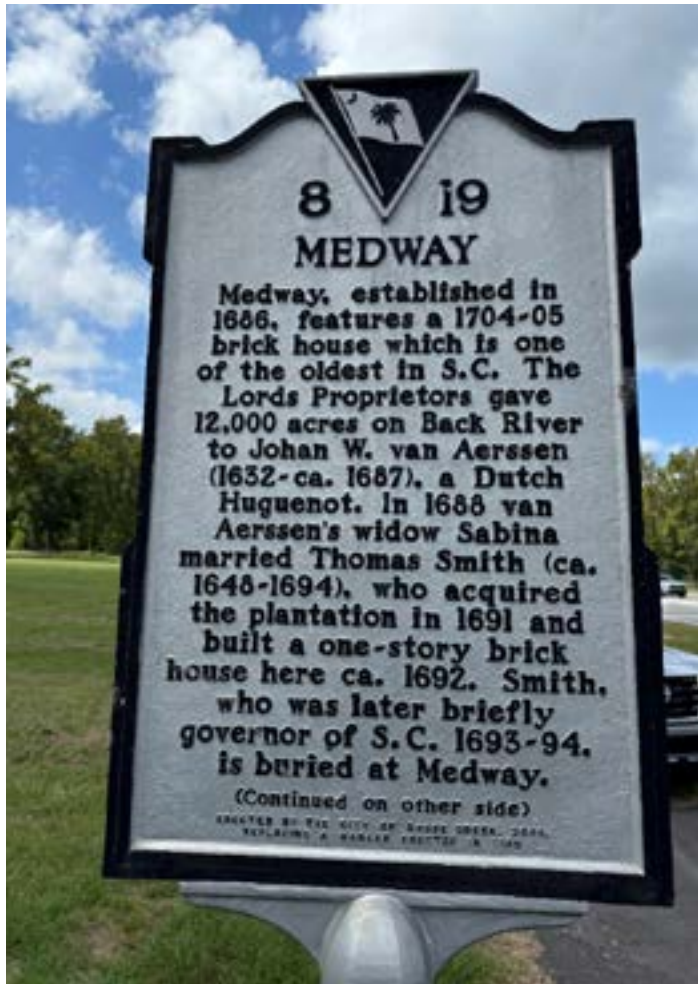
TIME LINE

- 1686 – Earliest known date of Medway.
- The Lords Proprietors granted land to John D'Arrsens.
- 1686 – John D'Arrsens built the house.
- John D'Arrsens' widow married Thomas Smith who obtained the land.
- Elizabeth and Edward Hyrne acquired the property.
- 1704 – The house burned thoroughly.
- 1705 – Elizabeth and Edward Hyrne built a new house.
- The Hyrnes encountered legal and financial woes and did not obtain a clear title. Thus, Medway returned to Thomas Smith.
- Thomas Drayton owned the plantation and sold it to John Bee Holmes.
- 1797 – Holmes did not pay his taxes, and the sheriff sold Medway to Theodore Samuel Marion.
- 1827 – Theodore Samuel Marion willed his estate to his grandson, Theodore Samuel Dubose. Marion added a second story to the house and his wife, Jane Porcher, is credited for planting large trees around the house.
- Carolina Grey brick was produced at Medway and used to build Fort Sumter.
- 1833 – Peter Gaillard Stoney purchased Medway.
- 1855 – Stoney added a wing to the house.
- 1906 – Samuel Gaillard Stoney bought the plantation from the estate of his uncle, Peter Gaillard Stoney.
- 1929 – Medway was sold to Sidney and Gertrude Legendre for \$100,000. They added extensively to the outbuildings and improved the interior of the house.
- Medway Plantation was declared a bird sanctuary.
- 2000 – Bokara Legendre inherited the plantation from her mother, Gertrude Legendre.
- 2012 – Tradeland Investors Inc., purchased the plantation for \$11 million dollars.

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MEDWAY HISTORIC MARKER



The marker (above) stands on the lawn north of the City of Goose Creek Community Center within sight of the municipal personnel including the police, to discourage its theft. Two previous Medway markers were stolen and presumably sold for the value of the Aluminum.

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

Michael J. Heitzler