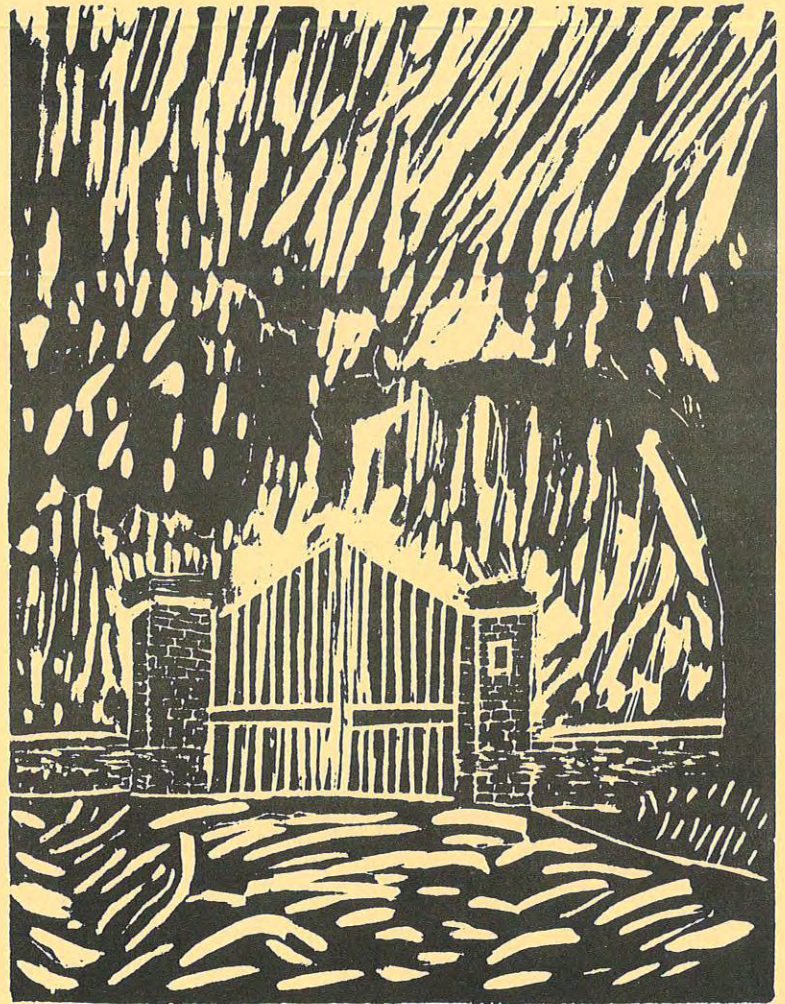


PLANTATIONS

on the
South Side of Ashley River



by Rosina Sottile Kennerty

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edited by

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The News and Courier

1983

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Printed by
The Nelson Printing Corporation
Charleston, South Carolina

In 1958, the Charleston County Board of Highway Beautification obtained the cooperation of Claude R. McMillan, chief commissioner, South Carolina State Highway Department, in improving the appearance of Charleston County's roadsides and preserving their natural beauty. The county's scenic section of S.C. Highway 61 (Ashley River Road) commencing at the intersection of Ashley River Road and Wappoo Road was marked by signs identifying it as a "Scenic Road Preserving Natural Beauty."

This road is important not only to Charleston, but is also the route to Charleston's famous gardens, to Summerville and connects with alternate Highway 17 and other routes traveled by thousands of tourists. This is one of the oldest, if not the oldest, road in South Carolina. It was this road that connected all the numerous plantations that bordered the south side of the Ashley River. These plantations were granted to immigrants by the King of England or the Lords Proprietors.

The writer will endeavor to show the importance of preserving and beautifying the Ashley River Road from its historical standpoint.

On Monday, March 12, 1962, an editorial in the Charleston Evening Post stated that "This stretch includes some of the most beautiful driving in the Lowcountry. Magnificent oaks line the highway, their branches heavily draped with Spanish moss meeting to form an arch over the road. When the sun is near the horizon during the afternoon or morning it filters through the trees in slanting rays, backlighting the moss. The effect is somewhat like driving up the main aisle of an Old World cathedral."

The country through which this road traverses is bordered by the Ashley River. It is on this river bank that the early English pioneers settled, built their homes and lived for generations.

The Ashley and the Cooper, the two silvery rivers that border Charleston, were named after Ashley Cooper, afterward Earl of Shaftesbury, one of the Lords Proprietors to whom, in 1693, Charles II granted a tract of land in that fine New World of his — a tract embracing North and South Carolina and Georgia.

Before that, however, King Charles I of England had granted Sir Robert Heath, his attorney general, the southern portion of the English claim in America in 1629. Named the Province of Carolina, land of

Charles, the area contained what is now both North and South Carolina and extended across the continent to the Pacific Ocean. Sir Robert never attempted to settle the land.

The titles and estates of landgrave were actually granted and enjoyed by several persons, forming the only bonafide nobility in the United States of which there is record.

The titles of landgraves, cassiques and barons were to be hereditary, like the titles of the mother country.

The Ashley River, or "Up the Ashley" as the natives say, was once the scene of great magnificence, the residences and way of living being modeled upon the English nobility. Today in traveling "Up the Ashley" one seeks out old manors, although in most cases only foundations exist, along with their legends and history.

Before relating the story of the plantations, it is important to tell a little about the Indians who inhabited South Carolina counties. The romantic, tuneful names borne by many of the state's counties, towns and rivers are a colorful heritage from Indian tribes who once lived within her borders.

Until the Broad, Ashley and Cooper rivers were given their names by the British, the Ashley was known as the "River of the Kiawahs," the Cooper as the "River of the Wandos" and the Broad River was originally called "Eswa Huppeday" meaning dividing line between lands of the Catawba and Cherokees.

The Cherokees, of Iroquoian stock, were the most powerful and boldest of the tribes in South Carolina. They occupied the northern part of the state.

The Catawbans, a Siouan tribe, lived on the east side of the Broad River.

The tribes in the Lowcountry, numerous and small, were of Muskogean origin. Among these were Wandos, Etiwans, Kiawahs, Edistos, Westos, Coosas, Yemassees and Ashepoos. Many of South Carolina's creeks, islands and rivers preserve the names of these tribes.

Other not as powerful tribes living in South Carolina were the Cheraws, Chicoras, Waterees, Santees, Congarees, Peepees, Waccamaws, Creeks, Combahees, Apalachees, Waxhaws, Stonos, Wappoos, Shawnees and Saludas.

In 1666, Robert Sanford, in his explorations of the coast, named the river Ashley for the Right Honorable Anthony Lord Ashley (before this the Indians called the river Kywaha).

In early April 1670, the first ship with Gov. William Sayle in command reached Kiawah (as the river was spelled by the English) and settled at a point called Albemarle. In 1970, the 300th anniversary of this landing was celebrated. The site of the first Carolina settlement is known now as Old Towne Plantation.

It was nearly two centuries after Columbus discovered America that England gained possession. Other countries, such as France and Spain, claimed it. France insisted that Florentine Giovanni de Verazano claimed the land for her in 1524, and Spain claimed that Velasquez de Ayllon in 1525 sighted the Carolina coast. But neither country established a settlement. A Frenchman, Jean Ribault, did establish a fort near Port Royal and did try to take possession of the region in 1562, but he returned to France and his men abandoned the small colony.

It took 12,000 pounds sterling to finance the expedition to the Carolinas. The frigate Carolina and two smaller ships, the Port Royal and Albemarle, were selected and furnished with provisions for the trip across the Atlantic Ocean.

No one knows exactly how many persons started out on this adventurous undertaking. A colony of 200 was planned, but the passenger list of the Carolina states that 93 persons survived. There is no record of the number on the other two ships.

Misfortune followed this expedition, a storm on Nov. 2 damaged all three ships and drove the Albemarle on rocks where she had to be abandoned.

The Port Royal was lost in a later storm. These ships were replaced but one of the new ships was missing when the Carolina and her sister ship entered Charleston Harbor on an April day in 1670.

On Nov. 1, 1670, Lord Ashley informed Joseph West in the Carolinas that the river had been named by Sanford "Ashley and that the town was to be called Charles Towne on the Ashley."

As soon as the settlers landed, Gov. Sayle laid out the land in lots and streets. Charles Towne or Albemarle Point consisted of 80 acres of land. The town continued as the seat of government until 1680, when the government was moved to Oyster Point, thereafter known as Charles Towne and the site of the present city of Charleston.

Plantations sprang up along the picturesque Ashley River and a road was cut through the wilderness connecting these beautiful estates on the south side of the river. This dirt road was called Ashley River Road.

The plantations, estates and gardens serviced by this road, which appear on maps of 1742, were:

Old Towne Plantation
 Hillsborough
 Wish Penny (Wespanee) later called Fairfield
 Branford's Old Towne
 Accabee Plantation, a part of Old Towne Plantation
 Tiger Swamp
 Jeremiah Savage's Green Grove
 Ashley Hall Plantation
 Pierpont
 Old St. Andrew's Church
 St. Andrew's Towne
 Shemtown
 Schieveling
 Vacluse
 Drayton Hall
 Magnolia
 Runnymede
 Fuller's The Oaks
 Milbrook — Cattell Bluff
 Ashley Hill
 Middleton Place
 Wragg Settlement
 Ashley Barony
 Old Village of Dorchester
 Old Fort

Old Towne Plantation

Between 1694 and 1697, James LeSad received grants totalling 760 acres, the original Charles Towne and surrounding land. His nationality is not known, but he is believed to have been a French Huguenot immigrant. This grant is known today as Old Towne Plantation.

Today, some 200 acres of Old Towne Plantation have been turned into Charles Towne Landing, a major tourist attraction commemorating the founding of Charles Towne. The site, purchased by federal and local governments from Dr. and Mrs. Joseph I. Waring for almost \$2 million, includes a pavilion, animal forest, reconstructed earthworks and the Adventure, a reproduction of a 17th century sailing vessel of the type engaged in trade between Charles Towne and the West Indies during the early days of the colony. Charles Towne landing was dedicated April 5, 1970 and opened to the public April 18 of the same year.

Although this was the first settlement, this plantation did not produce noted public figures as the other plantations on the Ashley River did since the site of the city was moved to Oyster Point.

Panthelion Plantation

Next to Old Towne Plantation was a tract of land (consisting of 150 acres and an island and creek called Panthelion) which was conveyed to William Branford on Feb. 20, 1734 by John Beresford.

There is no record as to where the first William Branford came from, but there is a John Branford who appeared in the province about the same time and settled at Dorchester-on-the-Ashley. The Dorchester settlers came principally from Massachusetts and were Congregationalists.

Accabee Plantation, later changed to Orange Grove

In 1836, Accabee Plantation, after having passed from numerous owners, was acquired by Edward C. Perroneau. During his ownership, the plantation's name was changed to Orange Grove, and since then has retained that name. The creek's name was also changed from "Ickerby" or Accabee to Orange Grove Creek.

Westpenny or Wespanee

Adjoining Old Towne Plantation on the southwest, a tract of land consisting of 200 acres was granted to Capt. John Godfrey. The Indian name for that locality was Wespanee, and Godfrey modified that into Westpenny.

Westpenny later became the property of Andrew Deveau and was owned by him for many years. It was this Mr. Deveau who was a friend of Eliza Lucas and is frequently mentioned in her life. The distance between Miss Lucas' home on the Wappoo and Westpenny was but a few miles.

Ann Horry, wife of Thomas Horry, inherited Westpenny in 1776 and later changed the name to Fairfield. In 1785, Thomas Horry added 24 acres from the adjoining Tiger Swamp to Fairfield. The Horrys purchased a space for a burial ground from Charles Lining on the small island north of Hillsborough, where the Linings also had a family burying ground.

Yantee Plantation

Yantee Plantation is apparently the Indian name for the Proprietors' or Governors' Plantation, which served as a residence and meeting place for those governing the territory.

Hillsborough Plantation

Hillsborough Plantation remained in the Lining family until Jan. 1, 1834, when it was sold to Edward H. Fishburne. It was resold several times until it passed to C. C. Bowen, sometime sheriff of Charleston County during the Carpetbaggers' Republican ascendancy. His widow divided a large part of the private plantation of the Lords Proprietors and

sold out to negroes. This plantation became a negro settlement and is now called Maryville.

Bluff Plantation

Just a few miles from Ashley River Road stood Bluff Plantation on Wappoo Creek, made famous by Col. George Lucas' daughter, Miss Eliza Lucas, who made successful experiments in the cultivation of Indigo, greatly assisting in the development of its cultivation in the Province.

On this plantation, Col. Lucas had 20 slaves: 12 able-bodied men and 8 able-bodied women. Eliza Lucas never inherited this estate because at the time of his death her father was heavily embarrassed financially and the property went to his creditors. Eliza Lucas married Charles Pinckney, chief of the Province.

In the 1740's, South Carolina developed her second staple crop — indigo. Rice was the first.

Until 1722, however, little or no indigo was being cultivated. A young girl, Eliza Lucas, was among eminent South Carolina agricultural leaders, being one of the principal creators of a virtually new industry.

In 1739, when her father was called to Antigua, she assumed management of the plantation due to the feeble health of her mother. Her perseverance and intelligence in planting indigo in St. Andrew's Parish finally succeeded her third year. She distributed seed and information and sent 6 pounds to England in 1744 for comparison with the French product. Later, indigo was replaced by cotton in St. Andrew's Parish.

Ashley Hall Plantation

Northwest of Old Towne Plantation, or rather northwest of the grant of William Branford of 150 acres in 1694, lay the plantation of the original Stephen Bull, who came over on the Carolina and settled on the Ashley River. He was a lawyer and most of the legal documents of that period bear his signature, he being the only lawyer in South Carolina at that time.

This plantation was composed of 400 acres granted to Stephen Bull on Oct. 28, 1676 (although he had settled there prior to that date) and 100 adjoining acres granted in January 1694 or 1695. His son, William Bull, inherited the plantation and added 500 acres of adjoining land on May 14, 1707.

The second William Bull acquired the estate from his father. The Bull family held very prominent positions in the services they rendered the Province; especially these first three.

The property later passed on to William Bull's nephew, William Bull, and then to his son, Will Stephen Bull, and to his son, William Izard Bull,

in whose possession it remained until after 1870. Then due to losses inflicted on him by the war of 1861-65, the plantation was sold, having continued in the male line of the Bull family without a break from the first settlement of the Province of St. Andrew's Parish for more than 200 years.

The Bull's estate has always been known as Ashley Hall. It is mentioned by that name in the memorial to William Bull dated July 12, 1763, but it was known by that name at a much earlier date.

The plantation took its name from Anthony Cooper, Lord Ashley, afterwards the first Earl of Shaftsbury, for whom Stephen Bull was the deputy in the first government of the Province of Carolina.

The first dwelling erected on the plantation was a small one-story house, still standing and used as a dwelling. It was in this house that Stephen Bull lived and all of his children were born. It is said that he died there. The treaty of peace with the Cherokee Indians was signed here in 1761 by Attakullakulla (Little Carpenter), chief of the Cherokees, and the second lieutenant governor, William Bull. This house is the oldest on the Ashley River and perhaps the oldest building now standing in South Carolina. Up until about 50 years ago, bullets and arrowheads could be extracted from its walls.

Lt. Gov. Bull was the first native American to obtain a degree in medicine, graduating from the University of Leydon in 1734. He served five times as governor, and was known as a man of integrity, firm, wise and able.

The plantation house was constructed of brick and built about 1704 by the eldest son of Stephen Bull or, perhaps, as Stephen Bull lived until 1706, he may have built it himself.

The grounds of Ashley Hall were notable, a formal garden being laid out in 1770 in Italian style. Near the house were a lake, an Indian mound and beyond that a deer and elk park. The avenue of magnificent live oaks was said to have been planted in 1722 by the naturalist Mark Catesby when he was visiting Ashley Hall. Tree experts of today have said that some of the live oaks on the plantation are from 300 to 750 years old.

Ashley Hall was looted by the British during the Revolution, advancing from the south under General Prevost. The mansion stood until 1865, when Col. William Izard Bull, the last owner, set fire to it to save the home of his ancestors from destruction by his enemies.

The Indian mound on the plantation now has a bronze statue of an Indian chief, placed there about 1916 or 1917 to replace a statue of Diana, goddess of the chase, that disappeared during the War Between the States.

§Indian mounds are fast disappearing. Those that remain are reminders of one of the ways of life among the Cherokees. The mounds are mostly overgrown with weeds now, but they still whisper of ancient culture. The mounds were built by laying a circle of stones on the ground. Next the Indians made a fire in the circle and put near it the body of some prominent chief or priest who had died. Along with him were buried a great talismanic crystal, a horned serpent's scale or horn, a feather from the right wing of an eagle and beads of seven colors. After this, the mound was built up with earth fetched by women of the tribe in baskets.

William Bull, son of Stephen Bull, was successor to Col. Broughton as Governor of South Carolina until 1743. Like his father and grandfather, William Bull was wise to the ways of the Indians. He was lieutenant governor under Gov. Lyttleton when the Cherokees asked for peace and that their wrongs be heard. It was Lt. Gov. Bull who begged Lyttleton to listen to the Indians. The governor refused and the Indians rose up against the settlers. It was only after much fighting and bloodshed that the red men were conquered and Chief Attakullakulla signed the treaty which lasted until the Revolution.

Legend has it that Bull had his servants serve a magnificent meal to all after the signing. This greatly impressed the chief, and after that occasion he always served visiting Indian chiefs meals in courses, served using bark from trees instead of plates. He was a great admirer of Bull and copied many of his customs.

There is a monument erected to Lt. Gov. Bull on the plantation with the following inscription:

"To the memory of William Bull, who at an early age was called to the most important office.

"In 1750 he was appointed Lt. Governor and after exercised the Supreme Magistracy of South Carolina with dignity and integrity for the advantage of his country, and to his own honor.

"His mind was liberal, disinterested and noble and adorned with elegant useful learning.

"Admired in public, nor less loved in sociable life for his amiable and blameless manners.

"He conversed with animation, sense and wit and with peculiar gentleness and complacency.

"A Steady Friend, and affectionate Husband.

"Long and severely afflicted with the Stone, he bore its pains with the same temper and patience he sustain'd a reverse of Fortune.

"He died in July 1791, and was buried in the Chancel vault of St. Andrew's London. On this land part of his estate and the place of his

birth, the Obelyk was erected sacred to his Virtues and her Grief, with duty and affection, by his disconsolate Widow in 1792."

Ashley Hall remained in the Bull family until 1883. After that it changed ownership many times until 1915 when it was purchased by Julius H. Jahnz for \$30,000 cash. This was said to be one of the largest cash transactions in Charleston during that era. At that time, the plantation contained a little more than 1,000 acres. In 1918, Jahnz sold it to William C. Kennerty, whose family had resided on the plantation since 1900. Today, the property is owned by his heirs.

Pierpont

Northwest of the Bull place (Ashley Hall) and separated from it by a creek called Weepoolow by the Indians was a tract of 510 acres originally granted to George Bedon (Beaton) on Feb. 23, 1677. Later it was conveyed to Henry Symonds and his wife conveyed it to Benjamin Pierpont, a minister of the Congregational Church in Charleston on June 8, 1695.

Rev. Pierpont came to the Province from New England in 1691. He enjoyed the plantation a short period for he died in 1698. Nevertheless, his name survives as the name of the plantation. This property changed hands rapidly and in 1824 was sold to Simon Magwood. A portion of the tract is still called Magwood, although Pierpont has now become a thriving subdivision.

According to information obtained by G. Philip Higdon, a Pierpont resident, from the Library of Congress, Pierpont was the site of a skirmish in the Revolutionary War. It appears that the British were losing the war in the North, so Sir Henry Clinton, the British commander, was ordered south. He brought with him a company of Hessians, a company of German soldiers known as the Green Coats. This was about 1780 or 1781. These soldiers erected an earthen fort that still exists.

There is a road known as Parsonage Road (in the Magnolia subdivision of Pierpont) on which the parsonage of Old St. Andrew's Church existed.

It is not known how or when the property passed to William Fuller, who also had holdings on the north side of the river. It seems, though, that his residence was at Pierpont. This residence was burned by the enemy in 1865. The house was supposed to be an old colonial-looking brick mansion with basement loopholes for musketry.

St. Andrew's Episcopal Church

North of Pierpont there is a creek running into the Ashley River, which is called Cuppain or Cappain in earliest references. Today we know it as Church Creek. The present parish church of St. Andrew's stands on a tract of land given to Charles Jones on July 16, 1703 with Church Creek as one of its boundaries.

Construction of the church began in 1706, being a simple brick building. Seventeen years later, this was enlarged, taking the form of a cross. The gallery of the church was intended for non-pew holders and later it was set aside for negroes.

St. Andrew's Parish Episcopal Church was one of 10 parishes established by an Act of Assembly Nov. 30, 1706, under the governorship of Sir Nathaniel Johnson. The original part of the building measured 40 x 25. The walls of the nave and its cruciform are the oldest example of the Episcopal architecture in South Carolina. The tablets of the reredos, as far as is known, are original. Installed about 1723, they are of hand-hewn black cypress and bear in gold the Lord's Prayer, 10 Commandments and Apostle's Creed.

The Province suffered much from Indian, French, Spanish and British wars, and many inhabitants moved to Charles Towne for safety. One member of St. Andrew's Parish Church, Judge Thomas Narin, was murdered on a peace mission with the Indians. His grave, dated 1717, and his wife's, dated 1720, are in the ancient graveyard on the north side of the building.

An act of Aug. 10, 1764, authorized wardens to rent or sell pews, and this income was one of the main sources of revenue for the maintenance of the building in that period. Those who could not afford pews worshipped in the balcony. Mrs. Haig and Mrs. Edwards conducted the first school for slaves in the balcony.

With the decline of the indigo industry in the Province, the wealth of the church dwindled and it fell into disrepair. By 1855, the building had fallen prey to time, rot and decay, and William Izard Bull of Ashley Hall, a vestryman, undertook to repair it.

On the death of Rev. John Grimke-Drayton in 1891, only a few inhabitants remained in the parish and the church was closed. On Easter Sunday, March 28, 1948, Old St. Andrew's Church was reopened. In use is the only church silver that has been located — a chalice, paten and flag. Candleholders and vases have been restored to the church, along with a lectern Bible, given by Bishop Nathaniel Boone. Chairs in the sanctuary and the Hepplewhite altar table were gifts of a Charlestonian and were once used in the abbey in England. A register dating to the ministry of Paul Trapier (1830-1841) has been found and is on display in the church.

In the present restoration and reactivation of this historic old church, nothing of the old church has been changed. St. Andrew's Church looks as it did when it was established and can be seen easily from Ashley River Road.

St. Andrew's Town

A tract of 38 acres north of Jones' tract was incorporated into St. Andrew's Town. In 1835, all unsold lots in this town were conveyed by Col. William Cattell to the vestry and church wardens of St. Andrew's Parish Episcopal Church.

Springfield

Shem Butler arrived in the Province Sept. 16, 1675. He must have been a very young man because it was not until June 27, 1696 that he appears as receiving a warrant for 700 acres and it was not until May 5, 1704 that he received a formal grant for the property. He received two more grants for 418 and 1,332 acres, situated on the south side of the Ashley River and here is where he established his residence. By an act of the General Assembly in 1711, the landing place for the ferry at the point on the south side of the river and the road through the lands of Shem Butler were declared public forever.

On the west side of this road he laid out Ashley Ferry Town or Shem Town. This property was divided at his death among his children. A daughter Elizabeth (married to landgrave Edmund Bellinger) called her portion Springfield in her will. A brick tomb was put over her mother, although this grave has not been found. The residence has long been destroyed, but there is evidence of gardens and grounds.

The Ferry Tract

A tract of 216 acres laid south and west of Ashley Ferry Town, this land had been allocated to Sarah Butler. Prior to 1771, 86 acres were conveyed to Edward Legge.

A public ferry existed at this point since 1703. In 1820, the ferry was transferred to Joseph F. Bee and since has been known as Bee's Ferry.

The settlement was near the river bank, but the use of it as a site for phosphate mining has destroyed every vestige of it.

Savage

To Rebecca Butler was given 313 acres south of the part given her sister Sarah. The property, along with Sarah's, was acquired by Jeremiah Savage, under whose ownership it took its name. Eventually, it became the property of Ralph Izard Jr., who annexed it to his Schieveling Plantation.

Hickory

The widow of Shem Butler (Ester) was given 313 acres south of the tract allocated to Rebecca Butler. This property was divided and conveyed to several relatives. In 1801, part was conveyed to John Splatt Cripps under the name of Hickory Hill.

In 1825, Hickory Place, containing 28 acres, was conveyed to Rev. Christian Hanckel. The residence has disappeared but 1 acre retained as a burial ground for the Cripps family was still in existence about 1919.

Cripps

Abigail Butler (Mrs. John Watson) was allocated 313 acres lying south of Hickory Hill. This property was conveyed to William Branford in 1741. It passed from relative to relative, and in December 1798 was conveyed to John Splatt Cripps, who had acquired a tract of 500 acres in 1786 and an adjoining tract of 100 acres in 1797.

Cripps is supposed to have made his residence on the tract acquired in 1786, prior to his purchase of Hickory Hill in 1801. No special name is given this property, but on old maps it is designated as Cripps.

The site of the house was on a 500-acre plot adjoining, purchased in 1786 from John Lloyd.

The land became the property of the Rose phosphate mining company and unfortunately the line of mine excavation lay directly across the old garden and the house.

Schieveling

In the Charleston Evening Post of Friday, Aug. 3, 1962, appeared the following article:

"This handsome avenue of live oaks was probably planted around 1793, when Ralph Izard acquired the property on the Ashley River. The entrance, which is on Highway 61 (Ashley River Road), at that time led to the Izards' country residence, known as 'Schieveling.'

"The original house at 'Schieveling' was destroyed by fire when the Izards' only son was returning from his wedding tour.

"Legend has it that as he and his bride turned onto the avenue from the public road, they looked upon the house in flames.

"Mr. and Mrs. M. R. Hinkle are the present owners of the property that includes the entrance and about 150 acres of the original estate. The grounds and garden were in a state of neglect and disrepair when they built their home and began other improvements in the 1960s.

"By the simple act of regular mowing, a carpet of grass has been encouraged, giving the grounds a beautiful park-like appearance.

"This garden is a Home and Neighborhood Development Sponsors Choice."

Thomas Butler, son of Shem Butler, was allocated 313 acres on the Ashley River, west of the Ferry tract allocated to his sister, Sarah.

Thomas Butler seems to have moved his residence to Prince William's Parish, where he died in 1746. He left his lands to his son, Thomas, who died without children. His son, William, seems to have died without children also. In some way, the property was acquired by Elizabeth Butler, widow of Thomas Butler, and mother of Thomas and William. She later married Robert D'Arques and her third husband was Robert Young. Eventually, the property was owned by Ralph Izard. He resided on the property as his home and country estate. During his occupancy, the place became known as Schieveling.

Ralph Izard died leaving one son and six daughters. A daughter, Ester, married the Honorable Thomas Middleton. A deed of 1826 refers to the 1,056 acres as Schieveling, although it was known by that name long before. The property changed hands from Thomas Middleton to Dr. Charles Drayton to Joseph F. Bee to Henry A. Middleton, Esq.

Vaocluse

On January 1676-1677, a warrant was issued to lay out to Capt. Henry Bryan 1,100 acres. On April 29, 1678, a warrant was issued to lay out 1,100 to Jonathan Fitz. Apparently, Bryan abandoned his land, for on Nov. 30, 1678, it was directed to be laid out to Jonathan Fitz.

This property eventually became the property of a descendant, James Stanyaine, grand-nephew of Thomas Ferguson, who died in May 1786. He devised his wife, formerly Ann Wragg, the tract on the Ashley River, and directed that a two-story wooden house 20 feet wide and 45 feet long be built. It is not known if this house was built, but under proceedings to settle the estate, 354 acres bounded on the northeast by marshes of the Ashley River, on the southeast by lands of Ralph Izard Jr., on the southwest by land formerly of Benjamin Stanyaine, and on the northwest by land formerly of John Drayton were conveyed to Thomas Middleton on April 12, 1791.

A house was erected by Thomas Middleton, who made it his country residence until his death in 1797. It continued to be the home of his widow (Anne, daughter of the Honorable Peter Manigault) and his children for many years.

In the division of Thomas Middleton's estate, the property went to his daughter, Ester, who married her neighbor on the river, Ralph Stead Izard of Schieveling. At her death in 1819, she devised to her son, Ralph Stead Izard, the "country seat on the Ashley River called Vaocluse." This is the first appearance of the name on record, although a map nearly 30 years previous had it called such.

It became the property of Thomas B. Clarkson and in 1845 431 and 40/100 acres were conveyed to Henry A. Middleton.

Drayton Hall

On Sunday, Jan. 31, 1965, The News and Courier contained an article headed "Drayton Hall: Palladian Villa on the Ashley. Greatest House in America." The article follows:

"The world's greatest collector of American antiques says the greatest house in America is Drayton Hall near Charleston.

"The collector is Henry Francis duPont, formerly of Winterthur Museum at Wilmington, Del. The museum houses rooms furnished with American antiques and appropriate European materials to illustrate the best of the decorative arts in this country. A Charleston room is among the exhibits.

"Drayton Hall was built about 1740 on the Ashley River, just below Magnolia Gardens. It was one of three houses on the Ashley that escaped the federal torch in the Civil War. The owner had turned it into a hospital for Negroes having a virulent form of smallpox and the soldiers gave it wide berth.

"The builder was John Drayton, a third generation Barbadian of English ancestry. He came to Carolina in 1679, nine years after the first settlers landed at Old Town (Charles Towne). In 1738, he bought the site on the Ashley about 10 miles from present-day Charleston.

"Drayton Hall is a Palladian villa of the style that was popular in 18th century England, now known as Georgian. The English venerated Andrea Palladio, an Italian architect of the 16th century. His revival of classical architecture in Renaissance Italy was the inspiration for great houses 150 years later in England. The style spread to America.

"The interior of Drayton Hall contains elaborate wood carving, a fine plaster ceiling and a grand double stairway in a spacious hall. Since it was built less than 70 years after the first settlers arrived in the wilderness, it is a remarkable testimonial to the wealth and good taste of the builder, as well as his confidence in the country.

"Samuel Gaillard Stoney in 'Plantations of the Carolina Lowcountry' called Drayton one of a 'clique of merchant-planter-politician families who were making and marrying themselves into being a sort of Venetian aristocracy. Later the sons of this company hoped, through Revolution, to set up their own Council of Ten and freed from English placemen govern South Carolina even more completely than their fathers. But in the mid-18th century, the heyday of their property, the latter were fairly satisfied to make Ashley River into a Lowcountry Brenla, lining its banks with show palaces and gardens.'

"Now occupied, Drayton Hall still is owned by the Drayton family, providing one of the longest records of continuous property ownership in

the United States. The News and Courier verified with Mr. duPont, for publication in this article, his previous verbal estimate of Drayton Hall as 'the greatest house in America.'"

A warrant was issued to lay out to Nicholas Carteret 750 acres on Jan. 30, 1676/7, and on Aug. 10, 1673, another warrant was issued to lay out 750 acres to Edward Mayo.

On March 8, 1680, Edward and Ann Mayo transferred the tract to Joseph Harden of Barbados. The property came down to Alexander Skine and Jemina, his wife, conveyed 750 acres on the Ashley River to Francis and Lydia Young on June 17, 1718. Next, the property was owned by Jordan and Rebecca Roche. Then 350 acres, being the northeast part of the 750 acres bounding on the Ashley River, were conveyed to John Drayton on March 2, 1738. This John Drayton was the grandson of the original Thomas Drayton who came to the province in 1679.

John Drayton became a prominent citizen of the province, was for many years a member of His Majesty's Council and was referred to as the Honorable John Drayton. It was on this tract of 350 acres that he erected a fine mansion house and established his county seat, known as Drayton Hall. The house was completed before 1758 and was described by Charles Faucheraud as a "palace." The property became the property of Dr. Charles Drayton, son of the Honorable John Drayton. Dr. Charles Drayton married Esther Middleton, daughter of the Honorable Henry Middleton.

In 1796, the Duke de la Rochefoucault Leancourt made a trip up the Ashley River to acquaint himself with the interior and to view county seats in those parts. He gives the following account:

"We stopped to dine with Dr. Drayton at Drayton Hall. The house is an ancient building, but convenient and good, and the garden is better laid out and better cultivated and stocked with good trees, than any I have hitherto seen. In order to have a fine garden, you have nothing to do but to let the trees remain standing here and there, or in clumps, to plant bushes in front of them, and arrange the trees according to their height. Dr. Drayton's father, who was also a physician, began to lay out the garden on this principle; and his son, who is passionately fond of country life, has pursued the same plan. The prospect from the garden is like all others — views in this part of the country."

The property now is jointly owned by the National Trust for Historic Preservation and the state of South Carolina and is operated in cooperation with the Historic Charleston Foundation. By making only those improvements necessary for the protection and stabilization of the house, the National Trust operates Drayton Hall in the continuing

tradition of preservation, respecting the architectural integrity of the house.

Magnolia

Magnolia-on-the-Ashley was, in Colonial times, one of the richest yielding rice plantations in the Lowcountry. Then as today, its location on a bluff overlooking a bend in the Ashley River adds even more charm, beauty and interest to the site.

On Dec. 30, 1676, a warrant was issued to lay out to Mr. Maurice Matthews 750 acres. Maurice Matthews was one of the most active and prominent of the first settlers, having come over in the first shipload of settlers in March 1670.

When the surveyor checked the land issued to Maurice Matthews, he did not find the full 750 acres; only 402 acres were laid out on the southwest side of the Ashley River between a parcel of land not yet laid out taken by Mr. Nicholas Cartwright on the northeast side thereof, land taken up by Mr. Hugh Lewis on the northeast side and butting upon the Ashley River and "a cane and bryer swamp." A formal grant for this land was issued to Maurice Matthews on April 28, 1677. This land was conveyed by Mr. Matthews to Mr. Stephen Fox, who apparently by his will devised this 402 acres to the second Thomas Drayton, chief justice of Florida. On his removal to Florida, he conveyed the three tracts to his uncle, Hon. John Drayton. This tract included the marsh and river front. Before this, the Hon. John Drayton had acquired 200 acres from the 1,100-acre grant of John Gordon. This was annexed to the Magnolia property in April 1762.

The Hon. John Drayton was married four times, first to Sarah Cattell, daughter of William Cattell — no record of surviving children; second to Charlotte, daughter of Lt. Gov. William Bull, by whom he had sons — William Henry Drayton, chief justice of South Carolina during the Revolution, and Charles Drayton, M.D.; third to Margaret Glenn, by whom he had sons — Glenn Drayton and Thomas Drayton; and fourth to Rebecca Perry, by whom he had one son, John, who died young, and two daughters. At the death of the Hon. John Drayton in 1779, the Magnolia property passed on to his son, Thomas.

John Davis, who published an account of his travels in the United States, was a tutor for the Thomas Draytons in 1798 and speaks of the house on the Ashley River as a "venerable mansion." It was probably the oldest of the Draytons' residences on the Ashley. The residence was destroyed by the enemy in 1865.

Several tracts were added from time to time, including a tract called "Bowman", "Perry's", "Bear Hill" and "Gordon's" were willed to John Grimke, a grandson, if he would take the name Drayton. He was the son

of Sarah Drayton who married Thomas S. Grimke. John Grimke changed his name to John Grimke-Drayton and was the late Rev. John Grimke-Drayton, for many years the rector of the parish of St. Andrew's. He died in 1891.

The acreage given Rev. John Grimke-Drayton totalled 1,872 acres. By his skill, labor and unwearied attention, he transformed Magnolia to the beauty that it is today. Before his death, he sold all the land laying south of Public Road (Ashley River Road) so Magnolia property no longer includes any of that area.

Before his death, the Rev. Grimke-Drayton was forced to retire because of ill health. Because of this retirement, he was able to contribute such time to the developing of his garden, thereby contributing possibly as much as to the spiritual welfare of mankind as he might have done had he remained in the ministry.

The gardens are open to the public.

Perry Hill

West of Magnolia and on the Ashley River was a tract of 100 acres which was laid out to Francis Ladson on May 6, 1696 under the terms of a purchase receipt from the Lords Proprietors. Later, 60 acres of marshland was added. On March 16, 1820, the tract was conveyed to Thomas Drayton and became part of Magnolia. The name Perry Hill survived as its local designation.

Runnymede

On Sept. 15, 1705, a grant of 300 acres on the south side of the Ashley River was made to John Cattell. The grant was bounded on the east by Francis Ladson's Perry Hill.

This John Cattell was the eldest son of John Cattell, the immigrant. The property passed to his only child, John. On May 30, 1777, the property was conveyed to Abraham Ladson, there being 45 acres in the transaction. He sold off parts of this tract to Nathaniel Fuller and Glenn Drayton. The 40 acres he reserved for himself were conveyed at his death to Lambert Lance and later to John Julius Pringle, son of Robert Pringle, who was of the family of Pringle of Symington near Edinburgh.

Robert Pringle was a merchant in Charleston and for a number of years before the Revolution one of the assistant judges of the Province, appointed under the crown. His son, John Julius Pringle, was a distinguished lawyer, who practiced in Charleston, and half-brother of William Bull, son of Stephen Bull of Granville County and to whom was devised the Ashley Hall Plantation.

The Duke de la Rochefoucault visited John Julius Pringle in Charleston and was with Pringle when he made his trip up the Ashley River and wrote his impressions of the voyage.

The plantation was first known as "Greenville," then Pringle called it "Sarah Place" after his lovely wife. But when the new mansion was completed, it was called "Runnymede."

When Pringle died in 1841 at the age of 91, the property passed to his son, William Bull Pringle, who added 450 acres from the Fullers' tract in 1845. The plantation totalled 1,457 acres when he sold it in 1862. The land was acquired by C. C. Pinckney, who for years mined off the phosphate deposits. The mansion built by Pringle was destroyed by the enemy in 1865 and the present one was built by Pinckney.

Fuller

North of Runnymede was a plantation owned by the Fuller family. No specific name was given to this plantation, according to any deed or plat. It is only referred to as "Fullers".

The first grant was made May 11, 1703, for 1,030 acres to William Fuller. Capt. William Fuller came to the colony in 1678 and brought settlers. A William Fuller, presumably the same, was a member of the Grant Council and a proprietors' deputy in October 1679 and as late as November 1680.

In 1845, 500 acres (comprising the riverfront with the old plantation settlement) were conveyed to William Bull Pringle and annexed to Runnymede. Other grants were made and by 1849, the Fullers' ownership of land on the Ashley River was terminated.

The Oaks

John Cattell arrived in the Province in August 1672. He came as a servant to Thomas Butler, but this does not mean anything more than he was registered for the purpose of claiming "arrival rights." Wives, sons and daughters of settlers frequently were mentioned in warrants as servants of the grantee of land so as to give them the right to settle in the new land. Whether he was really a servant or not, he became the ancestor of a wealthy and prominent family in the Province.

Land granted him was on the south side of the Ashley River where he established his residence. He accumulated much acreage but only a meager description of grants is on record, which makes it difficult to locate the different original grants — especially the grants of the plantation "The Oaks."

John Cattell died in 1709, apparently leaving no widow. The property was conveyed to his grandson, John Cattell, (son of his eldest son, John

Cattell, who had predeceased him) and three sons and a son-in-law. no mention is made of a living daughter.

Much land was acquired by the Cattell family and by May 22, 1733, the date of William Cattell's memorial, it consisted of some 3,300 acres either on or near the Ashley River. His country residence appears to have been on the Ashley River at the plantation known as "Brick House." Except for the plantation "The Oaks," the lands were sandy and poor; the lands on the river being most fertile.

William Cattell was also a merchant in Charles Towne and, according to the South Carolina Gazette of Aug. 24, 1752, it was stated that William Cattell was 70 years of age and one of the richest men in the Province.

The last William Cattell, a widower, died without children. He devised his estate to his sister, who had moved to Baltimore. Consequently, "The Oaks" was conveyed to John A. Ramsay on Oct. 20, 1846.

The house was destroyed by fire in 1865 and today there is no evidence of the avenue of oaks or garden.

Millbrook

James Humphreys was granted 270 acres on the south side of the Ashley River on Aug. 22, 1699. The land was conveyed to John and Grace Jackson on Aug. 30, 1708, who conveyed it to William Fuller, son of the first settler by that name. William Walter, son-in-law of William Cattell, became the owner of the property.

William Walter was owner of the neighboring Wampee Plantation. He died in 1766 and according to his will directed that certain parts of his land be sold, including his plantation on the Ashley. This plantation was known as Jackson. it seems to have acquired the name of Millbrook during the ownership of John Alline Walter.

On Feb. 27, 1786, the property was acquired by Abraham Ladson. Sometime in 1786, the property was conveyed to the Hon. Thomas Middleton. Middleton also purchased Vacluse property and it does not appear that he ever made Millbrook his residence. He died in 1795 and his estate remained in his family until 1838, when it was conveyed to J. Pinckney Clement as Millbrook containing 338 acres.

Millbrook, situated on a bluff commanding a superb view of the Ashley River, is now the residence of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas H. Carter. The modern building was constructed near the site of an earlier residence, and the Carters have also developed the landscaped gardens to complement the house.

Brick Plantation or Cattell Bluff

On May 17, 1701, a grant of 240 acres was made to the first John Cattell. The land joined the lands of Henry Middleton on the west and the lands of William Walter on the east. The property was advertised for sale on Feb. 28, 1788. It was bid on by the Hon. Thomas Middleton, who later rejected it as the title was defective. This led to the famous Bowman vs. Middleton case to compel him to accept. Middleton was held (rightly on the question of interference of the older grant) not compellable to take title.

Although in deeds the place was called "Brick House," from the large brick mansion on it, it was also popularly referred to as Cattell's Bluff, due to the bluff at the curve of the river.

There are no remains of the house or garden, only a family burial ground that was near the mansion. The vaults have been broken into and only the remains of a casket can be seen.

Ashley Hill

William Cattell (who died in 1732) included in his land holdings a plantation known as Ashley Hill, the residence of Lt. Col. William Cattell. The property was sold to Commodore Alexander Gillon, the well-known naval officer of the States during the Revolution.

Dr. Joseph Johnson in his "Traditions" says that Commodore Gillon "had a handsome country seat called Ashley Hill on the Ashley River in the vicinity of the city, next south of Middleton Place."

Because of financial difficulties, Gillon advertised this elegant house of 22 rooms for sale. The property was conveyed to Mary Middleton, widow of the Hon. Arthur Middleton, owner of Middleton Place. Mrs. Middleton gave the property to her daughter, Ann, wife of Daniel Blake. Apparently, Mr. and Mrs. Blake did not fancy Ashley Hill as a residence because on June 13, 1801, the property was conveyed to John Geddes, a Charleston lawyer who became governor in 1818. He had a large plantation nearer Charleston on the Stono River in St. Andrews Parish. In 1849, the property on the Ashley River was acquired by William Middleton, then the owner of Middleton Place. The name "Batavia" bestowed on it by Gillon disappeared and the property has always been known as Ashley Hill.

The residence has disappeared, as have all traces of a garden except for the stately old oaks.

Middleton Place

In September 1675, Jacob Wayte (or Waight), his wife, son and three servants arrived in the Province, and on Sept. 14, 1675, a warrant was issued to lay out 600 acres for him. On Oct. 30, 1675, another warrant

was issued for 767 acres on the Ashley River, bounded on the west by a creek running into the river and separating his land for a distance from the Barony of the Earl of Shaftesbury. The creek for a long period was known as Jacob's or Waight's Creek.

On May 2, 1696 and Feb. 24, 1699, two tracts of 300 acres each were conveyed to Richard Godfrey. In 1715, the Provincial House of Commons ordered that a garrison be built on Godfrey's plantation adjoining Ashley Barony on the Ashley River. After several transfers, it became the property of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Middleton prior to 1759.

Early in the possession of the Middletons, the property became known as Middleton Place. Although Middleton had received the Oaks, he seemed to live largely at Middleton Place, where he added to the mansion and had the garden terraced and ornamental waters laid out by an English gardener. It is said that this work took 10 years to complete and that 100 slaves worked on the project. In later years, his grandson Henry Middleton invited Andre Michaux, celebrated French botanist, to visit Middleton Place and through him procured some of the first Camellia Japonicas brought to America. Three of the four plants set out by Michaux are still living.

In 1764, Middleton secured the marshlands on the river, which he diked, reclaimed and used for the cultivation of rice.

After his death, the property was turned over to his eldest son, Arthur, a member of the Council of Safety and one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence. At the death of Arthur Middleton on Jan. 1, 1787, Middleton Place passed to his son, Henry, who later became a representative, senator, governor, member of Congress, minister to Russia and one of the leaders of the Union party in the States.

During the ownership of Henry Middleton, the Duke de la Rochefoucault Leancourt visited Middleton Place in 1798 and gave the following account:

"Half a mile from Batavia, the name of Commodore Gillon's plantation, stands Middleton house, property of Mrs. Middleton, mother-in-law to young Mr. Izard, which is esteemed the most beautiful house in this part of the country. The outbuildings; such as kitchen, wash-house and offices; are very capacious. The ensemble of these buildings calls to recollection the English country seats. The rooms in the house are small, and the outside, as well as the inside, is badly kept. A peculiar feature of the situation is this, that the river, which flows on a circuitous course, until it reaches this point, forms here a beautiful canal pointing straight to the house. The garden is beautiful, but kept on the same manner as the house; the soil is very bad, and, in my opinion, the whole plantation is altogether undeserving the celebrity it enjoys."

Gov. Middleton paid a great deal of attention to the grounds and garden afterwards.

To William Middleton, son of Gov. Middleton, are due the magnificent lines of Indian Azaleas, which when in blossom make a crown of coloring over the terrace.

In February 1865, a raiding party of a merciless enemy occupied Middleton Place. On the day of their arrival, Nathaniel Russell Middleton, a cousin of William Middleton, who was the elderly president of the Charleston College, arrived at Middleton Place to visit a sick slave. He was immediately captured and thrice put before a firing squad, until the sick slave rose from his bed and begged for his life, along with other Negroes who had not left the plantation. His life was saved, but the houses were destroyed, art treasures taken away and all graves rifled, including that of Gov. Middleton, the bodies being left strewn outside.

The residence at Middleton Place is supposed to have been built prior to 1756, although the exact date is not known. It consisted of a three-story central brick building with a disconnected wing on either side. The lines of Middleton Place are on a nobler and larger plan than those of Drayton or Magnolia. Its stately live oaks, well-proportioned grounds, groups of azaleas and camellias, its beautiful shaped terrace descending to the river present a picture more effective than any garden on the Ashley River. With the exception of Archdale, it is the only place on the Ashley owned by a descendant of the original owner without a break in succession.

Middleton Place concludes the history of the plantations, but the writer wishes to mention several other places of interest on the Ashley River Road, which connects Charleston with Summerville.

Laurels

Laurels on the Ashley, home of Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Sullivan, is located 20 miles from Charleston and was built in 1930. Most of the material for its construction came from the old Clayfield Plantation. Mahogany paneling for the dining room came from a Roman Catholic convent outside New Orleans. The four-acre garden is landscaped with azaleas and camellias.

Old Dorchester

Dorchester County contains part of Middleton Place. The county was established in 1897 from portions of Colleton and Berkeley counties. Also in Dorchester County is Old Dorchester Town on the Ashley River 25 miles northwest of Charleston.

Old Dorchester was settled in 1695 by Puritans from Massachusetts and in recent years, foundations of some original structures have been

unearthed. Ruins of historic interest also have been rediscovered. Among these are the remains of an ancient church built in the 18th century, and parts of Fort Dorchester, erected in 1757.

Fort Dorchester, a brick powder magazine enclosed by a tabby wall eight feet high, was the scene of considerable military activity during the Revolution. At one time, the garrison was under the command of Gen. Francis Marion, famed Swamp Fox of South Carolina history.

Restoration of this venerable community is in progress and the area, classified as an "historic memorial or shrine," is designated Old Dorchester State Historic Park.

The information on Old Dorchester is taken from "Historical Highlights" by S.C. Electric and Gas Co.

Sheldon Episcopal Church, Beaufort

Although Sheldon Episcopal Church is in Beaufort, the records show that it is connected with Ashley Hall, home of the Bull family.

Prince William's parish in Beaufort County, named for Prince William of Cumberland, was formed in 1745. The parish church, completed in 1753, was later known as Sheldon, a name derived, it is thought, from an adjoining plantation, Sheldon Hall, owned by Lt. Gov. William Bull.

Early records indicate that the church was the place of worship of many prominent families in the community. In 1753, it received a gift of two silver chalices, and in 1756 Sheldon was presented a complete set of communion silver by Lt. Gov. Bull, who is buried in its ancient graveyard.

The building, a handsome brick edifice with tall, sturdy columns, was burned in 1797 by the British on their march from Savannah to the siege of Charles Towne. Rebuilt in 1824 with brick, much of which came from the original structure, the fine old church again suffered indignity and destruction during the War Between the States. Used as a stable by union troops and burned in January 1865 by Sherman's 15th Corps, Sheldon was never rebuilt.

The Elms

A plantation on the north side of the Ashley River deserves to be mentioned here because of its connection with the Izard family, holders of vast acreage on the south side of the river.

The Baptist College campus is now on what was formerly "The Elms" plantation. While new buildings are being constructed, excavators are attempting to preserve the ruins of the once-majestic plantation.

The Elms was built in 1810 on a 4,350-acre plantation owned by Ralph Izard. The magnificent home was surrounded by formal gardens, and visited by numerous well-known South Carolinians and Americans.

The house passed out of the Izard family in 1826 when it was sold to settle the estate of Ralph's son, Henry. It continued to stand in fair condition until it was badly damaged in the earthquake of 1886. It was never repaired and was allowed to fall into ruins.

Excavation work done by Joseph R. Davis, landscape architect of Baptist College, uncovered most of the house's foundations in addition to the foundations of a gazebo, a boat landing and a carriage house.

The house of 1810 had four large columns on the side facing the creek and rice fields. The entrance led into a square hall with a staircase on one side. The hall opened on either side into octagonal rooms. The landward side of the mansion, which might be called the front, had a porch with four smaller columns.

The Izards were an extremely wealthy family — Ralph Izard owned five other plantations besides the Elms. He and Pierce Butler were the first U.S. senators to represent South Carolina in Congress. Izard served from 1789 to 1795, and served as president pro tem of the Senate.

He was married to Alice DeLancy of New York and they lived in London and Paris for some years before the American Revolution. While in Rome, they sat for the well-known portrait by Copley which hangs in the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston.

Ralph Izard apparently took great pride in the Elms and lived there after he retired from public life.

Nature was most kind and generous when she distributed beauty to the coastal region of South Carolina — The serene pine forests, the oaks draped with Spanish moss, the oleanders that bloom the entire summer, the dogwood that adds color to our forests and the jessimine and goldenrod and other wild flowers too numerous to mention. The legends of the dogwood and Spanish moss will be found most interesting.

THE LEGEND OF DOGWOOD

Dogwood is connected by legend to the crucifixion of Christ nearly 20 centuries ago. According to the legend, the cross was made of dogwood, its use being prompted by the firmness and toughness of the wood. Legend has it that this cruel usage caused the dogwood species much anguish and this was sensed by Jesus. The legend has him telling the tree: "Because of your regret for my suffering, I make you this promise. Never again shall the dogwood tree grow large enough to be used as a cross. Henceforth, it shall be slender and bent and twisted, and its blossoms shall be in the form of a cross — two large petals and two short petals —

and in the center of the outer edge of each there will be nail prints, brown with rust and stained with blood. In the center of the flower there will be the image of a crown and thorns and all who see it will remember that it was upon a dogwood tree that I was crucified, and this tree shall not be mutilated or destroyed but cherished as a reminder of my death upon the cross." The bract of the dogwood (actually it isn't a flower) fairly well fits the description.

LEGEND OF THE SPANISH MOSS

Don Gorez Goz, in the good ship Gree,
Came from Spain across the sea,
And a terribly mean old man was he.

A cake of soap and a yard of braid
Was every cent that Gorez paid
For a perfectly beautiful Indian maid.

And the braid was tarnished as could be
Which the Indian maid could plainly see.
She turned and fled, and grim as dead
Gorez followed, till out of breath.

The damsel was forced to climb a tree
And Gorez followed — but oh, dear me!
The branches tangled up in his beard
And held so tightly it appeared
He'd have to remain indefinitely!
Old Gorez Goz of the good ship Gree.

All but his beard has faded away
But there it hangs to this very day.
A terrible warning to all who hope
To win a maid with a cake of soap
And a yard of braid that she can see
Isn't as good as it used to be.

The following summary of the Ashley River Road is taken from "Landmarks of Charleston" by Thomas Petigru Lesesne.

"St. Andrew's Church is but one of the many interesting and historic places on the Ashley River Road. Two miles from the Ashley River Bridge, the road passes near the site of the original Charles Towne in South Carolina and three miles farther is the Ashley Hall Plantation of the Bull family, distinguished in provincial and colonial periods. It was on the Bulls' place that Attakullakulla, a chief of the Cherokees, signed a treaty of peace in the 1760's after his tribe had been severely humbled by the whites. Just across the highway were the lovely Magnolia Gardens, now the property of a granddaughter of President Abraham Lincoln.

Here the highway passes through a grove of majestic live oaks festooned with Spanish moss. Seven miles from the bridge one passes St. Andrew's Church and a short distance farther through Old Fort, the moat about which has been filled. Next on right is the entrance to Drayton Hall, then Magnolia Gardens, Runnymede, home of John Julius Pringle, speaker of the House of the Assembly in 1787, and later the property of Charles Cotesworth Pinckney of the famous Pinckney family; Middleton Place (gardens where is buried Arthur Middleton, signer of the Declaration of Independence); the seat of the old Wragg barony; the Ashley River is crossed at Bacon's Bridge near which stands an ancient oak beneath the spreading bough of which Gen. Francis Marion is alleged to have entertained a British officer (it is a pretty legend, but its site is severally located). Half a mile beyond the bridge is the road leading down to the ruins of Old Dorchester, established in 1696 by colonists from Dorchester, Mass., led by the Rev. Joseph Lord. In this year, ruins of the fort and churches are mute reminders of a brave village in a primeval wilderness infested with savage Indians. From Bacon's Bridge the distance to Summerville is 5 miles. It is a drive every visitor to this section should follow. In the season, the Middleton Place and Magnolia are open to visitors."

This history has been prepared by Rosina Sottile Kennerty for the sole purpose in mind of pointing out the historic and romantic background of the estates on the south side of the Ashley River. Most of the estates have given way to progress and are now beautiful subdivisions. A few still exist and the owners often welcome visitors to share the beauties of nature.

The writer has resided at Ashley Hall since 1921, when she married William C. Kennerty, agriculturist and owner of Ashley Hall. Some member of the Kennerty family has resided at Ashley Hall, Bull's Place, since 1900.

For material included in this history the writer is indebted to the following:

The News and Courier

The Charleston Evening Post

Historic Charleston pamphlets

"A Charleston Sketchbook" by Charles Frasier, published by the Carolina Art Association.

"Landmarks of Charleston" by Thomas Petigru Lesesne

S. C. Historical and Genealogical Magazine Vol. 20, January 1919 No. 1 "The Ashley River — Its Seats and Settlements" by Henry A. M. Smith; Vol. 16 January 1915 No. 1 "Old Charles Towne and Vicinity,

etc" by Henry A. M. Smith; Vol. LIII No. 2 April 1952 "Ashley Hall Plantation" by Henry De Saussure Bull.

Charleston "Azaleas and Old Bucks" by Baynard Wooten and Samuel G. Stoney

Pamphlets S. C. Electric and Gas Co.

FAMILIES

In closing the article on the plantations on the Ashley River, it is of interest to observe how families have shifted and disappeared and the manner in which they migrated elsewhere in some cases.

The Godfreys

Capt. John Godfrey, the eldest son of Col. John Godfrey, had a larger tract on the south bank opposite Charles Towne, his brother Richard had 600 acres, a part of which is now Middleton Place. Their descendants moved into St. Bartholomew's Parish in Colleton County. Through a female descendant, Hillsborough Plantations continued to her descendants, the Lingings, until 1834.

The Bellingers

Edmund Bellinger, the second, through his wife Elizabeth, daughter of Shem Baker, held Springfield Plantation. Their main holdings were on the Stono and Ashepoo rivers, making Stony Point their main residence. These holdings were disposed of in 1834, and Springfield property before that date.

The Canteys

George Canteys, the first immigrant, at first received grants near old Charles Towne on the south bank of the Ashley River. He soon moved to the north bank, later drifted to Pine Tree Hill, afterwards known as Camden. Before 1800, all traces of the Canteys' possessions on the Ashley had disappeared with them. It was while living on the Ashley River that William and John Canteys held military positions which placed their names in the Province's early history.

The Fullers

The Fullers held property on both sides of the Ashley River. The second William Fuller owned Pierpont, Fullers and Millbrook on the south and Maryville on the north. A grandson once owned Schieveling on the south side. Thomas Fuller moved to Beaufort County and disposed of his lands on the Ashley about 1843 and the name Fuller disappeared from the area.

The Filchers

The Filchers were early settlers and held lands on both sides of the Ashley River for only three generations, and by 1740 they had disappeared.

The Butlers

The family of Thomas Butler held lands for only two generations. They seem to have drifted to Granville County. At one time, they owned Schieveling.

The Bakers

The Bakers of Archdale held their property on the Ashley longer than any of the other families from 1681-1900. Their holdings at one time included Child, Chatsworth, Spring Farm and Bakers, as well as the Archdale properties. They never spread out on the river or increased their holdings.

The Draytons

The Draytons still continue on the Ashley River on holdings acquired by them but not originally granted to them. Like the Bulls, they acquired lands in Granville County but maintained Drayton Hall as their residence.

The Cattells

The Cattells, like the Bakers, were strictly on the Ashley River, although their holding extended into the Parish of St. George and St. Paul's Parish. The last of the Cattells' lands were sold in 1859.

The Izards

The Izards were the largest land owners of all the families on the river, owning lands on both sides. From the numerous holdings, it would appear that this family was deeply vested in the soil. The name Izard does not appear today as owning lands in this section. Whatever property the family acquired, they always erected fine residences and beautiful grounds. They were strictly planters, who showed what care, skill, intelligence and industry can do in developing land.

The Middletons

Henry Middleton was the first Middleton to settle on the Ashley River. He was the son of Gov. Arthur Middleton of The Oaks on Goose Creek. He and his descendants added to their holdings and today Middleton Place is the largest privately owned estate on the river. It is the only place on the river with the exception of Archdale which is in the hands of a descendant of the original owners.

The Bulls

The Bulls remained on the Ashley River from 1670 to about 1871. Ashley Hall was the county seat and residence of the elder branch. They never spread out on the river. The estate remained substantially as granted to Stephen Bull. His son, William Bull, purchased valuable properties in Granville County from which he derived his income.



Mrs. Kennerty was born in Charleston, S.C. the daughter of Nicholas and Maria Sottile. She was educated in the public schools of Charleston and graduated from Memminger Normal School. She has received, numerous recognitions for her volunteer work. Among them, the "Golden Deed Award" from the St. Andrews Exchange Club, The T.V. Station 2 "Man of the Year", The Charleston Federation of Women's Clubs Awards. "Woman of the Year" and named to the Woman's Hall of Fame, also a service pin from the National Assn. of Infantile Paralysis and certificate from the Cancer Society.

She has lived at Ashley Hall Plantation since 1921, enjoys reading histories of S.C. Her hobbies are gardening and needlecraft.

This history is as she found the community when she moved there, before progress took over and plantations were developed into subdivisions or tourists attractions.