

THE HISTORY  
OF  
# 10 LEGARE STREET

CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA

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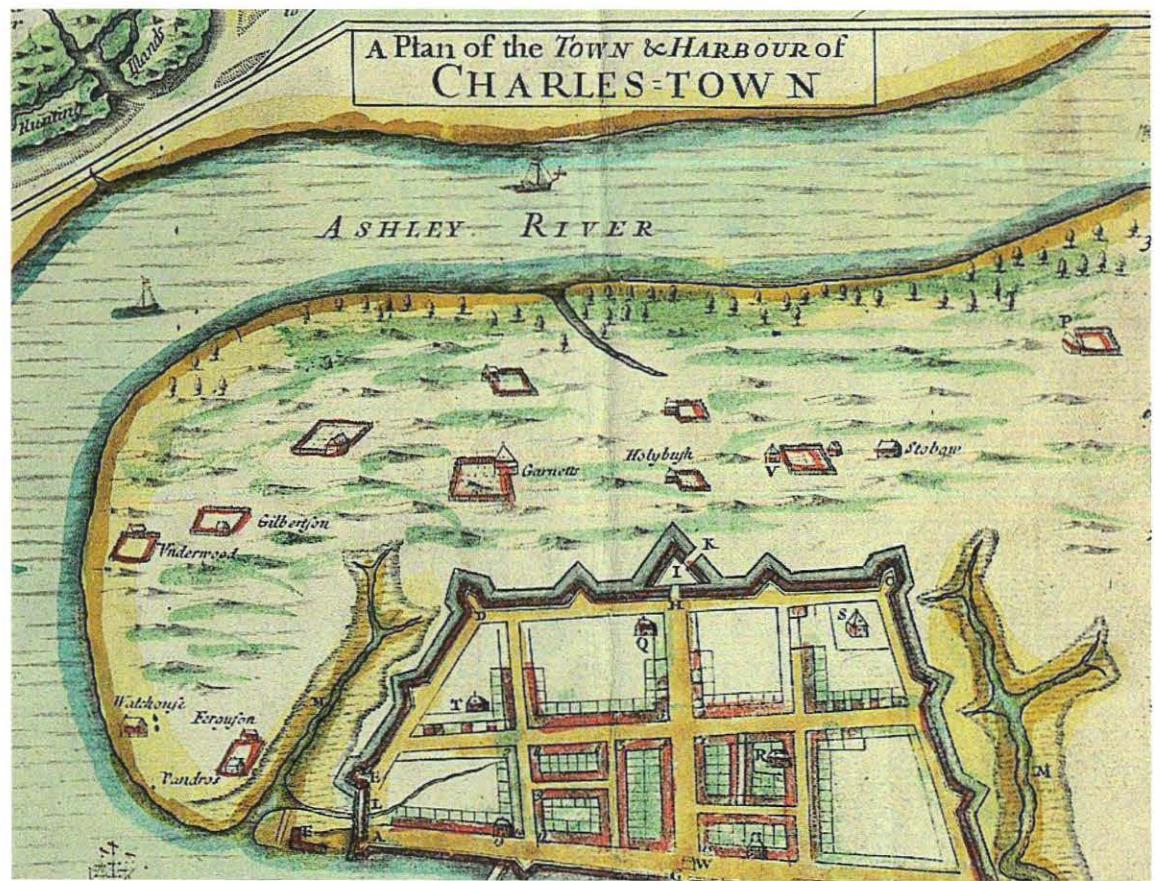
by Doreen Larimer

PREPARED AS A GIFT FOR  
TUCK and CATHY MORSE

From Tim Gross  
2015

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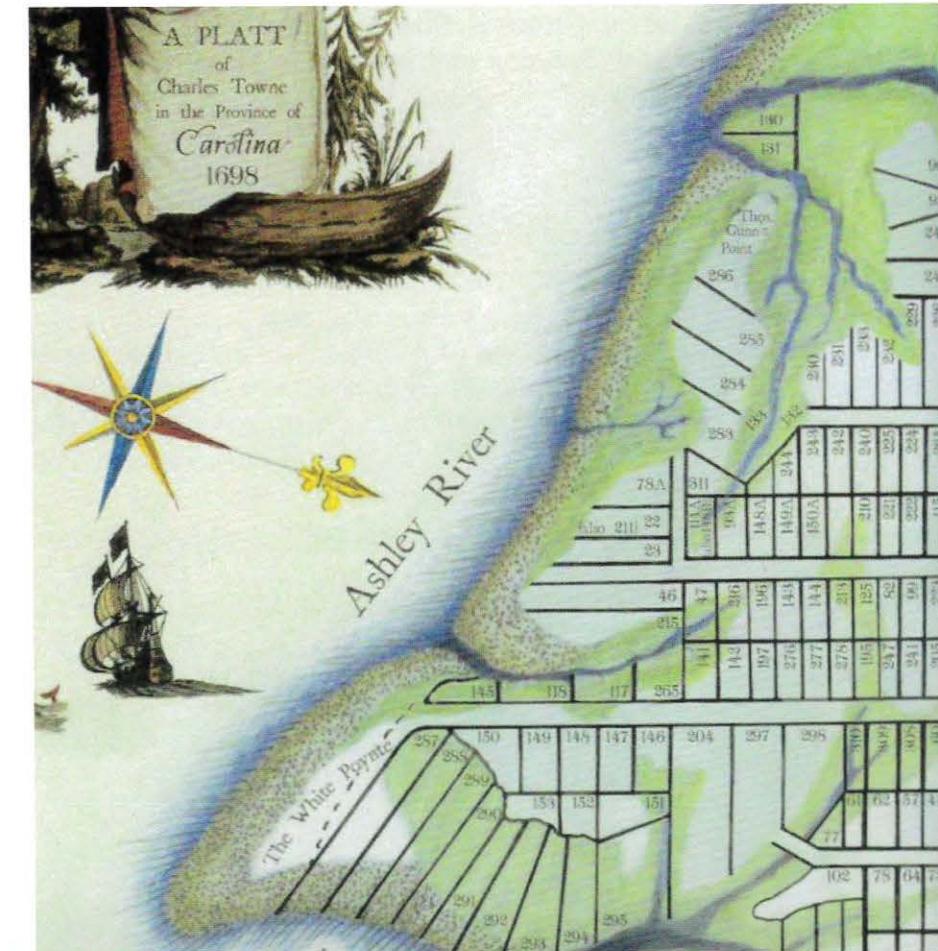
In 1670, Governor William Sayle directed that six hundred acres of land be set aside between the Ashley and Wando rivers for a town. It was to be on Oyster Point, a marshy spot on the Cooper River near its junction with the Ashley, in full view of the ocean. King Charles II had given land in the New World to eight noblemen, for their help in regaining the throne of England. These men called themselves the true and absolute lords and proprietors of their new colony, Carolina.

A letter from the Lords Proprietors dated 17 December 1679 arrived in Charles Towne in the spring of 1680 affirming the site of the new town. The Lord Proprietors wrote: *Wherefore wee think fit to let you know that the oyster point is the place wee doe appoint for the port towne of which you are to take notice and call it Charles towne, and order the meetings of the Councell to be there held and the Secretarys Registers & Surveyors offices to be kept within that towne, and you are to take care to lay out the Streets broad and in straight lines and that in your Grant of the Towne lotts you doe bound every ones Lands towards the Streets in an even line and to suffer no one to incroach with his buildings upon the street whereby to make them narrower than they were first designed.*

Along with instructions, the Proprietors sent a "modell" specifying the alignment and widths of the streets. The earliest surviving map of these Grand Model lots is a 1722 resurvey of the town by Surveyor General William Bull and his assistant, John Herbert. The city lots were subdivided into individual lots. They tended to be long narrow lots with the narrow end facing the street.

The property that is known today as # 10 Legare Street is the northern part of Town lot number 244. Town lots 242, 243 and 244 were granted to Richard Phillips on April 2, 1694 by Landgrave and Governor Thomas Smith from the survey by Stephen Bull. Lot 244 was not a full town lot at that time due to a navigable creek that ran from the Ashley River to Legare Street. The description in the grant for lot 244 reads that it butts and bounds to the westward upon a New Street, eastward upon a lot of John Jones, northward upon a lot of said Phillips and southward upon a head of marsh.

The Bates-Leland 1698 map of Charles Towne is a good representation of the certificates of admeasurement from the Surveyors Notebook.



Richard Phillips died sometime before September 28, 1694. His widow, Mary Phillips, was named administratrix of his estate and the three lots were devised to his son, Richard Phillips, Jr. In February, 1704 the younger Richard Phillips sold the three lots to Lewis Pasquereau for seven pounds ten shillings lawful money of England. Mr. Pasquereau was a merchant.

Lewis ( Louis ) Pasquereau was a member of the South Carolina's French Protestant (Huguenot) community and a business partner with a fellow Huguenot, John Guerard. There is no recorded transfer of property from Pasquereau to Guerard. They could have been sold to him and the record lost or never recorded.

Louis Pasquereau died before June 12, 1714. There is no disposition of his estate so the ownership at the time of his death cannot be determined. John Guerard died sometime before August 17, 1714. In his will that was probated he devises to his beloved son, Benjamin *all my part of the town lotts without the Entrenchments*. This would have referred to property that was outside of the wall that encircled Charles Towne from 1704 to 1721.

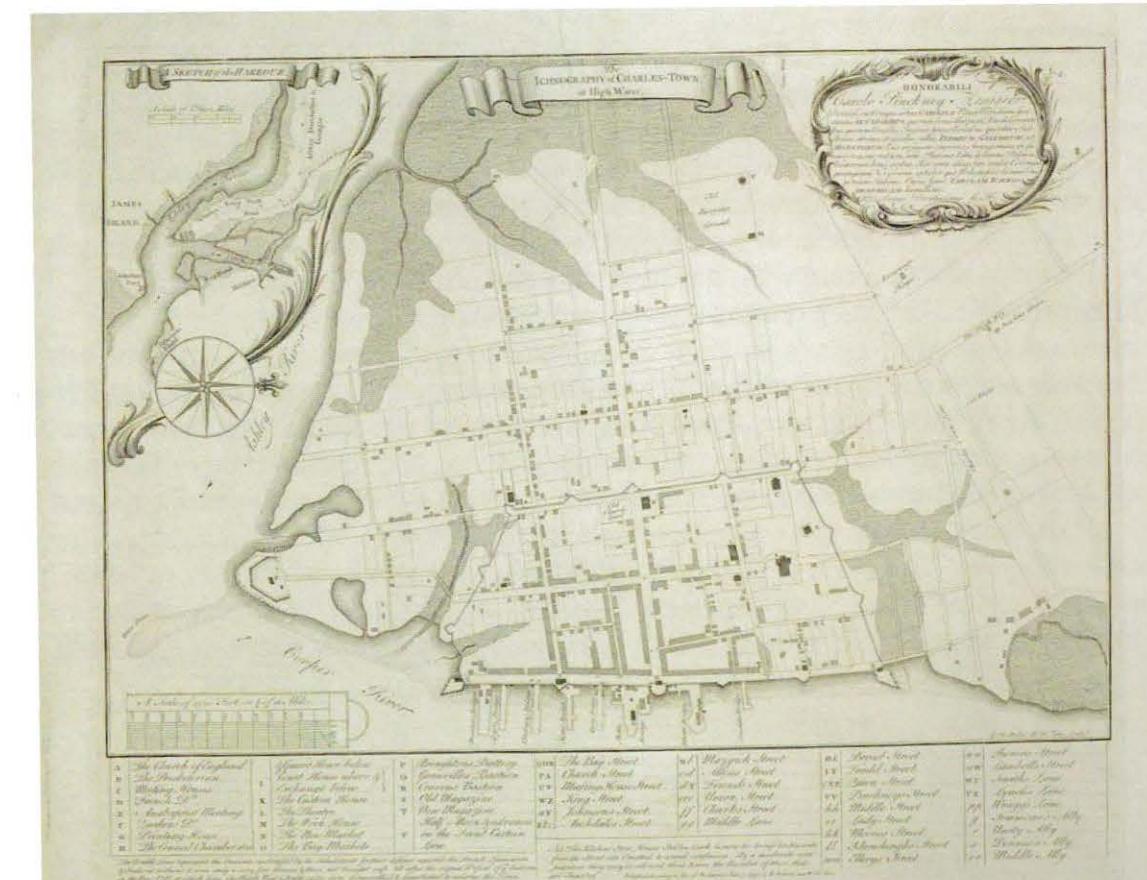
There is no record of the death of Benjamin Guerard but the property somehow passes to his sister, Martha Guerard. She is married to Alexander Garden. Garden was a Scottish Episcopalian that was sent by the Bishop of London to the Commissary of the first St. Phillips Church when it was still at the location of Broad and Meeting Streets. He later became the rector for the church. A distant cousin of his, also named Alexander Garden, moved to Charleston much later for which the gardenia plant was named in his honor.

The head of marsh that was mentioned in the grant to Richard Phillips was granted by Thomas Broughton for King George the second to Colonel William Bull on May 29, 1736. The grant was for nine acres or thereabouts and *is contiguous to and fronting upon all that piece of ground of two town lots in Charles Town distinctly known in the model of the same Town by the number 283 and 284 and running down 660 feet to low water mark and also one other piece of marsh land containing three fourths of an acre...bounding southerly on the lot 283, westerly on Mr. Legare's street, northerly on Mr. Garden's lot, easterly on a lot 311 in the model.*

There are several recorded powers of attorney from William Bull to Alexander Garden to sell his estate in South Carolina. He referred to him in these documents as *his trusty and loving friend*.

Alexander Garden's son, Benjamin Garden becomes the owner of both Lot 244 and of the marsh. Alexander Garden's will does not mention this property directly and there was no will found for Martha Garden. There is brief announcement in the paper of her death and of course only her married name is used. Benjamin was also the recipient of a grant for 3,350 acres on the Edisto River in Colleton County. That plantation helped support his interest in horse racing. As early as 1756, Garden was a member of a militia company and during the American Revolution served as lieutenant colonel.

*South-Carolina Gazette  
July 2, 1737  
Yesterday departed this life after a long and tedious sickness, Mrs. Garden, Spouse to the Rev. Mr. Garden, minister in this Town: Her Removal is a fore Loss to an afflicted Husband and four small Children she left behind her: she is to interr'd this Day.*



On September 25, 1767 Benjamin Garden along with his wife, Amelia sold the land to Miles Brewton. The lot is described as *that town lott of land known in the model of Charles Town aforesaid by the number 244 butting and bounding northward on the lott number 243 to the eastward on a lot or piece of ground formerly belonging to the Colonel Miles Brewton deceased and Mr. Thomas Binfold but now to the said Miles Brewton, southward on the marsh land hereinafter mentioned and to the westward on a street running from Ashley River from south to north. Also all that piece or parcel of marsh land to the southward of the said lot containing 92 feet front on the said street called Legare's Street.*

Two years prior to this on November 7, 1765 Miles Brewton purchased town lot 148 and the southern half of town lot 149 which faced King Street. On this portion of the lot Brewton built his famous town house. In 1759 Brewton had married Mary Izard, daughter of Joseph Izard and Anne Bull, one of South Carolina's leading planter families. The construction of his home probably began soon after the purchase in 1765 with the rear portion of the lot facing Legare Street purchased in 1767.

It is well known of the sad ending of his life. Miles Brewton along with his wife, Mary and their four children set sail for Philadelphia from Charleston in 1775 but were lost at sea never to be heard from again.

The property now passes to his two surviving sisters, Frances ( Brewton ) Pinckney, wife of Charles Pinckney and Rebecca ( Brewton ) Motte wife of Jacob Motte, Jr. Rebecca Motte along with her husband and children lived in the house during the time of the British occupation of Charleston.

The sisters sell the house and all of the property running from King Street to Legare Street to William Allston on April 19, 1791 for 7,000 pounds sterling. On February 24, 1791 he had wed Mary ( Brewton ) Motte, the daughter of Rebecca and Jacob Motte. This was his second marriage.

William Alston ( 1756-1839 ) changed the spelling of his name from Allston to Alston in order to avoid confusion with a relative also with the same name at Brookgreen. Alston was the son of Joseph Allston and Charlotte Rothmahler. He was a wealthy rice planter from the Georgetown district. A 1786 tax return indicated his ownership of 26,590 acres of land at a tax value of \$ 40 per acre. His acreage was in rice, pine and swamp lands in the Georgetown district. His primary residence was Clifton plantation and it was here that he entertained President George Washington in 1791. He made King Street his town residence for 50 years.

Public service for Alston began with membership in the Second General Assembly. He was elected to the Third, Fourth, Fifth and Sixth General Assemblies. Simultaneously, he participated in the military phase of the American Revolution and was commissioned a captain in Francis Marion's Brigade. He represented Prince George Winyah parish at the state convention for ratification of the federal Constitution. He then served in the Senate for five terms ending in 1815.

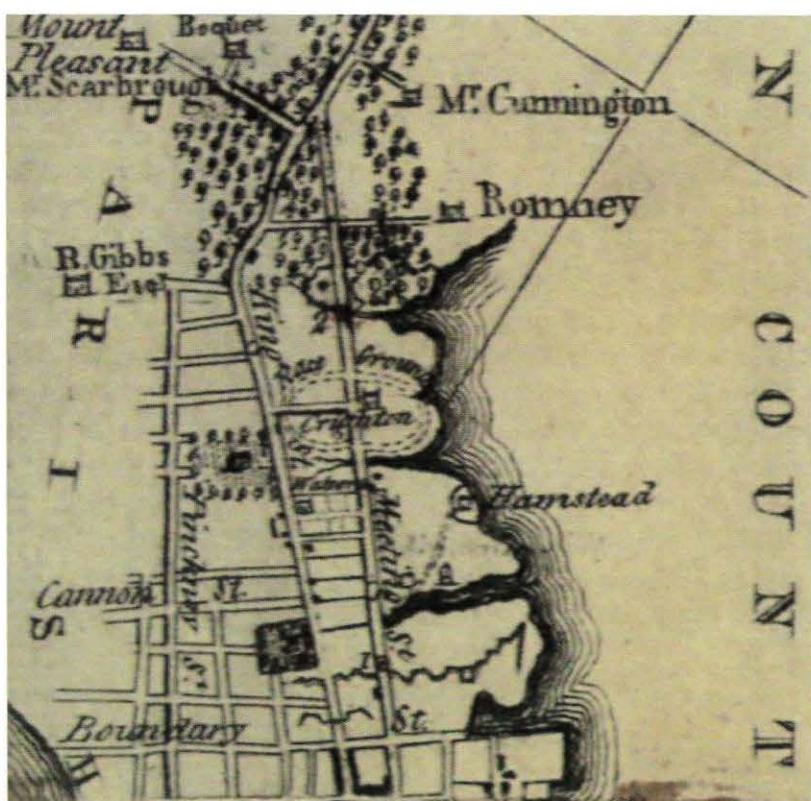
On a local level he held office as the tax inquirer and collector. He was a founding member of the Georgetown Library Society and a member of the vestry for All Saints church. Although his own formal schooling had been curtailed by the Revolution, Alston insisted that his sons receive higher education. His sons by his first wife attended Princeton and his sons by his second wife went to Yale.

Also in 1791 he participated in the purchase of the Washington Race Course, a one mile loop around today's Hampton Park. Alston was a member and steward of the Jockey Club and helped organize the fourth South Carolina Jockey Club. From 1792 until 1882 this Washington Race Course featured the finest horse racing in the South.

The first races were held on Race Week in February 1792. The main event was the Jockey Club purse, a race of four heats. Typical at this time the event was a series of heats. A race could be one, two, three or four mile heats contested with the same horses and riders. Between the heats, the grooms rubbed down the sweating horses while the spectators made new wagers. Every race week in February was a boisterous time in Charleston. Tavern keepers rented houses near the track to use as restaurants, bars and inns. Watching the races was only part of a day at the races. There was a variety of other amusements. The track and infield provided a showplace and sales arena. A "Learned Pig" showed it's tricks in 1804 and in 1838 the eight thoroughbred horses recently purchased by Mr. Porter from England were shown.

Race Week was the apex of Charleston's winter social season. Handsomely funded by dues and investment income, the Jockey Club hosted a dinner on Wednesday and a Friday night ball. Invited guests included non-members with good social connections, both local and out of town families.

Prior to the purchase of land for the Washington Race Course horse racing in Charleston was held at the New Market Track. In 1791, the final year of the Newmarket Races, Colonel Alston's mare Betsy Baker beat Colonel William Washington's mare Rosetta in two one-mile heats. The garden and back lot of William Alston's King Street property extended through the block to Legare Street. After a grueling day at the Newmarket Races, his champion thoroughbred, Betsy Baker, walked home to her stable behind Alston's house "a great crowd following her" down Legare Street.



1791—*March 2d.*—New Market Course.—4 mile heats. Col. Alston's ch. m. *Betsey Baker*, aged, 9st. 4, beat in two heats, after a fine contest Col. Washington's ch. m. *Rosetta*, 6. years, 9st.

*March 3d.*—3 mile heats. Mr. Burns' *Cincinnatus* beat Mr. Sumter's *Plenipo*, Col. Thompson's *Whistle Jacket*, Mr. Fenwick's *Dungan*, Mr. Wigfall's *Mercury*, and Mr. McPherson's *Wanton*. *Plenipo* took the first heat, *Cincinnatus* winning the 2d and 3d.

*March 4th.*—2 mile heats.—Gen. Suunter's *Ugly* beat Mr. William Moultrie. jr.'s, *Pantaloan*, Mr. Fenwick's *Angeline*, Mr. John B. Irving's *Battledore*, Mr. St. John's *Munster Lass*, Mr. McPherson's *Wanton*, Mr. Hughes' *Cephalus*, Mr. Fuller's *Sampson*, Mr. Washington's *Childers*, and Mr. Bellinger's *Aeolus*.

I have said that *Betsey Baker* was rather small and delicate. Like her famous competitor *Rosetta*, she was a chestnut, but she was unlike her in size—*Rosetta* being nearly sixteen hands high, with a prodigious shoulder. *Betsey Baker* and *Rosetta*, like *Shark* and *Commerce* after them, were rivals for several years. They often met, running with alternate success, as will be seen by the above summary. *Rosetta*, after leaving the turf, produced a bay colt, *Achilles*, by *Marplot*; General Washington gave him to Mr. Anerum, who sold him to Mr. Nisbitt. He was large, but of no account as a racer. *Betsey Baker*, also, had produce by *Marplot*; none of them ever distinguished themselves.

An attentive friend writing to me in reference to the contests between *Betsey Baker* and *Rosetta*, remarks: "I was quite young when I witnessed their races, but I recollect the enthusiasm which prevailed on those occasions. I remember meeting *Betsey Baker* at the corner of Friend and Tradd streets, on her return to Col. Alston's stables in King street, after having beaten *Rosetta* in 1791—a great crowd following her."

Col. Alston kept meticulous records of his horses. He not only owned and raced them he also bred them. His interest in horse racing was fanned by his purchase in 1788 of part of Edward Fenwick, Jr's Johns Island stud. The South Carolina Historical Society has the bound version of William Alston studbook, 1789-1809. Entries include the name of the horse's dam and sire ( and whether either was imported ) and, if sold the name of the buyer of the horse and the amount paid for the animal. Entries in the back of the volume include copies of letters and of pedigrees received from various individuals.

The following are from his studbook. The second records one of Slouch's mate and her lineage to the Godolphin Arabian. The Godolphin Arabian is one of the three horses that founded the modern thoroughbred horse racing bloodstock. His legacy includes Seabiscuit, Man O'War and War Admiral.

Betsy Baker  
 1795 b.f. by Stella by Maplot  
 1796 ch.f. by old Slouch  
 1797 b.f. by Maplot

Brilliant Muse  
 1796 Hope  
 1796 b.c. by Maplot  
 1798 b.f. by b.<sup>o</sup>

Atlanta  
 Foaled April 1792 got by old Slouch <sup>left</sup> of the Brilliant Muse  
 1798 s.c. by Maplot  
 1801 c.f. by b.<sup>o</sup>

Slouch was got by Polyphemus, after it was got by the  
 much celebrated running Horse Fenwick, Dam by  
 Col<sup>o</sup> Baylor imported Horse old Harrington,  
 out of Col<sup>o</sup> Tasker's noted Mare Calvera, who  
 was got by the Godolphin Arabian. — The  
 Dam of Slouch, was old Lady Northumberland,  
 which Mare was imported by the late Hon<sup>ble</sup>  
 John Taylor Esq<sup>r</sup> of Mount Airy, was got by Nor-  
 thumberland, her Dam by Shakespeare, ♀. Dam by  
 Regulus, ♀. ♀. Dam by Mr Parker Snip, ♀. ♀. ♀. Dam by  
 old Partner, ♀. ♀. ♀. ♀. Dam by Bloody Buttocks, ♀.  
 ♀. ♀. ♀. Dam by Greyhound, ♀. ♀. ♀. ♀. ♀. ♀. Dam by  
 Makele, ♀. ♀. ♀. ♀. ♀. ♀. ♀. Dam by Brimmer, ♀. ♀. ♀.  
 ♀. ♀. ♀. Dam by Places white Turk, ♀. ♀. ♀. ♀. ♀. ♀.  
 Dam by Dodsworth, out of a Layton Barb Mare.  
 13 March 1791

13. The above is a true copy of the Pedigree  
 which I received from Major John Marks

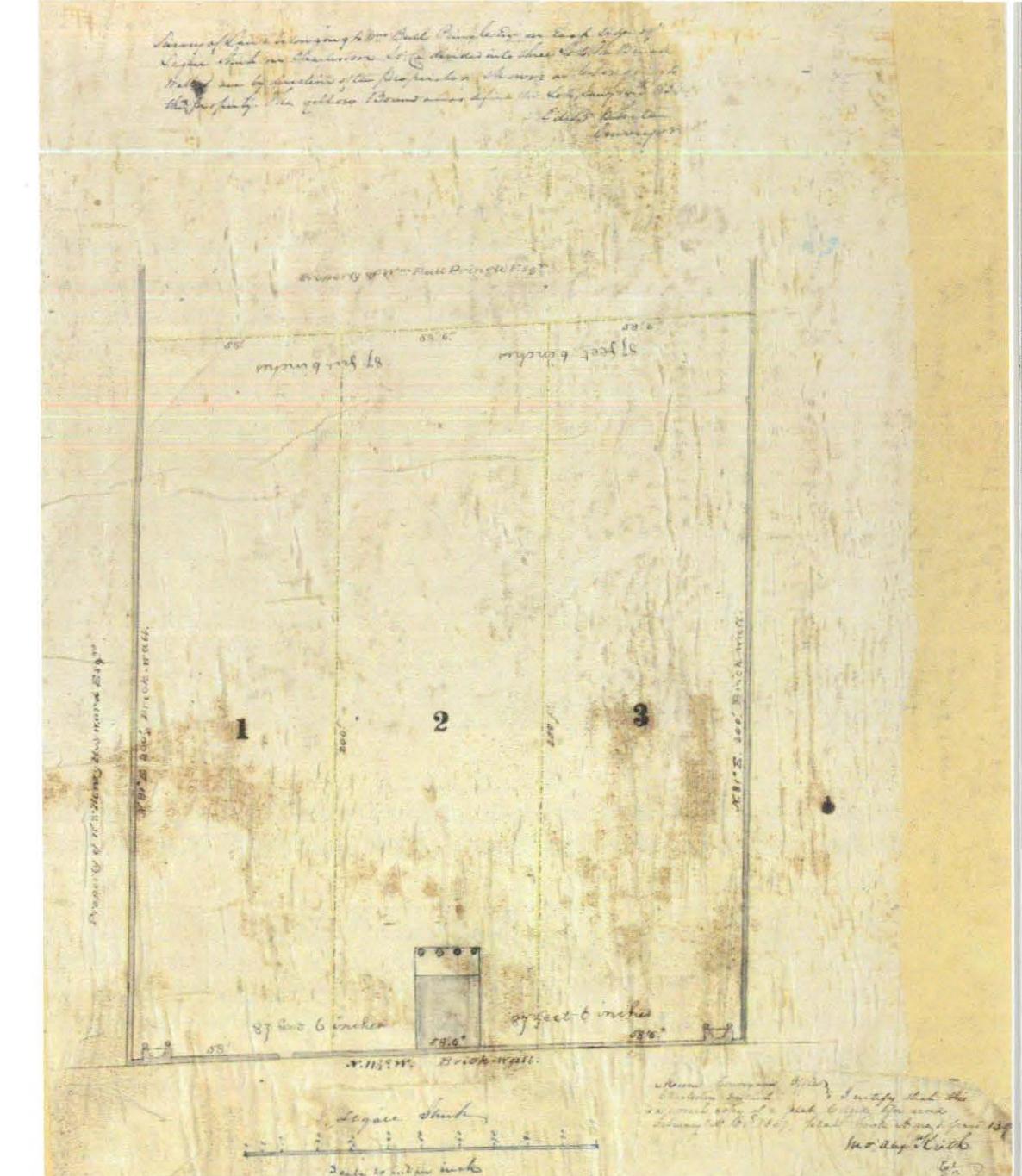
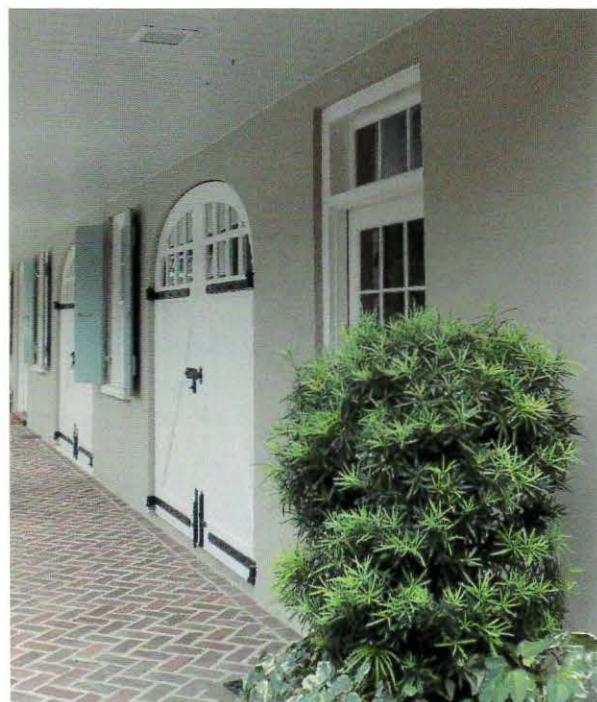
It was implied at least once among his inlaws that Alston's avocation influenced his holiday plans for he often maneuvered "to be in the neighborhood of Race-horses and Democrats, two species of animals, you know, he is fond of." The following is a portion of his obituary that was printed on July 11, 1839.

In his will dated November 29, 1838, Alston devised the following property to his daughter, Mary Motte ( Alston ) Pringle:

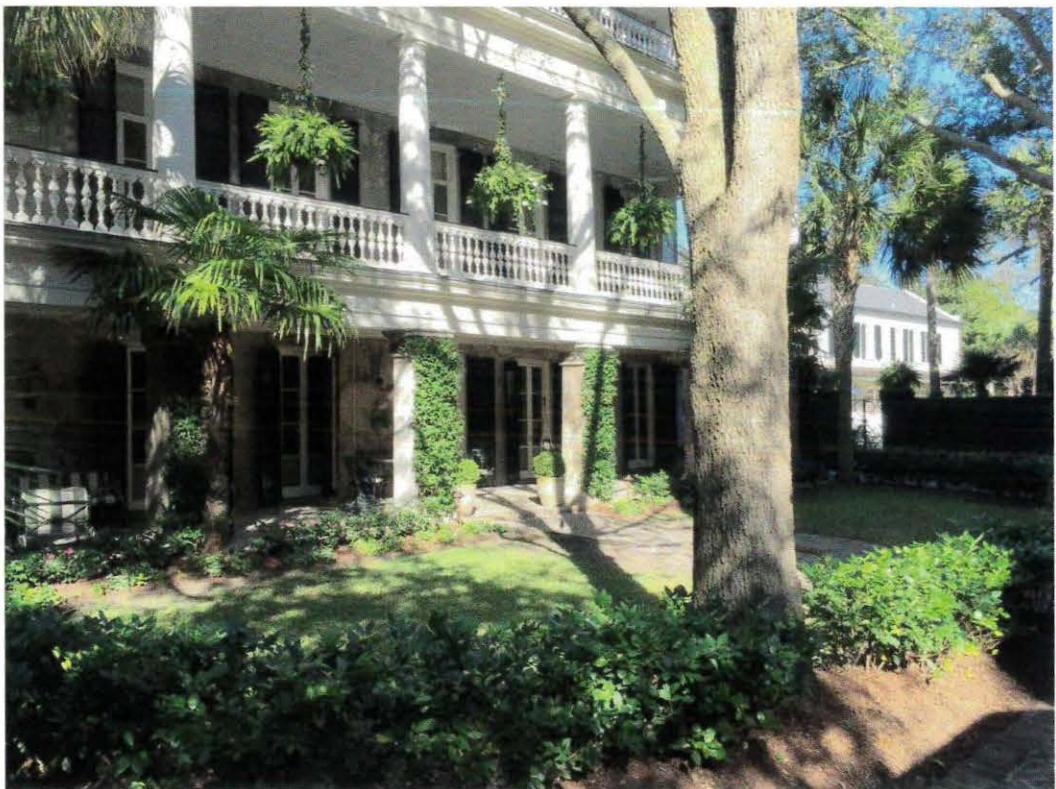
*Two hundred share in the capital stock of the Pennsylvania Bank of the United States and I also give and devise unto my daughter Mary Pringle in fee simple my dwelling house and lot of land in King Street in Charleston extending to Legare Street being my present residence*

*Another Patriot of the Revolution gone.*  
—The venerable Colonel William Alston died, in the city of Charleston on the 26th ult. in the 83d year of his age.

At the commencement of the Revolution, he left College, and took the field as a Volunteer, in defence of the liberties of his country. Though he did not enter the regular Army, he served at different periods throughout the war, under the Partizan leaders, whose services and exploits form the brightest page in the history of South Carolina. He was a Captain under Marion, and was entrusted by him with the defence of a Fort in the harbour of Georgetown, when that town was menaced by the enemy. Col. Alston loved to dwell on the virtues and services of Marion, and was fond of relating anecdotes illustrative of his character. On the return of peace, Col. Alston resumed the cultivation of his paternal estate on the Wareham, near Georgetown, which he pursued without interruption, until within a few years of his death, and with almost unexampled success. Devoted to agricultural



Mary Motte Alston was born at the house on King Street in 1803. She was the eleventh child and youngest daughter of Col. William Alston. Just before she turned 19 she wed William Bull Pringle on March 5, 1822 at King Street. A combination of financial problems led to the division of the property. On January 14, 1854 the western half of the lot which fronts on Legare Street was surveyed and divided into three lots.



Directly behind the house on King Street was a formal garden. The rear of the garden is said to have contained a garden temple which was typically found in formal English gardens. The plat shows a rectangular structure with four circles that could have been the temple. The owners did use the Legare Street entry as a boat landing. It could have been part of that boat landing but there is an opening at the south edge of the brick wall that appears to be the entry.

Mary Pringle and her husband, William Bull Pringle, sold lot # 1 and half of lot # 2 to Edward North Thurston on March 5, 1857 for \$ 7,000.00. Mary Pringle's life has been well documented in Richard N. Cote's book, Mary's World.

Edward North Thurston had married Sarah Constance Chisolm on February 15, 1855 and even though he started construction soon after the purchase his bride did not get to enjoy her beautiful new home. She died of yellow fever on September 20, 1858.

Major Edward North Thurston entered the service of the Confederate States in the fall of 1861, being then about thirty years of age, as volunteer aide on the staff of General D. R. Jones then commanding a brigade in the army of Northern Virginia. Early in 1862 he was assigned to duty as ordnance officer of age He continued on duty in this capacity with that division until the death of General Jones in December, 1862, and then served in the same capacity with R. H. Anderson's and William Mahone's divisions, except a period, June to October, 1864, when he had the honor of being temporarily assigned, by order of General Robert E. Lee, as acting chief ordnance officer of the army of Northern Virginia, vice Colonel Baldwin, temporarily disabled by illness, an eloquent testimonial to his efficiency and soldierly record. In the fall of 1864 he was promoted to the rank of major, and assigned to duty with R. H. Anderson's corps, where he served until the end of the war. He was an active participant in the great battles of the army of Northern Virginia, including the Seven Days battles, Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville, Gettysburg, the Wilderness, Spottsylvania Court House, Second Cold Harbor, the fighting about Petersburg, and the retreat to Appomattox. At Second Manassas he was slightly wounded four times in the space of ten minutes, but did not leave the field, and at Chantilly he was captured by the enemy.

**Brigadier-General Ellison Capers, Confederate Military History, a library of Confederate State Military History: Volume 5, South Carolina**

Returning to Charleston after the war Major Thurston was long active in business as a rice broker. His ad in the Charleston Courier of January 1, 1866 said that he would continue the factorage and commission business at the corner of East Bay and Vanderhorst's Wharf and *will be grateful to his friends for their patronage and support.* In 1865 he was remarried to Sophia Elizabeth Bee. Her first husband, Bernard Elliott Bee, had been killed at Manassas.



Edward North Thurston sells his Legare Street property on April 29, 1871 for \$ 15,000.00 to Ellen Wilkins Screven. She was the wife of John Henry Screven. She passes away on June 15, 1871. The property is now sold again by the executor of her estate, her husband to Maria H. Heyward for \$ 15,000.00. The deed is executed on March 27, 1875 in New York City. John Henry Screven marries his daughter the following month in Manhattan.



Maria Hayne Heyward is the wife of James Barnwell Heyward. She is also the granddaughter of Peter Manigault ( 1731-1773 ). They had married on November 4, 1841 and had twelve children. James Heyward passed away on December 26, 1886 and then Maria follows on July 18, 1888. Their children sell the estate on November 2, 1891 to Martha H. Perry for \$ 16,000.00.

Martha H. Perry was 60 years of age when she purchased Legare Street. She along with her husband, Archibald Simpson Johnson Perry called it their home until his death in 1895. Martha continued to live there until her death in 1918. Their daughter had married an Italian Duke and no longer lived in the US. Martha's will left the property to her daughter, her son, J. Lamb Perry who was an attorney in Charleston and her grandson Blackburn Hughes.

The property is sold by the heirs to Bernard E. Ferrara in 1959. Ferrara then sells to John F. Shaul and Hope Forrest Shaul in 1964. They sell six years later to Yvonne G Gilbreath. She sells in 1974 to Gail H. and Edward L Hogan. They sell in 1989 to Hazel T. Boyd.

Finally, # 10 Legare becomes the home of Tuck and Cathy Morse in 1994.

