

# Do You Know Your Lowcountry?

—Stanyarne Hall—



—Staff Photo by Waring

## John's Island House, Unoccupied More Than 60 Years, Home of Stanyarne, Stevens, Bryan and Roper Families

"If they had virtues tell them,  
If they had faults bury them."

This inscription is written on a vault in the ancient burying ground about 200 yards from Stanyarne Hall, John's island place known on the official books of the register of mesne conveyance as the Brick House.

With walls two feet thick made of brick brought here from England generations ago, this home has attracted the attention of Northerners interested in restoring Southern homes of rich historical value. Mrs. Victor Morawetz and the late Mr. Morawetz had a roof put on, and the house is said to be in a better state of preservation than was Fenwick Hall before Mr. and Mrs. Morawetz restored it.

W. M. Hamilton, the present owner, says that he has received several offers to sell, none of which he considers equal to the value of the place.

### Traditions Abundant

Mr. Hamilton's cottage is fifty yards from the big house. Dr. William Roper resided there in the 1870's. He was the last occupant, although the house has changed hands several times since.

The Brick House is rich in tradition, but, so far as is known here, there is no record of the date it was constructed. Members of the Stanyarne family owned John's island lands at least as far back as 1696, a map in the office of the clerk of court shows, and they added to them in the early years of the eighteenth century. From these Stanyarnes this estate on Abbapoola creek takes its name.

Joseph Stanyarne, Sr., who died in 1772 at the age of seventy-two, is buried in the plantation cemetery. Also there are the remains of Archibald Stanyarne, who died June 3, 1773, at forty-five; Henrietta Stanyarne, who died in May of 1773, at twenty-eight; Annah Stanyarne, July, 1784; William Stanyarne, December, 1787, and John and Joseph Frear, nephews of Annah Stanyarne. Sarah Stanyarne, wife of Archibald Stanyarne, is buried near Rantowles, in the vicinity of the grave of Colonel William Washington.

### Federal Troops Used It

Among traditions of the place is that two slaves found a poisonous weed and with it killed two members of the Stanyarne family. One of the negroes was burned to death and another was hanged, the story goes.

A beautiful girl, forced to elope with her lover, because of family objections, is said to come from a

window at night, revisiting the scenes of her romance. Mr. Hamilton never has seen her.

Colonel C. H. Van Wick, commanding a Rhode Island regiment during the War Between the States, made the Brick House his headquarters. Two old men once told Mr. Hamilton that they were with Confederate troops which put two or three cannon balls into the walls of the house. Negroes could be seen jumping from many windows of the three-story residence, they said.

### House Involved in Litigation

A negro carrying information for the federal army is said to have been shot in the yard. A bullet hit his heel, traveled up his leg to sever an artery and he bled to death.

The Brick House remained in the hands of the Stanyarnes, their relatives and their connections by marriage until after the War Between the States. These included persons of the Stevens, Bryan and Roper families.

On January 16, 1855, Thomas Roper, who made the original bequest for Roper hospital, deeded the property to Dr. William Roper. Dr. Roper was one of the first planters on John's island to make use of the cotton gin, invented by Eli Whitney in 1793. Dr. Roper mortgaged the place, apparently to purchase slaves. The War Between the States destroyed his investment, and he lost the property.

W. D. Clancy, master, sold the Brick House and 960 acres to R. C. Gilchrist, trustee, for \$2,200. The deed says that Gilchrist, trustee for Mary Augusta Gilchrist and Adelaide S. Gibbs, on April 21, 1873, foreclosed a mortgage of Dr. William Roper et al, and on May 13, 1873, Gilchrist, as trustee, paid \$2,200 at public auction.

### \* Yates Heirs Sell

Gilchrist was not given a title, so in 1879 a judge directed the master to make out a title for him, which was done for \$3.

On November 25, 1879, Minna K. Roper, Dr. Roper's widow, sold her dower rights to Mary A. Gilchrist, wife of R. C. Gilchrist, and Adelaide S. Gibbs.

In 1904 the house and 850 acres were sold to Captain William Yates for \$4,700. Captain Yates died intestate in July, 1906, leaving as heirs his widow, Mrs. William Powell Yates, who later married the Right Rev. Albion W. Knight and his son, Harney Powell Yates. Mr. Yates, a New York attorney, and Mrs. Knight sold the estate to Marie A. Hamilton for \$10 and other consideration June 30, 1928.

L. M. W.

## COUNTY CAMPAIGN DATES ANNOUNCED

Enrolment Passes 15,000  
Mark as Closing  
Time Nears

The schedule for the four campaign meetings at which candidates for county office will speak has been announced by W. J. Burk, secretary of the Charleston county Democratic executive committee.

The Rockville meeting, already set for August 3, immediately after the races, will be the first of the four. The others are at North Charleston August 12, Mount Pleasant August 19 and at the Johnson Hagood stadium, Charleston, August 26.

Enrolment Friday night totaled 15,430, almost 10,000 less than the 25,000 eligibles party officials hope to have on the books when the enrolment period closes a week from tomorrow. Persons whose names are not on the books will be ineligible to vote in the Democratic primaries.

### Enrolment by wards follows:

City Wards	Club 1	Club 2	Total
Ward 1	222	250	472
Ward 2	518	555	1,073
Ward 3	251	277	528
Ward 4	350	388	738
Ward 5	377	364	741
Ward 6	542	590	1,132
Ward 7	246	261	507
Ward 8	351	370	721
Ward 9	337	348	685
Ward 10	582	573	1,155
Ward 11	775	874	1,649
Ward 12	623	585	1,208

Total city 10,609

Ladson 149, Midland Park 192, North Charleston 557, St. Philip's and St. Michael's 1,014, Mount Pleasant 202, Avondaw 160, McClellanville, Club No. 1, 145; Club No. 2, 157; Sullivan's island 316, James island 612, John's island 223, Wadmalaw 110, Meggett 400, Adams Run 225, Ravenel 155, Warren's Crossroads 43, Edisto island 73, St. Andrew's Parish, club No. 1, 279; club No. 2, 490. Total rural, 5,421. Grand total 15,430.

The James island club's books will be at the grocery store in front of the magistrate's office for the remainder of the enrolment period, Mr. Burk said.

### Man and Pint Seized

Teddy Gray, of 66 1-2 Cooper street, yesterday afternoon about 1:30 o'clock was lodged at police headquarters, charged with violation of the city liquor laws. Chief of Detectives Joseph F. Wise and Detective James E. Atteberry, arresting officers, seized a pint of un-stamped whiskey.