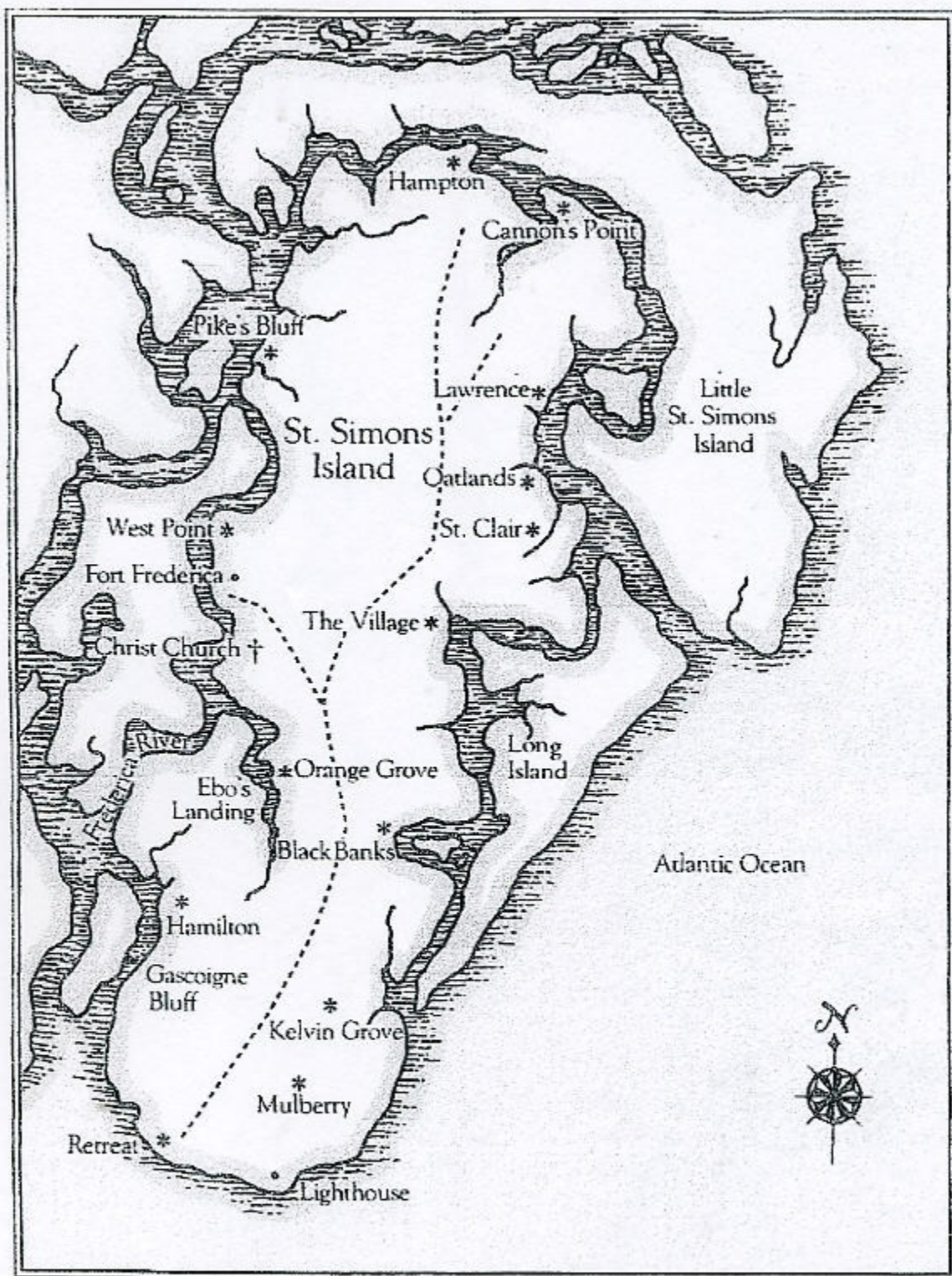


THE PLANTATION ERA
AND
CHRIST CHURCH, FREDERICA
ST. SIMONS ISLAND, GEORGIA

COMPILED MARCH, 2007

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ST. SIMONS ISLAND, GEORGIA

PLANTATION ERA

During the decade that followed the Revolutionary War, St. Simons Island's planters developed a cotton crop that made agricultural history. "Sea Island cotton," as it came to be known, was the first strain of long staple cotton ever grown in America. Acclaimed as one of the finest cottons in the world, its excellent white color and long silky fibers earned top prices on the markets. The famous cotton originated from a species grown on the island of Anguilla in the West Indies. After the war, English provincials in the Bahamas cultivated "Anguilla" there, and then shared their success by sending seeds back to their friends in Georgia. "Sea Island cotton" planted on the plantations of St. Simons Island adapted quickly and thrived.

HAMILTON PLANTATION

Hamilton Plantation was located on the banks of the Frederica River along the southwestern side of St. Simons Island. It was built on land known as Gascoigne Bluff. The first owner of this tract of land was Captain James Gascoigne, commander of the sloop-of-war *Hawk*, which conveyed the settlers across the Atlantic to Frederica in 1736. The Captain was in charge of the ships stationed in the area for the defense of the colony, so it was in these waters that the vessels were anchored and kept in repair. The tract might well be called Georgia's first naval base. Live oak timbers for the building of the U.S.S. *Constitution*, better known as *Old Ironsides*, and other vessels of the first United States Navy were cut on St. Simons and loaded here for shipment to the North where the vessels were built. A Cannon's Point live oak provided the original sternpost for *Old Ironsides*.

In 1793 James Hamilton, a native of Scotland and friend of John Couper, purchased the Gascoigne Bluff site, made his home there, and named his plantation Hamilton. Soon this plantation became one of the richest on the island. The wharf at Hamilton was the main shipping point for the entire island. Here the famed Sea Island cotton grown on St. Simons was loaded on ships destined to take it to ports all over the world.

Described as a Georgia planter and shipper, a South Carolina merchant-planter, a London merchant, and one of the country's first millionaires, Hamilton was away from his island home for a part of each year because of his business connections. In spite of his wide interests, he helped build the early life of the community. He served as one of the first vestrymen of Christ Church and took an active part in civic affairs of island and county.

After having made a fortune from his southern plantations, he disposed of a large part of his coastal property and moved to Philadelphia to live, where he married Miss Janet Wilson. Their only child was a daughter. He lived there for the rest of his life and died in 1829.

After Hamilton left St. Simons, the plantation became the property of his namesake James Hamilton Couper, and for a number of years was managed by Captain John Fraser, husband of James Hamilton Couper's sister Anne. Captain Fraser died of heart failure at Hamilton on July 16, 1839 and was buried in Christ Church Cemetery. James Hamilton Couper's youngest brother, William Audley Couper, whose wife was the former Hannah Page King, then became manager of the property.

In the 1860s Hamilton Plantation suffered the brutal indignities of war, but the following years brought a new era to the splendid old place. Bought by a lumber company in the 1870s, the old plantation saw a settlement of newcomers move into the vicinity of the mills, which were built along the banks of the Frederica River. The new community was known as "The Mills." The old plantation house burned about 1885. In 1949 the property became a conference center for the Methodist Church. It is named Epworth-by-the-Sea after Epworth, England, birthplace of John and Charles Wesley.

RETREAT PLANTATION

Retreat Plantation on the southern tip of St. Simons was a tract originally settled by James Spalding and was the home of his son, Thomas Spalding, and his wife when they were first married. In 1804 Major William Page and his wife, Hannah (Timmons) Page, of South Carolina, bought the old

Spalding property, named it Retreat, and moved their family into the small cottage of English design that overlooked St. Simons Sound and Jekyll Island. The Pages planned to build a larger house overlooking the water of the channel and sound, but the years went by, and they were comfortable in their simple home. Major and Mrs. Page had only one child, Anna Matilda Page, who was born in 1798. Major Page, one of the wealthiest men in the South, had many interests. Some of them required travel that kept him away from the plantation for weeks. Although Anna Matilda had been schooled in all the social graces of her position, she was both intelligent and capable. She was also trained to responsibility and was capable of running the plantation when her father was away.

Anna Matilda married the Honorable Thomas Butler King, a young lawyer from Massachusetts, son of Captain Daniel and Hannah (Lord) King. The Rev. Edmund Matthews of Christ Church, Frederica conducted the ceremony which took place at Retreat Plantation on December 1, 1824. A short time after their daughter's marriage, Major and Mrs. Page both died. Mrs. Page died in 1826 at the age of 67. Major Page died in 1827 at the age of 63. Major and Mrs. Page are buried in Christ Church Cemetery. Anna Matilda (Page) King inherited the coastal property and other vast holdings.

With the death of his wife's parents, Thomas Butler King automatically became one of the wealthiest planters on the Georgia coast. He gave up his law practice, and his interests expanded rapidly. He became involved in public affairs, and this led to politics. He served as a member of the House of Representatives in the United States Congress for sixteen years and chairman of the House Naval Committee at the time *Old Ironsides* was first rebuilt. Great honors came to him in political life. In 1851-52 he served as the first Collector of the Port of San Francisco, promoted the construction of a transcontinental railroad, and promoted a gold mining company. His many interests kept him away from home for long periods. During his long absences, Anna Matilda continued to run a very profitable plantation. As the plantation prospered, the house was enlarged and other buildings were built.

The Kings had ten children. Thomas Butler King, Jr., the eldest living son, died in early 1859. Only a few months later in August of 1859, Anna Matilda died. Life at Retreat began to fall apart. Thomas Butler King returned to politics. In 1861 he was appointed by the Governor of Georgia as Commissioner from the State of Georgia to visit Europe in advance of trade. He was Commissioner to Europe from the Confederate States of America from 1861 to 1863.

His son, Henry Lord King, went into the Confederate Army, and with him was his body servant, Neptune Small, who had been born at Retreat. King was killed at the Battle of Fredericksburg. Neptune Small brought his body back to St. Simons for burial in Christ Church Cemetery. Neptune went back to the field of battle to be with another son, Richard Cuyler King.

Thomas Butler King died in 1864 at the age of 64 and was laid to rest beside his wife, Anna Matilda King, in Christ Church Cemetery. Retreat remained in the King family until the 1920s. It then became the grounds for the Sea Island Golf Club.

Children of Thomas Butler and Anna Matilda (Page) King:

William Page King (1826-1833) – died from a fever, buried in Christ Church Cemetery

Thomas Butler King, Jr. (1829-1859) – died in 1859 at age thirty, buried in Christ Church Cemetery

Henry Lord Page King (1831-1862) – killed at Fredericksburg in 1862 at age 31, buried in Christ Church Cemetery

Mallery Page King, died in 1899 – married Maria Eugenia, the daughter of Hugh and Mary E. Grant, both buried in Christ Church Cemetery

John Floyd King – moved to Louisiana where he became prominent in the affairs of that state, serving in the United States Congress for a number of years. Later, he was Assistant Registrar of the United States Treasury. He is buried in Arlington National Cemetery.

Richard Cuyler King – married Henrietta Nisbet

Hannah Page King – married William Audley Couper, son of John and Rebecca Couper of Cannon's Point

Georgia Page King – married Joseph J. Wilder of Savannah

Florence Barclay King – married General Henry R. Jackson of Savannah

Virginia Lord King – married John Nisbet of Savannah

NEW ST. CLAIR PLANTATION and BLACK BANKS PLANTATION

James Gould, a native of Massachusetts, came to Georgia in the mid 1790s as a surveyor of timber which could be used for the building of ships for the United States Navy. The survey completed, he usiness on the St. Mary's River in Spanish East Florida. He married Jane Harris in Charleston, March 1803, and returned to Spanish East Florida. Jane was a native of London and grew up in New Providence, Nassau and Charleston, South Carolina. Her family moved from Charleston to Savannah in 1805. Late in April 1807 Gould and his wife with their child, James, and slaves narrowly escaped with their lives when marauding Indians burned their house. He returned to Georgia and in 1808 was commissioned to build the first lighthouse on St. Simons. The lighthouse was completed in 1810 and in 1811 was in operation. President James Madison appointed James Gould to serve as the first keeper, a position that he was to fill for almost twenty-seven years. Gould, his wife and their children lived in the keeper's house close to the tower. He was also a planter, cultivating land that he had under lease.

He was not content for long to cultivate leased property. Very soon he became a landholder with the purchase of 900 acres that bridged the Island from Black Banks River to Dunbar Creek. This was New St. Clair, the first of his holdings on St. Simons. Later he bought 600 acres that lay along the Black Banks River. This plantation was called Black Banks. He planted cotton on both plantations. The house he built at New St. Clair was of tabby. When Mrs. Gould died in 1820, daughter Mary took over the management of the home, and her love of flowers and talent for gardening brought about a new name for the house. It was called Rosemont, because of the profusion of roses around it.

He deeded the Black Banks plantation to his son Jim who built a two-and-a-half storied tabby house. Jim's New England wife was not happy on the island, and in 1844, in order to move North, Jim sold Black Banks to his brother Horace Bunch, who married Deborah Abbott, niece of George and Mary Abbott of Orange Grove.

James Gould was a busy man, with the responsibility of the lighthouse and the operation of a successful plantation. However, he managed to give a great deal of time and effort to Christ Church. When Christ Church was first built, Gould was one of its wardens. Both of his sons, James F. and Horace B. Gould, later served as vestrymen. After Christ Church was destroyed during the War Between the States, the congregation held services at Black Banks, the home of Horace Bunch and Deborah (Abbott) Gould.

James Gould remained keeper of the lighthouse until 1837, when ill health forced him to give it up. After his death in 1852 in the 80th year of his age, his daughter Mary managed New St. Clair, leaving it reluctantly when St. Simons was evacuated in 1861 by orders of Robert E. Lee. In 1862 the Confederate soldiers destroyed the lighthouse by dynamiting it. No doubt, this was done to prevent it from becoming a navigational aid to the Union fleet. New St. Clair burned to the ground during the War, and much of the Gould acreage passed into other hands.

Children of James and Jane Harris Gould:

1. James F., III was born at Mills Ferry in Spanish East Florida on April 3, 1807. He attended Yale and upon graduation married Alice (?) in New Haven, Connecticut.
2. Mary was born in the lighthouse keeper's cottage on September 1809. She never married and died in 1872. A carved granite rose marks her grave in Christ Church Cemetery.
3. Horace Bunch (1812-1881) was born in the lighthouse keeper's cottage on August 12, 1812. Bunch was his mother's sister's married name. On November 6, 1855, he married Deborah Abbott, who came from Ireland at an early age to live on St. Simons Island. They are buried in Christ Church Cemetery.
4. Jane (1815-1883) was born at New St. Clair in 1815. She went to Baltimore to teach and married Orville Richardson, a native of Maine. They are buried in Christ Church Cemetery.

James Gould is buried in the cemetery behind Christ Church. James Gould's wife, Jane, died in 1820 in Savannah of pneumonia and is buried in Savannah in the Colonial Cemetery near members of her Harris family.

Children of Horace Bunch and Deborah (Abbott) Gould of Black Banks Plantation:

Jane (Jennie) was born in 1846

Jessie Caroline was born in 1848 - married William Campbell, both buried in Christ Church Cemetery

Lizzie was born about 1850

Horace Abbot (1852-1929) – married Alberta Telfair, both buried in Christ Church Cemetery
Mary Frances was born in 1854
Anna Deborah (1856-1927) – married The Rev. Anson Dodge, Jr., both buried in Christ Church Cemetery
James Dunn (1859-1934) – married Mary Green (of Augusta, Ga.), both buried in Christ Church Cemetery
Helen was born in 1861
Angela La Coste was born in 1863
Joseph Edward (1866-1945) – married Jesse Wilcox, both buried in Christ Church Cemetery

HAMPTON PLANTATION

Hampton, overlooking the Hampton River, was owned by Major Pierce Butler of South Carolina. Major Butler was born in Ireland in 1744. As a Major in the British Army, he came to America in 1766. He resigned his commission before the Revolutionary War. In 1771 he married Mary Middleton, from a prominent Charleston family, and settled in Charleston, South Carolina.

He cast his lot with the colonists and became prominent in the affairs of that state. He was a delegate from South Carolina to the Congress of 1787, served as a member of the Convention that framed the Federal Constitution, and was a United States Senator. He was a member of the Commission to decide the boundary line between the states of South Carolina and Georgia.

After his wife died in 1790, he began to acquire large land holdings in Georgia. In 1774 he bought 1700 acres on the northern end of St. Simons Island. With the interruption of the Revolution, he did not begin to settle the estate until 1793. He brought most of his slaves to Georgia and built this land into the great cotton plantation known as Hampton. The number of slaves would eventually total 1,000, and the plantation would be recognized as one of the largest in the South.

Major Butler ran his plantation with military precision. He was a stern disciplinarian and maintained strict control over his slaves. He did not permit them to associate with blacks from other plantations, nor did he permit them to attend church services for the island slaves on Sunday afternoons. The Hampton people were kept at home. Hampton was the only plantation in this section where such conditions existed.

Under his regimented style, Hampton developed into one of the most notable and luxurious plantations on the island. It was a model of efficiency. Everything needed was manufactured on the plantation from shoes and clothes, to boats, furniture, and tools.

Major Butler never considered this as his home. His residence was in Charleston, and later in Philadelphia. Coming here only in the winter months or when his direct supervision was needed, he put the plantation under the management of Roswell King and later his son, Roswell King, Jr.

Although an infrequent visitor himself, he often extended the hospitality of Hampton to his friends. In 1804 the plantation provided sanctuary for Vice President Aaron Burr, fugitive from public indignation over the duel in which Alexander Hamilton was killed. Burr sought refuge in the South, where dueling was understood if not tolerated. Burr had served with Butler in the Senate and took advantage of his friend's invitation to visit Hampton. He stayed at Hampton for a month and while there was entertained by residents of St. Simons and residents of towns on the mainland.

After Major Butler settled in Philadelphia and left the estate in charge of overseers, Hampton continued to be a very profitable enterprise, but as the years passed the non-essentials were neglected. Maintenance was postponed to allow the showing of large profits, the big house was unoccupied and badly run down, and gardens were overgrown and neglected.

When Major Butler died in Philadelphia in 1822, he willed Hampton to his two grandsons, John and Pierce. They were children of his daughter Sarah who had married a Philadelphia doctor, Dr. John Mease. The will, however, stipulated that in order to inherit the land the grandsons would have to assume the family name of Butler. Thus, they changed their names from Mease to Butler in order to qualify for the inheritance.

In 1834 Pierce Butler married Frances Anne Kemble. "Fanny," as she was called, was a famous English actress, dramatic reader, and writer of prose and poetry. In 1832 she had toured the principal cities of America where she met with immediate success. In 1838 he brought his wife and two children, Sally and Frances, to Georgia and visited Hampton Plantation. Each day Fanny kept a journal of her

activities and impressions. She praised the area's beauty but condemned the system that used slave labor. From the beginning, her marriage must have been an unhappy one. She was bitterly opposed to slavery and claimed that she did not know when she married that her husband owned slaves. The marriage did not last, and she and Pierce divorced in 1848. Pierce Butler died in 1867, probably in Philadelphia.

Fanny returned to England in 1856 to resume her career on the stage. During the War Between the States, Fanny was disturbed by the amount of friendly sentiment in England toward the South. There was much favor in granting a loan to the Confederate States to help them finance the war. In 1863 she published her *Journal of a Residence on a Georgia Plantation, 1838-39*. Its impassioned condemnation of the southern plantation way of life caused a quite a sensation. Perhaps her *Journal* helped turned the tide of public opinion against the South. The loan was not made, a fact that may have helped materially in deciding the fate of the Confederacy.

As was true with most plantations, the war brought the demise of Hampton Plantation. The ruins of the old mansion burned in 1871, the land lay unoccupied, and the property gradually returned to the wilderness from which it came.

In the late 1970s it was announced that the Hampton property would be developed as a residential subdivision. Some of the ruins of Major Butler's eighteenth-century buildings would be leveled. Because of the significance of the site as one of the few antebellum plantations that had never been disturbed, a limited archeological survey was allowed before extensive clearing was started. In 1978 members of the Anthropology and Archaeology Department of the University of Florida excavated the historic site at Hampton.

CANNON'S POINT PLANTATION

Cannon's Point Plantation, home of the John Couper family, was located on the northeastern part of St. Simons on the Hampton River with a view of Little Saint Simons Island across the marshes and river. John Couper was born in 1759 in Lochwinnoch, Scotland, near Glasgow, the son of a Presbyterian minister. In 1775, when he was only 16 years old, he left Scotland and became an apprentice to the Savannah branch of an English mercantile firm which soon afterward moved to St. Augustine for the duration of the Revolutionary War. After the war, he returned to Georgia and became a successful merchant in the coastal town of Sunbury.

In 1792 he married Rebecca Maxwell, the daughter of Colonel James Maxwell of Midway, Georgia. The following year, Couper and his business partner, James Hamilton, began purchasing scattered tracts of land on St. Simons Island and tracts of land on the Altamaha River for planting purposes. The Couper's first child, James Hamilton Couper, was born in Sunbury in 1794 and was the namesake of James Hamilton.

In 1796 Couper moved his family to St. Simons to live in a modest cottage built by Daniel Cannon, a carpenter of old Frederica and the original grantee of the land. In 1804 the Coupers moved into a handsome mansion. A Cannon's Point great live oak that stood in Couper's garden provided the original steeple for *Old Ironsides*.

The other property of John Couper included widely scattered tracts, some on the northeast part of the island, some on the eastern side, and others at the south end. As a planter Couper earned the respect of his peers through his experiments with various seeds of Sea Island cotton that improved its yield.

He fulfilled the responsibilities of public service as a member of the Georgia legislature, and in 1798 he was a representative from Glynn County to the convention that drew up the Georgia Constitution. When the need arose for a lighthouse on the southern end of St. Simons, Couper deeded four acres of his land on the south end of the island to the United States government for the sum of one dollar.

John Couper was well over six feet tall, with keen blue eyes and red hair. He was cultured, charming, witty, of the highest integrity, and a famous host. He entertained most of the prominent men in the United States and Europe. He was civic minded, one of the first vestrymen of Christ Church, and one of the world's leading agriculturists.

The Coupers lived happily at Cannon's Point past their golden wedding anniversary. Rebecca Couper, who was born in 1775, died on April 7, 1845 at the age of 70. After his wife's death Couper spent his remaining years with his eldest son's family at Hopeton Plantation near Brunswick. He died on March

24, 1850 at the age of 91. He and his wife are buried in Christ Church Cemetery, as are many members of his family. The plantation continued to be planted in cotton and was used as a summer home for the James Hamilton Couper family. Since 1971 the old plantation has belonged to the Sea Island Company.

Children of John and Rebecca (Maxwell) Couper:

1. James Hamilton (1794-1866) was born in Sunbury, Georgia. In 1803 at age nine he was sent off to school in New Haven, Connecticut. In 1808 he attended St. Mary's College in Baltimore. James entered Yale College in 1810. In 1814 he graduated with honors, returned to St. Simons, and soon followed in his father's footsteps as an accomplished plantation owner. He married Caroline Georgia Wyly, the daughter of Alexander Campbell and Margaret (Armstrong) Wyly, on December 25, 1827. They lived at Hopeton Plantation in Brunswick. James Hamilton and Caroline Georgia (Wyly) Couper are buried in Christ Church Cemetery.
2. Anne Sarah or Ann Sara (1797-1866) was born on St. Simons at Cannon's Point. Anne attended Miss Dotty's school in Charleston for at least three years (1810-1812). She met and married Lieutenant (*later promoted to Captain*) John Fraser of the Royal British Marines, at Cannon's Point on February 1, 1816.
3. John, Jr. (1799-1837) was born at Cannon's Point on April 12, 1799. He attended a prep school in Colchester, Connecticut for about three years. He married Sophia Hermes Gibbs of St. Augustine in 1836. He died in West Bay, Alabama, near Mobile, on January 24, 1837 and is buried in Magnolia Cemetery in Mobile. There were no children and Sophia remained in Mobile, her home area.
4. Isabella Hamilton (1815-1841) was born at Cannon's Point on September 7, 1815. Isabella married the Reverend Theodore B. Bartow, rector of Christ Church from 1830 to 1841. She died on January 26, 1841 in childbirth. She is buried in Christ Church Cemetery.
5. William Audley (1817-1888) was born in Newport, Rhode Island on August 15, 1817. Rebecca had traveled there for a summer vacation. William attended Franklin College in Athens, Georgia. Today it is the University of Georgia. He married Hannah Page King, the daughter of Thomas Butler and Anna Matilda (Page) King, on January 15, 1845. The wedding was held at Retreat Plantation with the Rev. Theodore Bartow performing the ceremony. The couple had eight children. The family later moved to Marietta, Georgia. William Audley died on September 27, 1888, and Hannah died in 1896. They are buried in Episcopal Cemetery.

LAWRENCE PLANTATION

Lawrence Plantation adjoined Cannon's Point Plantation and was a part of John Couper's holdings. It was acquired by him in 1801 and was operated efficiently as a cotton plantation. In the decade between the mid 1820s and 1830s, it was the home of Captain John Fraser, his wife Anne, the daughter of John and Rebecca Couper, and their children. There they maintained a charming home, and John managed the plantation. Anne was a beauty and a delightful hostess. Captain Fraser was a man of many social graces. He was President of the Agricultural and Sporting Club and an honorary member of the Camden Hunting Club. Lawrence later became the property of the Sea Island Company.

THE FRASER FAMILY

The Fraser family did not own property on St. Simons but played a part in the history of the Plantation Era of St. Simons Island. They were the main characters in Eugenia Price's *Georgia Trilogy*.

James Fraser was born in Dumfries Shire, Scotland about 1759. After his wife died he moved to London. He eventually moved to Georgia and lived with his son, Dr. William Fraser, and his wife, Frances Anne (Wyly) Fraser, in Darien. He died there in 1828 of heart failure. He is buried in Christ Church Cemetery.

Captain John Fraser was born in Dumfries Shire, Scotland in 1791. He married Anne Couper at Cannon's Point on February 1, 1816. The Rev. Edmund Matthews of Christ Church performed the ceremony. For several years after their marriage they lived in London with John's father, James Fraser.

On their return to St. Simons Island, John managed Lawrence Plantation for his father-in-law, John Couper. After James Hamilton moved to Philadelphia, Captain Fraser then managed Hamilton Plantation for several years. Captain John Fraser died of heart failure at Hamilton on July 18, 1839. He is buried in Christ Church Cemetery.

Upon John's death Anne was beset by financial difficulties. Due to her independent spirit, she would not allow herself to take aid from her family. Sometime between 1840 and 1842, Anne and her young family moved to Marietta, Georgia. It was a life of bitter hardships, many of them brought on by the War Between the States. Eventually, the war forced her and her single daughters to flee Georgia for New Iberia, Louisiana. She purchased a house, probably near her daughter Selina, who was living there with her physician husband, George Stubinger. Anne died on May 9, 1866 at the age of 69. She is buried in Rosehill Cemetery at New Iberia, Louisiana.

Children of Captain John and Anne (Couper) Fraser:

Anne Rebecca – born in London, England, married Paul Demere, a descendant of Captain Raymond Demere. She died in 1841, giving birth to their son, John Fraser Demere. She is buried on the Demere lot in Christ Church Cemetery.

James William Lovat – served with the British Army in Jamaica. He died there in 1845, after being thrown from his horse.

Rebecca (Pete) – never married

Frances Ann (Fanny) – never married

John Couper – Captain Couper was killed during the War Between the States in 1863 at the Battle of Gettysburg. He is buried in the Confederate section of Laurel Grove Cemetery in Savannah.

Selina Tunno – married Captain George Stubinger in 1862 in Marietta, Georgia

Sophia Julia (1834-1839) – buried in Christ Church Cemetery

Susan

Elizabeth

Margaret

Dr. William Fraser was born in Dumfries Shire, Scotland about 1794. He married Frances Anne Wyllie, the daughter of Alexander Campbell and Margaret (Armstrong) Wyllie of The Village. William died of heart failure at West Point, New York in 1837, on his way to Saratoga Springs to take the waters. Frances Anne was born in 1798 and died in 1868. William and Frances Anne Fraser are buried in Christ Church Cemetery.

Children of William and Frances Anne (Wyllie) Fraser:

James William was killed in a brawl on the Savannah waterfront and is buried in Laurel Grove Cemetery in Savannah.

Menzies died in Savannah in 1854 of yellow fever and is buried in Laurel Grove Cemetery in Savannah.

Clarence Brailsford (April 1835-Aug. 1835) – buried in Christ Church Cemetery

HARRINGTON HALL PLANTATION and MULBERRY GROVE PLANTATION

Harrington Hall and Mulberry Grove were the plantations owned by successive generations of the Demere family. Captain Raymond Demere was the original owner of Harrington Hall, receiving a grant to a fifty-acre tract. It was located a mile and one-half east of Fort Frederica. Raymond Demere, who came to Georgia with General Oglethorpe in 1736, was a French Huguenot of considerable fortune.

Captains Raymond and Paul Demere, "French born and British trained," were officers in the Independent Company which became a part of General Oglethorpe's Regiment. They fought with Oglethorpe at the Battle of Bloody Marsh, and after his return to England Captain Raymond Demere commanded a detachment of the three Independent Companies in South Carolina stationed on St. Simons. Captain Paul Demere was later ambushed and slaughtered by the Cherokee Indians.

Raymond and Paul Demere each had a son named Raymond. Captain Raymond Demere died April 21, 1766. His will, which is on file in the State Department of Archives in Atlanta, directs that the residue of his estate, after certain legacies were paid, be divided between his son, Raymond Demere, Jr., and his nephew, Raymond Demere.

Captain Raymond's son, Raymond, Jr., was born in 1752. He is believed to be the only native born citizen of Glynn County who served the cause of the colonies in the Revolutionary War. He was on the staff of Lord Sterling, serving as aide-de-camp. Later he became aide-de-camp to General Washington. He was made a Major and served in the campaigns of New Jersey.

After the Revolutionary War, Major Demere returned to St. Simons and developed Mulberry Grove Plantation where he lived the life of a plantation owner and reared his family. He served his country well, both in military and civil offices, having been the Glynn County member of the Georgia House of Representatives in 1789. He was named Justice of the Peace in June 1790 and Justice of the Inferior Court in 1791.

Major Raymond Demere died on January 2, 1829. According to his will of August 29, 1828, he had a son named Raymond, three granddaughters (daughters of Raymond) and four grandsons: Joseph, Lewis, John, and Paul, who inherited the Harrington Hall property. John Fraser Demere, son of Paul and Anne Fraser Demere, and the fifth generation of the family, was born at Harrington Hall in 1841. He was killed during the War Between the States in 1862, at the Battle of Antietam in Sharpsburg, Maryland. Anne died giving birth to John Fraser Demere. She is buried on the Demere lot in Christ Church Cemetery.

Successive generations of Demeres cultivated the plantations on St. Simons until the War Between the States. None returned after that conflict, and no vestige of their homes remains.

SINCLAIR PLANTATION or ST. CLAIR PLANTATION

Sinclair Plantation, the property that was developed in Oglethorpe's time by Archibald Sinclair, a tithingman (policeman) of Frederica, was known in plantation days as St. Clair. The estate had been through a series of ownerships and a long line of distinguished persons had called St. Clair home. In 1809 Alexander Campbell Wyly leased St. Clair. Their youngest child, Caroline Georgia, was born there in 1811. In 1812 the Wyly family moved to The Village.

Various kinfolk of the Wylys lived at St. Clair. When Mrs. Wyly's mother, Ann Armstrong, came from the Bahamas to make her home on St. Simons, she lived in the old house where she died in 1816. (See *Kelvin Grove Plantation*)

The Wyly's daughter, Frances Anne, married Dr. William Fraser, a retired surgeon of the Royal British Navy and brother of John Fraser. The couple lived for a time at St. Clair before moving to Darien, where Dr. Fraser served as mayor.

Although Major Pierce Butler left the island in 1815, he purchased the St. Clair house in 1820 and gave it for a nominal rent to the St. Clair Club, which was formed by the island planters solely for social pleasure. Here monthly dinners were given, each member furnishing, in rotation, dinner and service and the attachments, wine and punch. Later the Agricultural and Sporting Club, organized by island planters in 1832, used the house. The old plantation house burned in 1857.

THE VILLAGE PLANTATION

The Village, on the eastern side of the island, was the plantation home of the Alexander Wyly family. Alexander Campbell Wyly, born in Savannah about 1760 and educated at Oxford, remained loyal to England during the Revolutionary War, and served as an officer in the British Army. At the close of the Revolutionary War the Wyly family went to live in the Bahamas where young Captain Wyly married Margaret Armstrong, the daughter of another loyalist family, that of William and Ann Armstrong.

In the early 1800s Captain Wyly, with his wife and four children, returned to Georgia. For several years, they lived on Jekyll Island (owned by the du Bignons) where three more children were born to the family. Susan Armstrong, sister of Margaret (Armstrong) Wyly, must have come with other Armstrong relatives from Nassau when the Wylys returned to Georgia to live. In Caroline Couper Lovell's book, *The Golden Isles of Georgia*, there is a copy of a letter written by Susan Armstrong, who lived in Darien, to her sister, Margaret Wyly of The Village, on March 12, 1830 to let her know that her son Alexander William Wyly, Susan's nephew, had married Elizabeth Spalding, in what might be called a runaway match, at her home in Darien.

In 1810 the Wyllys moved to St. Simons Island and leased the substantial tabby house at St. Clair. Their youngest child, Caroline Georgia, was born in this house in 1811. In 1812 they moved to The Village. Captain Wylly had built a home on the site of the Colonial Salzburger settlement, or German Village as it was called. These Salzburgers made their living by planting, fishing, and selling their products to the Frederica settlers. When Oglethorpe's regiment was disbanded in 1749, the Salzburgers left St. Simons Island.

Captain Wylly's plantation of over 1,000 acres became known simply as "The Village." Although Alexander Wylly and his wife lived on St. Simons for the rest of their lives, their loyalty to England never changed.

The youngest Wylly daughter, 16-year-old Caroline, married James Hamilton Couper on December 25, 1827. The ceremony, conducted by the Rev. Edmund Matthews of Christ Church, was held that evening in the Wylly drawing room. James, the son of John and Rebecca Couper, was 33 years old and probably the most eligible bachelor in the low country when he married Caroline Wylly. The couple went first to the home of James' parents at Cannon's Point for the night. From there, they went to their home, Hopeton Plantation in Brunswick. James Couper believed that the only chance a man had of a rational companion in his wife was to marry her when she was very young and cultivate her mind. It would seem that he practiced what he preached.

Susannah Wylly, the eldest daughter, was born in 1788 in New Providence, Nassau and died in 1829 in Georgia. Captain Wylly died in 1833 at the age of 73. In 1838 Dr. Thomas Hazzard shot and killed the youngest son, John Armstrong Wylly, age 32, in a quarrel over the boundary line between The Village and the Hazzard property. A broken pediment marks John Wylly's grave in Christ Church Cemetery, symbolic of his tragic death in the prime of life.

Mrs. Wylly and her unmarried daughters continued to live at The Village until her death in 1850 at the age of 81. The daughters later moved to Savannah. Alexander Campbell and Margaret (Armstrong) Wylly are buried in Christ Church Cemetery.

Children of Alexander Campbell and Margaret (Armstrong) Wylly:

1. Susannah Cunningham (1788-1829) – never married, buried in Christ Church Cemetery
2. Alexander William – married Elizabeth Spalding, daughter of Thomas Spalding of Sapelo Island
3. Ann Frances (1798-1846) – never married, buried in Christ Church Cemetery
4. Frances Anne (1798-1868) – married Dr. William Fraser, both buried in Christ Church Cemetery
5. Margaret Matilda (1804-1863) – never married, buried in Christ Church Cemetery
6. John Armstrong (1806-1838) – killed by Dr. Thomas Hazzard, buried in Christ Church Cemetery
7. Heriot L. (1808-1885) – never married, buried in Christ Church Cemetery
8. Caroline Georgia (1811-1897) – married James Hamilton Couper, both buried in Christ Church Cemetery

WEST POINT PLANTATION and PIKES BLUFF PLANTATION

Just north of Frederica were West Point and Pikes Bluff, the two plantations that adjoin the old town of Frederica on the north. These belonged to the Hazzards of South Carolina. The West Point property was purchased by Colonel William Hazzard in 1818.

Adjoining West Point to the north, the Pikes Bluff tract was the property of Edmund Matthews, rector of Christ Church, Frederica. After the Rev. Matthews' death in 1827, Pikes Bluff was bought from his estate by the Hazzards and became the home of Dr. Thomas Hazzard.

Both Hazzard brothers represented Glynn County in the state legislature. Both were writers of ability and contributed articles on various subjects to the *Southern Agriculturist*. The brothers were communicants of Christ Church where Colonel Hazzard served several terms as warden and Dr. Hazzard served on the vestry.

Part of the Hazzard property joined The Village land, and in December 1838 a bitter dispute over boundary lines resulted in John Wylly of The Village being shot by Dr. Thomas Hazzard. Dr. Hazzard was tried for aggravated manslaughter but was not convicted. After Dr. Hazzard died in 1849 Colonel Hazzard

cultivated both plantations as one. The Pikes Bluff part of the old plantation was eventually acquired by the Sea Island Company. Pink Chapel, a part of West Point Plantation, still stands.

KELVIN GROVE PLANTATION

Kelvin Grove included most of the southeastern part of the island and was one of the largest of the St. Simons plantations. The property was made up of various tracts. Perhaps its first claim to distinction lay in the fact that the Battle of Bloody Marsh was fought on one of the tracts. It was the home of the Cater - Postell family. Here at Kelvin Grove Thomas Cater lived with his young and attractive wife, the former Elizabeth Franklin, and here an awful tragedy took place.

A handsome overseer had won the heart of Elizabeth and plotted to murder her husband. Thomas Cater was aware that his wife was having an affair with the overseer and had warned his servant that there might be trouble. The servant was instructed to keep a horse ready at all times, because it was extremely important that the child not be left to the mother. He was to take the child to Retreat Plantation to Cater's trusted friend William Page with whom arrangements had been made. On the night of the dreadful deed, about 1805, the servant, old Dembo, felt that little Benjamin, the only child, was in danger of his life and took him to William Page. The murdered Cater was buried by his slaves near an old magnolia tree at the edge of the marsh, south of the slave graveyard, east of the Kelvin Grove home, and north of the present memorial at Bloody Marsh. Neither his grave nor those of the slaves have surviving markers.

The guilty pair fled from the island and was heard of no more. The courts made Major Page the guardian of Benjamin Franklin Cater. Benjamin Cater grew up at Retreat while William Page and old Dembo managed his plantation for him. After his education at Yale College, under the guardianship of William Page, the young man did return to St. Simons to assume his role as master of Kelvin Grove. He married Anne Armstrong of the Bahamas.

Anne's grandparents with their children had earlier refuged to the Bahamas from the Colonies because of their loyalist support of the British Crown during the Revolutionary War. Her grandfather, William Armstrong (1720-1775), died in the Bahamas, but his widow, Ann, returned to the United States after the war. Ann Armstrong died in 1816 at St. Clair Plantation and is buried in Christ Church Cemetery where a sago palm always grows by her raised grave marker.

Anne (Armstrong) Cater, wife of Benjamin Cater died on February 7, 1835, at the age of 33 giving birth to twin daughters. One of the twins also died and is buried within the same grave as her mother in Christ Church Cemetery. Anne's sister, Margaret, named for their aunt, Margaret (Armstrong) Wylly, was a widow, so she came to take care of her deceased sister's baby. Eventually she married the widowed father, Benjamin Cater. Benjamin Cater died on August 29, 1839, at the age of 43.

The surviving daughter, also named Anne Armstrong Cater, known as Annie, became the sole heir to Kelvin Grove. Her stepmother, Aunt Margaret, raised her. Margaret died in 1876 and is buried in Christ Church Cemetery with the family but not beside her husband and her sister, his first wife.

Anne Armstrong Cater (1835-1911) married James P. Postell (1833-1893) of Savannah, and thus Kelvin Grove sometimes became known as the Cater-Postell Plantation. As owner of a large and profitable cotton plantation, James P. Postell was a successful businessman.

The Postells had ten children: Franklin Cater Postell died in infancy, 1855-1856; James Mackbeth Postell, 1856-1913; Margaret Wylly Postell (*no dates on tombstone by her instructions*); Thomas Burke Postell, 1866-1886; Annie James Postell, 1875-1950 (*all buried in Christ Church Cemetery*). These died unmarried, but five children who eventually married and had children continued the Postell line. These were: William Armstrong Postell, 1854-1914 (*buried in Christ Church Cemetery*); John Postell (*not buried in Christ Church Cemetery*); Emma Payne (Postell) Shadman, 1863-1939; Clifford Hopkins Postell, 1869-1945; Urbanas Dart Postell (*not buried in Christ Church Cemetery*).

James Postell died in 1893 at the age of 60. His wife, Anne (Cater) Postell, died in 1911 at the age of 76. In the last years of their lives, tracts of Kelvin Grove land passed into the hands of St. Simons developers, the individual surviving Postell children, and others who loved the land and wanted to live on it as the Postells had. The days of Kelvin Grove as one large inclusive plantation were gone forever.

James and Anne Postell are buried in the Christ Church Cemetery.

The plantation consisted of 1600 acres of the island's cleared and cultivated land, timberland, meadow, marsh, and beach property. It included not only the Bloody Marsh tract where the house sat but also tracts which now make up East Beach, the U.S. Coast Guard Station, Massengale Park, The King

and Prince Hotel, McKinnon Airport, and the residential acres of Kelvin Grove, Highland Acres, Wesley Oaks, The Meadows, and Oglethorpe Park.

ORANGE GROVE PLANTATION

The tract of land located south of Frederica on Dunbar Creek, which was granted to John Terry, took its name from the numbers of orange trees which Terry planted there. Though he was a silversmith by trade and held the office of Recorder of Frederica, he found time to work his plantation. He made a good beginning but did not occupy Orange Grove for many years. When he vacated his grant, the tract was granted to James Bruce, a Savannah merchant, who also owned a lot in Frederica Town.

On August 14, 1790 Rebecca, the daughter of James Bruce, married Major Samuel Wright of Savannah. After their marriage the couple made their home on St. Simons at Orange Grove Plantation. From the first year of his residence on St. Simons, Major Wright was prominent in local affairs. In 1792 he represented Glynn County in the state legislature for five terms and served as Justice of the Inferior Court from 1791 until his death on May 4, 1804.

On February 2, 1808 the Wrights' daughter, Mary, married George Abbott of Frederica in what must have been the first marriage ceremony solemnized by the Rev. William Best in the newly organized parish of Christ Church, Frederica.

George Abbott had come from Ireland to St. Simons in the late 1700s and had settled at Frederica, where he operated a mercantile business. When regular mail service for the island was established in 1800, he was the first postmaster. He was one of the founders of Christ Church, Frederica and laid the cornerstone for the church built in 1820.

George and Mary's children and their orphaned cousin, Deborah Abbott, grew up on Orange Grove Plantation. When the girls were grown the younger daughter, Ann, married James Gowen, son of William and Mary (Harrison) Gowen, early settlers of St. Simons Island.

Orange Grove passed out of Wright-Abbott possession shortly after the War Between the States and remained out of the family until 1929 when it was purchased by Albert Fendig, Sr., and his wife, Gladys Gowen Fendig, a direct descendant of Major Samuel Wright.

After Orange Grove had been in the Fendig family for four decades, the historic tract became part of the property known as Sea Palms West.

OATLANDS PLANTATION and ELIZAFIELD PLANTATION

Oatlands, on St. Simons Island, was the summer home of the family of Dr. Robert Grant, who owned and operated three Altamaha River plantations - Grantley, Evelyn and Elizafield, which was the home plantation for the family. The vast acreage of Grantley and Evelyn was planted in rice, cotton, and cane, and only the "hands" lived upon the plantations.

Dr. Grant, a native of Leith, Scotland, had made his home in South Carolina for several years before coming to Georgia. He bought the Altamaha tracts in the 1790s, and he and his wife, the former Sarah Foxworth, came to live there soon afterward. In 1811 their son Hugh Fraser Grant was born at Oatlands. He was named for his father's close friend, Dr. Hugh Fraser of South Carolina.

In 1833 Dr. and Mrs. Grant retired to Oatlands, their St. Simons place, located north of St. Clair and south of Lawrence. The river plantations were divided between their sons Charles and Hugh. Evelyn became the property of Charles while Elizafield was the home of Hugh and Mary Elizabeth (Fraser) Grant and their family. Dr. and Mrs. Grant lived on at Oatlands, going to Christ Church on Sundays and enjoying the social life of the island. He was one of the wardens of the church when it was organized in 1807. He died at the age of 81, and his wife returned to Elizafield to live out her remaining years with the Hugh Fraser Grants. Dr. Robert and Sarah Grant and Hugh Fraser and Mary Elizabeth Grant are buried in Christ Church Cemetery.

HOPETON PLANTATION

In 1805 John Couper and his partner, James Hamilton, bought tracts of land on the Altamaha River, which they called Hopeton after their friend and financial backer, William Hopeton. This plantation was situated on the south bank of the river, about eight miles from Darien by river and sixteen miles from Brunswick by land. At that time, the land had not been cleared.

In 1816 James Hamilton Couper was given entire charge of Hopeton Plantation. In 1827 John Couper sold his half interest in Hopeton to James Hamilton. Hamilton then proceeded to sell Couper's half interest to his son, James Hamilton Couper. Later that same year, James married Caroline Wyly, the daughter of Alexander Campbell and Margaret (Armstrong) Wyly of The Village on St. Simons Island.

By 1825 James Couper had managed Hopeton property so successfully that it was acknowledged to be a model plantation, and no traveler of note who came South failed to visit it. Couper was an ardent horticulturist, an amateur geologist, an archaeologist, an architect of no mean talent, and a recognized naturalist.

When James Hamilton of Philadelphia died in 1829 his only daughter, who had married Richard Corbin of Virginia, inherited all of his Georgia holdings. James Hamilton Couper administered her estate along with his own estate. He became, at her death, the guardian of her son Richard and her two daughters. Under his management Hopeton prospered, and he increased the acreage and produced enormous crops. His wife, Caroline, presided over a household in which entertaining hosts of visitors from far and near was routine. Under her capable management, the house ran smoothly as clockwork.

In 1856 James was ready to retire after managing Hopeton for forty years and to give up his position as trustee for the estate of James Hamilton, the youngest of his three wards, Richard Corbin, Jr., having reached his majority. The Coupers decided to leave Hopeton Plantation and to build a smaller house for their retirement. They named the new home Altama, derived from the nearby Altamaha River. There James would have time to devote to his personal interests, and Caroline would not be quite so busy.

In 1857 they prepared to move to Altama, which was located on Hopeton property. Their real estate also included another home in Waynesville, Ware County, where the family traveled to escape the seasonal danger of malaria on the low marshy land at Hopeton Plantation. Instead of the usual house warming for the new home, they gave a week long house party in farewell to the old. It was a gala affair, with guests from England, as well as friends and kinfolk from Savannah and Camden County.

Eight Couper children grew up at Hopeton. James Hamilton Couper died on June 3, 1866 at the age of 72, from the effects of a stroke that had left him paralyzed in 1863. Caroline (Wyly) Couper died December 31, 1897 at the age of 86. They are buried in Christ Church Cemetery.

Children of James Hamilton and Caroline (Wyly) Couper:

Hamilton (1829-1861) – died at Manassas, Virginia, buried in Christ Church Cemetery

Alexander Wyly (1833-1905) – fought gallantly throughout the War but spent the rest of his life as a recluse, in the deep woods of Altama. He is buried in Christ Church Cemetery.

John Lord (1835-1862) – was killed at Gordonsville, Virginia, buried in Christ Church Cemetery

James Maxwell – married Eudora Harper of Vicksburg. He distinguished himself at the siege of Vicksburg by carrying dispatches beyond the lines.

Robert – entered the War at seventeen from the University of Virginia. He was captured and imprisoned by the enemy and never recovering entirely from the hardships endured during those years. He is buried in Christ Church Cemetery.

William (1844-1857) – buried in Christ Church Cemetery

Margaret – married Robert Mackay Stiles of Savannah. They were the parents of Caroline Couper Lovell, who wrote *The Golden Isles of Georgia*.

Rebecca Isabel – In 1882 she married her cousin, Captain Charles Spalding Wyly, grandson of Alexander Campbell Wyly and Thomas Spalding. Rebecca died in 1912 at the age of 69, and Charles died in 1923 at the age of 87. They are buried in Christ Church Cemetery.

ST. SIMONS ISLAND

PLANTATION OWNERS AND THEIR FAMILIES
Who were communicants of Christ Church and
Are buried in the old cemetery

RETREAT PLANTATION

Major William Page and his wife Hannah (Timmons) Page
Anna Matilda (Page) King and her husband Thomas Butler King
William Page King
Thomas Butler King, Jr.
Henry Lord Page King
Mallery Page King and his wife Maria Eugenia (Grant) King

NEW ST. CLAIR PLANTATION

James Gould
Mary E. H. Gould
Jane (Gould) Richardson and her husband Orville Richardson

BLACK BANKS PLANTATION

Horace Bunch Gould and his wife Deborah (Abbott) Gould
Jessie Caroline (Gould) Campbell and her husband William Campbell
Horace Abbott Gould and his wife Alberta (Telfair) Gould
Anna Deborah (Gould) Dodge and her husband The Rev. Anson Phelps Dodge
James Dunn Gould and his wife Mary (Green) Gould
Joseph Edward Gould and his wife Jesse (Wilcox) Gould

CANNON'S POINT PLANTATION

John Couper and his wife Rebecca (Maxwell) Couper
Isabella Hamilton (Couper) Bartow

THE FRASER FAMILY

Mr. James Fraser
Capt. John Fraser
Sophia Julia Fraser
Dr. William Fraser and his wife Frances Anne (Wylly) Fraser
Clarence Brailsford Fraser

MULBERRY GROVE PLANTATION and HARRINGTON HALL PLANTATION

(Major) Raymond Demere (Jr.) (Revolutionary Soldier)
Raymond Demere (2nd or 3rd)
Anne Rebecca (Fraser) Demere
Wife of Paul Demere
(Daughter of Capt. John and Anne (Couper) Fraser)

THE VILLAGE PLANTATION

Capt. Alexander Campbell Wyly and his wife Margaret (Armstrong) Wyly
Susannah Cunningham Wyly
Ann Frances Wyly
Margaret Matilda Wyly
John Armstrong Wyly
Heriot L. Wyly

KELVIN GROVE PLANTATION

Thomas Cater and his wife Elizabeth (Franklin) Cater
Benjamin Franklin Cater and his wife Ann (Armstrong) Cater
Anne Armstrong (Cater) Postell and her husband James Postell
William Armstrong Postell
Frank Cater Postell
James Mackbeth Postell
Margaret Postell
Annie James Postell

ORANGE GROVE PLANTATION

Rebecca (Bruce) Wright and her husband Major Samuel Wright
Mary (Wright) Abbott and her husband George Abbott

HOPETON PLANTATION

James Hamilton Couper and his wife Caroline Georgia (Wylly) Couper
Hamilton Couper
Alexander Wylly Couper
John Lord Couper
Robert Couper
William Couper
Rebecca Isabella (Couper) Wylly and her husband Charles Spalding Wylly

OATLANDS PLANTATION

Robert Grant and his wife Sarah (Foxworth) Grant
Hugh Fraser Grant and his wife Mary Elizabeth (Fraser) Grant

ST. SIMONS ISLAND

CHRIST CHURCH, FREDERICA

In 1807 Christ Church, Frederica, second oldest Episcopal Church in Georgia and third oldest church in the state, was organized by a group of island planters. In 1808 the State Legislature granted to it one hundred acres around the Town of Frederica and three lots within the town for the use of the church. Named as wardens were Dr. Robert Grant of Oatlands Plantation and William Page of Retreat Plantation, while vestrymen were George Abbott of Frederica, John Couper of Cannon's Point Plantation, Raymond Demere, Jr. of Mulberry Grove Plantation, James Hamilton of Hamilton Plantation, and Joseph Turner, Collector of the Ports of Frederica and Brunswick. The act of incorporation in 1808 declared these men "to be a body corporate by the name and style of 'the church wardens and vestrymen of the Episcopal Church of the town of Frederica, called Christ Church.'" The Rev. William Best of Savannah was the first rector of the parish, and early services were held in the home of John Beck.

The first church, a simple little white wooden chapel, was built in 1820 under the oaks near the town walls of Frederica. The Rev. Edmund Matthews, D.D., served the parish from 1810 until his death in 1827.

After the War Between the States, returning residents of St. Simons found that Federal occupation of the island had left their church in ruins. The church funds had been lost in a Savannah bank that was ruined by the war, and the parishioners who returned to their devastated plantations had no resources with which to rebuild their church or support a clergyman. Evening prayers were read each Sunday in the home of Horace Bunch Gould at Black Banks Plantation.

In the late 1870s when mills were operated on the island by the Dodge lumber interests, young Anson Greene Phelps Dodge, Jr. visited his father, Anson G.P. Dodge, one of the mill owners. He was attracted to the island and its people and sympathized with the communicants of Christ Church in their attempt to hold their parish together. The present church was built as a memorial to Anson Dodge's first wife, Ellen, who died while the young couple was on a wedding journey around the world. Ellen, who was born in 1862, died in 1883 of cholera in Allahabad, India. Her embalmed body was enclosed in a metallic coffin which was then placed in an ebony basket. Her body was brought to St. Simons Island and buried in a temporary grave in the church cemetery. When the new church was completed, her body was entombed in a lead-lined vault and placed beneath the chancel of the church to await burial in the same grave with her husband. Anson planned the church and provided the funds for its construction.

Anson Dodge attended theological seminary and became the first rector of the present Christ Church in 1884. He built a home nearby, and for the rest of his life worked untiringly in the Diocese of Georgia, establishing a number of churches in the coastal area.

During Dodge's ministry in Christ Church Parish, he married Anna Deborah Gould, daughter of Horace Bunch and Deborah (Abbott) Gould, in May of 1890. A son, Anson G.P. Dodge, III, was born to them in 1891. He was killed in a buggy accident in 1894. As a memorial to their son, Anson erected and endowed the Anson Dodge Home for Boys, which remained in existence for well over half a century, closing in 1956.

Anson Dodge died of a heart condition in 1898 at the age of 38. Anna (Gould) Dodge died in 1927 at the age of 71. The little boy, his mother, and his grandmother Dodge are buried near the tomb of Anson and Ellen in the family plot that is close to the church.

In the vestibule are two windows dedicated by a grateful congregation to THE MINISTRY OF ANSON PHELPS DODGE. One of the windows depicts Old Christ Church, Frederica (shown at bottom of window) that stood on the site of the present church until it was desecrated and made untenable during the War Between the States. The Rev. Dodge rebuilt and endowed Christ Church, Frederica. The other window shows the Rev. Anson Phelps Dodge holding the hand of a small boy who signifies the Dodge Home for Boys that the Rev. Dodge founded on St. Simons Island in memory of his son.

A beautiful marble bust of the Rev. Dodge, made when he was about six years of age, is placed near the west window. THE CONFESSION OF PETER window was executed in 1899 by Mayer & Company, Munich, Germany and is dedicated "To the memory of the Rev. Anson Greene Phelps Dodge, Jr., S.T.B. (*Doctor of Sacred Theology*) June 30, 1860 - August 20, 1898."

THE GOOD SAMARITAN window is dedicated "In memory of William Earl Dodge, Sept. 4, 1805 - Feb. 9, 1883." (*Grandfather of Anson Greene Phelps Dodge, Jr. and Ellen Phelps Dodge. They were first cousins, as their fathers were brothers. William Earl Dodge's father-in-law was Anson Greene Phelps. William and Melissa Phelps Dodge, his wife, named a son Anson Greene Phelps Dodge.*)

THE RESURRECTION window is dedicated "In memory of Ellen Ada Phelps Dodge, Feb. 28, 1862 - Nov. 29, 1883."

Other windows erected as memorials to some of the former communicants of Christ Church are as follows:

The WOMAN, WHY WEEPEST THOU? window is dedicated "In memory of Horace B. Gould, 1812 - 1881." (*of Black Banks*)

The HER CHILDREN ARISE UP AND CALL HER BLESSED window is attributed to Tiffany and is dedicated "A.M.D.G. (*for the greater glory of God, motto of the society of Jesus*) and in loving memory of Deborah Abbott Gould, 1829 - 1906." (*of Black Banks*)

THE NATIVITY window is "Sacred to the memory of Thomas Butler King, 1800 - 1864 and of Anna Matilda Page, his wife, 1798 - 1859. In memory of Major William Page, 1764 - 1827 and Hannah Timmons, his wife, 1759 - 1826." (*of Retreat*)

The ST. MARTIN OF TOURS window is dedicated "In loving memory of Thomas Butler King, Jr., 1829 - 1859." (*of Retreat*)

The ST. GEORGE window is dedicated "In loving memory of Capt. Henry Lord Page King, C.S.A., 1831 - 1862." (*of Retreat*)

The ST. JOHN THE APOSTLE window is dedicated "In loving memory of Captain Mallery Page King, C.S.A., 1836 - 1899." (*of Retreat*)

The COUPER AND WYLLY window is dedicated to the Couper family (*of Cannon's Point and Hopeton on the mainland*) and the Wyly family. (*of The Village*)

Located in the altar area are windows dedicated "In memory of the Rev. Edmund Matthews, sometime Rector of this Parish (1810 - 1827), who entered into rest Dec. 1, 1827." Located on either side of the altar, the outer windows are the symbols of the four evangelists; St. Matthew is represented by the winged man, St. Mark as the lion, St. Luke as the winged ox, and St. John as the eagle. Next to the altar on one side is the Lamb of God, shown with the Easter banner, and on the other side is the descending dove, representing the Holy Spirit.

In the old churchyard are monuments marked with the names of Page, King, Grant, Couper, Fraser, Wright, Gowen, Abbott, Gould, Frewin, Stevens, Demere, Cater, Postell, Wyly and many others who had a part in the history of St. Simons Island. The Hazzard family vault, which dates A.D. 1813, stands in ruins as it has stood since 1863 when it was desecrated during Federal occupation of St. Simons.

The bodies of four of the rectors of Christ Church also lie in the old churchyard: the Rev. Edmund Matthews (1810 - 1827), the Rev. Anson Greene Phelps Dodge, Jr. (1884 - 1898), the Rev. D. Watson Winn (1898 - 1923), and the Rev. Dr. Junius J. Martin (1953 - 1973).

ST. SIMONS ISLAND
CEMETERY AT CHRIST CHURCH

DODGE LOT

Single Grave

E. A. P. D. (*Ellen Ada Phelps Dodge*)
1883 (Died)
A. G. P. D. (*Anson Greene Phelps Dodge*)
1898 (Died)

Anson G. P. Dodge
1891 - 1894
(Son of Anson & Anna Dodge)

Rebecca Wainwright Grew
wife of
A. G. P. Dodge, Sr.
Mar. 21, 1846 - Dec. 19, 1925

Anna Deborah Gould
wife of
The Rev. A. G. P. Dodge
1856 - 1927
(Dau. of Horace B. & Deborah Gould)

ARMSTRONG LOT

Alexander Campbell Wyly
Died 31 May 1833
Aged 73 years

Susannah Cunningham Wyly
Died 19 Oct. 1829
at the residence of
James Hamilton Couper, Esq.
Wayne County
(Dau. of A.C. & Margaret Wyly)

Margaret Matilda Wyly
March 7, 1804 - June 1863
(Dau. of A.C. & Margaret Wyly)

Mrs. Francis Anne Fraser (*Wife of Wm. Fraser*)
March 14, 1798 - May 1868
(Dau. of A.C. & Margaret Wyly)

Clarence Brailsford Fraser
Son of William and Frances Fraser
Born in Darien
April 13, 1835 - Aug. 20, 1835

Mr. James Fraser
Of Dumfries Shire, Scotland
who died at Darien
Dec. 18, 1826
Aged 69 years
(Father of William and John Fraser)

Sophia Julia
Daughter of John and Anne S. Fraser
14 June 1834 - 1 Nov. 1839

Margaret (*Armstrong*)
Relic of Alexander Campbell Wyly
Died 12 Sept. 1850 - Aged 81 years
(Dau. of William & Ann Armstrong)

Ann Frances Wyly
Born at Nassau, New Providence
Mar. 14, 1798 - 22 Jan. 1846
(Dau. of A.C. & Margaret Wyly)

John Armstrong Wyly
3 Dec. 1838
Aged 32 years 1 mo. (*half-pediment*)
(Son of A.C. & Margaret Wyly)

Dr. William Fraser
(Late of the Royal Navy)
Mayor of Darien
who departed this life
at West Point, NY
July 1, 1837
Aged 43 years

John Fraser
of the
Royal British Marine Artillery
An Honorable Gentleman
And Gallant Officer
Born in Scotland, 2 Oct. 1791
Died on St. Simons Island
18 July 1839

Ann Armstrong
Relic of William Armstrong
of the Bahama Islands
Died at St. Clair, St. Simons
April 1, 1816 - Aged 82 years
(Mother of Margaret A. Wyll)

William Armstrong
who died on St. Simons
Aug. 5, 1849 - Aged 84
Erected by his daughter
S. M. Armstrong
(Son of William & Ann Armstrong)

Benjamin Franklin Cater
who died at his residence
on St. Simons Island
29 Aug. 1839 - Aged 43 years
(Son of Thomas & Elizabeth Cater)

Anne Armstrong Cater
Wife of James Postell
Jan. 22, 1835 - April 5, 1911
(Dau. of B.F. & Anne Cater)

Wm. Armstrong Postell
Feb. 8, 1854 - Sept. 18, 1914
(Son of James & Anne Postell)

James Mackbeth Postell
Dec. 1, 1856 - Aug. 5, 1913
(Son of James & Anne Postell)

Margaret
Daughter of Anne Armstrong and James Postell
(no dates)

James Armstrong
Born 1795
Died 1877

Thomas Bourke Postell
March 20, 1866 - July 17, 1866
(Son of James & Anne Postell)

Caroline Armstrong
who died on St. Simons
May 25, 1855 - Aged 83
Erected by her daughter
S. M. Armstrong

Anne (Dau. of William Armstrong)
wife of
Benjamin F. Cater
Died 7 Feb. 1835
In the 33rd year of her age

James Postell
Born in Savannah, GA
Dec. 25, 1833 - April 15, 1893

Frank Cater Postell
second child of James and Annie A. Postell
April 1, 1855 - April 11, 1856

Annie James Postell
Nov. 10, 1875 - Oct. 11, 1950
(Dau. of James & Anne Postell)

COUPER LOT

John Couper
Born in Lochwinnoch, Scotland
9 March 1759
Died at Hopeton, Georgia
24 March 1850

Isabella Hamilton
Wife of the Rev. Theo. B. Bartow
Daughter of John and Rebecca Couper
Sept. 7, 1815 - Jan 26, 1841

James Hamilton Couper
March 4, 1794 - June 3, 1866
(Son of John & Rebecca Couper)

Rebecca
Wife of John Couper, Esq.
Daughter of Col. James Maxwell
16 March 1775 - 7 April 1845

Caroline G.
Wife of James Hamilton Couper
Daughter of Alexander C. & Margaret Wyll
May 24, 1811 - Dec. 31, 1897

Hamilton Couper
 Eldest son of James Hamilton and Caroline Couper
 Born Jan. 11, 1829 at Hopeton Glynn Co., GA
 Died Nov. 8, 1861 at Manassas, VA
 Capt. of the Oglethorpe Light Infantry Co.
 8th Ga. Regt.

John Lord Couper
 Son of James Hamilton and Caroline Couper
 Born June 4, 1835 at the Lodge Wayne Co., GA
 Died Aug. 4, 1862 at Gordonsville, GA
 Sergt. Major 60th Ga. Regt.

William Couper
 Son of J. Hamilton and Caroline Georgia Couper
 Aug. 11, 1844 - April 16, 1857

Robert Couper
 1841 - 1941
 Lieut. C.S.A.
 1861 - 1865
 (Son of James H. & Caroline Couper)

Alexander Wyllly Couper
 Feb. 13, 1833 - July 9, 1905
 (Son of James H. & Caroline Couper)

Rebecca Isabella Couper
 Wife of Charles Spalding Wyllly
 March 9, 1843 - May 7, 1912
 (Dau. of James H. & Caroline Couper)

Charles Spalding Wyllly
 1836 - 1923
 Captain 1st Georgia Rangers
 C.S.A.
 1861 - 1865
 (Grandson of A.C. & Margaret Wyllly)

Heriot L. Wyllly
 April 1, 1808 - May 11, 1885
 (Dau. of A.C. & Margaret Wyllly)

GOULD LOT

To Our Father
 James Gould (*first lighthouse builder*)
 Died Sept. 3, 1852
 In the 80th year of his age
 He was a native of Granville, Mass.
 But for the last forty-five years a resident
 of St. Simons Island

Orville Richardson
 A native of Maine
 April 2, 1803 - July 4, 1871

Helen Mary
 Daughter of Orville and Jane Richardson
 Died 2 Nov. 1840
 In the fourth year of her age

My Husband
 Our Father
 H. B. Gould
 Born Aug. 12, 1812
 OBT April 17, 1881
 (Son of James & Jane Gould)

William Campbell
 July 6, 1837 - Dec. 6, 1868
 And His Wife
 Jessie Caroline Gould
 April 8, 1848 - Feb. 23, 1921
 (Dau. of Horace B. & Deborah Gould)

To my sister
 Mary E. H. Gould
 Born 1809
 Died April 9, 1872
 (Dau. of James & Jane Gould)

Jane G.
 Wife of Orville Richardson
 youngest daughter of
 James Gould
 Nov. 15, 1815 - Sept. 13, 1883

Deborah Abbott
 Wife of Horace Bunch Gould
 Jan. 31, 1829
 Sep. 26, 1906

Joseph Edward Gould
Son of Horace Bunch
and Deborah Abbott Gould
Jan. 8, 1866 - Nov. 3, 1945

H. A. Gould
Beloved husband of Alberta T. Gould
March 25, 1852 - Nov. 29, 1929
(Son of Horace B. & Deborah Gould)

Harriet
Infant daughter of Horace A. & Alberta Gould
Died June 24, 1892

Mary Green Gould
Died 8-16-1924
(Wife of James Dunn Gould)

Jesse Wilcox Gould
Wife of Joseph Edward Gould
Daughter of Horace Davenport
and Elizabeth Ann Hessin Wilcox
Sept. 24, 1871 - Aug. 28, 1960

Alberta Telfair
Beloved wife of H. A. Gould
Feb. 5, 1865 - Aug. 16, 1920

James Dunn Gould
Died 9-1-1934
(Son of Horace B. & Deborah Gould)

KING - GRANT LOT

Single Grave
Major William Page
Died 12 Jan. 1827 - Aged 63 years & 10 days
and
Hannah
Consort of Maj. Wm. Page
Died 29 Sept. 1826 - Aged 67 years & 4 mo.

William Page King
Eldest son of T. Butler and Anna M. King
Dec. 25, 1826 - Obit July 9, 1833

Capt. Henry Lord Page King C.S.A.
Third son of Thos. B. and Anna M. King
Died at Fredericksburg, VA
Dec. 13, 1862 - Aged 31 years

Thomas Butler King
Only son of M. P. and M. E. King
Born Jan. 27, 1875
Died July 22, 1877

Doctor Robert Grant
Born at Leith, Scotland
15 July 1762
Died on St. Simons Island
17 Sept. 1843
Aged 81 years 2 months 2 days

Thomas Butler King
1800 - 1864
Anna Matilda Page
1798 - 1859
His devoted wife

Thos. Butler King, Jr.
1829 - 1859
Second son of Thos. B. and Anna M. King

Capt. Mallery Page King C.S.A.
Born at Retreat, St. Simons Island, GA
Died June 20, 1899, Brunswick, GA
(Son of Thos. B. & Anna M. King)

Maria Eugenia Grant
Consort of Mallery Page King
Born at Elizafield Plantation, Glynn Co., GA
Died January 30, 1909, Brunswick, GA
(Dau. of Hugh & Mary E. Grant)

Mrs. Sarah Grant
Relic of the late
Dr. Robert Grant
Died in New York City
13 March 1859
Aged 79 years 6 months

Hugh Fraser Grant
Born on St. Simons Island, Ga.
Jan. 29, 1811
Died Mar. 17, 1873

Rose
Youngest daughter of
Hugh F. and Mary E. Grant
Died 12 Dec. 1860
At 15 years 8 months

Mary Elizabeth
Beloved wife of
Hugh Fraser Grant
Born near Georgetown, S.C.
Oct. 19, 1809 - May 31, 1881
(Dau. of Hugh Fraser)

DEMERE LOT
(Behind Hazzard ruin)

Raymond Demere (*Revolutionary Soldier*)
Died Jan. 2, 1829
In the 77th year of his age

Mrs. Ann Demere
Died 17 Dec. 1808
Born in South Carolina
28 March 1744

Raymond Demere, 2ND
Born Feb. 11, 1773
Died on St. Simons at The Grove
Jan. 10, 1832 - AE 58 years, 11 mo.

Ann Demere
Wife of Raymond Demere
Died Sept. 18, 1847
Aged 61

Raymond Demere, 3RD
Born 20 August (*no year*)
Died Sept. 14, 1821

Thomas Demere
Son of Raymond and Ann Demere
July 2, 1828
In the 22nd year of his age

Annie R.
Wife of Paul Demere
Died on St. Simons Island, Geo.
Sept. 15, 1841
In the 24th year of her age
(Dau. of Capt. John & Anne Fraser)

Capt. Joseph Demere
Born on St. Simons Island
Aug. 17, 1808
Died on Blythe Island
Jan. 13, 1831

WRIGHT - ABBOTT LOT

Major Samuel Wright
A native of England
Died May 4, 1804
Also his Relic
Rebecca
A native of this island
Died June 26, 1815
(Dau. of James Bruce)

George Abbott
A native of Ireland
Died 15 Nov. 1825
Aged 34 years

Mary Abbott (*Wife of Geo. Abbott*)
Died 27 Aug. 1847
Aged 56
(Dau. Of Samuel & Rebecca Wright)

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