

THE HISTORY OF GEORGETOWN COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA / GEORGE C. ROGERS, JR.



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town, either officially or unofficially.<sup>19</sup> Maurice Lewis, a Welshman from Anglesea, was first master in chancery and then judge of the vice admiralty court. He was lieutenant in the town militia of Charleston and justice of the peace for Berkeley County. He speculated in Queensboro and Kingston township lands and assisted the migration of his countrymen to the Welsh tract. When he died in 1739, he owned ten slaves in Charleston and five at Winyah.<sup>20</sup> James Abercromby, attorney-general of South Carolina, owned a town lot in Georgetown, 1,800 acres in Queensboro township, and a 980-acre plantation on the Pee Dee, which his brother managed for him.<sup>21</sup> John Bassnett was master in chancery.<sup>22</sup> Daniel Crawford, a Charleston merchant of Scottish descent, served that city as vendue master.<sup>23</sup>

Between 1736 and 1750 Prince George was represented by William Whiteside, William Poole, Robert Austin, Joseph Huggins, Isaac Mazyck, James Abercromby, Elias Horry, Alexander Vander Dussen, John Ouldfield, George Pawley, William Waties III, Paul Trapier, and Elias Foissin. William Whiteside was a Sampit River planter who served in Georgetown as comptroller of the provincial duties, justice of the peace, deputy receiver-general of quit-rents, and notary public.<sup>24</sup> William Poole, Georgetown merchant and planter, owned at his death in 1750 a personal estate

<sup>19</sup> "Will of David Hext," dated May 11, 1751, proved Dec. 6, 1754, Charleston County Wills, VII (1752-1756), 265-268, S. C. Archives; "Inventory of estate of David Hext," appraised Dec. 12 and 19, 1754, Inventories, R (2) (1753-1756), pp. 292-296, S. C. Archives.

<sup>20</sup> *SCHM*, II (1901), 13n.; XI (1910), 188; XIII (1912), 219; Miscellaneous Records, DD (1732-1742), pp. 210-212, S. C. Archives; "Will of Maurice Lewis," dated Sept. 15, 1739, proved Nov. 7, 1739, Charleston County Wills, IV (1736-1740), 203-204, S. C. Archives; "Inventory of estate of Maurice Lewis," appraised Nov. 14, 1739, Inventories, 1740-1743, pp. 53-55, S. C. Archives.

<sup>21</sup> *SCHM*, IX (1908), 100; XI (1910), 187; "James Abercromby," Pre-Revolutionary Plats, S. C. Archives. Mary Duff wrote to her daughter Helen, May 11, 1741: "On May we had a letter from my son James in Carolina giving an account of William's death—who was settled 60 miles to the north from his brother in the overseers house and near a town they call Georgetown and as it is a new plantation I am afraid he has taking discouragement in leaving his brother and has been ill taking care of their business. . . ." Forglan Muniments, box 1, bundle 28, Scottish Record Office, Edinburgh, Scotland.

<sup>22</sup> Miscellaneous Records, KK (1754-1758), pp. 269, 380, S. C. Archives.

<sup>23</sup> *SCHM*, IX (1908), 95, 97; X (1909), 160; "Will of Daniel Crawford," dated May 30, 1760, proved June 20, 1760, Charleston County Wills, VIII (1757-1763), 491-493, S. C. Archives; *Gazette*, Aug. 3, 1747.

<sup>24</sup> "William Whiteside," Pre-Revolutionary Plats, S. C. Archives; *Gazette*, April 28, 1746.

valued at £22,950 currency and 100 slaves.<sup>25</sup> Paul Trapier, who first took his seat in 1748, was a political figure of the 1750's.

Joseph Huggins,<sup>26</sup> Isaac Mazyck, and Elias Horry were Santee River planters. Elias Horry (1707-1783) in 1737 had succeeded his father Elias Horry (1664-1736) as coroner of Craven County.<sup>27</sup> John Ouldfield (1706-1751) was the son of John Ouldfield, the immigrant from Chester, England, who had come to St. James Goose Creek and died on the Pee Dee. The son had married on March 20, 1740, Anne LaRoche, daughter of John LaRoche and Mary Horry. Their only child Mary Ouldfield, born August 13, 1743, became the region's first great heiress when her father died in 1751 leaving her several plantations and seventy-three slaves.<sup>28</sup> George Pawley planted on the Waccamaw. William Waties III (1717-1751) was the third generation of his family to serve the region beyond the Santee. Elias Foissin (died 1767) was the son of Elias Foissin (died 1739). The father had owned forty-two Negro slaves, five Indian slaves, and personal property worth £10,286.17.10; the son at his death, having been a planter and justice of the peace, owned plantations on the Wando, Black, Pee Dee, and Waccamaw rivers as well as houses in Georgetown, eighty-two slaves, and personal property worth £33,591.2.1.<sup>29</sup>

Prince George relied less on Charleston officials, electing only Robert Austin, James Abercromby, and Alexander Vander Dussen. Austin, a

<sup>25</sup> "Inventory of estate of William Poole," appraised April 19, 1750, Inventories, B (1748-1751), pp. 287-288, S. C. Archives.

<sup>26</sup> "Will of Joseph Huggins," dated April 25, 1758, proved Dec. 14, 1761, Charleston County Wills, IX, Book A (1760-1767), 237-238, S. C. Archives.

<sup>27</sup> Notes on the Horry Family, S. C. Hist. Soc.; Miscellaneous Records, DD (1732-1742), pp. 227-228, S. C. Archives.

<sup>28</sup> Caldwell Woodruff, "Heriots of Scotland and South Carolina" (Linthicum Heights, Md., 1939), p. 145, typed copy in S. C. Hist. Soc.; "Inventory of estate of John Ouldfield," appraised March 15, 1753, Inventories, R (1) (1751-1753), pp. 527-530, S. C. Archives. Mary Ouldfield married Robert Heriot on Nov. 5, 1761. Robert Heriot (1739-1792), who had come from Scotland via Holland and Jamaica, wrote his mother on Aug. 30, 1762, that he had arrived in Georgetown three years previously to visit "our friend & relative" John Cleland and had there met Polly Ouldfield, heiress. Her guardian was Col. Thomas Middleton, under whom Heriot had served on the expedition against the Cherokees. Woodruff, *op. cit.*, pp. 73-75.

<sup>29</sup> "Inventory of estate of Elias Foissin," recorded Sept. 3, 1739, Inventories, KK (1739-1744), pp. 87-94, S. C. Archives; "Inventory of estate of Elias Foissin," appraised April 29, 30, 1767, Inventories, X (1768-1769), pp. 68-76, S. C. Archives; "Will of Elias Foissin," dated Feb. 21, 1767, proved April 15, 1767, Charleston County Wills, XI, Book A (1767-1771), 14-18, S. C. Archives.

Charleston merchant and lawyer, was a judge of the common law courts, register of the province, and captain of the town militia. He resigned his seat in the Assembly on May 18, 1742, to become comptroller of the country duties.<sup>30</sup> Alexander Vander Dussen, the province's most prominent military figure, had served under Oglethorpe in 1740 as colonel of a South Carolina Regiment of Foot and in October 1745 had been made a brevet lieutenant colonel in the British army in order to become the commander of the three Independent Companies then being organized in South Carolina.<sup>31</sup>

During the 1740's political power was shared among the merchants and planters of the parishes, who sometimes called upon their Charleston acquaintances to assist them. But these groups were slowly being knit together by marriages. An elite was forming. In the 1750's two men emerged to lead this elite; one a merchant, Paul Trapier, and the other a planter, Thomas Lynch (1720-1776). Paul Trapier, who had married Magdalene Horry in 1743, was elected in 1748, 1751, and 1757.<sup>32</sup> Thomas Lynch, who took as his first wife Elizabeth Allston, was elected to every Assembly with only one exception from 1751 to the Revolution.<sup>33</sup> Trapier and Lynch were joined in the Assembly by William Buchanan, a Santee River planter,<sup>34</sup> William Allston, a Waccamaw River planter,<sup>35</sup>

<sup>30</sup> SCHM, II (1901), 134n; XI (1910), 188; Miscellaneous Records, DD (1732-1742), pp. 237, 253, S. C. Archives; *Gazette*, Sept. 26, 1754; Robert L. Meriwether, *The Expansion of South Carolina, 1729-1765* (Kingsport, Tenn., 1940), p. 91. He succeeded John Hext as comptroller of the country duties. Commons House Journal, No. 17, Part 2 (1742), p. 352, S. C. Archives.

<sup>31</sup> SCHM, XXXIII (1932), 292.

<sup>32</sup> *Transactions of the Huguenot Society of South Carolina*, No. 33 (1928), p. 58.

<sup>33</sup> Thomas Lynch (1720-1776) was the son of Thomas Lynch (1675-1752) and Sabina Vanderhorst. The younger Lynch married first Elizabeth Allston, the daughter of William Allston, who died in 1744, and second Hannah Motte, the daughter of the provincial treasurer, Jacob Motte. Frampton E. Ellis, *Some Historic Families of South Carolina* (Atlanta, Ga., 1905), pp. 29-30. In 1753 Trapier and Lynch joined twenty-five of the richest and most influential men in the province to post bonds of £1,000 each for the new public treasurer, Jacob Motte. Miscellaneous Records, II, Part 2 (1751-1754), 685, 700, S. C. Archives.

<sup>34</sup> William Buchanan of North Santee, planter, died in 1757. His "esteemed friend Thomas Lynch" was one of his executors. "Will of William Buchanan," dated Oct. 19, 1756, proved April 1, 1757, Charleston County Wills, VIII (1757-1763), 49-52, S. C. Archives.

<sup>35</sup> This was William Allston, Sr., the son of William Allston, who died in 1744. His brothers were Joseph and John Allston. His brothers-in-law were Thomas and John Waties, Archibald Johnston, and Thomas Lynch. "Will of William Allston," dated

and John and Thomas Waties, the sons of William Waties, Jr., who themselves had married sisters, the daughters of William Allston, who had died in 1744.<sup>36</sup>

The only outsider was George Gabriel Powell, a Welsh adventurer. After being dismissed in 1743 as deputy governor of the island of St. Helena, he returned briefly to England and then came out to Carolina where he acquired a plantation near Georgetown. Because of his military reputation, he was appointed a colonel in the militia and in 1759 commanded the Craven County militia in Lyttelton's expedition.<sup>37</sup>

By 1754 the back parts of Prince Frederick could outvote the lower sections of the parish and sent Richard Richardson<sup>38</sup> and Joseph Cantey<sup>39</sup> to the Assembly. Richardson and Cantey continued to lead this region after it became in 1757 the parish of St. Mark's. Although the Cherokee campaigns of 1759, 1760, and 1761 kept the backcountry in turmoil, Richardson so successfully defended his section that his grateful fellow parishioners gave him a present of silver plate in 1762.<sup>40</sup> Prince Frederick also turned to militia leaders during these troublesome times, selecting in turn Colonel Powell, Dr. James Crockatt (who was captain of the Black River Church militia company),<sup>41</sup> and John and William Moultrie (officers in Colonel Thomas Middleton's regiment of provincial troops).<sup>42</sup> Actually, Prince Frederick found it difficult to fill her places in the Assemblies of 1760 and 1761.

Jan. 29, 1743, proved April 12, 1744, Charleston County Wills, V (1740-1747), 292-294, S. C. Archives.

<sup>36</sup> John Waties died in 1760 and Thomas Waties in 1762. "The Waties Family of South Carolina," compiled by H. D. Bull, SCHM, XLV (1944), 15-16.

<sup>37</sup> SCHM, XXXVI (1935), 34-35. Powell took out three grants in Craven County totaling 794½ acres between 1769 and 1771. Index to Grants, S. C. Archives.

<sup>38</sup> Col. Richard Richardson (1704-1780) owned a plantation on the Wateree, married in 1738 Mary Cantey, first cousin once removed of Joseph Cantey, and commanded a regiment in the Cherokee War in 1759. SCHM, XI (1910), 225-226.

<sup>39</sup> Capt. Joseph Cantey (1704-1763) bought "Mount Hope" on the Santee in 1739. He was a commissioner to build St. Mark's Church in 1757. He owned only three slaves. "Inventory of estate of Joseph Cantey," recorded Feb. 27, 1764, Inventories, 1763-1767, pp. 22-23, S. C. Archives; Joseph S. Ames, "The Cantey Family," SCHM, XI (1910), 216-217.

<sup>40</sup> *Gazette*, Oct. 2, 1762.

<sup>41</sup> Dr. Crockatt was a member of the Charleston Library Society in 1750; he died on April 14, 1765. Joseph Ioor Waring, *A History of Medicine in South Carolina, 1670-1825* (Columbia, S. C., 1964), pp. 69, 385.

<sup>42</sup> *Gazette*, May 30, 1761.

while only 40 cleared from Georgetown and 24 from Beaufort.<sup>2</sup> A royal inspection of colonial ports in 1768 revealed that at Georgetown the duties received never amounted to the expense of management, the reason being "that the chief of such as would arise here is collected at Charlestown the Emporium of this Province." The majority of what was produced was shipped "in the Province Schooners, which are subject to no kind of inspection, to Charlestown the market, and appear in the Exports from thence." The decline of Georgetown as a port may have been due to the silting up of the harbor mouth, for the same report stated that "the water on the Bar at the Entrance of Wynaw Harbour is so Shoal that no Vessels of Burthen can get in."<sup>3</sup> In 1770 Lieutenant Governor William Bull stated that "The shallow Bar at Winyaw is the best and only defense for George Town."<sup>4</sup> These descriptions were far different from George Hunter's of 1730. The absence of shipbuilding in the Winyah Bay area by the 1760's reflects this mercantile decline. What remained of vast importance to the planters was the coastal trade to Charleston.

Political power consequently fell into the hands of the planters. This fact is revealed by an analysis of the men who represented these parishes in the seven assemblies elected from 1765 until the Revolution. During the 1740's power had been equally shared between the merchants and the planters, but with the appearance of Thomas Lynch in the Assembly in 1751 a change had taken place. Lynch was elected to every Assembly except one from 1751 until the Revolution. In the 1750's his principal colleague was Paul Trapier; in the 1760's he was joined first by Daniel Horry and then by Elias Horry, Jr. From 1768 to the Revolution Thomas Lynch and Elias Horry, Jr. represented Prince George in every Assembly. Daniel Horry and Elias Horry, Jr., were first cousins and, as was Lynch, Santee River planters. Paul Trapier, who had turned planter in 1762, was by his marriage to Magdalene Horry the uncle of both of

<sup>2</sup> CO 5/511, f. 110, PRO, London.

<sup>3</sup> "Extracts from Mr. Mills Reports of the inspection of the ports and districts in the Provinces of North and South Carolina, Georgia, East & West Florida," n.d. but after 1768, Clinton Papers, WLCL.

<sup>4</sup> Bull to Hillsborough, Nov. 30, 1770, BPRO, XXXII (1768-1770), 388, S. C. Archives.

these young men. Elias Horry, Jr., married Margaret Lynch, the first cousin of Thomas Lynch. The Lynches, the Trapiers, and the Horrys dominated Georgetown politics.

In 1768 and 1769 the Georgetown planters received an increase of political influence when All Saints was created a parish with two representatives in the Assembly.<sup>5</sup> Since the backcountry needed additional representation more than the lowcountry, this step seems an odd one until it is noted that it exemplified the emergence of the Allston family, the most powerful family in the entire history of Georgetown County. In 1768 All Saints elected Thomas Lynch and Joseph Allston; in 1769 the parish chose Joseph Allston and Benjamin Young. Joseph Allston (1733-1784) was the son of William Allston and Esther LaBrosse de Marboeuf.<sup>6</sup> Josiah Quincy in 1773 described his visit with Joseph Allston at The Oaks as follows:

Spent this night with Mr. Joseph Allston, a gentleman of immense income all of his own acquisition. He is a person between thirty-nine and forty, and a very few years ago begun the world with only five negroes—has now five plantations with an hundred slaves on each. He told me his neat income was but about five or six thousand pounds sterling a year, he is reputed much richer. His plantation, negroes, gardens, etc., are in the best order of any I have seen! He has propagated the Lisbon and Wine-Island grapes with great success. I was entertained with more true hospitality and benevolence by this family than any I had met with. His good lady filled a wallet, with bread, biscuit, wine, fowl, and tongue, and presented it next morning. The wine I declined, but gladly received the rest. At about twelve o'clock in a sandy pine desert I enjoyed a fine regalement, and having met with a refreshing spring, I remembered the worthy Mr. Allston and Lady with more warmth of affection and hearty benizons, than ever I toasted King or Queen, Saint or Hero.<sup>7</sup>

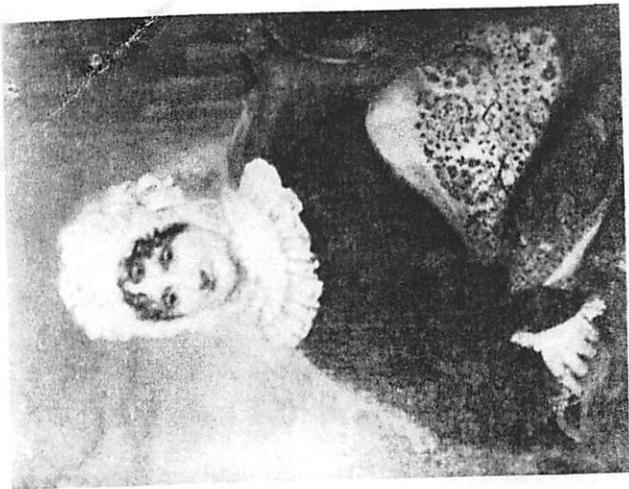
Benjamin Young (1733-1782) was the son of a Charleston house carpenter who established himself first as a merchant in Georgetown and

<sup>5</sup> Created May 23, 1767. S. C. Statutes, IV, 266-268.

<sup>6</sup> See William Allston (died 1744) chart in Appendix II.

<sup>7</sup> "Journal of Josiah Quincy, Junior, 1773," *Proceedings of the Massachusetts Historical Society*, XLIX (1915-1916), 453. Joseph Allston was married to Charlotte Rothmahler.





MRS. MARTHA PAWLEY LABRUCÉ, by Samuel F. B. Morse. Courtesy of Mr. and Mrs. Cuthbert B. Prevost, Georgetown, S. C.



CHARLOTTE PYATT TRAPIÈR, by Thomas Sully. Courtesy of Mrs. James R. Parker, Georgetown, S. C.



FRANCIS KINLOCH HUGER, by Charles Fraser. Courtesy of Metropolitan Museum of Art, Rogers Fund, 1938.



JOSEPH BENJAMIN PYATT, by Thomas Sully. Courtesy of Mrs. James R. Parker, Georgetown, S. C.



EDWARD THOMAS HERIOT, by William H. Scarborough. Courtesy of Mrs. Hattie Sparkman Witte; print courtesy Frick Art Reference Library.



WILLIAM ALGERNON ALSTON (1782-1860), by J. F. Vallee. Collection of Carolina Art Association; print courtesy Frick Art Reference Library.



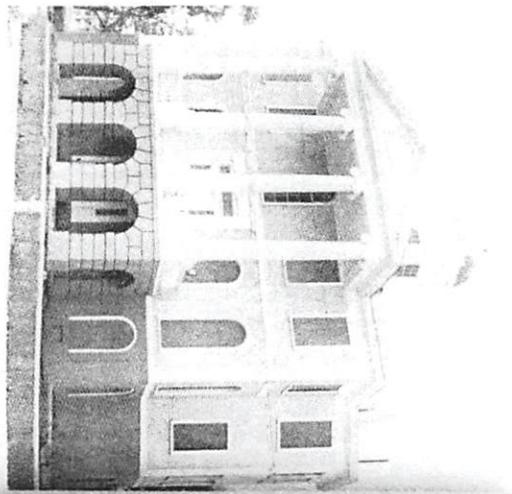
MRS. KEITH, by Pierre Henri. Courtesy of Mrs. Sinkler and Frick Art Reference Library.



REVEREND ALEXANDER GLENNIE, by Charles Fraser. Courtesy of the Carolina Art Association, Gibbs Art Gallery.



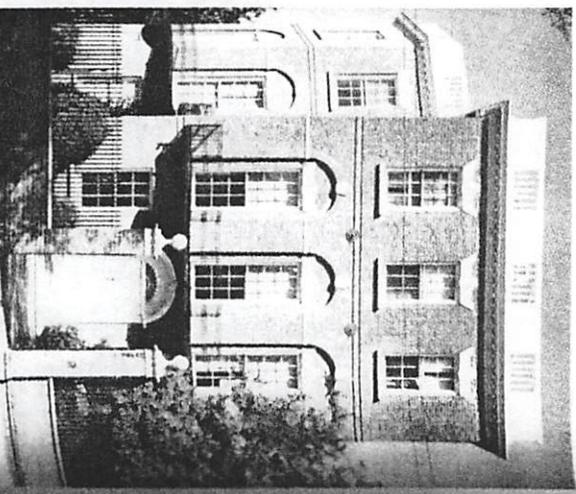
JOSHUA JOHN WARD, by Charles Fraser. Courtesy of Mrs. Robert L. Lumpkin, Georgetown, S. C.



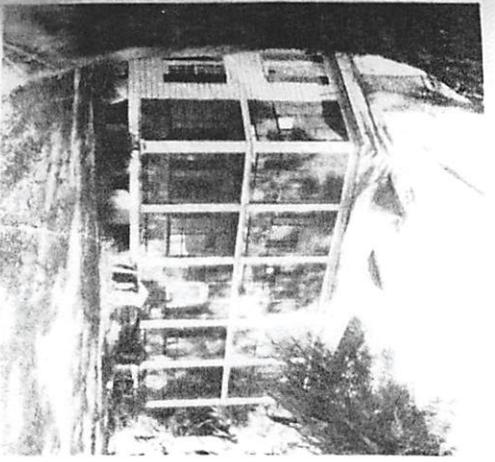
THE HOME OF THE JOSHUA JOHN WARD FAMILY ON EAST BAY IN CHARLESTON (FORMERLY THE FABER VILLA). Courtesy of Historic Charleston Foundation.



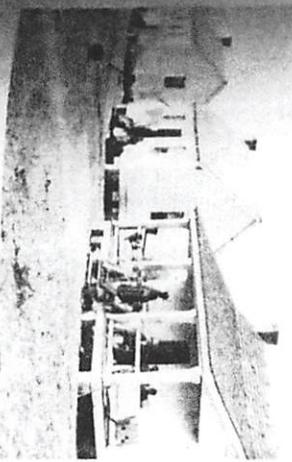
ROBERT F. W. ALLSTON, by George Whiting Flagg. Courtesy of Mr. William F. Allston of Miami, Florida.



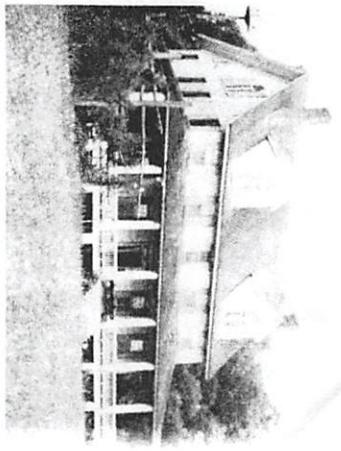
THE HOME OF R. F. W. ALLSTON ON MEETING STREET IN CHARLESTON. Courtesy of Historic Charleston Foundation.



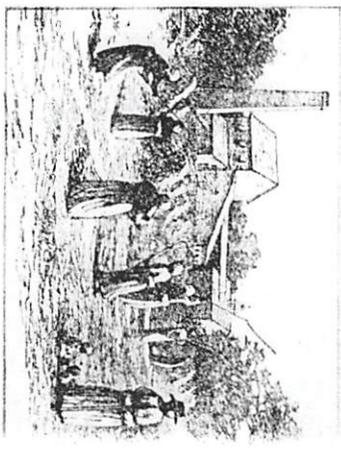
THE HOUSE AT HOPEWEE PLANTATION. Courtesy of Mrs. Jesse C. Quattlebaum, Mount Pleasant, S. C.



SLAVE STREET. W. D. Morgan Collection, Georgetown County Library.



THE HOUSE AT DIRLETON PLANTATION. Courtesy of Mrs. Jesse C. Quattlebaum, Mount Pleasant, S. C.

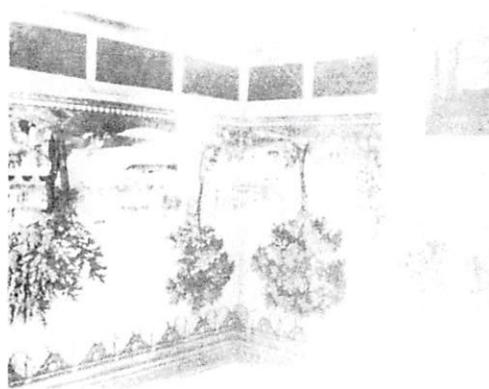


WOMEN FLAILING RICE. Courtesy of Bell Press, Cambridge, Mass.

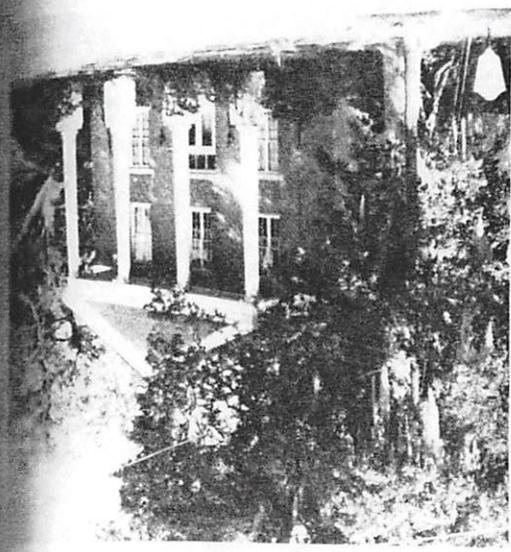
MRS. R. F. W. ALLSTON, by George Whiting Flag.



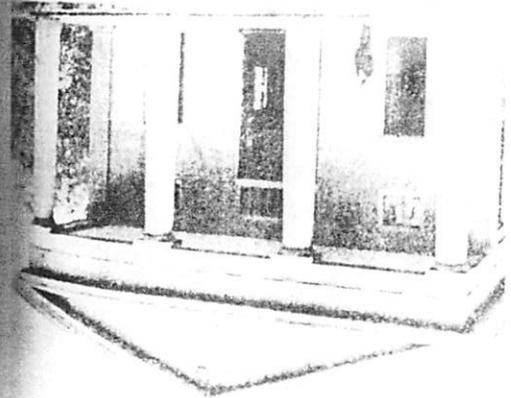
A ROOM AT FRIENDFIELD PLANTATION, W. D.



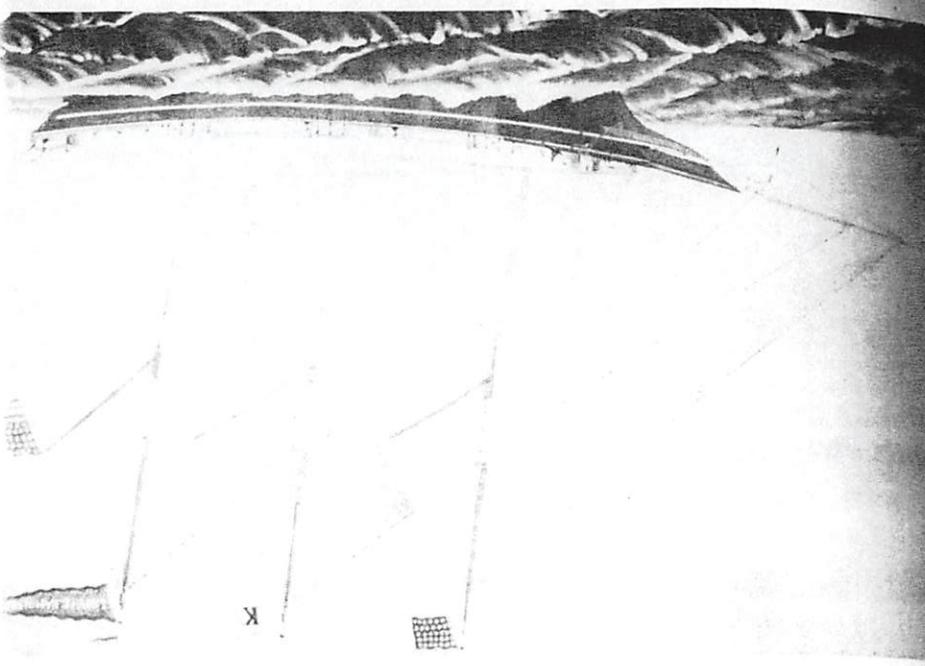
WINAH INDIGO SOCIETY HALL, 1857. W. D. Morgan Collection, Georgetown County Library.



CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS, Georgetown, S. C. Courtesy of Mrs. H. D. Bull.



THE LYNNAH C. KAMINSKI, Courtesy of Mr. and Mrs. Gubert B. Prevost.



UNITED STATES STEAMER HARVEST MOON. Official Records, Navy, XVI, facing page 282.

