

RICE PLANTER AND SPORTSMAN

The Recollections of J. Motte Alston, 1821-1909

EDITED BY ARNEY R. CHILDS

With an Introduction by Mary Alston Read Simms

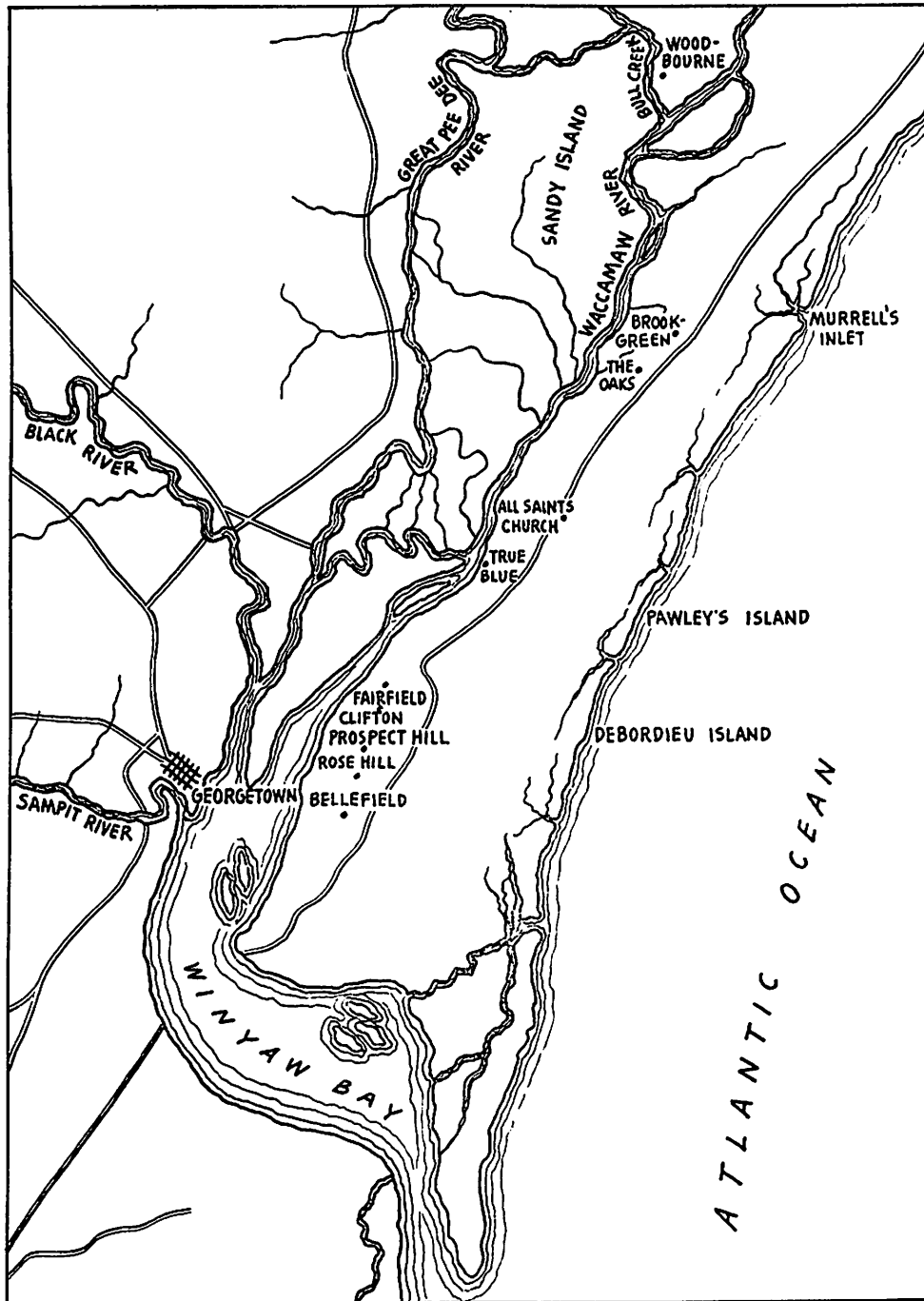


University of ⁹⁷³⁴South Carolina Press
Columbia, 1953

stately Saint Michael's was called the "New Church" for the reason that Saint Philip's antedated it; and the earthworks from one side to the other, called the "lines," built to protect the town from the Indians and subsequently from the English, had been wholly removed.

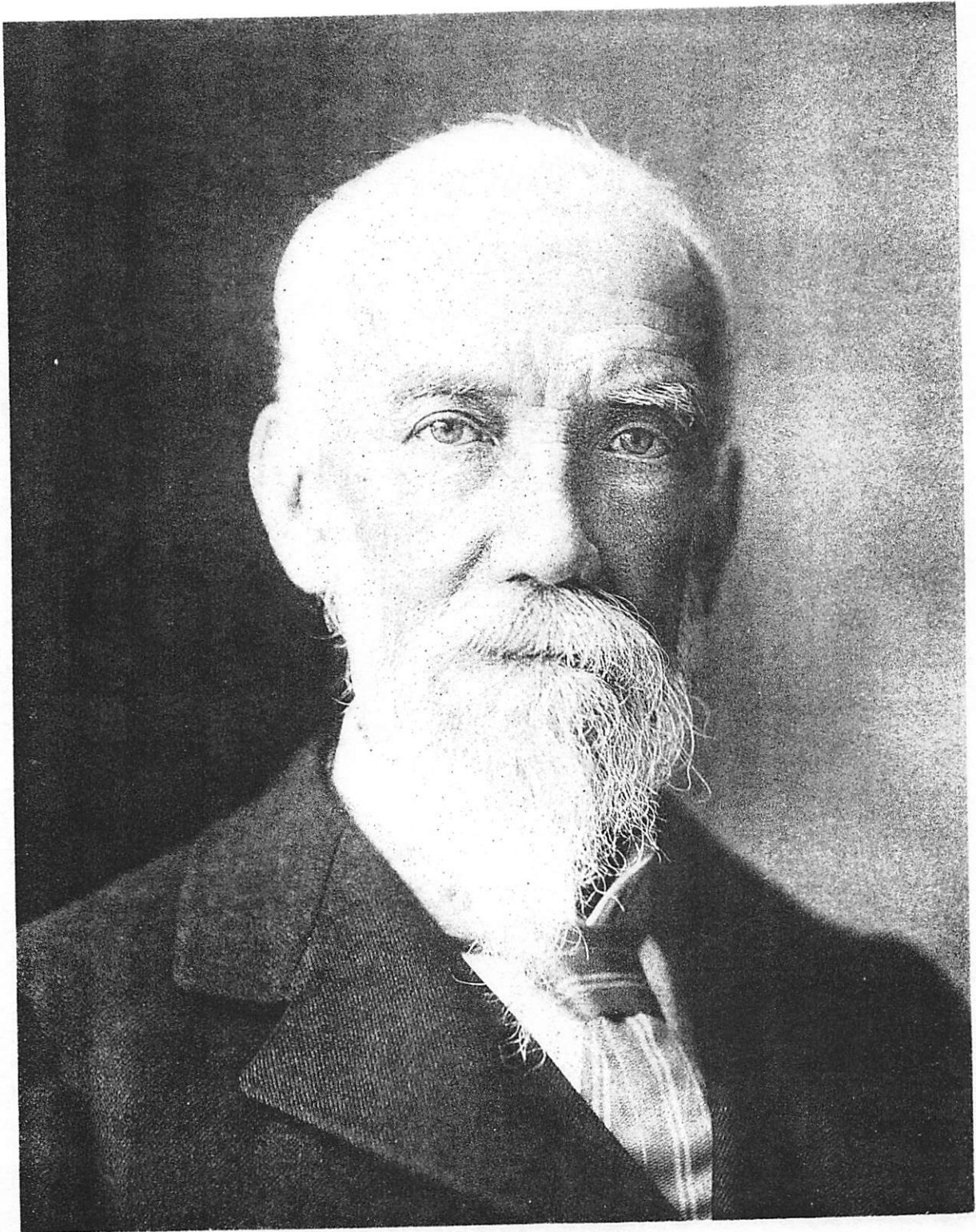
The Alstons were English; the Mottes (De-la-Motte), Huguenots; the Smiths (Landgraves), English; and the Rutledges, Scotch-Irish. . . . We read of John Allston, and Arthur Middleton, political exiles, who, having sailed from the West Indies, landed in South Carolina where they remained. You perceive that the "Alston" is sometimes written "Allston." I remember asking my Grandfather, Colonel William Alston of Clifton, Waccamaw, South Carolina, why some of the family spelled the name with a double ell. I was a little fellow and spelling was a high art from my standpoint, and as my Grandfather was considered high authority, I applied to him. I well remember his reply, "The schoolmaster was not abroad in those days, my boy, and names were spelled as pronounced in this Country, and so Alston had two ells inserted." . . . You notice also that Washington Allston has two ells. His father was called "Gentleman William"; and my Grandfather, "King William" from his wealth and influence. . . .³ My grandfather was as generous a man as ever lived; was fond of social life; devoted to politics and was a member of the legislature and State Senator almost as long as I can remember; Colonel of Militia; temporary editor of the Georgetown paper during Nullification days; an ardent sportsman and remarkably fine shot; fond of dinner parties, of which he was the very life; devoted to books and beloved by all; but he was careless about business matters—the very reverse of his father and his brother Charles, who were thorough business men. . . . William Alston married Mary Brewton, youngest daughter of Rebecca Motte of

³ A further explanation of the spelling of *Alston* may be quoted from Elizabeth Deas Allston, *Allstons and Alstons of Waccamaw* (Charleston, 1936), p. 7: "The family of Alston in England from which the Waccamaw Alstons are descended generally spelled the name with one L, but the immigrant, John, added the second L to the name in his will, and it was spelled Allston by all branches of the family until William of Clifton, his great grandson, reverted to the old English way of spelling it. He and his father's first cousin, William of Brookgreen, both had the name of William, lived in the same part of the country and served as captains under Gen. Francis Marion . . . and as there was frequent confusion as to their identity, William of Clifton took this means of avoiding further trouble. So the descendants of William Alston of Clifton have spelled their name *Alston*."



The Waccamaw Neck

Adapted from the Georgetown and Horry county maps in Robert Mills' *Atlas* (1825), emphasizing the places mentioned most frequently by J. Motte Alston.



J. MOTTE ALSTON



WILLIAM ALSTON OF CLIFTON

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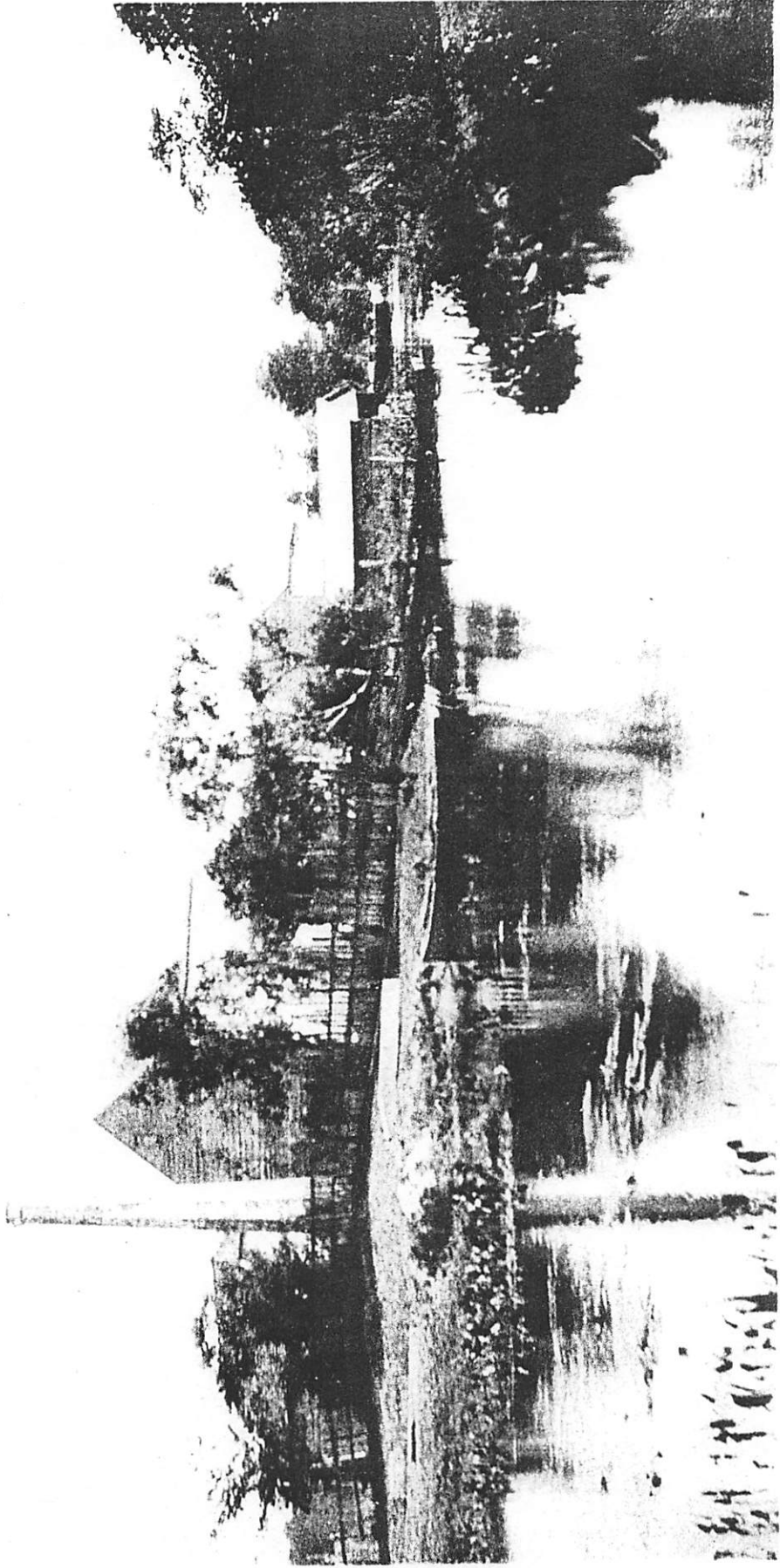
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MRS. WILLIAM ALSTON OF CLIFTON
(Mary Brewton Motte)



OLD RICE MILL AT FAIRFIELD PLANTATION



MRS. J. MOTTE ALSTON
(Mary Ann Fitzsimons)



MOTTE ALSTON READ