

From the Fairfield Archives & History
Winnsboro, South Carolina

Benjamin James & Sarah Barber (Richmond) Boulware Family

Captain Robert G. Barber died in 1829, and the home place at Elbow Hill passed to his sisters Eliza [Barber Richmond] Wilmore [Brown] and Jane Barkley. They held it until March 1, 1830, when they sold it (308 acres for \$3,773.00) to Benjamin Boulware, who on September 14, 1829, had married Sarah Richmond, daughter to Eliza.

Benjamin James Boulware (Bowler) was born in 1793, at the Eagle House, Flint Hill. He was the second son of Muscoe Boulware and Nancy Pickett. Muscoe Boulware, his father, was a Revolutionary soldier of Virginia who moved after the war to South Carolina from his home in King and Queen County. The original Boulware settlement in Virginia had been a few miles to the east on the Rappahannock River, now indicated by Bowler's wharf, a summer residence place for Richmond people. Thomas Bowler (or Boulware) the emigrant lived there, and represented Essex County on the Governors Council. He died in 1679. The name Muscoe comes from Salvator Muscoe, who lived in the northern section of Essex County and who died in 1740. He was a planter and lawyer who served as sheriff and as burgess from Essex County.

When Muscoe Boulware came to Fairfield he located on the Flint Hill Ridge, overlooking Wateree River. His home, which he called Eagle House, was six miles East of Mt. Olivet Church and four miles from Peay's Ferry. Nearby he built the massive cemetery walls which are still standing, and which enclose most of his family and many of the Picketts. His family was large; in his will he disposed of 2,000 acres of land and many slaves.

When Sarah Richmond, in 1829, married Benjamin Boulware she was seventeen and he was about thirty-five. They lived all of their married life at their Elbow Hill place. It was high tide in the lifetime of this plantation, as well in that of the system of slavery. They enjoyed all of the pleasures of the regime of slavery and suffered none of the consequences. She died in 1858 and he in 1860. It was left for their children to suffer the deluge.

Elbow Hill was not in itself a productive place, but it was healthy; and it was pleasantly located six miles from Winnsborough and one mile from Wateree (Mt. Olivet) Presbyterian Church. The home was built on an oak covered spur on the Western side of the road. The late Judge John J. Neil, who was a nephew of Benjamin Boulware and who lived there for a while as a boy, said that it was two storied with enclosed glass porches, and had the conveniences of the times. A carriage and coachman was maintained and the usual retinue of house servants. "Aunt Ollie," as the nurse of two generations, was the best known and most loved of these servants.

Mr. Stewart was overseer at the home place. A white man known as "Scotch" Johnson also worked there and opened up a small granite quarry which produced dressed granite for steps, wells, and springs.

When a home happens to be in the path of war, and is destroyed, with pictures, letters and records, it is difficult to revisualize the owner seventy-five years later when all of his children are dead. Old Micajah Pickett, who in his young days was coachman for the J. R. Pickett's says, "I drove often up to Mr. Boulware's house. He was a chunky man." His grandson Benjamin M. Hall, of Atlanta, who as a small boy knew him, says, "He was not an especially good man but he was a hustler." He took an interest in his church, for he and Elijah Gayden gave several additional acres to "Mount Olivet" when the time came to rebuild it and change its site.

With the instinct of the old slaveholder he increased his land holdings. The General Turner Starke place, of about 600 acres was added to the home place, so that it extended north to beyond the church. Seventy-seven acres on the west side was bought from Robert Harper to give additional bottom land. The Moore plantation on Wateree Creek, north of the Gayden's, was purchased. To the 247 acres at Flint Hill, given him by his father, he added about 900 more and constructed a quarter for the negroes. He also bought land in Georgia.

The Boulwares in Virginia had been Episcopalians, but in the absence of this church in their new home they affiliated with Mount Olivet. They became devoted Presbyterians and took on the inhibitions as to dancing, card playing, etc., but which did not exclude conviviality and the flowing bowl. Benjamin and wife were members of Mount Olivet and she is buried there. He went back within the Boulware Walls at Flint Hill.

There were in this generation still occasional contacts with the relatives in Virginia. Some of the Virginia Boulwares had places in Florida, and in driving through made stopovers in Fairfield. There were at intervals visits made to King and Queen, and Caroline Counties, and to the Boulware's near Fredericksburg. There were references to "Tudor Hall" at Newtown and to "Traveler's Rest" where William Boulware lived, and where he was known locally as "Lord Boulware." He was a friend and neighbor of Edmund Ruffin, and it was perhaps through his influence that he was appointed as representative of the State Department to the Kingdom of Sicily. They were proud too of their Muscoe relatives. Muscoe Garnett had been a Congressman from Virginia, and his son Muscoe R. H. Garnett was in Congress at the same time that his distinguished uncle R. M. T. Hunter was United States Senator. Muscoe R. H. Garnett was a proponent of slavery and led in the Secession movement in Virginia. He afterwards was in the Confederate Congress.

The children of Benjamin and Sarah Richmond Boulware were Nancy, Muscoe W., James Richmond, Eliza Jane, Sarah Agnes, and Benjamin Franklin. The three girls finished their education at Salem Academy, the Moravian School for girls at Salem, North Carolina. The boys went to Mount Zion College. James graduated at the Medical College in Charleston and Frank at the University of South Carolina. Nancy married Dr. Nathaniel Hall, who moved to Georgia, and was later a Confederate surgeon. Muscoe W. married his cousin Mary Pickett. He moved with his family to Florida in the Eighty's. Eliza met William Stokes, a "low country" student at Mount Zion College, and later married him and lived in Orangeburgh. He was a Lieutenant Colonel of Cavalry in the Confederate Army. After the war he lived in Hampton County and was Brigadier General of Militia.

James Richmond married Eliza Milling [He married Eliza Frances Martin. His cousin, James Law Richmond, married Sarah E. Milling.]. He was surgeon of the Sixth South Carolina Regiment; and his war diary is in the Confederate archives at the Statehouse.

Frank was a boy soldier in the Sixth Regiment and later in Colonel Stokes' regiment of Cavalry. He was captured at the battle of Trevillian Station in Virginia and imprisoned until the end of the war. He married Mary McMaster.

Sallie, the youngest, after her mother's death lived with her Aunt Jane Gamble in Winnsboro. After her father's death she lived with her sister Eliza. She went to school at Salem Academy. She married Richard Nott McMaster.

In his will made in February of 1860, Benjamin Boulware directed that all of his property should be kept together on his several places "and worked during the present year as we have commenced," the proceeds to be applied to the payment of his debts.

To his oldest son, Muscoe W. and his youngest daughter Sarah he left his home place; to Muscoe the negroes Moses and his wife Eliza, little John, Lucy and her two children, Lydia and Moses, Dennis, Dave, Brodes, Squire, and Kendall; to Sarah the negroes Ishbel, and her two children Noah and Lee, and George, Lewis, Judy, Minn, or Moses, Louisa (the latter three being children of Moses and Eliza), and Louisa the mother of George.

To his son, James R. and his daughter Eliza he bequeathed his plantations lying on the north fork of Big Wateree Creek; to James also the negroes Margaret and her four children, Martha, Sam, Edmund, and May, and Tuba, and his daughter Fanny, and Mitchell, Mary-Ann, and Eliza; to Eliza also the negroes Mary and her children Betsy, Anthony, Jim, and Ralph, Olly, Bob, Ginny, and Chloe, and Andrew and Martha.

To his son, Benjamin F., he left his plantation containing 556 acres adjoining lands of E. P. Mobley and Mrs. Mogess, and also the negroes William, Bob, May, and her two children, Major and Jane, Rose and her child, Betsy, Hilliard, Jim, Judy, and Edmund.

He also directed that "my sons shall divide among them such of my old negroes as may be of no value, and take care of them;" the rest and residue of his property, including his Georgia lands

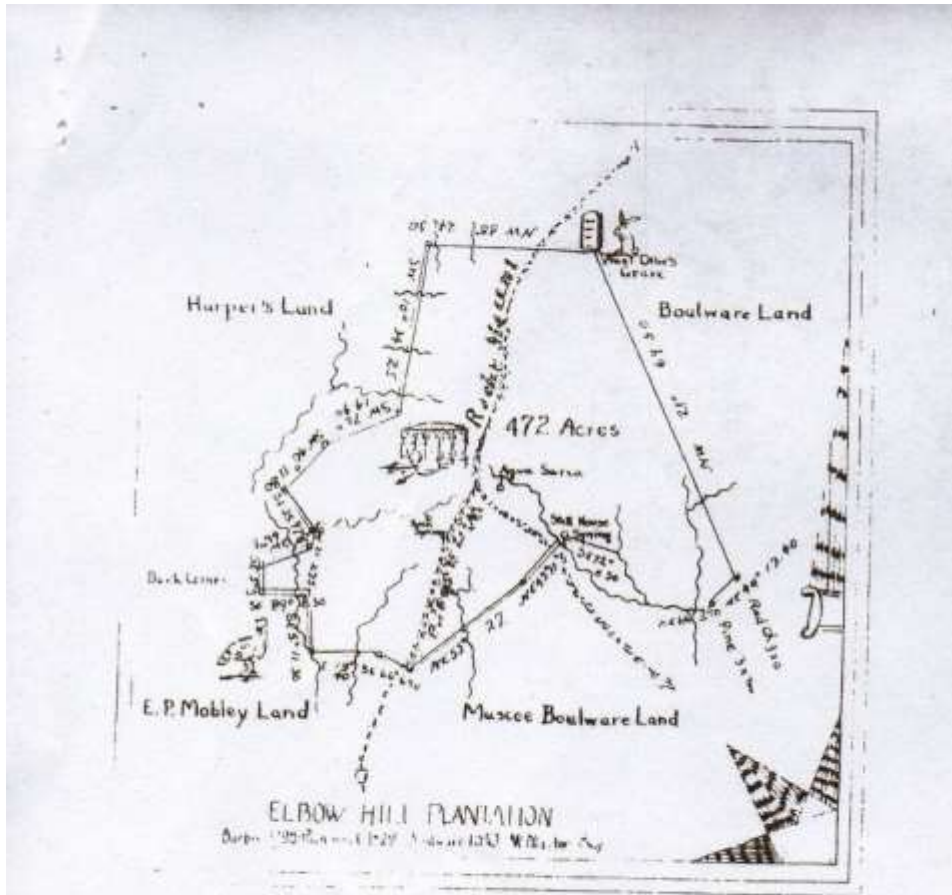
to be sold and the proceeds equally divided among his six children; his wearing apparel to his three sons; his watch to his son Benjamin; his three sons as executors.

No specific bequest was made to his oldest daughter Nancy, indicating perhaps that she had already received her share when she moved to Georgia.

During the period of the Confederate War, the affairs of the home place were administered by Muscoe Boulware. When in 1865 Sherman's Army moved from Winnsboro to Rocky Mount, the Boulware plantations were in the center of the path of destruction. On the night of February 20th, part of the 20th Corps (General Williams) was camped there. On the night of February 22nd, General Geary and his division were at the church, and General Morgan with the trains and the reserve artillery were in the neighborhood. General Sherman passed through on the 22nd.

The residence, barns and other out-buildings were burned, the carriage and wagons chopped up, and the livestock killed or driven away. When the army had passed there was nothing standing west of the road. The fine old oaks were killed by the fire also. On the east side of the road the overseer's house was left; apparently the Starke house near the church was left also.

In the division of the plantation between Muscoe and Sarah, it had been contemplated that Muscoe, as the oldest son, should have the part on which stood the big house. However, after Sherman's visit, Muscoe elected to take the portion near the church which included the Starke house, and Sarah Boulware was given title to 472 acres, more or less, which included the home site. On June 12th, 1867, She was married to Richard Nott McMaster, and they started house-keeping in the overseer's house at Elbow Hill.



South Carolina

At the request of Dr. Jas. Boulware a
 N.W. Boulware son of Benjamin Boulware dec'd these
 divided off unto Miss Sallie A. Boulware the above delineated
 tract of land which I find to contain Four Hundred
 & Seventy Two (472) Acres being composed of parts of several
 lands containing 923 acres. Situated in Fairfield Dist.
 on both sides of the road leading from Wrensboro to Rocky
 Mount in the head waters of Little Watauga Creek Waters of
 Watauga River and has such points, marks, boundaries &c.
 as the above plat more fully represents.

Surveyed Jan. 12th 1867

W. H. W. Co.