

"BOWLER WALLS" IS OLD  
FAMILY BURYING GROUND.

Ten miles east of Winnsboro, on the Flint Hill ridge, sloping down toward the Wateree River, is situated one of the antiquities of Fairfield county—"Boulware Walls,"—the old cemetery of the Boulware (Bowler) family.

This old cemetery is of unusual extent for a family burying ground, and its walls are of such massive construction that trees of considerable size are growing from the tops of the walls, which are still in a good state of preservation.

In addition to the Scotch-Irish and French-Huguenot elements which contributed so much to the original settlement of the county there was a considerable inflow of settlers from the tidewater region of Virginia.

Muscoe Bowler, the pioneer of his family in Fairfield, belonged to the last named contingent. At the close of the Revolution he with his wife, Nancy Pickett, moved to South Carolina from the vicinity of Bowler's Wharf on the lower Rappahannock River, where the family had settled more than a century before. He established his home near the site of the old cemetery, and lived in what was known as "The Eagle House." Thirty years ago the brick piles of the old chimneys were still standing, and there were a few old fruit trees remaining from the home orchard. At that time the graves of the slaves were still visible outside of the walls of the cemetery.

Muscoe Bowler was a descendant of Thomas Bowler who was living in Yorktown, Virginia, as early as 1653, and who later removed to Rappahannock and represented that county on the Governor's Council in 1675, and died in 1679. This Thomas Bowler's wife was a granddaughter of Colonel Matthey Edloe who came to Virginia on the "Neptune" in 1618, and who was a member of the house of Burgesses in 1629.

Muscoe Bowler acquired his rather unusual first name from his mother who was a daughter of Salvator Muscoe, a lawyer, a justice, and a burgess for Essex County, Virginia, from 1736 to 1740.

Edrington's Historical Notes on Fairfield County mentions Muscoe Bowler as a soldier of the Revolution. This is confirmed in the Virginia State Library where his name appears in the "List of Revolutionary Soldiers of Virginia," the reference being Auditors Account XXVII.

His father, who was a Revolutionary soldier in Col. Blann's First Virginia Regiment, is also reputed to be buried in this cemetery, but this can not be verified as there are no headstones at the present time. However on the tombstone of Muscoe Boulware and his wife, Nancy Pickett, the dates are still legible, as are those of Muscoe II and his wife, Elizabeth McCulloch. There are also numerous old unmarked graves of which there can be only surmise. The most recent tombstone is that erected to the memory of the mother of the late Judge John J. Neil, which bears no name but only the inscription, "My Mother."

In all, four generations of the name Muscoe Boulware lived in Fairfield county, the last one moved to Florida, where he and other members of the family are still living. It is rather characteristic of the Boulware family that their migrations were along the lines of longitude instead of latitude, and that they were a river family, living first along the York river, and then the Rappahannock, the Wateree and the lakes and rivers of Florida. At least one branch has returned to Virginia in the persons of the family of the distinguished engineer, Thomas M. Boulware, who was born and raised in South Carolina.

There are many members of the Boulware name still living in Fairfield county; and through intermarriage there are also numerous descendants among the families—Buchanan, Woodward, Neil, Hall, Stokes, McMaster, Matthews, Pickett, Kennerly, Stevenson, McDonald, and others.

The excuse for this article is to bring the existence of this old graveyard to the attention of these younger descendants in the hope that adequate steps may be taken for its preservation.

The land upon which it lies is at

present in the kindly possession of Mr. Robert C. Gooding.

(Signed) An Antiquarian.

*Boulware*