

2002

Independent Republic Quarterly, 2002, Vol. 36, No. 3

Horry County Historical Society

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.coastal.edu/irq>

Part of the [Civic and Community Engagement Commons](#), and the [History Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Horry County Historical Society, "Independent Republic Quarterly, 2002, Vol. 36, No. 3" (2002). *The Independent Republic Quarterly*. 141.

<https://digitalcommons.coastal.edu/irq/141>

This Journal is brought to you for free and open access by the Horry County Archives Center at CCU Digital Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in The Independent Republic Quarterly by an authorized administrator of CCU Digital Commons. For more information, please contact commons@coastal.edu.

The Independent Republic Quarterly

A Publication of the
Horry County Historical Society

Volume 36, No. 3

ISSN 0046-8843

Publication Date 2006

Calendar Events:

- **HCHS Designer Showhouse,**
April 8-April 23, 2006
- **Spring Tour**
To be announced
- **Regular Meeting**
July 10, 2006,
7:30 p.m.
- **Regular Meeting,**
October 9, 2006,
7:30 pm

The Independent Republic Quarterly

Submit materials and comments for the newsletter to:

The Editor,
The Independent Republic Quarterly
606 Main Street
Conway, SC
29526-4340

Telephone:
843.488.1966

E-mail:
history@sccoast.net

Web Site:
<http://www.hchsonline.org>

The History of Waties Island

Waties Island is named for either William Waties, Sr. or Jr. Originally from Wales, William Waties, Sr. settled near Charleston around 1694. In 1716 he was appointed as a factor for trading with the Indians north of the Santee River and established a trading house at Uauenee (Yauhannah), otherwise called the Great Bluff. In 1735 his son, William Waties, Jr., also a former Indian trader, helped survey the boundary line between North Carolina and South Carolina in the area of present day Horry County. Waties Sr., Jr. and III accumulated large tracts of desirable land along the Waccamaw, Pee Dee, and Little Rivers in Horry County, as well as along the coast and in the Georgetown area.

The oldest known plat for Waties Island is a survey dated May 7, 1754, and certified July 31, 1754. It states, "*South Carolina. Pursuant to a precept from George Hunter Esq. Surveyor General, dated the 7th day of May, Anno Domini, 1754, I have admeasured and laid out an Island known by the name of Waties Island, in Prince George Parish, Craven County, unto William Allston: Butting and bordering S.E. on the sea, N.E. on Waties Inlet, N.W. on a creek running through a Salt Marsh, and S. on Master's Inlet, and containing Seventy one and a half acres; Having such shape and form as the above plat represents. Certified this 31 July 1754. Zech: Brazier, D.S.*"

Waties Island has been variously spelled over the years. In recent times, the island's name has been mistakenly spelled WAITES. An effort is underway to correct that error. This publication uses the historically correct spelling—WATIES.

This plat would have accompanied a King's Grant issued by the Royal Governor of South Carolina deeding the property to William Allston. It is interesting that the island was already called Waties Island yet there is no evidence that William Waties ever owned the island. It is possible, but there is no evidence, that William Waties, Sr. had a Proprietary Grant for the island but he never recorded it, and that Allston purchased the land from Waties' heirs but still applied for a King's Grant for the property to make sure that he had a clear title. William Waties, Sr. left a will but it has been lost.

It is possible that the island may have been named for Waties, Jr. who, according to records, owned 1,150 acres in the area as of 1733. Five hundred acres bordered the creek which ran behind the island, and at least two maps call that creek Waties Inlet.

J. Benjamin Burroughs, research specialist in Coastal Carolina University's Burroughs and Chapin Center for Marine and Wetland Studies with Deryl Young, historical land research consultant, as a resource

The HCHS regrets an interrupted publication schedule. This issue of *The IRQ* begins an accelerated schedule to correct the lapse.

The Significance of Waties Island

According to a report by Dr. Reinhold J. Engelmayer of Coastal Carolina University, dated March 30, 1976, there are numerous archaeological sites on Waties Island that can be attributed to Native Americans in the prehistory period.



Aerial Photo of Waties Island

Numerous campsites varying in size from one meter to thirty meters can be found on the island. Those campsites that were tested showed a thin stratum of shells (clams, tidal and sub-tidal oysters) mixed with fragments of pottery of the Wilmington complex (ca. 0-700 A.D.) and the Savannah I phase (700 – 1200 A.D.).

At least one group of mounds has been identified so far. One of the mounds is about three meters high and eight meters in diameter. It is built on a round platform rising about half a meter above the ground level as of 1976. A test showed that the shells covering this mound make up a 20 to 30 centimeters thick layer. This layer serves as a veneer for this mound which was built, as far as could be determined, from yellow beach sand. The area around these mounds is littered with potshards of Wilmington and Savannah I origin.

In 1995, a total of 1,049 acres on the island and the adjoining uplands of Little River Neck were deeded to the Coastal Educational Foundation acting on behalf of Coastal Carolina University. The gift has been protected with a perpetual conservation easement through The Nature Conservancy of South Carolina. It was the wish of Anne Tilghman Boyce that the property she left to a charitable trust be maintained "in essentially a wilderness state." Through her bequest, the support of her surviving children and a substantial financial gift from her sister-in-law, Kitty Lou Tilghman, the university has gained a magnificent resource for students and faculty for education and research. In 1998 Rebecca Ran-

dall Bryan donated an adjacent 4.65 acre tract located along the Intracoastal Waterway. Currently, Coastal Carolina University's total acreage in that area totals approximately 1,105.17 acres.

The Waties property is an outstanding example of an undeveloped complex of ocean frontage, fresh and saltwater marshes, tidal creeks, and upland woods.

The island is a dynamic place where change is the rule rather than the exception. This makes Waties Island an excellent outdoor laboratory in which to study natural coastal processes.

Reprinted by permission from Coastal Carolina University's Burroughs and Chapin Center for Marine and Wetland Studies.

Cherry Grove Beach and East Cherry Grove Beach

In the early 1700s Cherry Grove Beach was called Minor's Island. It was named for James Minor of Connecticut who obtained a tract of 375 acres of land by a grant dated April 8, 1734. That grant was bounded on the south by Little River and on the east by Cedar Creek. He lived there until October 13, 1742, when he sold his property to John Eshfield, an innkeeper of Little River.

In 1769 Minor's Island was granted to John Alston. He also owned land adjacent to the salt marshes on Little River Neck which he eventually sold to John Bellamee. That plantation was called Cherry Grove. Minor's Island later was referred to simply as "the beach at Cherry Grove."

The eastern (upper end) two miles of Cherry Grove Beach—formerly called Futch Beach or Futch Island—ran from Cherry Grove Inlet to Hog Inlet. It was named for the David Kendrick Futch family who had purchased 949 acres from John Brantley on August 8, 1846.

In 1950 the old Cherry Grove Inlet was closed, giving access to Futch Island, which was then renamed East Cherry Grove Beach. The site of the Futch home, now part of Tidewater Golf Club, was on the banks of Little River Neck and overlooked the beach at Cherry Grove and the adjoining marshlands.

J. Benjamin Burroughs and C. B. Berry

Revolutionary War Encampment on Little River Neck

In December 1776, General Francis Nash and his army of mostly North Carolina troops left Wilmington, N.C., with orders to march to St. Augustine, Fla. Their goal was to prevent the British from entering Georgia.

The army proceeded to Lockwood's Folly, N.C. and then on to the Boundary House which was a well known building situated directly on the boundary line of North and South Carolina. The "Boundary Meeting House," as it was sometimes called, had been built in the early 1700s. It was constructed as a meeting place for the early settlers in the area from both states and served as a halfway resting point between Wilmington, N.C. and Georgetown, S.C. In 1776 it was the home of Isaac Marion. Isaac's younger brother was South Carolina's Revolutionary War hero General Francis Marion, nicknamed "The Swamp Fox" by his British adversaries.¹

Hugh McDonald, a fourteen-year-old private accompanying Gen. Nash, left us his account of the army's stay in the Little River area. After the war, McDonald who was said to be illiterate had someone write down his recollections of the war in diary form. He recorded that the troops were a brigade made up of eight regiments consisting of 9,400 rank-and-file members. This number has been said to be high. North Carolina historian Judge David Schenk estimated the number to be closer to 4,000 while another historian, Jim Daniel, estimates it to be between 5,500 and 7,000.

Jim Daniel, historian emeritus of The North Carolina Historical Reenactment Society, The 6th North Carolina Regiment writes: "*Judge Schenk's '4,000,' refers to the number of North Carolina Continentals that composed the six North Carolina regiments involved in this campaign and would be essentially correct of the numbers on paper for those units. However, Nash's North Carolina Continental regiments were not at full strength....[T]hey were bolstered by North Carolina militia, whose numbers are uncertain. I would think that a more likely number for the total might be 5,500 – 7,000.*"² Daniel goes on to explain, "*I believe young Hugh's numbers, and mention of '8 regiments' would have included 2 militia regiments, adding 1,500 or more to the nearly 4,000 North Carolina Continentals, resulting in the 5,500 or more that I referenced.*"³ Either account suggests a substantial force.

According to McDonald, "*When we got to the Boundary House, we encamped for a short time to rest and Col. Alston, a wealthy gentleman of the neighborhood, came to see Gen. Nash and told him he could show him a better*

camping ground, which was an elevated neck of land covered with hickory and other good firewood."⁴

"Col. Alston" was William Allston who had obtained title to Waties Island and Little River Neck on October 7, 1755. A map dated 1764 shows William Allston's house on the eastern point of Little River Neck. Another William Allston of Little River Neck, who was a cousin of this William Allston, had also lived in the Little River area but had died by that time. That Allston had been the father-in-law of Isaac Marion. Isaac had married Rebecca, the late William Allston's daughter.

The distance from the Boundary House to Allston's property by way of the Little River Bridge (in the vicinity of today's Little River Swing-span Bridge) was approximately 10 miles. That would probably have been the route that most of the army would have taken as there would have been many supply wagons, cannons and horses. Some of the

troops might have taken a more direct route across the half-mile ferry (between the Boundary House and across Little River to the Allston Plantation).

"The trees were covered with long moss from the top to the ground, and of this we made excellent beds." - Hugh McDonald

McDonald goes on to describe the Allston plantation, saying, "*The trees were covered with long moss from the top to the ground, and of this we made excellent beds. There we stayed about a month waiting for further orders, where we cut and cleared about 100 acres of land. From this pleasant place we marched for Charleston and crossed the Pee Dee at a place called Winyaw about half way between Georgetown and the Inlet...thence to Charleston...here we received orders not to go any further toward Augustine.*"⁵

They camped at Hadrells Point (Mount Pleasant area) near Charleston until March 15, 1777, where they eventually received orders to march north and join General George Washington's Army.

On October 4, 1777, they participated in the Battle of Germantown in Pennsylvania. General Nash lost his leg to a cannonball in the engagement at the Chew House near Germantown, and

War Encampment, See Page 6B

The Village of Little River

In the earliest days, the Little River area was part of a very large political division known as Craven County. After the time of the Lords Proprietors when there were royal governors, it was part of Georgetown Judicial District, which covered the present-day counties of Georgetown, Horry, Marion and Dillon and included most of present-day Williamsburg and Florence Counties. This huge area was divided into parishes which also served as the local voting precincts. All Saints Parish extended from Georgetown to the Cape Fear River originally, but later the province line was its upper boundary. All of the area from the ocean to the Waccamaw River fell within this parish, which included the village of Little River.

The village of Little River can trace its history back to 1734. It was then that a "young gentleman" from England recorded in his diary that he had stayed at Ash's, or Little River, while traveling through the area.

Traveling to Savannah, Ga., in 1740, the Rev. George Whitefield, an English Anglican preacher, also apparently visited Ash's inn and recorded the following entries in his diary:

"Tuesday, Jan. 1, 1740. Rode about ten miles, where we baited [ate], met with one who I had great reason to believe was a child of God. It grieved me that I could stay no longer, but being in haste, we passed over a half-mile ferry. About sunset, we came to a tavern, five miles within the province of South Carolina. Here I immediately perceived the people were more polite than those we generally met with, but I believe the people of the house wished I had not come to be their guest that night; for, it being New Year's Day, several of the neighbors were met together to divert themselves by dancing country dances.

By the advice of my companions, I went in amongst them whilst a woman was dancing a jig. At my first entrance I endeavoured to shew the folly of such entertainments, and to convince her how well-pleased the devil was at every step she took. For some time she endeavoured to outbrave me; neither fiddler nor she desisted, but at least she gave over and the musician laid aside his instrument...All were soon put to silence, and were, for some time, so overawed, that after I had discoursed with them on the nature of baptism and the necessity of being born again...I baptized, at their entreaty, one of their children, and prayed afterwards, as I was enabled, and as the circumstances of the company required...but the people were so bent on their pleasure, that notwithstanding all that had been said, after I had gone to bed, I heard their music and dancing resume.

Wednesday, Jan. 2. Rose very early, prayed, sang a hymn and gave a sharp reproof to the dancers who were

very attentive, and took it in good part. At break of day, we mounted our horses, and, I think, never had a more pleasant journey. For nearly twenty miles we rode over a beautiful bay as plain as a terrace walk, and as we passed along were wonderfully delighted to see the porpoises taking their pastime, and hear, as it were, shore resounding to shore the praises of Him Who hath set bounds to the sea that it cannot pass. ...At night we intended to call at a gentleman's house, where we had been recommended, about forty miles distant...."

(A highway marker south of Little River commemorates this visit.)

The tavern where Whitefield lodged was probably that of Thomas Ash who received a land grant for 350 acres on June 19, 1733. It is believed that he operated an inn or halfway house (midway between Cape Fear and Winyah Bay). It was probably located in the vicinity of present day Nixon's Cross Roads, in the Little River area.

During the Revolutionary War, members of the Little River Committee of Safety at one time or another were Dennis Hankins, Josias Allston, Samuel Dwight, Francis Allston, John Allston, Jr., Isaac Marion, William Pierce, Alexander Dunn, Samuel Price, Michel Bellune, and Daniel Morrall. Empowered by the General Committee in Charleston, these constituted the only governing body of the area in the days before a state government took hold. They could require local residents to sign an oath of allegiance to the new government to show opposition to the English Crown.

In 1791 President George Washington decided to tour the Southern states. In his diary Washington stated, *In this tour I was accompanied by Major Jackson, my equipage and attendance consisted of a Chariot & four horses drove in hand – a light baggage wagon and two horses – four saddle horses besides a led one for myself and five – to wit – my Valet de Chambre, two footmen, Coachman & postilion. The outriders wore bright livery of red and white which gave a touch of distinction to the procession. His carriage was described as a "white chariot."*

Washington went on to record, *Wednesday 27th. Breakfasted at Willm. Gause's a little out of the direct Road 14 Miles--crossed the boundary line between No. & South Carolina abt. half after 12 o'clock which is 10 miles from Gausens. Dined at a private house (one Cochran's) about 2 miles farther and lodged at Mr. Vareens*

Little River, see Page 5B

Little River, from Page 4

14 Miles more and 2 Miles short of the long bay. To this house we were directed as a Tavern, but the proprietor of it either did not keep one, or would not acknowledge it. We therefore were en[ter]tained (& very kindly) without being able to make compensation.

Washington had left William Gause's at Ocean Isle, N.C., and entered South Carolina just north of Little River on April 27, 1791, where he dined with a Revolutionary War veteran named James G. Cochran who resided in Little River. A bay behind the Food Lion store (in 2005) in Little River is named "Cochran's Bay." He was traveling the well established coastal road which had become known as the King's Highway.

Just south of present day North Myrtle Beach, he lodged overnight with either Jeremiah Vereen, Jr. or Sr. Vereen resided approximately two miles north of Singleton's Swash. The next day Vereen guided the President safely across Singleton Swash. From there they traveled down the strand for 16 miles and then turned inland and went five more miles to the home of George Pawley which was probably inland of the area that is present-day Surfside Beach.

Washington wrote, "*Thursday 28th. Mr. Varen piloted us across the Swash (which at high water is impassable, & at times, by the shifting of the Sands is dangerous) on to the long Beach of the Ocean; and it being at a proper time of the tide we passed along it with ease and celerity to the place of quitting it which is estimated 16 miles. Five Miles farther we got dinner & fed our horses at a Mr. Pauleys a private house, no public one being on the road; and being met on the Road, & kindly invited by a Docter flagg to his house, we lodged there; it being about 10 miles from Pauleys & 33 from Vareens.*"

Robert Mills, America's first native born trained architect, was born in Charleston, South Carolina. In 1826 he described the village of Little River as follows: "*There is another settlement made on Little river near the seaboard of about 25 persons, who carry on a considerable trade in lumber, pitch, tar, &c. ... Little river admits vessels drawing 6 or 7 feet water up into the harbor, 4 miles from its mouth. There is a little difficulty at the entrance, but the harbor is perfectly safe from the effects of storms.*"

An Horry correspondent for South Carolina's *The Marion Star*, who signed himself "Waccamaw," wrote on December 16, 1868, that Little River Village was "*a flourishing commercial place, that bids fair to become of great importance in the industrial and commercial interest of Horry and of the adjoining counties in North Carolina. [It contained] four stores, one steam saw mill, two gum stills, one academy, church, no jail (!) and*

a curiosity, in a new-fangled 'Pinder Picking machine... Vessels of one hundred and fifty tons burden can come up to the village, and so make regular trips between this place and Northern cities, as well as to the West Indies. A large Schooner, commanded by Capt. Davis was taking on cargo for New York, during our visit. ... Prominent among the characteristics of the Little River people is their energy and hospitality, two traits ever found among those who have commercial intercourses with other parts of the world."

In that same 1868 article, Waccamaw went on to describe the local food in a very favorable light by saying, "*These [mullet], with the oysters, that were abundant, and the ducks, of which quite a number were killed, to appetites already good, and highly braced by the buoyant ocean breeze, were luxuries that courted indulgence. The gain per cent during the period of two weeks, was so great that serious thoughts, of having to send some of the party to Wilmington to be weighed, were in contemplation.*"

✍ J. Benjamin Burroughs with C. B. Berry and Catherine H. Lewis, historian and author of Horry County, South Carolina, 1730-1993

The Boundary House

The Boundary House is one of the oldest documented buildings in the Horry County area. It was built on the boundary line of South Carolina and North Carolina in the early 1700s. The house was located on a tract of 300 acres granted to Charles Hart on February 9, 1732. Hart sold the property to William Waties, Jr. who sold it to George Pawley on March 9, 1734.

When George Pawley sold the property to Christopher Guinn on February 4, 1754, the tract was described as being "commonly known as the Boundary House." It served as a meeting place for the community and traveling ministers often stopped there to preach.

In 1775, it was the home of Isaac Marion, older brother of General Francis Marion, The Swamp Fox. Isaac Marion served the area as Justice of the Peace.

South Carolina received official word of the Battle of Lexington, which marked the beginning of the Revolutionary War, at the Boundary House. Couriers rushed the news of the battle southward and Isaac Marion received the following message from Richard

Boundary House, see Page 6A

Horry County Historical Society Officers

- Jeanne Legare Sasser.....President
- Susan Hoffer McMillan.....Vice President
- Mark J. Martin.....Secretary
- Margaret Tarte Chestnut.....Treasurer
- J. Benjamin Burroughs.....Director
- Wayne N. Chestnut.....Director
- Carlisle E. Dawsey.....Director
- V. Chyrel Stalvey.....Director
- John C. Thomas.....Director



The Independent Republic Quarterly Staff

- V. Chyrel Stalvey.....Editor

Staff

J. Benjamin Burroughs, Wayne N. Chestnut,
Ann Cox Long, and Sylvia Cox Reddick

HCHS Designer Showhouse 2006



The Horry County Historical Society is staging the county's first-ever Designer Showhouse to raise funds for the Society and renovate its historic headquarters, the Rebecca Randall Bryan House, located at 606 Main Street in Conway, S.C. This charming southern home, ca. 1912, is receiving an “extreme make-over” and will be open to the public April 8 – 23 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily; admission is \$15. Approximately 20 interior and landscape designers will renovate the entire property.

Boundary House, from Page 5B

Quince of old Brunswick town, N.C.: *Boundary, May 9, 1775, Little River: Gentlemen of the Committee, I have just now received express from the Committees of the Northward Provinces desiring I would forward the enclosed Packet to the Southward Committees. As yours is the nearest, I request for the good of our Country and the welfare of our lives, liberties and fortunes, you will not lose a moment's time but dispatch the same to the Committee of Georgetown to be forwarded to Charleston.*

The site of the Boundary House is now marked by a 600 pound granite monument that also marks the state line and is located on Marsh Harbor Golf Course.

☞ *C. B. Berry, local historian, columnist, and author of Berry's Blue Book, and J. Benjamin Burroughs*

Colkins Neck

Colkins Neck is located between the Calabash River and the salt marshes of Little River Inlet. It was named for Jonathan Colkins who came from Norwich in the County of New London, Conn. in the 1730s and purchased this land from William Waties.

War Encampment, from Page 3

subsequently bled to death. In the presence of General Washington's entire army, he was buried in the Townmencin Meetinghouse Mennonite Cemetery at Kulpsville, near Lansdale, Penn. ☞ *J. Benjamin Burroughs*

¹Berry, C.B., The Independent Republic Quarterly, Vol. 4, No. 4, p. 13.

²Jim Daniel E-mail to Ben Burroughs, March 14, 2005.

³Jim Daniel E-mail to Ben Burroughs, March 22, 2005.

^{4,5}McDonald, Hugh, A Teenager in the Revolution, Eastern Acorn Press, 1982, The National Historical Society.

The 2006 HCHS Spring Tour

will encompass the Little River area,
including Waties Island.

More information is forthcoming.

— *Notes* —

