The Early History of Castle Haynes Plantation
October 22, 1728 - September 17, 1793

GERALD H. SHINN

The history of Castle Haynes Plantation began with a family of French Huguenot exiles who immigrated to Charleston, South Carolina, sometime shortly before the fall of 1685. Anthony Poitevint, a native of "Orsemon, province de Gaule en France," his wife Gabrielle Berou, a native of "Orney en Bause," and their youngest son Pierre, or Peter, became naturalized citizens of Orange Quarter near Charleston, South Carolina, when Anthony, as head of the household, swore the following oath on Oct. 6, 1685:

"We whose names are hereunto subscribed do promise to beare faith and true allegiance to our Sovraigne Lord King James the Second his heires and Successors and fidelity and submission to the Lords Proprietors and the forme of Government by them established by their Fundamental Constitutions."

 Accompanying Anthony and Gabrielle Poitevint were: their son Anthony, Jr., born in "Menthenon, province de Gaule"; his wife, Margueritte de Bourdeaux, a native of "Grenoble en Dofine"; a younger son Peter Poitevint also born in "Menthenon"; a daughter Anne, born in "Duplesis Morne, province de Gaule"; her husband Peter Dutatre, a native of Chathaudun en Beuse; and Daniel Trezevant, born in "Auchon en Perche," who married Suzanne Maulard, born in "Chaneuille en Baise," daughter of Lubin Maulard and Gabrielle Berou. Suzanne Maulard was, therefore, the daughter of Gabrielle Poitevint by a former marriage. The swearing of the oath of allegiance to the King of England and the Lords Proprietors on Oct. 6, 1685, consequently, was a family affair. Anthony Poitevint, his son-in-law Peter Dutatre, and Daniel Trezevant, the husband of his stepdaughter, became citizens of England simultaneously.

On May 5, 1704, Peter Poitevint was granted four hundred acres of land in Orange Quarter, South Carolina. He married sometime before 1700, and he and his wife Suzannah had eleven children by 1720. Their first child, born April 6 and baptized May 12, 1700, was named after his father and died Dec. 1, 1722. Sometime between the winter of 1722/23 and the fall of 1728, Peter Poitevint, his wife Susan, and their younger children arrived in Bath County (now New Hanover County) to settle their one thousand acre grant of land "given the 22d of October 1728" between the north side of "Prince Georges Creek" and the "East side of the North-East Branch of Cape Fear River." Ten months later, August 23, 1729, Peter Poitevint, "frail and weak in body," made his last will and testament, in which he appointed his wife "executor" and added "for her assistance of the naming in my will I do hereby appoint my sons Joseph Poitevint and Samuel Poitevint." Peter furthermore

(Continued on Page Two)
A Message from the President

With the permission of the Publications Committee I wish herewith to express my profound gratitude for the privilege of serving as President of the Lower Cape Fear Historical Society for the past two years. It has been a very rewarding experience to work with the other officers and directors in our effort to preserve, interpret and enhance the heritage of the Lower Cape Fear region, the richest land of history in all of North Carolina. I deeply appreciate the splendid co-operation given me on every hand and the willingness of so many members of the Society to assist us whenever called upon. I trust that the next president, to be elected on May 7, will enjoy that same helpfulness which has made my tasks such a pleasure to perform; and I bespeak for every new officer and director the full support of the Society's entire membership.

As the recent emphasis on ecology accelerates and current cultural trends develop further, they will certainly enable us to focus increasing attention upon our historical heritage as a most significant and valuable part of our regional environment. There is evidence today of a greater awareness of the Lower Cape Fear's cultural heritage, both literary and physical; and this is true of the general public as well as the members of our society. But in some areas of historical concern we are just scratching the surface and in others the story is still "too little and too late." Then let us face the future with a sense of dedication worthy of our ancestors—but committed to posterity.

Let us rise to meet the challenge which our unique and signal history has thrust upon us!

WALSER H. ALLEN, JR.

EARLY HISTORY OF CASTLE HAYNES PLANTATION

(Continued from Page One)

bequeathed to his son Samuel Poitevint: "his choice of two tracts of land—one of them is in the fork of the river and the other is this that I live upon." Peter Poitevint died the following year; and his will was probated June 10, 1730. Peter's wife and sons, however, were to keep their inheritance only a short time.

On February 10, 1731, Joseph and Samuel Poitevint sold to Roger Haynes for "L 110 Sterling ... all those Parcels, Plantations or Tracts of Land Butting and Bounding to the Eastward on the lands of John Marshall and the Rev Doctor Richard Marsden, to the Southward on Prince Georges Creek, to the Westward on the lands of the heirs of Andrew Legare, to the Northward on the North East Branch of Cape Fear River. Containing by estimation 1000 acres as by Patent, in our names on record in the Secretary's office ... said land lying in Bath County ..." The deed was witnessed by Roger Moore, Richard Marsden, and John Marsden.

Shortly after purchasing the Poitevint Plantation, Roger Haynes married Margaret Marsden, the only daughter of the Reverend Richard Marsden and Elizabeth Marsden, who owned the adjoining Hermitage Plantation. Captain Roger Haynes and his bride moved into their new home, which was constructed near the north bank of Prince George Creek and was referred to as Castle Haynes. The location of Haynes' "Castle" is mentioned in a deed dated August 20, 1734, which conveys a gift of two hundred and fifty acres of land from Maurice Moore "for love and affection to my son-in-law" John Porter. John Porter's property was "... on the south side of Prince George Creek in Bath County, beginning at the mouth of a small creek or branch that makes out of Prince George Creek
on the south side thereof a small distance below Mr. Roger Haynes house . . . 24 Two daughters were born to Captain Roger Haynes and his wife Margaret. One of the daughters was named after her mother, and the other child was called Mary. Captain Haynes died prior to 1743,25 when his widow, Margaret Marsden Haynes, inherited the Hermitage Plantation from her brother John Marsden, who was the sole surviving son of the Reverend Richard Marsden:

Know all men by these Presents that I John Marsden late of Halifax in the County of York Cloath Draper the only surviving Son of Richard Marsden formerly of Hornsea in the said County of York but late of Cape Fear in the province of North Carolina Deceased by Elizabeth his wife also deceased. Have made ordained Constituted Nominated and appointed & by these Presents do make ordain Constitute & appoint my well beloved Sister Margaret Haynes Widow . . . of Mr. Roger Haynes of Cape Fear in the Province of North Carolina my true & lawful attorney Irrevocable . . . and also in my name & Stead to the only proper use benefit & behoof of the said Margaret her heirs & assigns forever to take possession of a Certain Plantation on Prince Georges Creek known by the name of Hermitage . . . 26

With the acquisition of the Hermitage property and the consequent combination of it with the lands of the Haynes Plantation (approximately two thousand acres), Margaret Haynes became one of the wealthiest landowners in New Hanover County. The fact that she also had two young, unmarried daughters did not escape the eyes of two of the most enterprising bachelors of the Lower Cape Fear.

In 1753 Margaret Haynes, daughter of Margaret Marsden Haynes, married John Burgwin of London, England, who at that time was a merchant in Wilmington, North Carolina. On April 10, 1755, Margaret Haynes made out a "Deed of Gift" to her son-in-law John Burgwin:

Know all men by these presents that I Margaret Haynes of New Hanover County in the province aforesaid planter, for divers good Causes and Considerations me hereunto moving but more especially for the Love Goodwill and affection I have and bear for my Son-in-law John Burgwin of Cape Fear in the province aforesaid Merchant ... have Given Granted assigned and set over ... by this my present Deed of Gift ... all that my plantation Tract or parcel of Land . . . commonly called or known by the name of the Hermitage . . . 27

Margaret Haynes Burgwin died shortly after her husband received the Hermitage, and she left no children. John Burgwin, on a trip to England in 1782, married Eliza Bush and returned with his second wife to the Hermitage.28

Mary Haynes, the second daughter of Margaret Marsden Haynes, widow of Captain Roger Haynes, married General Hugh Waddell, noted as an Indian fighter and as one of the instigators of the resistance to the Stamp Act at Brunswick Town. General Waddell acquired the Castle Haynes plantation by marriage and willed it to his eldest son Haynes Waddell in 1772.29 Haynes Waddell, however, died before he reached the age of twenty-one; and the other two sons of General Hugh Waddell, Hugh Waddell, Jr. and John Burgwin Waddell, became heirs apparent to the Castle Haynes Plantation. Neither of the two brothers was of the age of majority at his brother Haynes' death; and John Burgwin, their maternal uncle, was designated the guardian of John Burgwin Waddell in the "partition" of Jan. 10, 1789.30 Evidently some disagreement arose between the brothers concerning who would inherit the Castle Haynes property and who would receive the lots and houses in Wilmington, for "Uncle" John Burgwin, as guardian, had the brothers sign an agreement to divide the property between them in the following manner: "... Hugh Waddell shall have . . . the Castle Haynes Plantation, and the said John Burgwin Waddell shall have the lots and houses in Wilmington . . . ."31 Castle Haynes was estimated to be more valuable than the lots and houses in Wilmington, and for equity Hugh Waddell was directed to pay his brother John six hundred pounds.

Just three months later on March 3, 1789, there was a second agreement between the Waddell brothers concerning the equal division of the land below "Leger's Neck,"32 which was originally given to them by John Burgwin.33 Fifty acres was made over to their Uncle Burgwin for "... the many Services he has rendered us in our minority . . ."34 Hugh and John Waddell were repaying their uncle with a small portion of his own gift! The remainder of the "gift" and the Castle Haynes Plantation did not remain in Waddell hands very long.

On September 17, 1793, Uncle John Burgwin, "Merchant of Wilmington," purchased the major portion of his two nephews' inheritance and received another portion of his "gift" in the bargain:

Hugh Waddell and John Burgwin Waddell for and in consideration of three Thousand Pounds current money of North Carolina . . . paid by . . . John Burgwin at and before the Sealing and delivery thereof the receipt and payment whereof is hereby acknowledged they have hereby granted bargain sold conveyed & confirmed . . . unto the Said John Burgwin all that plantation tract and parcel of Land . . . called and Known by the name of Castle Haynes Plantation . . . Containing six hundred sixty six and two thirds of an acre more or less . . . Also two hundred acres of Land on the swamp below Legers . . . 35

From the prima facie evidence it appears that the nephews of John Burgwin were not very wise financial managers and allowed a small fortune to slip between their fingers into the palm of their uncle.

John Burgwin, "Planter of New Hanover County," acquired the remaining property on the North-East Cape Fear belonging to Hugh and John Waddell on May 28, 1794, for one thousand pounds. Planter Burgwin was buying back the "gift" he had made to his nephews. This acreage indeed proved to be an expensive gift for Uncle John. The Waddell brothers . . . grant Bargain sell transfer Convey and confirm unto the said John Burgwin all that swamp Land above the Rice fields on the north East River Containing about Two hundred and fifty acres more or less . . ."36 With this acquisition, the original Castle Haynes Plantation of one thousand acres was not only reestablished, but also enlarged by the addition of Leger's Plantation and five hundred other acres of rice land. Castle Haynes Plantation reached its greatest proportions of almost two thousand acres, consequently, under the indefatigable and indomitable John Burgwin, merchant and planter of the Lower Cape Fear.

FOOTNOTES

1. Without the capable and generous assistance of Mrs. Ida B. Kellam, Archivist for the Lower Cape Fear Historical Society, this article could not have been written.

2. Other spellings that appear in both primary and secondary sources are: Poitvin, Poitvain, Poitcuin, Poiteven, Poitvne, Poitevin, and Poitwin. The original spelling of the name is probably Poitvain which is a French family name meaning "From Poitou," the 17th century province whose capital was Poitiers. The earliest spelling of the name to appear in a primary source document seen by the author (Oct. 22, 1728) is maintained throughout the article. Further information concerning the Poitvain family can be obtained from an unpublished MS entitled Poitevint Genealogy by Mrs. Isabel Thomas Poitevint Barksdale Maynard, Birmingham, Alabama, August, 1967.

3. The earliest published Liste des Noms des Frangais qui a reculee en Amerique du Nord dated to date is Theodore Galliard Thomas' pamphlet in a Contribution of the History of the Huguenots of South Carol-
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lina, New York, 1888, pp. 62ff. Cited hereinafter as Thomas. The list has recently been published by the Hugenot Society of South Carolina in their Transactions, No. 69, Charleston, South Carolina, 1965, pp. 37ff. "Oren- mont" is the French Oremont, a village on the river Drouette ten kilometers east of Maintenon in the Ille-de-France. Cf. the Robert de Vaugondy, Jr. map dated 1755 of l’Orlans prope ; et la Beauce in the private collection of Dr. James Beeler, faculty member of the University of North Carolina at Wilmington. Cited hereinafter as Vaugondy.


8. Ibid. "Duplesis Morne" is perhaps named after Philippe de Mornay or Duplessi Mornay, who was the "seigneur" of Plessis-Marly, a village about five kilometers north of Versailles (cf. Vaugondy). He was Henry IV's councillor and was known as le Pape des huguenots (the Pope of the Huguenots). Philippe de Mornay was also governor of Saumur 1549-1623.

9. "Chataulain en Basse" is the French town of Chateau Dun, the seat of the Danois family forty-four kilometers south-west of Chartres on the Le Loir River.


15. Clute, p. 106.

16. North Carolina Department of Archives and History, Raleigh, North Carolina, Grant File No. 89, New Hanover County. Hereinafter referred to as NCDAH.

17. Ibid.


19. Ibid.

20. Ibid.

21. New Hanover County Courthouse, Wilmington, North Carolina, Deed Book C, p. 151. Hereinafter referred to as NHC.

22. Ibid.

23. NHC, Deed Book AB, p. 18.

24. Ibid.

25. There is a paucity of information concerning Captain Roger Haynes. Dr. John H. Hill in his Stories of the Old Plantations, Wilmington, North Carolina, n. d., p. 23 records the following tradition concerning the death of Mr. Haynes: "Castle Haynes was the residence of Mr. Haynes, of whose history the writer has heard but little, except that he was the ancestor of the Waddell family, among whom I have heard related the tradition of his sad death by drowning. It is that he was ill of fevers, and while in delirium he awoke from his bed and rushed to the creek nearby, plunged in and drowned before assistance could reach him. This Mr. Haynes left a daughter who married Col. Hugh Waddell. From that union sprang the family of the name so long respectably known on the Cape Fear River." The only other reference to Mr. Haynes discovered thus far is in the New Hanover County Court Minutes for June 10, 1741: "Samuel Bridgen produced a P/A to himself from John Agrisson, of London, merchant, authorizing him to receive effects and estate of the late Roger Haynes of Cape Fear, deceased, which instrument was dated 3 November 1739, and proved under the seal of a notary public attested by the Lord Mayor of London, and ordered to be recorded." Cf. Alexander M. Walker, New Hanover County Court Minutes, Baltimore, Maryland, 1938, Vol. I, p. 25.