

Wantoot Plantation ~

(This bit of history is a continuation of the Wantoot Plantation history I gave you in Volume 1, back in latter 2022.)

Much of this history is about the Ravenel family, and personally, I've always wondered (silently, without much to-do) which of the families was the largest, the Ravenels or the Porchers. Possibly a pretty close tie.

Ravenel generations as they appeared began with René Ravenel [generation 2](son of Daniel and Marie Ravenel), the Huguenot Emigrant, born in Vitre, France, married in Carolina to Charlotte de St. Julien, daughter of Pierre de St. Julien de Malacare. They had five children [generation 3].

Daniel Ravenel [generation 3](of Somerton) was born in 1692 and married Demaris Elizabeth de St. Julien, daughter of Pierre de St. Julien de Malacare, the Emigrant, and they had five children [who appear in the fourth generation].

In 1704, Pooshee Plantation was granted by the Lords Proprietors to Pierre de St. Julien, the Emigrant. Paul de St. Julien (son of Pierre de St. Julien) inherited Hanover Plantation from his father and built the first house. He commenced building a brick house, but after burning two or three small kilns of brick, he ended up building the rest of the house using wood. Paul died at Hanover in 1741.

Daniel Ravenel [gen. 4], of Wantoot, was the son of Daniel of Somerton, born in May 1732, and married Sarah de St. Julien, daughter of Peter de St. Julien (daughter of Peter de St. Julien, son of Pierre de St. Julien the emigrant)(they were keeping it in the family!). Sarah died, with no children, and Daniel then married Charlotte Mazyck, daughter of Paul Mazyck. He got Wantoot from Benjamin de St. Julien, brother of his first wife. Daniel and Charlotte left one child, "Daniel."

Demaris, the third daughter of Daniel Ravenel of Somerton, married Benjamin Mazyck (son of Isaac Mazyck, the emigrant, who lived at the brick house at Back River, Goose Creek). Then, Mary, the fourth daughter of Daniel Ravenel of Somerton, married Nathaniel Broughton, of Mulberry, and they had five children [who would be the fifth generation Ravenels].

I know, by now, you're wondering why all the specific details on these folks, and it's because there were so many who had the same name, male and female, so I'm trying (hard) to help you to understand the different family members and how they came about the various 'initial' land/property ownerships.

And this brings up an interesting story: René Ravenel, son of René Louis Ravenel, of Pooshee, died at Pooshee. During his sickness, his brother-in-law, Paul Mazyck, of Goose Creek, and his half-sister, Catherine Chatagner, came to see him. They were taken sick on the road and died at Pooshee about the same time René did. When the neighbors were invited to René Ravenel's funeral, they found three coffins laid before them. Reportedly, some, fearing a contagious epidemic, left immediately.

Dr. Henry Ravenel, of Pooshee, (the father of Henry W., Thomas P., and William F. Ravenel), owned plantations bordering on the public road above and below Pooshee for a distance of about fourteen miles, with a break of a few hundred yards, where a corner of the Wantoot lands comes to the Black Oak road. He, Dr. Henry, tried to buy this place, and offered \$48,000 for Wantoot (with its negro slaves), but the offer was refused. (Wantoot is said to have netted the Honorable Charles Macbeth the sum of \$100,000 in five years.) Dr. Henry inherited some of his lands, but his greatest increase was due to his amazing energy and superior judgement.

Henry Ravenel was a marked man in his community . . . always seen wearing a dress coat made of dark blue broadcloth, with a double row of brass buttons down the front. He always called his servant "Boy," even though they were both about seventy-five years old. This servant was "Sandy," and Sandy imitated his master's dress exactly, though his clothes were of less expensive material. Sandy even had his master's stoop. Alas, for the race of the Sandys that are no more. We should all lift our hats in respect to the memory of this most special gentleman.

Another interesting Ravenel, Henry, of Hanover, the son of René Louis Ravenel, of Pooshee, was born at Pooshee, June 1729. He married his first cousin, Mary, daughter of Paul and Mary Amy St. Julien. He owned Hanover and Brunswick, and latterly Pooshee (left to him by his brother, James). He lived during the Revolution, but being old and infirm (lame in one leg), he took an active role in the War, and had all his sons in Marion's camp. Consequently, his feelings and principles, being known to the British and Tories, he was subjected to great abuse and had his property depredated upon. The enemy would drive his cattle into the yard, kill off the best, leave the carcasses there, and insult him and his family . . . but the old man would make no reply. Henry Ravenel had sixteen children, six of which lived to manhood: Henry, René, Paul, Stephen, Daniel James, and Peter [all appear in the fifth generation].

Daniel Ravenel, of Chelsea Plantation (and son of René Louis Ravenel, of Pooshee, married his first cousin, Elizabeth Jane (daughter of Daniel Ravenel of Somerton), and they had three children. He lived at Chelsea and died there before the Revolution. Story goes: His widow and children lived there during the war, and the young men of the family, all being in the American army, the widow was subjected to abuse and insult. On one occasion, some British soldiers came to her house in the night and demanded admittance, asking who was there. She replied that she was alone with her little children and would not get up to open the door. They told her they would cut down the door. She told them they might cut it down if they chose, but she would not open it. One of them chopped the door with his sword. And the chops remained on the old door for many years, but they left without admittance.

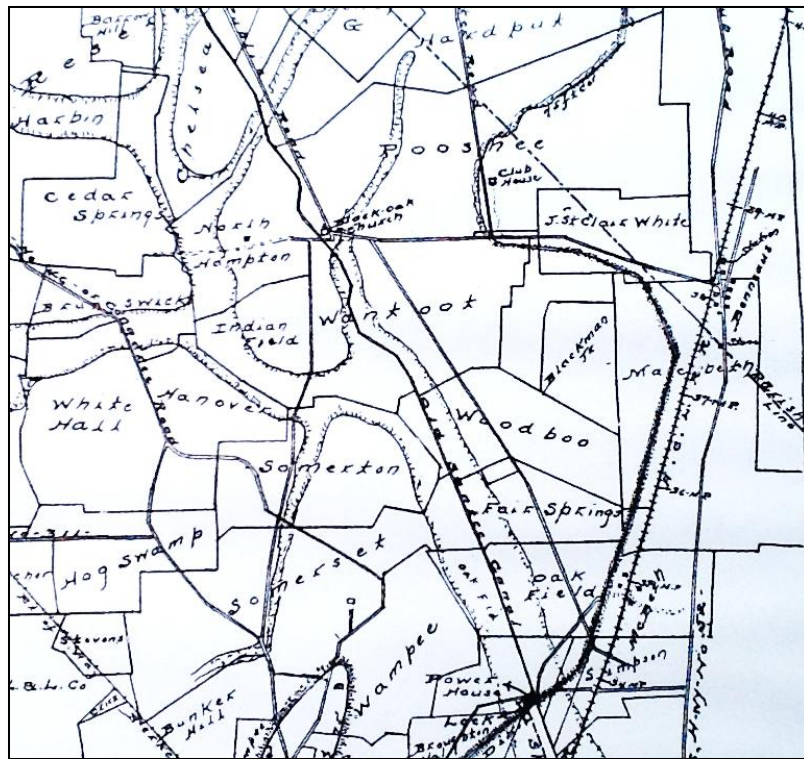
And this (generation 5) Daniel Ravenel, of Wantoot, son of Daniel Ravenel of Wantoot, and great-grandson of René the Emigrant, born 1762, married Catherine Prioleau, daughter of Samuel Prioleau. Daniel entered Marion's camp in August 1778, at the age of 16, and remained one of Marion's men until the end of the war. He was quite delicate when young and thought to be consumptive (a person with a wasting disease, especially pulmonary tuberculosis), but his good health afterwards was attributed to the rough life of camp. He was once taken prisoner, supposed to have been exchanged. Marion's men being somewhat Partisan soldiers as they were, were allowed to visit their families when in the neighborhood of their homes. On one occasion, Mr. Ravenel was spending the night at Wantoot with his family, when he was awakened by a noise at the front door. He got up and commenced to dress, but before he was dressed, Major Fraser entered the room, armed. As one was armed and the other unarmed and undressed, Mr. Ravenel thought in rather unequal grounds for a fight and sprang out of the window; followed by Maj. Raser, through the back door, who pursued him through the bushes at the back of the house, chopping at him with his sword, but Ravenel having the advantage of light weight, and knowing the ground, eluded his pursuer and escaped. He never was reconciled afterwards, and at meeting Major Fraser on the streets of Charleston, enjoying like rights and privileges of citizenship with him, who had fought for the country. This feeling prevailed, and certainly very naturally, with many of our Revolutionary soldiers.

Daniel Ravenel (gen. 5) planted rice at Wantoot at the time the Santee Canal Company was digging the canal. Col. Christian Senf, engineer and Superintendent of the Canal, was inclined to be a bit arbitrary where his authority allowed him, and on this one occasion sent a message to Mr. Ravenel that on a day in July he would

be at Wantoot to cut his rice field bank, and take down his mill, as the Santee canal would take his private canal. Mr. Ravenel sent his answer that he, Col. Senf, would do so at his peril, and that he would be there that day prepared to protect his property and himself.

Ravenel went to his mill that day, armed, but Col. Senf thought (wisely!) it prudent to defer the work and reported so to the Canal Company. In return, the Company directed him to leave the bank and mill until the crop was harvested. They then took the canal, and the Santee Canal was placed right where Mr. Ravenel's private canal was.

This Ravenel family lived at Wantoot in the Winter, and in Charlestown in the summer. This was a delightful resort to them . . . until the death of Mrs. Ravenel. Daniel and Catherine had eight children: Daniel (gen.6), James, John, Henry, Edmund, Mary, Eliza, and William.



Wantoot on a portion of Gaillard's Plantation Map

Resources: *Ravenel Records*, by Henry Edmund Ravenel; *Transactions of the Huguenot Society of South Carolina*; and files and photos in the library of Keith Gourdin.