November 1, 2026

Ownership of Daufuskie Land Prior to the Civil War - Part 1

In October, we took a break from following the land ownership trail on Daufuskie to present the story of the North-South Road and the apparent inter-neighbor conflict that surrounded its use (and we have an update on the location to be posted soon!). This month we return to following the formation and ownership of the plantation lands on Daufuskie to the eve of the Civil War, which brings us full circle to our March posting on post-Civil War land ownership.

Records for this period are scarce due, in part, to the loss of state and county records during the Civil War. We have mentioned before that Beaufort County is considered a "burned" county from a genealogical research perspective. So, we'll have to work with what we have and make a few assumptions or guesses along the way.

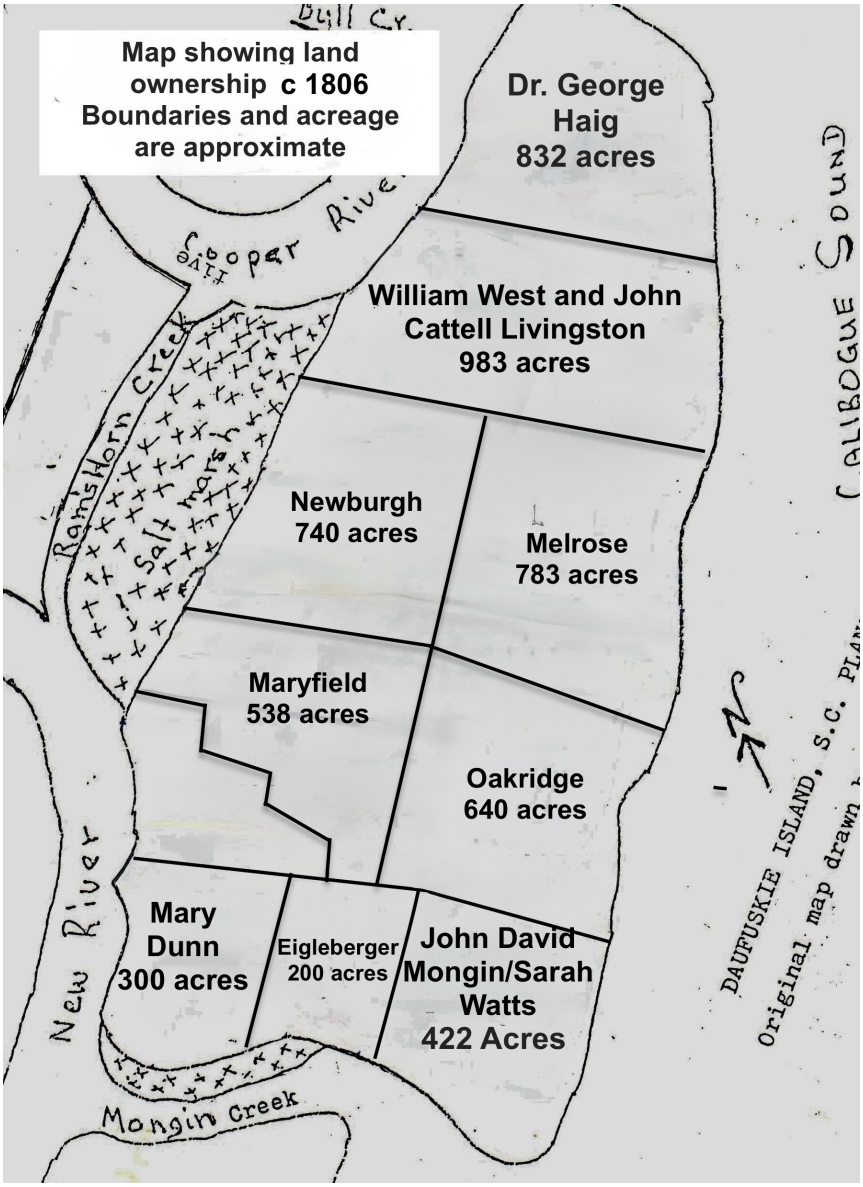
We also have to deal with the fact that there are 11 plantations (Mary Dunn, Eigleberger, Bloody Point, Benjie's Point, Maryfield, Oak Ridge, Salt Pond/Melrose, Newburg (Webb Tract), Cooper River, Freeport and Haig's Point) each with its own history, which will make the total story longer than we can cover in one posting, and certainly more than anyone wants to read in one sitting.

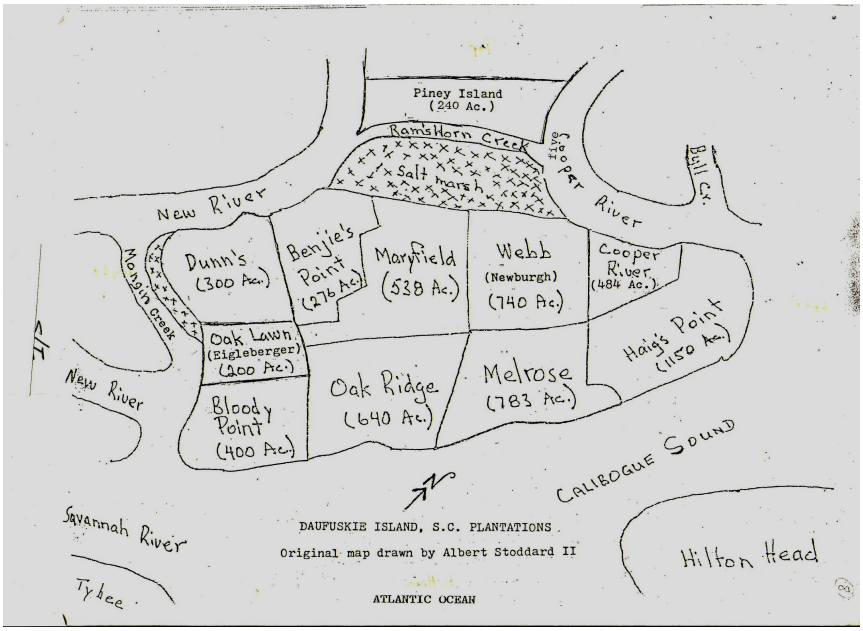
So, we are going to divide the full story into smaller bites over the next few months:

Part 1 - Mary Dunn, Eigleberger and Bloody Point
Part 2 - Benjie's Point, Maryfield, Oak Ridge, Newburg/Webb and Melrose
Part 3 - Haig Point, Cooper River and Freeport

As a refresher, a map of the approximate plantation boundaries in 1806/07 is provided below. (Note: the blank land area between Mary Dunn and Maryfield will become Benjie's Point later.) We are not going to deal with what is considered the

12th plantation, Piney Island, which is not part of contiguous Daufuskie Island. See the map done by Albert Stoddard included in our March posting, also included below.





As you will gather from the stories, these groupings are more than just geographic proximity. They share a certain amount of common history as well.

Part 1 - Mary Dunn, Eigleberger and Bloody Point

As a quick reminder, the Mary Dunn and Eigleberger plantations were part of the 500-acre Martinangele property originally owned and settled by Mary Martinangele (widow of Phillip Martinangele the Italian nobleman), and her 8 children. Mary had divided the property into 5 100-acre properties before her death and left them to her 5 surviving children, Simeon, Abraham, Isaac, Mary and Margaret. Margaret bought sister Mary's 100 acres. Through a series of deaths and transaction that we will spare you here, Isaac Martinagele's daughter, also named Mary, acquired his 100 acres as well as the lands that had belonged to Simeon and Abraham, forming a 300-acre plantation.

Mary (daughter of Isaac Martinangele), married Francis Dunn in 1807, and her 300 acres became known as Mary Dunn. The Mary Dunn cemetery is a remnant of that plantation that remains on Daufuskie today.

The 300-acre Mary Dunn property remained in the family's possession until the Civil War, when it was confiscated by Union troops. She redeemed the plantation

after the War, sometime around 1867.

Margaret Martinangele (Mary's aunt) had married William Edwards Mongin in 1783. He died in 1799. They had nine children together. You may remember from a previous post that they took in Sarah Watts, daughter of their next door neighbor, Robert Watts of Bloody Point.

Margaret died in 1801, and somewhere between 1801 and 1808, her heirs sold the 200-acre property to Christian Eigleberger. Eigleberger appears to be referenced in the approval documents of the North-South Road in 1805, so the sale was probably prior to 1808.

Christian Eigleberger died in 1831, and the Eigelberger property was offered at public auction and sold to John David Mongin for $2,000. It continued to be known as the Eigleberger plantation.

John David Mongin died in 1833, leaving the property to his granddaughter Mary Lavinia Mongin Stoddard, who possessed the property until her death in 1865.

As we have discussed in a previous post, the Mary Dunn property, as well as the Eigleberger property, were confiscated during the Civil War. John Stoddard petitioned for the return of the Eigleberger lands as executor of the Mongin estate. Mary Dunn redeemed her 300-acre property after the War.

Bloody Point in the early 1800's was the property of John David Mongin by way of his marriage to Sarah Watts in 1790. She, as mentioned above, was the daughter of Robert Watts the shipbuilder who died in 1775. As a minor when her father died, Sarah had become the ward of neighbors William Edwards Mongin (uncle of John David) and Margaret Martinangele (owners of the 200 acres later sold to Christian Eigleberger). It was when John David Mongin came to visit his uncle William Edwards on Daufuskie that he had met Sarah.

As we covered in a previous post, the Watts Bloody Point property had been confiscated during the Revolutionary War. This "confiscation" may have been a

result of the same action that led to the tarring and feathering of Robert's cousin Charles Watts for refusing to sign an oath of loyalty to the revolutionary cause. Regardless of how the confiscation occurred ownership returned to Sarah Watts after the War.

Srarh Watts died in 1816 and left occupancy of Bloody Point to the only child from her marriage to John David Mongin, David John Mongin. David John married Sarah Irwin and they had six children, only two surviving to adulthood. One of the survivors was Mary Lavinia Mongin, whom we noted above as inheriting the Eigleberger tract from her grandfather, John David Mongin, who had purchased the property at public auction.

David John apparently lived a rather profligate life, resulting from a pampered and privileged childhood. He died in 1823 at the age of 32, a victim of alcohol abuse. His widow Sarah remarried to the Rev. Herman M. Blodgett in 1825. Sarah Irwin Mongin Blodgett now also owns Haig's Point and Freeport Plantations which had belonged to her husband David John Mongin (we'll cover that in a later post.) After marrying, she and the Reverend Blodgett take up residence at Haig's Point.

With the Blodgett's move to Haig's Point in 1825, the Bloody Point property was in the sole possession of John David Mongin, who died in 1833. Sarah Irwin-Mongin-Blodgett also died in 1833. Her children by David John Mongin, Mary Lavinia and William Henry were now the heirs to their mother's and grandfather's estates. William Henry inherited Bloody Point. He married in 1851, but there were no children and upon his death he left Bloody Point to Mary Lavinia's youngest son, Henry Mongin Stoddard, with the provision that his wife, Isabella, could live at Bloody Point for as long as she desired. She apparently abandoned the property with the arrival of Union troops in 1861.

We understand this is a bit dry, somewhat like the biblical "begats", but to summarize, while we only covered here the southern end of the island, by the outbreak of the Civil War we can see that the Mongin/Stoddard family owns Eigleberger (Mary Lavinia Mongin Stoddard via John David Mongin) and Bloody Point (Henry Mongin Stoddard via William Henry Mongin). Mary Dunn, the last in

the Martinangele line to have property on Daufuskie, maintains ownership of 300 acres from the original Martinangele plantation.
Next month we will cover the history of the central part of the island, which includes Maryfield, Oak Ridge, Benjie's Point, Newburg/Webb and Melrose.

If you have enjoyed these stories and learning about Daufuskie, please consider joining the Daufuskie Island Historical Foundation, or donating to our efforts. You can join or donate online at:
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