

December 16, 2025

Mongin/Stoddard Families

Picking up where we left off yesterday, with David John Mongin II and Sarah Irwin (Remember that David John II was the only child of John David "Money" Mongin and Sarah Watts), making Oakley Hall at Bloody Point their permanent residence. John David "Money" Mongin had purchased Melrose in 1818 (correction from yesterday's post which mistakenly said 1828) and lived there until his death in 1833.

Mary Lavinia Mongin was born to David John II and Sarah in 1819. Her twin sister, Sarah, died in 1822 and was buried on Daufuskie with her brothers Edmund and David John, and sister, Jane J. (The bodies of all four children were later moved to Bonaventure cemetery in Savannah.)

Mary Lavinia was living in France when she met John Stoddard and they were married in 1836. It is not known whether she was in France for schooling, or staying with relatives (remember that the Mongins had fled France during Huguenot persecution.) She had inherited a vast fortune from her grandfather in 1833 (her father had died in 1825). Feeling it would be prudent to return to manage her vast estate after their marriage, John moved the family back to Savannah in 1837. (Daufuskie was considered a summer or weekend home.) Albert Henry Stoddard I was born February 1838.

Mary Lavinia died in 1865, and John, being a pious member of the Church of Christ, divided her estate among her children, keeping nothing for himself. He passed away in 1879. Melrose was passed to Albert Henry Stoddard I. In 1865, Albert Henry I married Elizabeth Hamilton, and they had only one surviving child, Albert Henry Stoddard II, born September 1872. Elizabeth died April, 1873 leaving her husband with a 7 month old child. He raised the child alone on Daufuskie until remarrying in 1880. It is Albert Henry II who grew up at Melrose and made the Gullah and history recordings for the Library of Congress in the 1940's. The Museum has copies of these recordings.

Albert Henry II (nicknamed Bertie) met Evelyn Byrd Pollard at the University of Virginia (where he had been accepted despite no formal education except being taught by his father) and they were married in 1909.

The Melrose mansion burned in 1912, and the Stoddards continued to reside on Daufuskie until 1918, when they left for good, leaving no Stoddards on Daufuskie for the first time since 1837. Albert Henry Stoddard III was born in 1920. He and

his brother Dan sold the Melrose property in 1971 for \$950 an acre to Bluffton Timber and Land Company.

