

December 14, 2025

Martinangele Family

I know I am not the first to think this, but when it comes to history, there are things we know, things we think we know, and then things that actually happened.

In today's post for the Daufuskie Island Museum advent calendar, we'll cover a bit about the period between the first English settlers and the period leading up to the Civil War, focusing on the Mongin and de Martinangelo families.

The first English to arrive on Daufuskie appear to be traders, establishing a relationship with local Indian tribes. As early as 1706, a trader named Samuel Hilden acquired land on Daufuskie. The first known warrant was for 500 acres on "Dawffuss Tee Island", issued to Thomas Cowte.

in this early period, until about 1730, there does not appear to be much settlement on Daufuskie. There has been a commonly repeated piece of history stating that King George II issued a land grant to David and Francis Mongin for Daufuskie Island. In the words of historian Billie Bird, this "has not proven to be accurate."

The photo provided below shows that the grant was for land in Purrysburgh, a settlement in Granville(Beaufort) County (near Hardeeville). The settlement was established by Jean-Pierre Purry, who brought Swiss and German Protestants to the area. The town no longer exists.

Prince Filippo de Martinangelo of Italy was a converted Protestant escaping the Inquisition. He escaped to America (circa 1740) and anglicized his name to Phillip Martinangele. He married Mary Foster in 1743 and was reputed to have lived on Daufuskie, although there do not appear to be any records supporting it. Phillip died in 1761. His widow Mary bought 500 acres of land on Daufuskie Island. The land was not surveyed until 1785, and Mary had the land divided into 5-100 acre plats for her children. (A photo of the plot plan from 1785 is shown below.) One of the children, Mary, is reported to have sold her land to Margaret, and upon Margaret's death, some time after 1808, her 200 acres was sold to Christian Egleberger, becoming the Egleberger plantation.

Per Billie Burn, in *An Island Named Daufuskie*, Phillip and Mary had eight children, and "Little is known concerning some of the children, but any history is noteworthy, because the Martinangeles were one of the first permanent families

