

Early American History; Beaufort's National Shrines

By N. L. Willet.
Beaufort Gazette.

Around Port Royal, S. C., centers more early American history than obtains in any other section of the United States. The great powers of France, Spain, and England were from time to time, something over two hundred years, contending between themselves for this amazingly fair land. Those were days full of blood and bitterness. Spain, noted at that time above all other nations for her cruelties, did some of her most atrocious work on what is known as St. Helena Island and if the three or four old forts now in ruins and situate in the section of Port Royal, S. C., and all evidences of these ancient times, were only in Massachusetts every one of them would be famous through wide publicity and every one would be as much or more of a national shrine than those shrines visited so largely each year at Concord, Lexington and Plymouth. As a fact, our national historians practically make no mention and these old landings and these old wars down in Beaufort land.

A Perspective.

To get at a true perspective of these old historic days at Port Royal let me cite the following. In 1607 the English effected a settlement in Virginia; in 1608 the French settled in Canada; in 1655 the Spaniards laid a foundation in St. Augustine, Fla.; in 1620 the English landed in Plymouth. Now as important chronologically as were these above landings there were three landings in the Port Royal section that antedated all of the above. In 1520 a Spanish expedition—that of Velasquez de Ayllon—landed on St. Helena island and named it and claimed it for Spain. These Spanish were the first white men to land on these Atlantic shores and it all happened some fifty years before the French put in there. In 1625 another Spanish expedition of six hundred men and following after this landing in 1520, also landed on St. Helena Island. The Spanish did not colonize on St. Helena. They acted simply as slave drivers, attempting to carry back American Indians to Spain—the Indians however, dying of homesickness in transit. But since they made the first landings Spain claimed this section as her own and for two hundred years bloody wars were fought over these lands.

These Spanish reports about St. Helena reached France and in 1562 a French Huguenot protestant party sailed from France in two ships. Jean Ribault being in command. It was so notable a body of nobles and gentlemen a French historian said of them, "They had the means to achieve some notable thing and worthy of eternal memory." On May 27, 1562, we find Ribault anchored in ten fathoms of water off what is known today as Parris Island, just a few miles from Port Royal.

What Ribault Saw.

Let me quote here a charming passage from William J. Rivers's "Early History of South Carolina," a book printed in 1856.

"Here on the 27 day of May, 1562, he cast anchor in a depth of ten fathoms, at the opening of a spacious bay, which from cape to cape, was three leagues wide, and formed the entrance to a noble river. The name of Port Royal was given to this river, on account of its size and beautiful scenery around it. The harbor he esteemed one of the best and fairest in the world; and it was said that the largest ships of France, 'yea, the argosies of Venice' could enter in there.

"Having moored his vessels, Ribault with his soldiers went on shore and was equally delighted with the state palms, the wide-spreading live-oak trees and fragrant shrubs. While they walked through the forests flocks of wild turkey flew above their heads, and around they beheld deer, stags and imagined that they heard the voices of bears and leopards and of divers other sorts of beasts unknown. On returning to the ships they cast their nets in the bay and caught fishes in numbers so wonderful, that two draughts of the net supplied enough for a day's food for the crews of both ships."

Ribault's Expedition Lands.

Ribault explored the surrounding country and discovered what is known as Broad river and Port Royal river and he thoroughly explored Parris Island, now used as a large marine station by the government. In the name of his king Ribault took possession of this remarkable country. He went back to France to report his great discovery, but first he built a fort on Parris Island on Pilot creek, a large creek leading into

Port Royal river. This fort was called Charles Fort. Remains of it are in evidence today. He left in this fort a garrison of 26 men. Not returning quickly on account of home wars, the garrison afterward built a ship with the aid of the Indians, using Spanish moss and rosin for caulking it. This was the first ship constructed in America and in this ship the garrison sailed to Europe. It is doubtful whether any spot in America carries as much historic interest as does this old Charles Fort, for this fort marks the first attempt to plant a colony on American shores. It was also the first place on which the Huguenots landed and it was also the first place in America to build an ocean-sailing ship, and yet this spot has been ignored by the historians and is not by any means nationally known. It behooves the state of South Carolina and also our national government to set up certain memorials at this spot.

In 1565 another French ship landed at Port Royal. Its mission largely was to thank Chief Audusta for his kindness to the garrison on Parris Island in 1562.

The Indians.

Most of the early landings in America were handicapped by wars with Indians. Wars at Port Royal, however, were all between white men of three nations, each nation claiming the soil. Than Port Royal no section of the United States probably was more thickly populated with Indians. These were the names of some of the chiefs: Audusta, Touppa, Mayou and Stalame, all in the immediate section of Port Royal and Ovade and his brother, Conexis, powerful chiefs over on the Savannah river. All of these above chiefs lived in what is now Beaufort county. This heavy Indian population probably was because of the sensational amount of game on land and fish and oysters in these great salt water streams that traverse Beaufort county. In 1562 we find all of these tribes of Indians cultivating fields of millet—probably a species of kaffir corn. All of these chiefs divided their corn and millet with the Charles Fort garrison as freely and as liberally and treated the garrison as if they, these Indians, had been civilized white Christian men. This civility of corn and this friendliness among these Indian chieftains to these newly arrived white men, the first that these Indians had ever seen, is a remarkable exhibit and which obtained nearly four hundred years ago on the part of peoples so often called in our histories "red skinned savages."

The Gazette's New Home.

When the Chamber of Commerce took over the subscription list and "good will" of The Gazette, it did so when The Gazette had no home; for the destruction of The Gazette plant by fire deprived it of a shelter. Hence, the publication since its reorganization has been from the very complete plant of the Bamberg Herald—a plant that has no superior in its line within the state of South Carolina, and from which the five issues of The Gazette have been printed. The typographical make-up of each issue that has been printed speak as to the artistic merit of the paper, and were we to always have The Gazette printed from out of town, we could make no better selection than let emanate from Messrs. Hitt & Bruce's plant.—Beaufort Gazette.

A Prohibition Prophecy.

25 years ago U. S. Senator Henry W. Blair said, "The saloon is a place where the people administer alcoholic poison to themselves, and in most of the states of the union it is done by authority of law; but whether done by its sanction or indifference of law the work is the same. The liquor seller and his victim meet harmoniously upon the floor of the saloon and at its bar consummate a business transaction which is suicide on the part of one and murder by the other. But for the saloon, the greatest evil of the liquor traffic would disappear from the land; and if this omnipresent plague spot were wiped out by concurring state and national law, it would destroy the capital and profits of the most lucrative as well as the most infamous pursuit known among men."

Funny how the farmer who has stuck to cotton with its unstable prices will swear off from other crops when prices fall below the cost of production.

"I am a dog that knows his bone, I covet and know it all alone—A time will come which is not yet When I'll bite him by whom I'm bit"

DEMOCRAT FOR LODGE'S SEAT.

Walker is Making of Hot for Henry Cabot in Massachusetts.

(Savoyard, in The State.)

If that young Joseph Henry Walker, who is contesting the Republican nomination for United States senator with Henry Cabot Lodge in the old commonwealth of Massachusetts, is a chip off the old block he is mighty apt to bring trouble to the aristocratic precincts of Nahant. Lodge is as patrician as "all the blood of all the Howards." Walker is as plebeian as Sicius Dentatus. The pride of the Siour de Coucy was humility in sack cloth compared with the Puritanic arrogance of the present chief of the house of Cabot and alien descendant of the Hartford convention. Montmorency unhorsed and disarmed, held captive in a peasant novel, would remain the spoiled favorite of fortune compared with the condition of Henry Cabot Lodge if defeated by the son of the grandest old shoemaker our glorious union ever saw.

In the fifty-second congress Massachusetts was represented by a son of the great "war governor," Andrew, by a great grandson of Roger Sherman, by George Fred Williams, by a son of the house of Coolidge, by Moses T. Stevens, by William Cogswell, by J. C. Crosby, by Henry Cabot Lodge. All these were indorsed by the sacred Codfish of Massachusetts's blue-blooded aristocracy. But the said consecrated old Cod must have thrown a series of agonizing fits when he discovered in the delegation one Elijah A. Morse, the gentleman who got rich selling a stove polish he named "Rising Sun." In the succeeding congress this enormous and tremendous statesman exhausted what Charles Sumner once called "ridiculousness" when he orated in denunciation of Grover Cleveland for a vote of a private pension bill, at the close of every sentence of that wonderful address, in mournful and tearful numbers, Mr. Moore uttered the refrain, "He never smiled again, Mr. Speaker, he never smiled again." Some wit said of the famous English actor Foote that on occasion he loved to look "like a basket of chips on the road to hell to be burned." Morse beat that, beat it out of sight, and even the sacred Codfish would have roared with riotous laughter had he been present.

But old Joseph Henry Walker was the kingpin of the Massachusetts delegation. He was a wonderful man. He was a big bundle of commonsense, of sterling honesty, of bad manners. He was as candid as Ben Tillman, and as fearless as Hector of Troy. He was the son of a shoemaker and himself a shoemaker. He was a fine business man and in honest walk accumulated a big fortune. He was a pillar of the Baptist church and made bounteous contributions to the great Baptist college, Brown university. He was an inveterate Republican, but mugwumped in 1884 and voted for Grover Cleveland, something Henry Cabot Lodge wanted to do, but could not muster the courage to do. He manufactured the "Walker boot," famous in its day, celebrated for the excellence of the material of which it was fashioned and notable for the superior workmanship of its manufacture. The Walker boot was synonym for honesty in business.

One day he gave me in private conversation a lecture on the secret of success in business that I wish I could repeat, for legitimate business in America would prosper by a practice of this old fellow's philosophy. In violent manners he assailed Geo. Fred Williams in a speech. He was called to order, his words were taken down and for a while it seemed that the house was going to be fool enough to expel him. The thing was referred to a committee and there it died, as I recollect. He was the under dog in the fight, and he got my sympathy. I went to him and related to him stories of fiercer assaults made in debate than he was guilty of and he asked me to find them for him, which I did. He was thus equipped for the battle, and was disappointed when it failed to come.

If Joseph Henry Walker had been gifted with clearness of statement and lucidity of expression he would have writ his name on the congressional roll. His defeat was partly due to the want of academic education; but mostly it was chargeable to the vigor and enthusiasm of his nature. He was much like that other old Yankee, Israel Putnam, just as fearless, just as audacious, just as impetuous.

He urged that congress expend the entire surplus in the treasury—over \$200,000,000—for public buildings and grounds. He and I had a cussing match over it and I charged that his desire to squander the surplus was to deprive the Democrats of a most convincing argument to support reform of the robber tariff. He retorted that I was a fool, also a reprobate, and

then he expounded his plan. He could be clear and lucid in private conversation. When speaking in public he strove to be eloquent and when eloquent he was not entirely lucid, though he was one of the two men who got the better of Bourke Cockran, the most eloquent man congress has known the past half of a century. The other man who trimmed the brilliant Irishman was Swager Sherley, of Kentucky.

It was when the financial "panic" of 1893 was at its worst that Walker proposed to spend the surplus. Here was his argument:

"This government is just beginning to grow. Half a century hence a presidential cabinet will consist of at least 20 secretaries of as many departments. Today land is cheaper than it will ever be again. The wage of labor is smaller than it will ever be again. The cost of building material is cheaper than it will ever be again. In this town we are paying out enormous sums for rent of offices to house the government contingents. The thing to do is to condemn and purchase every foot of ground south of Pennsylvania avenue between the Capitol and the white house and between the avenue and the Mall and erect grand and beautiful and capacious buildings to house the government. It will save many millions."

He was right, the hard-headed business man he was. The enterprise he favored and that some day will be adopted would cost five times as much now as it would have cost then.

Strength to young Joe Walker's arm. He is as courageous and as honest as his dad. I doubt if he has his dad's sagacity. Lodge would rather be beaten 20 times by a patrician than by this son of a plebeian, grand a man as that old plebeian certainly was. There are tidings that there will be a heap of unrest in Massachusetts.

DECLINES TO GIVE NAMES.

Senator Christensen Says It Would Mean Losing Sight of Issues.

Senator Christensen has written the following letter in reply to a request from W. M. Smoak, of Aiken, that the names of the state officers criticizing the work of the Griffenhagen experts:

Beaufort, August 2, 1922.

Mr. W. M. Smoak, Aiken, S. C.
Dear sir:—Your letter is at hand requesting the names of the two South Carolina officials criticised by the Griffenhagen reports, and who wrote to a Georgia official a condemnation of these reports. You ask that I reply to you through the newspapers that carried my recent letter so I am sending this to each paper to which my other was sent. In my letter to Governor Hardwick of July 21, to which you refer, I did not give names because this whole matter should be considered at this time by the voters without getting led astray into personalities.

To cure the conditions in the two offices mentioned, and in all the other offices needing reform, requires a legislature that will consider the facts and act. The last legislature made a beginning, a remarkable beginning, and if the people will elect one this summer to complete the job we will get further.

These two officials were not the only ones criticised by these reports. There is no need to pick them out. The need is to change our system of supervising the expenditures of our appropriations. The legislature, which corresponds to a board of directors of a corporation, needs to have some control of this expenditure, to see that the appropriation law it makes is carried out. The legislature needs to have more disinterested information about the necessities of our fifty-odd departments and institutions. All it hears now is ex parte statements of the heads of these departments and institutions, except when it has a special report made like the Griffenhagen report. But such a report as that is needed only once in a number of years. There ought to be some means by which the legislature can constantly keep in touch through its own officials, responsible to the legislature. You can not expect your appropriations to be made to the best advantage until this is done.

Naturally, some officials and departments do not like this proposition. They want to go ahead in the old way. What was not a serious matter when we were a backward state spending a million a year, is now a decidedly serious matter when we are a progressive state spending over five millions. The old ways do not work now. As it is now, the expenditures can run away with the legislature, and it needs to establish control. The need is for a new system to be established by the next legislature. It can save us money and get better service. The legislature is the important thing for the voters to think about this summer.

There are some sincere, well meaning men who believe that the people of this state can get along best by coddling the big money interests. These good men urge that if the legislature does what these great corporate interests want it to do then these corporations will be good to us and give us prosperity. This is all very well until the legislature is asked to grant special favors. When the income and water power tax bills come up, for instance, we hear from these corporations. If you add to the influences of these great interests with their powerful legislative lobbies, who do not want the burden of taxes shifted more on to them—if you add to their influence, the wide spread influences of certain departments and institutions of our state government who do not want appropriations cut, then indeed you have an influence at Columbia that it takes a strong legislature to handle.

If the voters will only see to it that the next senate and house are made up of men who have their hands free, who are not closely allied to the big corporations and who are not partisans and special pleaders for some particular department or institution of government then the next legislature will be in position to complete the work begun by the last legislature, and guarantee to us that tax money is wisely spent and more fairly raised.

Last spring I was urged to be a candidate for governor and advocate those issues on the stump. It is desirable to have these issues so presented in the state primary campaign, and it is being ably done; and it will be very helpful to have a governor favorable to common sense and practical economy. But the place these issues are to be settled in is the legislature. As a member of the senate finance committee, I can at this time use my experience in these matters to best advantage there. But no member or group of members can accomplish much unless the voters are awake, and lay aside personal feelings, and local politics, and elect broad minded, independent men to make at least a working majority.

You appear to be disturbed by the criticism of the special legislative committee that employed Griffenhagen associates. You refer to the incident that it was called by some a "smelling committee." Let it be remembered that some such nick name is applied to any committee that really gets facts, for facts are apt to be unpleasant in certain quarters. The Dispensary investigating committee of 1905 was called names and condemned by many, and one complaint was that it employed some outside expert help. But its work resulted in the overthrow of a corrupt system. The committee that investigated the state hospital for the insane in 1910 was roundly criticised and given unpleasant nicknames for the same reason. However, its report brought about the rebuilding and reorganizing of that sorely stricken institution that had been a blot on the good name of the state. So it has been with other similar committees. They work for the interests of the people and if they secure changes the ywill be criticised by many of those who are changed and by their friends; because many officials do not like their ways changed, they are like the rest of us.

A legislature that is not ready and able to make these investigations and then act vigorously cannot protect and advance this commonwealth.

The last general assembly got the facts and began to act on them. Will the next general assembly finish the job? Very respectfully,
NIELS CHRISTENSEN.

Editor's Invisible Place Among Men

By Henry Watterson.

"I AM NO MAN'S SLAVE. I AM A MAN AMONG MEN. THE ROOF ABOVE ME IS MY OWN. THIS THRESHOLD IS MINE; AND, HOLDING NO COMMISSION BUT THAT WHICH, SENT FROM HEAVEN, MAKES ME A SPOKESMAN FOR MY FELLOW-MEN, AND HAVING NO WEAPON BUT A HANDFUL OF TYPES, I AM ABLE TO DEFEY THE WORLD THAT PROPOSES, UNBIDDEN, TO CROSS IT, BECAUSE I AM SUPPORTED BY AN INVINCIBLE ARMY, READY TO RALLY AT A MOMENT'S NOTICE FOR THE DEFENSE OF ITSELF, WHICH IS MY DEFENSE."

A summer thought: it is all right to rest when the farm rush is over, but it is better to do something while resting. Take some vacation trips into other communities and see how they farm.

Isn't it strange how the political bee so often buzzes around the head of a humbug?

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