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The Rise and Expansion

Of Plantation Agriculture
In Coastal Georgia, 1752-1860

By Blanton E. Black

This is an interpretation of the rise and expansion of plantation agriculture in coastal Georgia. Persistent place names alone mark the sites of the once floundering plantations of the region. Fortunately, the historian's treaties, the planter's record, and the traveler's account are left to call up silently, yet forceably, reminiscences of their years of vitality.

Effect or Repeal of Peculiar Prohibitions

Basis for restrictions — According to the plans of the founders of Georgia, the plantation system of agriculture was to have no place in the economy of the colony.¹ Conceived and designed by philanthropy, the colony was established as a haven for the poor and unemployed of England and where they might profitably be engaged in the production of wine, silk and olive oil.² The Trustees were convinced that the manufacture of wine and silk would neither require extensive land holdings, nor cumbersome labor of slaves.³ Accordingly, the paternalistic government decreed that land tenures were non-inheritable and limited to fifty acres, and that slavery was prohibited in the colony.⁴

However, the colony did not flourish under the patronage of the Trustees.⁵ During the proprietary period, 1733-1752, it did not in any one year furnish a sufficient supply of subsistence for its own consumption.⁶ Manufacture of silk and wine failed in spite of bounties offered.⁷ Many settlers migrated into South Carolina;⁸ and on every hand were dissatisfaction and complaint.⁹

¹Ernest L. Bogart: *An Economic History of the United States* (4th ed.; New York: Longman's Green and Co., 1924), pp. 283-284: "By a plantation is meant a large agricultural unit in which the laboring force, generally of a large size and in bondage, is worked under supervision in the production of a staple commodity for sale."

²Colonial Records of Georgia, 111 (Atlanta: The Franklin Publishing Co., 1904), pp. 369-373 (Hereafter cited *Col. Rec.*).

³*Ibid.*, 1, pp. 507-509.

⁴*Ibid.*, 1, p. 22, 6. 45, p. 50; 111 p. 373.

⁵Charles G. Jones: *The History of Georgia*. 1 (New York, Houghton Mifflin and Co., 1883). pp. 302-303.

⁶Hugh McCall: *The History of Georgia*, I (Savannah: Seymour and Williams, 1811-16, p. 239.

⁷*Ibid.*

⁸*Col. Rec.*, XXII, p. 71; Jones: *History of Georgia*, I, pp. 308-309.

⁹*Ibid.*, V, p. 451; XXII, pp. 302-303.

If the climate, sandy soil, and malarial swamps of the coast were instrumental in forestalling the designs of the Trustees, no less so was the situation of Georgia—namely, its proximity to the plantations of South Carolina. There was a difference in prosperity between the two colonies which the Georgians felt keenly.¹⁰ They observed that the natural vegetation and physical character of the coast of Georgia were essentially the same as those of South Carolina. It was quite evident that indigo could be cultivated on the sandy uplands and Sea Islands with as much ease as in South Carolina, and that rice could be produced in the tidal swamps in equal abundance. What was needed for Georgia's prosperity was slave labor and free title to land.¹¹ Accordingly, the colonists repeatedly addressed memorials and petitions to the Trustees to repeal their restrictions.¹²

Finally, the Trustees, disappointed and disillusioned, resigned their charter to the king in June 1752. Whereupon, Georgia became a royal province, possessing no longer peculiar laws and restrictions which had caused it to be unique among the British American Colonies.¹³

Rise of Rice and Indigo as Money Crops—The introduction of rice and indigo into Georgia was merely a southward expansion of the plantations of South Carolina.¹⁴ Factors which attributed to this expansion were: (1) land was free and of virgin fertility, (2) immigrating planters brought into the colony slaves trained in the cultivation of rice and indigo; (3) there was a dependable and expanding European market for these plantation products.¹⁵

¹⁰*ibid.*, IV, p. 239.

¹¹McCall: *History of Georgia*, I, pp. 239-243.

¹²*Col. Rec.*, I, pp. 352; V, p. 75, p. 93, p. 95, p. 451.

¹³*Col. Rec.*, III, p. 124; McCall: *History of Georgia*, K, p. 247; David M. Potter: "The Rise of the Plantation System in Georgia," *The Georgia Historical Quarterly*, XVI (1932), pp. 114-135.

¹⁴Rice had been introduced in South Carolina in 1694. This had been accidentally obtained from a vessel from Madagascar, which put into the harbor of Charleston in distress. Some rough rice which was in the cook's bag was given to Thomas Smith, then governor of the colony, who on a visit to the East had observed the method of its cultivation (David Ramsay: *The History of South Carolina*, II (Charleston: D. Longworth, 1908), pp. 200-202). The cultivation of rice assumed commercial importance in South Carolina about 1725. Between 1725 and 1740 the industry increased 400 per cent (G. T. Surface: "Rice in the United States, *Bulletin of the American Geographical Society*, XLIII (1911), pp. 500-501).

¹⁵Alexander Hewatt: *History of South Carolina and Georgia* (London: A Donaldson, 1779), Historical Collections of South Carolina, I (New York, 181836, p. 322.

Soon after the first settlers came to Georgia, rice had been planted in small patches for domestic use.¹⁶ At first rice was grown in unirrigated land of stream valleys. It was later cultivated in inland valley bottoms where the fields were irrigated by water stored in ponds. By 1750 its cultivation had shifted to the tidal swamps¹⁷ where abundant yields were secured from the crop.¹⁸

Indigo had early been brought from India and introduced into the West Indies, where it was extensively cultivated by the French. The plant was introduced into South Carolina in 1742 by Mrs. Eliza Lucas Pinckney, an amateur botanist.¹⁹ In 1745 it was discovered that a variety of indigo, indigenous to South Carolina and Georgia, was capable of yielding greater quantities of dye than the West Indian variety.²⁰

In 1747 a considerable quantity of indigo was sent to England where the merchants trading with South Carolina received it with much enthusiasm.²¹ At this time the French West Indies maintained a monopoly of the industry, supplying all the markets of Europe. England annually purchased indigo from the French valued at 150,000 pounds sterling. In order to encourage the new industry, an act of Parliament, in 1748, placed a bounty of six pence per pound on all indigo produced

¹⁶George G. Smith: *The Story of Georgia and the Georgia People 1730 to 1860* (Macon, Georgia, 1900), p. 36.

¹⁷These swamps, bordering the lower courses of the rivers, although subject to tidal action, are of the common type of terrestrial swamp, where the vegetable matter, with a chance admixture of silt deposited during periods of flood, causes the soil to be exceptionally fertile (N. S. Shaler: "Sea Coast Swamps of the Eastern United States," U. S. Geological Survey: *Sixth Annual Report 1884-85*, pp. 359-361).

¹⁸J. D. B. DeBow (ed.): *The Industrial Resources of the Southern and Western States*, III (New Orleans: Office of DeBow's Review, 1852-53), p. 398. (Hereafter cited DeBow: *Indus. Res.*)

¹⁹Mrs. Pinckney was the daughter of George Lucas, who at that time was the governor of Antigua. In a letter addressed to her son in 1785, she described how her interest in botany had prompted her to plant some indigo seed her father had given her. Her first attempt was made in March 1741 or 1742; however, the plants were destroyed by frost. A second attempt made in April also proved unsuccessful, the plants being destroyed by worms. The experiment repeated a third time was successful. General Lucas, who was interested in the results of these experiments, sent a man named Cromwell to instruct his daughter in the process of extracting the dye from the plant. However, Cromwell was of the opinion that introduction of the indigo industry into South Carolina would injure that of his own community. He attempted to make a great secret and mystery of the process. In spite of this, Mrs. Lucas watched him closely and was able to gain knowledge of the process. This information was disseminated to neighbors. By 1744 the indigo seed had been distributed to a great number of people. The Carolina planters gained additional information from French prisoners of the manner in which indigo was manufactured in the West Indies. (U. B. Phillips (ed.): *Plantation and Frontier*, I. "Documentary History of American Industrial Society"; (Cleveland: Arthur H. Clark Co., 1910). pp. 265-266.

²⁰Ibid.

²¹Hewatt: *History of Georgia*, p. 286.

in the American colonies, and imported directly into England from the place of its growth.²²

This act was effective in extending the cultivation of indigo into Georgia. Handsome profits were realized. Many planters were able to double their capital every three or four years from the sale of this commodity. After a few years the quality of indigo produced in Georgia and South Carolina was considered as fine as that produced by the French. True to expectations, the planters were able to meet the demands of the mother country for the commodity, and even under-sell the French at several European ports.²³

During the colonial period, the cultivation of indigo was closely associated with the cultivation of rice.²⁴ Both crops could be efficiently produced on the same plantation, for the work seasons of the two crops did not interfere with each other; "indigo requiring no winter work, the slaves may assist in manufacturing rice . . ." ²⁵

Indigo was cultivated both on the heavy soil of the river valleys, and the light sandy soil of the upland.²⁶ The general practice, however, was to cultivate a tract in the sandy upland for two or three years, and then abandon this for another tract.²⁷

The Sea Islands were quite favorable for the production of indigo²⁸ especially in the areas that were covered by oak and hickory trees.²⁹ These islands generally were owned by wealthy rice planters who established upon them large plantations producing indigo, corn, and potatoes.³⁰

The Midway Settlement—Among the first of those who were attracted to Georgia after the surrender of the charter of the Trustees, was a band of New England Puritans.³¹ These people, prompted by the desire to spread religion in the Southern colonies,³² had immigrated from Dorchester, Massachusetts to South Carolina in 1695³³ There they became acquainted with rice cultivation and established themselves as planters.³⁴

²²Ibid. ²³Ibid. ²⁴U. B. Phillips: *American Negro Slavery* (New York: D. Appleton and Co., 1918), p. 92. ²⁵*American Husbandry*, I (London: J. Bew, 1775), p. 367. ²⁶John F. D. Smyth: *Tour in the United States* (London: G. Robinson, 1784), pp. 73-74.

²⁷Lord Adam Gordon: "Journal 1764," *Travels in the American Colonies* (New York: The MacMillan Co., 1916), p. 400; "The light land very near the shore will fetch very surprising crops of Indigo, for two or three years, but it must then be thrown out, and left to time to recover its fertility." ²⁸*American Husbandry* I. p. 367, p. 403. ²⁹Hewatt: *History of Georgia*, p. 389. ³⁰William Bartram: *Travels* (New York: Macy Masius, 1928), p. 33. Bartram's observations were made in 1775. ³¹Jones: *History of Georgia*, I, p. 492. ³²Ibid. ³³Lucian L. Knight: *Georgia's Landmarks and Memorials*, I, p. 726. (Hereafter cited Knight: *Landmarks*.) ³⁴George G. Smith: *The Story of Georgia and the Georgia People 1732 to 1860* (Macon, Georgia: G. G. Smith, 1900), p. 147.

However, in 1751, they migrated to the Georgia Midway District, so called because of its halfway location between Savannah and Darien, in what is now the swamp region of Liberty county.³⁵

Growth in Size of Holdings—As early as 1740 there were “several considerable plantations” in Georgia despite the ruling of the trustees whereby holdings were limited to fifty acres.³⁶ These plantations were on the Savannah river near the town of Savannah, and on the coast as far south as the Ogeechee River.³⁷ These tracts of land had been leased³⁸ to settlers for a twenty-one year period. By 1745, however, outright grants of 500-acre tracts were made by the local administrators, “not doubting of the Trustees approbation of the same.”³⁹

In 1752, the restrictions of the Trustees were formally repealed. Thereupon, grants of land were made more freely than before. Petitions for land were made on the basis of “family rights” which was the privilege of claiming land for each member of the planter’s family—slaves being included as members of the family.⁴⁰ Five hundred acre tracts of land were readily granted to applicants or to the son or brother of an applicant—the sole requirement being that the petition be placed before the colonial authorities. Petitions of young men for one hundred acre tracts of land were willingly granted upon the basis that they were of age.⁴¹

Increase of Slave Population—The restrictions prohibiting slavery in the colony were repealed in 1749.⁴² Before this time, however, the colonists had disregarded this injunction of the Trustees, for they were convinced that only by the use of African labor could they engage in the profitable cultivation of rice and indigo.⁴³ Slaves had been hired from South Carolina planters for a period of a hundred years, or during life; the full value of the slaves being paid in advance.⁴⁴ Contracts stipulated that if prohibitive regulations were enforced, the owner of the slave could come and legally reclaim his prop-

³⁵“Letters of James Habersham to Secretary of Trustees of Georgia,” George White (ed.); *Historical Collection of Georgia* (3d ed.; New York: Putney and Russell, 1855), p. 516.

³⁶“An Impartial Inquiry Into the State and Utility of Georgia,” *Georgia Historical Collections*, I, p. 169. ³⁷*Ibid.*, p. 178. ³⁸“A State of the Province of Georgia,” *Georgia Historical Collections*, II, p. 14: “The terms they propose is the lease to be for twenty-one years renewable every seven years, upon paying one year’s purchase of the improved value; the first seven years to be free, and no fine paid for the first renewal.” ³⁹*Col. Rec.*, VI, pp. 212-219, p. 369.

⁴⁰*Col. Rec.*, VII, p. 127, p. 151, p. 170; VIII, pp. 439ff; IX, pp. 158ff; X, pp. 36ff; XI, pp. 5ff. ⁴¹*Col. Rec.*, VI, p. 378, p. 428, pp. 458-460.

⁴²*Col. Rec.*, I, pp. 56-62. ⁴³McCall: *History of Georgia*, I, p. 201. ⁴⁴Jones: *History of Georgia*, I, p. 420.

erty.⁴⁵ The Georgia planters had been successful in this action, for the colonial magistrates, and a majority of the colonists were in favor of the introduction of slavery.⁴⁶

The Trustees considered that a relatively weak frontier colony, such as Georgia, should not have a large slave population. Accordingly, the regulation was made that for every four slaves introduced into the colony, there was to be one indentured white servant.⁴⁷ This regulation was not complied with for the planters did not find indentured servants satisfactory.⁴⁸ When the charter of the Trustees was surrendered in 1752, there were about 2,300 white people in the colony and 1,000 slaves.⁴⁹

The slave population increased rapidly. Especially did the slaves become numerous on the Sea Islands and on the rice plantations.⁵⁰ Many planters from the older colonies brought their entire retinue of slaves with them to Georgia.⁵¹ Slaves were purchased from traders at Savannah, oftentimes in shipload lots,⁵² from the West Indies⁵³, Gambia,⁵⁴ and the Grain Coast.⁵⁵ In 1769 a lazaretto was constructed on Tybee Island where shipments of newly imported slaves were quarantined.⁵⁶

The slave population of Georgia increased from 1000 in 1752⁵⁷ to 3400 in 1760.⁵⁸ Six years later, 1766, the number had increased to 7800.⁵⁹ The year of the first census there were 3,000 slaves in Georgia.⁶⁰ There is little doubt that at this time, prior to the invention of the cotton gin and the subsequent wide-scale production of upland cotton, a great majority of these slaves were laborers on the coastal plantations.

⁴⁵Ibid.; McCall: *History of Georgia*, I, p. 206. ⁴⁶In 1748 Colonel Alexander Heron, who assumed the government of the southern part of the colony, had taken possession of a 2,000 acre tract of land near St. Catherine's Sound, and had introduced there several slaves (*Col. Rec.*, VI p. 207). Purchases of slaves from African traders were made openly at Savannah in 1747 (McCall: *History of Georgia*, I, p. 206). ⁴⁷Jones: *History of Georgia*, I, p. 423.

⁴⁸McCall: *History of Georgia*; I, p. 256. *Georgia Gazette*, November 5, 1766.

⁴⁹Seymour Dunbar: *A History of Travel in America*, I, (Indianapolis: The Bobbs-Merrill Co., 1915), p. 96. ⁵⁰McCall: *History of Georgia*, I, p. 247. ⁵¹*Col. Rec.*, VII, p. 859; IX, p. 299; (February 1765) "Read a petition of John Sealy setting forth that he intended to remove from the Province of South Carolina into this Province in the Spring . . . that he would bring with him at least fifteen Negroes . . ." ⁵²*Georgia Gazette* March 28, 1770: FOR SALE On Thursday, the 29th of March, 1770. A CARGO consisting of about 170 young and healthy NEW NEGROES, CHIEFLY MEN. All of whom have had the Smallpox, Just arrived, after a short passage of five weeks, in the snow Britannia. Capt. Stephen Dean, from Gambia . . . ⁵³Ibid., January 10, 1770. ⁵⁴Ibid., August 15, 1765. ⁵⁵Ibid., May 3, 1769. ⁵⁶Jones: *History of Georgia*, II, p. 23, *Georgia Gazette*, March 6 1767; Ibid. May 3, 1769.

⁵⁷Dunbar: *History of Travel*, I, p. 96. ⁵⁸Jones: *History of Georgia*, II, p. 73.

⁵⁹Ibid. ⁶⁰U. S. Bureau of Census: *Negro Population in the United States 1790-1915* (Washington: Government Printing Office, 1918), p. 45.

Effect of Peace of Paris

Georgia no longer a frontier colony—The peace of Paris, concluded February 10, 1763, was of far reaching consequence to the prosperity of Georgia.⁶¹ The withdrawal of the Spanish from St. Augustine and Pensacola, and of the French from Alabama Fort and Mobile; relieved the colony of one of its most grievous troubles.⁶²

Although the two new English colonies of East and West Florida were of themselves little better than empty wastes, their possession by England now meant: (1) that Spain no longer held St. Augustine which had long been a strong-hold from which armed forces had been sent to harass Georgia, (2) the colony was rid of troublesome neighbors who frequently had instigated Indian insurrections, (3) St. Augustine was no longer an asylum for fugitive slaves, (4) no longer was coastal Georgia an avenue for invasion.⁶³ The plantations entered upon a new era of prosperity. "The effect was most salutary; inhabitants flocked in, lands were taken up and cleared, new settlements projected, trade was enlarged, wealth increased, and a day bright with many promises of future aggrandizement dawned upon the long harassed and afflicted colony."⁶⁴

A circumstance which contributed much to the spread and growth of plantations was the steady and dependable market for rice and indigo; and the peculiar circumstance wherein the price of products rose as production increased.⁶⁵ By far, the predominant commercial activity of the colony was the production of these two crops.⁶⁶ Rice and indigo served in lieu of currency. Planters made direct changes of their crops for slaves, dry goods, and general imported provisions.⁶⁷

Decline of indigo—At the close of the Revolutionary War the planters no longer had a sure and ready sale for their rice, and indigo had ceased to be a profitable crop for England no

⁶¹Stevens: *History of Georgia*, II, pp. 25-26. ⁶²By the sixth article of the Treaty, France relinquished all claim to territory east of the Mississippi; and by the twentieth article Spain ceded to England the territories of East and West Florida (Hewatt: *History of Georgia*, p. 480).

⁶³Ibid., p. 482. Stevens: *History of Georgia*, II, p. 26, p. 33. ⁶⁴Ibid., p. 33. Percy S. Flippen: "Royal Government in Georgia 1752-1776", *Georgia Historical Quarterly*, X, (1926), p. 15. ⁶⁵Hewatt: *History of Georgia*, p. 484. ⁶⁶The value of all exports of the colony between 1767 and 1769 averaged Lb. 74200 annually. The value of exports of rice was Lb. 36,000 and indigo Lb. 700, thus accounting for more than half the value of all exports (A Cluny: *The American Traveller*, pp. 64-65). ⁶⁷*Georgia Gazette* September 20, 1769. JUST IMPORTED, in the ship Polly and Betsy, Capt. Brewton, from London and to be sold . . . A QUANTITY of exceeding good White and Coloured Plains, Duffils, etc. . . . About 500 Pair of Uegro Shoes, at 3s. per pair, for Cash or Rice only.

longer had interest in buying from her revolted colonies. The loss of indigo as a staple crop was permanent. During the war England had been supplied with this commodity by large shipments from the East Indies where it was found that indigo could be produced more cheaply than in America.⁶⁸ The planters persisted in cultivating indigo after the close of the war although there was a very slight margin of profit.⁶⁹ In the closing years of the eighteenth century, its cultivation gradually declined.⁷⁰

After the restoration of peace, it was still continued, but the merchant, as well as planter, having suffered by remitting from the immense quantities introduced from India (for immediately after the British government acknowledged our independence, knowing that indigo was an article and its immense value could be comprised in a small bulk, and that it suited well the East India Trade) gave the cultivation of it in that quarter every encouragement, the East India Company went so far as to employ a gentleman by the name of Gray, who owned before the War a plantation on Skidaway . . . the views of those who sent him had the desired effect. It gave them at once a supply of that article from their own territory, and completely foiled the making of indigo in the United States.⁷¹

Introduction of Sea Island Cotton—The beginning of the Sea Island cotton industry in Georgia was the first event of importance in the development of cotton culture in the United States.⁷² Loyalists who had settled in the Bahamas at the close of the Revolutionary War sent the seed to friends in Georgia.⁷³

However, cotton had been cultivated for domestic purposes on the Georgia coast long before the Revolutionary War, the same kind of cotton as now cultivated on the Sea Island, called the black seed cotton, was, in the year 1767 planted as a crop by Mr. John Earle, on the Island of Skidaway. The plantation is now owned

⁶⁸Ramsey: *History of South Carolina*, II, p. 212. ⁶²Mathew B. Hammond: *The Cotton Industry* (New York: MacMillan Co., 1897), pp. 14-15. ⁷⁰Phillips (ed.): *Plantation and Frontier*, I, p. 85. ⁷¹This anonymous letter to the *Columbia Museum* was reprinted in the *Georgia Historical Quarterly*, I (1917), p. 41.

⁷²Hammond: *The Cotton Industry*, p. 18. ⁷³Letter to *Savannah Advertiser*, October 15, 1799, *Georgia Historical Quarterly*, I, p. 41.

and now under cotton by Col. Wyllly. The old inhabitants on the island always raised it to perfection, and there was hardly a family but what planted it for domestic use.⁷⁴

Bartram had observed cotton growing on the Sea Islands in 1773.

The soil of these islands appears to be particularly favorable to the culture of indigo and cotton . . . The cotton is planted only by the poorer class of people, just enough for their family consumption. Two species are planted, the annual and the West Indian. The bolls of the annual variety are large with strong long white fibres. The West Indian is a tall perennial plant . . .⁷⁵

The planters of the coast who were still engaged in the unprofitable cultivation of indigo welcomed this new cash crop.⁷⁶ English merchants and manufacturers paid highest prices for the Sea Island cotton.⁷⁷ By 1802 many rice fields had been transformed into cotton fields, for the profits of a good harvest were equivalent to two of rice.⁷⁸

After a few years rice regained primacy as the most profitable crop of the coastal plantations.⁷⁹ In spite of the high prices paid for Sea Island cotton, per acre yields were low. Planters soon discovered that the uncertainty and expense of cotton production absorbed too much of the gross return for the new crop to permanently displace rice as the more dependable crop.⁸⁰

In 1839 Fannie Kemble observed that the Sea Island cotton crop was by no means as paramount in value then as it had been formerly. The cotton produced on the St. Simon Island plantation which formerly had sold for a guinea a pound in Liverpool was then worth less than a shilling. Moreover, costs of production had mounted due primarily to the depleted fertility of the soil.⁸¹

⁷⁴*Ibid.* ⁷⁵Bartram: *Travels*, p. 73. ⁷⁶Turner: *Planter's Manuel*, p. 284. ⁷⁷Phillips (ed): *Plantation and Frontier*, I, p. 269. ⁷⁸F. A. Michaux: *Travels to the West of the Alleghany Mountains* (London: D. N. Shurry, 1805), p. 287. ⁷⁹Phillips: *American Negro Slavery*, p. 154. ⁸⁰Hammond: *The Planter's Manual*, p. 68. ⁸¹Frances A. Kemble: *Journal of a Residence on a Georgia Plantation in 1838-1839* (London: Longman, Green and Co., 1868), pp. 206-207.

THE LIFE OF THE PLANTERS

Many of the planters who owned several estates, dwelt in town houses in Savannah, Sunbury, or Darien,⁸² others lived during the winter among the live oaks⁸³ near the rice fields. However, in summer and early fall the planters forsook the rice fields in order to escape the malarial influences of the swamps and repaired either to the Northern States, the interior upland country, or the Sea Islands.⁸⁴ Rarely was there any white man, other than the overseer, upon a rice plantation during the warmer months of the year.⁸⁵

Although the estates were, in large measure, self-sufficient, they were little isolated from one another.⁸⁶ The series of rivers, sheltered inlets, bays, and lagoons, with which the coast of Georgia is intersected, afforded ample means both for transportation of crops and for communication between estates.⁸⁷

Although the region was sparsely occupied by whites, the planters engaged in frequent social recreation. They were famed for their hospitality. Their houses, generally on one

⁸²J. T. Trowbridge: *The South* (Hartford, Connecticut: L. Stebbins, 1866), p. 509; Jones: *History of Georgia*, II, p. 23; Smith: *Story of Georgia*, p. 214. ⁸³These oaks, which grew in a narrow belt of yellow sandy soil stretching from the Savannah to the St. Mary's, afforded an attractive and delightful setting for the plantation home; for they are by far the most striking feature of the vegetation of the coast of Georgia. On the ends of branches of the of these grow large tufts of mistletoe; while, invariably, the boughs of all exhibit streamers of gray, pendulous moss, often ten to fifteen feet long (*Georgia, Historical and Industrial*, p. 166).

⁸⁴Charles Lyell: *A Second Visit to the United States*, I, (New York: Harper and Brothers, 1849), p. 319.

⁸⁵Frederic L. Olmstead: *A Journey in the Seaboard Slave States*, II (New York: Dix and Edwards, 1856). At first the planters lived near the rice fields throughout the year. However, they were more susceptible to malaria than the recently imported Africans. They, therefore, began to resort to "pine land" villages which were within one or two hours riding distance from their plantations (Phillips: *American Negro Slavery*, p. 91). These summer retreats developed into the little towns of Jonesville, Dorchester, Flemington, Riceborough, Woodbine, etc. (see fig 2; Josephine D. Martin: *Georgia Historical Quarterly*, II, p. 328).

⁸⁶R. B. Flanders: *Plantation Slavery in Georgia* (Chapel Hill: *The University of North Carolina Press*, 1933), p. 48. "The majority of the plantations had their hogs, fowls, and perhaps goats; produce such as peas, potatoes, corn and rice made these establishments largely self-sustaining. Fish and wild game were abundant and served to relieve the monotony of the diet, while rice birds, which descended upon the fields when the grain was 'in the milk' furnished luscious morsels during their season in quantities sufficient to make the use of other meat unnecessary."

⁸⁷Morse: *The American Geographer*, p. 446; Slow, unhurried transportation of cargoes presented no problem. Rafts or barges could be floated many miles either up or down streams, without either sails or oars, by taking advantage of the strong ebb and flow of the tides at the proper time (Phillips: *American Negro Slavery*, p. 96).

story with wide roomy halls,⁸⁸ were always open to guests.⁸⁹ After a morning of leisure, the planters would meet at their club house to play at quoits and billiards or to arrange a deer hunt or fishing excursion.⁹⁰ Though pleasure loving, there were among these planters men of broad culture and refinement.⁹¹ Invariably, however, all were intent upon building up the fortunes of their families.⁹² In terms of this latter consideration, their worries should have been few for: (1) their's was a near monopoly in the production of rice and Sea Island cotton, (2) the constant demand for these staples caused them to have unbounded credit with their factors, (3) there was annually a great and sure increase in their slaves. Although the planters were Democrats in their political faith, in reality, they were feudal lords in feeling and manner.

⁸⁸Charles J. Latrobe: *The Rambler in North America*, II, (London: R. B. Seeley and W. Burnside, 1836), p. 12; Charles Mackay: *Life and Liberty in America*, II, (New York: Harper and Brothers, 1859), pp. 216-217: "From the deck we could look over a large expanse of country, studded with cotton fields, and with the white mansions of the planters . . . Many of the planters' houses which we passed were large and commodious, and surrounded by groves of oak, cedar, and magnolia, giving the place the leafy attractions of an English Midsummer all through the winter."

⁸⁹Knight: *Landmarks*, I, pp. 610-611. ⁹⁰Frances Butler Leigh: *Ten Years on a Georgia Plantation Since the War* (London: R. Bentley and Son, 1883), p. 275. ⁹¹Margaret H. Hall: *Letters of Mrs. Basis Hall 1827-1828* (New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons, 1931), p. 252. ⁹²Smith: *Story of Georgia*, p. 305.