

# *Our Grant Family History*



*by*

*Mark Grant*

*To have no story is, almost, to have no life. --Ronald A. Wells.*

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## Preface

The direct line of Grant descendants shall cover these nine generations:

<u>Birth</u>	<u>Grant</u>
<u>Year</u>	<u>Ancestor</u>
1720	Robert Grant
1762	Robert Grant
1809	Charles Grant
1838	Miller Bond Grant
1865	Benjamin S. Grant
1901	Bennie Ray Grant
1929	Robert Ray Grant
1957	Mark Ray Grant
2000	Ben Ray Grant



*Grant Castle*

## A history of the Highland clearances

Often as in the case of the Grant clan, a family castle existed and was the center of Clan life and home of their chief. After the Jacobite rebellion in 1745-46, the Clans of Scotland's highlands were disbanded. The clans had been ruled by chiefs who treated their subjects as family members; most of them were. As the 18th century progressed, many of the chiefs got a taste of the rich life of the lowlands and London. It was not enough to have the wealth of land and warriors. They now needed cash. The lairds searched for ways to make more profit. They "improved" their land by introducing large scale sheep farming. In the process, many of them brutally evicted people whose families had resided on the property for many generations. It is now known as the Highland Clearances. In the county of Sutherland, the daughter of the last Earl married an English nobleman, the Marquis of Stafford, owner of a very large estate in England. In the marriage, he obtained the largest estate in Scotland. In the first twenty years of the 19th century, his representatives or "factors" removed thousands of people from their ancestral homes. They burned the homes, furnishings and all. They then either shipped them off to America or Australia, or moved them to miserable dwellings along the shore. They were replaced by a few shepherds. In the first stages of forcible evictions, men were not driven from Scotland -- not right away. They moved to miserable little plots on the rocky coastlines to scrape a living from miserable small holdings and fishing - and quite often died. 1785 was the Official 'beginning' of the HIGHLAND CLEARANCES, which lasted until 1854 and beyond. From 1772-1791, nearly 7,000 Scots immigrated from Inverness and Ross alone. The numbers of evicted tenants that would be forced to immigrate later on, would be as high as 40,000, as in the Skye clearances.

## Chapter one - From Scotland to America

The Grant surname was first found in the Scottish highlands at Inverness shire where they were seated at Strathspey from very early times.

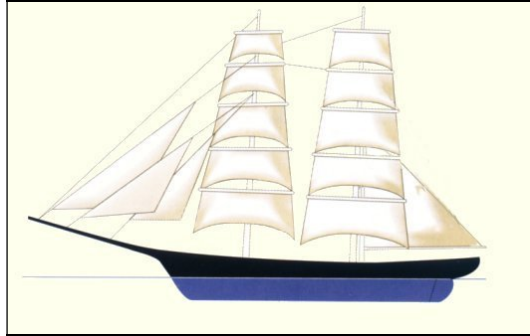
It was the year 1751 when Scottish merchant Robert Grant asked for the hand of Elizabeth Allan. He, a handsome 31 year old and she the pretty 21 year old daughter of Edinburgh Writer and Lord Justice of Scotland, Sir Hary Allan (a portrait of him in his robes of office was owned by descendant Harry Allan Grant who died in 1931). As was the law since 1200 AD, the couple made a Proclamation of Bannes. This announced to their church "The South Leith Parish" and local community "the county of Midlothian" of their intent to be married and was published for three successive Sundays in their church. It is made after the Second Lesson of the Morning Service. No impediments being found they married in July of that year.



Leith

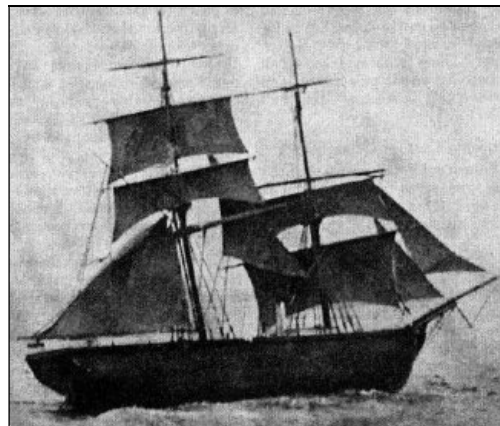
As a young man with a growing family, Robert lived near the shipping trade in the town of Leith (where he was born in 1720), which is the seaport for Edinburgh and not far from Dundee, the homeport of the Snow Mercury. This would be the ship to sail four of his sons to the new world. Robert started working for the owners of the Snow Mercury by arranging supplies for the ship and booking voyages for eager immigrants. In August 1756, the following ad appeared in the Edinburgh Evening Courant:

***"The Snow Mercury, James Strachan, Master, now lying at Dundee, will sail for Charleston, Carolina against the middle of September. Any tradesmen, such as carpenters, laborers, joiners, smiths, shoemakers and others that will indent, will meet with suitable encouragement by applying to the captain at Dundee, or to Mr. Robert Grant, merchant at Leith. The ship has exceeding good accommodations for passengers."***



Typical Snow rig

The Snow Mercury was a snow rig, similar to a brig - two masts with square sails on each. It was distinguished from a brig by having an extra small mast fitted abaft the main lower mast. This was known as the trysail mast and was set with a spanker sail (fore-and-aft triangular sail). The snow rig was at one time common around the coasts of the UK but it is believed that the last one, the "Commerce" of Newhaven was built in 1862 and existed until 1909.



The Snow Millie

The Snow Mercury travelled from its homeport of Dundee Scotland to the Carolina's, America's port called Charleston. It brought tradesmen like carpenters, shoemakers, blacksmiths and doctors, all starting a new life in America. They left their homes in Scotland because the Clans were disbanded. Many moved to America during this time.

They were good years. Robert and Elizabeth were blessed with twelve children. In 1762 Robert Grant Jr. was born, he was the eight in line. Then, after three more children, his beloved Elizabeth died 5 days after giving birth to Isaac, who lived less than one day. She had brought 12 children (Elizabeth, Thomas Stephen, Harry Allan, Charles, Coultres, Mary, Helen, Robert, John, James, Alexander, Isaac) into the world during her 17 years of marriage and died at the age of 38. 6 weeks later their eldest child also named Elizabeth died. Robert's father followed his wife just one year later. At the time (1770) Robert Grant Jr. was only eight years old and 5 of his brothers and sisters, his mother and his father had died.

This could have been the sad ending of a promising start for young Robert and his siblings, but it wasn't. It's not known who, but someone of wealth took the 7 Grant orphans in (possibly another Grant or the prosperous Allan's) and made it possible for them to get good educations. Robert decided to become a doctor and studied medicine in his teen years (1778-1780).



*Leith harbour*

Scottish Sasine records show that Robert Grant Sr. had owned Tenements (property) in South Leith and North Leith in New Haven – The Mill of Stenhouse and various Tenements nearby, which were valued at 170 pounds. The Trustees for his children were represented by an attorney named Alexander Grant.

Scottish society at that time was not a happy one. Years earlier, around 1745, the Highland disbandment had started. Clans were taken apart and the proud Scottish people were driven out of the Highlands. Cities got crowded. Poverty and diseases started to claim many lives. The hope of a better life in a far away country started to take root in many Scott's, among them several brothers of Robert and eventually Robert himself.

Robert's oldest brother Thomas Stephen Grant immigrated to America and settled in Fayetteville, North Carolina. He died there in 1805.

Robert's younger brother James had other plans and left Scotland bound for the West Indies in 1780. Tragically, he was lost at sea.



Charleston SC appx. 1790

Robert's older brother Charles became the commander of the ship – the Snow Mercury, bringing passengers and goods from London to Charleston, South Carolina. He liked Charleston and decided to start a new life there. He lived there until his death in 1789.

Robert's older and favorite brother Harry also moved to Charleston, South Carolina and was a merchant there. Harry owned property in South Leith, a great Granary and buildings, and a house. He married Elizabeth Pillan and had three children, Emilia, Elizabeth, and Harry (Jr.). He was appointed by U.S. President John Adams as the first American Consul to the American Consulate in Leith, Scotland. It was his job to protect shipping interests for America. He was American consulate in London in 1802. According to his will, Harry left a sum of money to his wife and a larger sum of money to Euphina Garvin and her children and gave most of his personal effects to her sons Robert and Henry. It appears possible, that she may have been his mistress. "Our Todays and Yesterdays" (book) states that Harry called her two boys "other boys of mine".

Harry was buried (1814) in New York City in Old Saint Paul's churchyard at the head of Wall Street. The inscription on his tombstone reads:

*"Scared to the memory of Harry Grant Esq. for many years a citizen of Charleston, S.C. who departed this life the 18th of December 1814, aged 59 years 2 mos. 20 days. This cold marble erected here by his brother Dr. Robert Grant in memory of his love and affection for the best of brothers".*

Eighteen year old Robert had, in 1780, just finished his MD degree at Aberdeen or perhaps at the Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh.

Robert was only nineteen when he too chose to take part in the American Dream. By this time, only one other Grant sibling remained in Scotland, his beloved sister Helen who never married and lived to age 74 at No. 44 Howe street, Edinburgh. Both Robert and his brother Harry sent her money each year until she died in 1835, the last living sibling of Robert Grant.

Robert climbed aboard ship (probably The Snow Mercury with his brother Charles as Commander) for the two month voyage and moved to America, only to dive into the Revolutionary War. On the ship with Robert was his 18 year old friend the Reverend Hugh Fraser (Mary his daughter, married Robert's son Hugh Fraser Grant). It was October 1781 and General Cornwallis of the British troops had just surrendered in Virginia. It would not be until June 1782 before the British would leave Savannah Georgia. However, according to James Johnson, Robert Grant was a Royal Navy surgeon at Charleston SC when he switched sides in our Revolution. The source for this is a 1912 journal article James' great-grandmother (Cornelia James Grant-Johnson) wrote. Robert joined America in the fight as the youngest surgeon serving under General Francis Marion. Francis Marion was an American revolutionary war hero, nicknamed the "Swamp Fox" by the British because of his elusive tactics. Daring and elusive, he usually struck at night and then vanished into the swamps and morasses of the South.

*Excerpt from Capt. Crafton's letter to Marion, 13th June, 1782.*

*"They were often without rations, and when served, it was generally with lean meat without bread or rice, or bread or rice without the lean meat. They had as yet received no pay, and their clothes were so worn and broken, that they were as naked as the Caffres of Africa. Here, in a state of inaction, they became mutinous, and were plotting to deliver up their commander to the enemy. But it is surprising, that when mischief of any kind began to brew in such a situation, that only twelve should have been concerned in it, and it is honourable that none of those were native Americans."*<sup>8</sup>

*About the 9th of July, General Marion had returned to the Santee, and received orders from Gen. Greene to remain between that and Cooper river, as heretofore. The militia were now so far relieved, that, by law, they were obliged to turn out only one month in three; but were ordered, as we have mentioned above, to be dismantled, which discouraged them, and rendered their movements less rapid.*<sup>8</sup>

*During the remainder of the summer of 1782, Gen. Marion frequently changed his encampments from place to place, between Cooper and Santee rivers, with three objects constantly in view; to cut off supplies from the enemy, to prevent all surprises from their sudden irruptions, and to provide for his own men. His scouting parties still penetrated into St. Thomas' parish as far as Daniel's island and Clement's ferry. At the head of one of these Capt. G. S. Capers performed a gallant action. Having the command of only twelve men, he encountered a party of twenty-six of the British black dragoons, and cut them to pieces. They had at the time two or three of his neighbours in handcuffs as prisoners.*<sup>8</sup>

*The last fighting of the Revolutionary War between Americans and British occurred with a skirmish in South Carolina along the Combahee River August 27<sup>th</sup> 1782. On the 25th of August, in this year, Lieut. Col. John Laurens was killed in a skirmish at Page's point, on Combahee river.*<sup>8</sup>

Marions Brigade disbanded in December, 1782. So, it appears that Robert Grant's active service in the revolutionary war was a little over 1 year in duration.





*American Revolutionary War Soldiers*



*Brigadier General Francis Marion*

After the war Robert was given some land confiscated from the British nearby on the coast of Georgia. Robert moved to South Carolina and lived in Georgetown for some time, being listed on the 1790 Census for Georgetown.

According to WorldConnect.com records, Robert Grant married a woman from the Charleston SC area. His first wife's name was Esther Lesesne, born about 1763. They married 15 Feb 1783 in Charleston SC<sup>23</sup>. A daughter named Mary Grant was born in 1785. Assuming this data is correct, Robert must have met Esther fairly soon after his arrival in Charleston in October 1781. The Lesesne Family were French Huguenots who came to America to escape religious persecution. Her father was Peter Lesesne. The Lesesne family had a plantation. Perhaps it was during his time with the Lesesne family that Robert Grant developed a knowledge of and interest in plantations. According to genealogist James Johnson, the marriage ended, possibly in divorce. There is a descendant of Mary Grant, so the Grant line did continue thru her.

Esther Lesesne: Birth: 1763, Death: 1845  
-Father: Peter George LESESNE b: 2 NOV 1731  
-Mother: Mary LESESNE b: 1733  
Children - Mary GRANT b: 1785, Death: 1865

Esther parents were Peter George Lesesne b.11/2/1731 and Mary Lesesne b. 1731. Peter's father was Isaac Lesesne b. 1674 who immigrated from Bordeaux France, mother was Frances Netherton b. 1690. They were French Huguenots who immigrated for religious freedom. Isaac had a Plantation in SC. Ref. Daniels Island SC

During this time, Dr. Grant invented a machine for scouring rice and other grain and was issued a US patent for it on October 17<sup>th</sup>, 1796<sup>24</sup>.

**Sidney Lanier, Poem - The Marshes of Glynn (1878)**

*Glooms of the live-oaks, beautiful-braided and woven  
With intricate shades of the vines that myriad-cloven*

- *Clamber the forks of the multiform boughs,--*
  - *Emerald twilights,--*
    - Virginal shy lights,*

*Wrought of the leaves to allure to the whisper of vows,  
When lovers pace timidly down through the green colonnades  
Of the dim sweet woods, of the dear dark woods,*

- *Of the heavenly woods and glades,*

*That run to the radiant marginal sand-beach within*

- *The wide sea-marshes of Glynn*

## **Chapter 2 Elizafield Plantation**

In 1799, Robert found happiness again by his marriage to Sarah Foxworth at Waterfield Plantation, Sampit (Georgetown area) South Carolina where they had three children before moving to Saint Simons Island, Georgia, about 1804 -1809. There is some evidence that the Grants lived in Glynn County earlier than 1808. Land records show Robert Grant selling other Glynn County land at the time he acquired the Elizafield property. Robert was Justice of the Peace there from 1799-1812 and he was a Warden of Christ Church in 1808.



© Robert Grant, by Artist: Samuel Lovett Waldo, Date of Work: 1805  
Owner: Museum of Early Southern Decorative Arts, Winston Salem NC

Dr. Grant, who lived on St. Simons Island at Oatlands, was the head warden of the church, as well as the physician of the island. He was a native of New Jersey\* and the very antithesis of his neighbors; a shrewd business man, a lender, not a borrower, of money, who became in time very rich. He was an estimable man, though George Baillie said of him, “He is such a bore with his many excellencies as to make me detest every Christian virtue.”

Dr. Grant probably disapproved quite as highly of the bon vivants of the St. Clair Club, as we do not hear of his attending their hilarious meetings, at which, by the end of evening, all the members were equally ready for tears or laughter. Nor was he, probably, a member of the Agricultural and Sporting Club, of which Captain Fraser was President, Colonel Hazzard Vice President, and Mr. James Gould Secretary and Treasurer.<sup>5</sup>

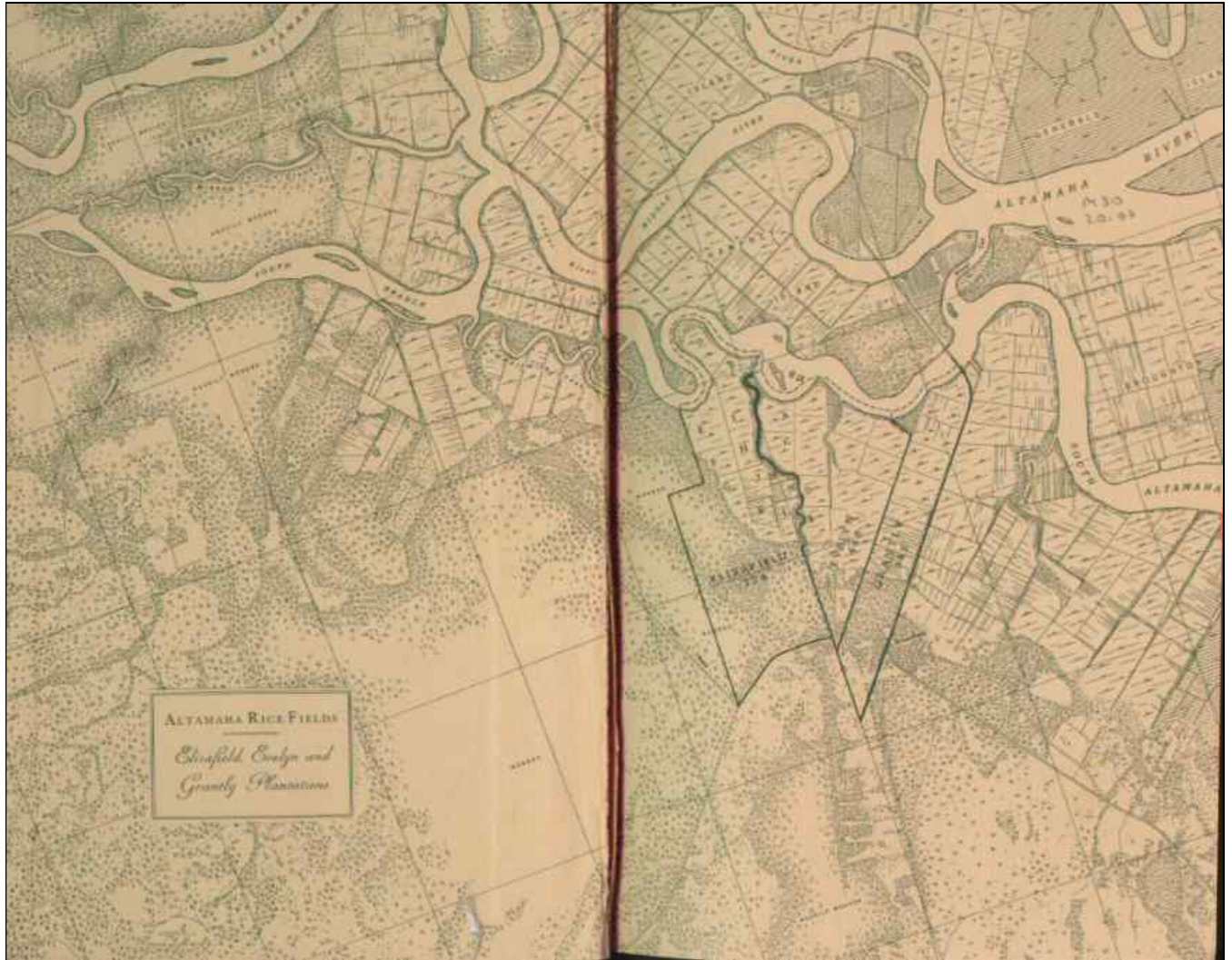
*\*This comment that Grant was a native of New Jersey has not been found in any other literature, although interestingly enough, two of his children were baptized while Grant and family visited Elizabethtown, New Jersey in 1816. Dr. Grant was also involved in a Slander trial in Newark NJ in 1821 which originated in Elizabethtown.*

Robert and Sarah Grant had nine children together (Robert, Elizabeth, Amelia, Harry, Hugh, Harry Allan, Charles, Sarah and James). The birth records show the Grant's in residence at Elizafield Plantation by 1811, having bought the first tract of land in 1809. Robert and Amelia died while at college (Yale in 1824). Sarah died age 5. James died age 2. Harry died age 7. Elizabeth Married Dr. Robert Hogan, moved to New York City and had six children. Hugh and Charles became plantation owners. Harry Allan became a physician, married Louisa Bloodgood and moved to Enfield CT (2nd wife Laura A. Thompson) where he had two sons.

It is assumed that Elizafield was named in memory of his mother Elizabeth. Although it is significant to note that another estate by the name of Elizafield existed in Leith Scotland and was located in the vicinity where our Grant ancestors are known to have lived. The main structure still exists with the name carved on the Terrace. A Leith Grant going to America would understandably name his property after one held in Leith to remind him of home. However, it is not known if the Grants did own this Leith Property. Interestingly, there also is a tiny Hamlet in Scotland named Elizafield somewhat near the west coast.

Dr. Grant used Elizafield as his primary residence and planted Sugar cane and Rice there until his retirement in 1834. When his son Hugh Fraser Grant married in 1831, Dr. Grant made a plan to divide the 1,500 acre property and later gave the Elizafield half to him. The Elizafield home was a wooden structure built upon a Tabby foundation. Its double flight of buttressed steps leading to an open portico flanked by four large square Corinthian columns was impressive. A barn stood nearby which in 1912 was considered to have originally cost \$15,000 (equals \$282,133 in FY2003 dollars). The slave foreman's house was next and about 200 yards away were the slave quarters which numbered twelve houses in 1836.

The lawns and gardens surrounding the house were fenced. There was an orchard, an Orange Grove, and a three acre fish pond used for the amusement of the house parties that flourished in those days. Vast flocks of birds that nest through out the north in the summer, wintered on the property. Robert Grant's plantation properties were named Elizafield, Evelyn, and Grantly.



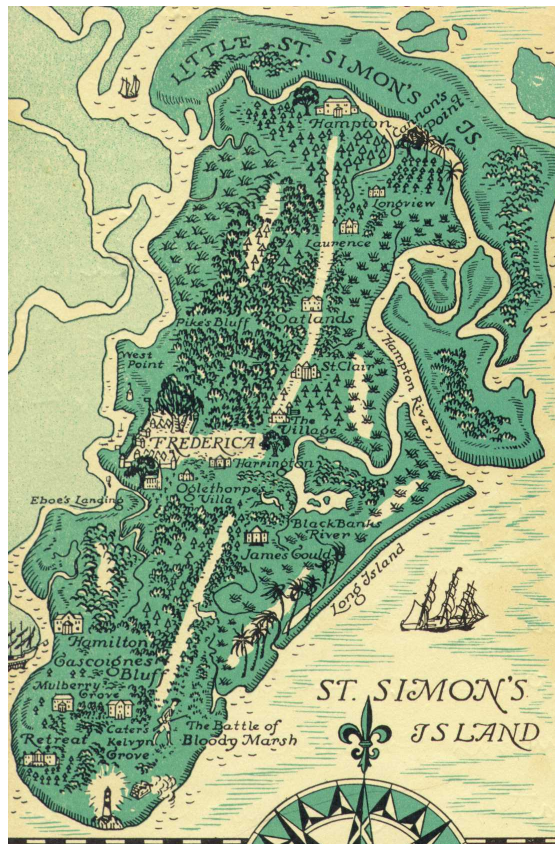
Elizafield, Evelyn and Grantly plantations near Darien, GA on the Altamaha River

Robert and Sarah developed four properties in Glynn County Georgia - Elizafield, Evelyn, Grantly, and Oatlands. Oatlands was located on St. Simon's Island and had 240 acres. It was listed as a plantation in some records. Elizafield and Evelyn sat on each side of US17 at the Altamaha River at Darien, GA, and Grantly was simply vast rice, cotton and sugarcane acreage located adjacent to Evelyn, with settlements for the hands. They were about 6 miles inland from the mouth of the Altamaha River.

Elizafield is regarded by historians as the more prosperous plantation. At the time of Dr. Grant's retirement, it had 400 acres diked and banked for rice planting and had 150 slaves. Evelyn's lands that were diked and banked for rice planting totalled 300 acres and had 125 slaves. Located on Evelyn's land fifty yards south of the house, were five to seven ancient Indian Mounds originally used by the Crete (creek) Indians. They were investigated in 1936 by archaeologist Preston Holder. The mounds were razed by road-builders sometime after 1969. Grantly consisted of 345 acres with no dwellings.



Location of Oatlands, St. Simons Island, GA



Location of Oatlands, St. Simons Island, GA

Oatland's 240 acres was located on the Northeast seaward side of St. Simons Island facing Little St. Simons Island. Oatlands was where the Grants spent the summer months when malaria was prevalent on the rice fields, until 1834, when Dr. Grant moved there permanently. In 1824, a hurricane swept thru the area. A letter later published in a Florida newspaper mentions Dr. Grant suffered great loss in buildings and had his carriage and one horse crushed, at their St. Simons Island residence. 2/3rds of the crops were lost.



*Present site of Oatland's entrance – St. Simons Island, GA*



*Christ Church, Fort Frederica, GA*

When at Oatlands, Dr. Grant attended Christ Church on Sundays. He was one of the first senior wardens of that church when it was organized in 1808. It was the 3rd oldest Episcopal Church in the nation. He also enjoyed the social life of the island.



*Road to Cannons Point (in the vicinity of Oatlands, St. Simons Island, GA)*

In 1809 Thomas Spalding began constructing his tabby sugar mill on the banks of Barn Creek on the southwest side of Sapelo Island, GA. This structure consisted of an octagonal cane press building and a separate boiling and curing house.



Photographs by W. Robert Moore

*Elizafield sugar mill Tabby ruins (circa 1934)*

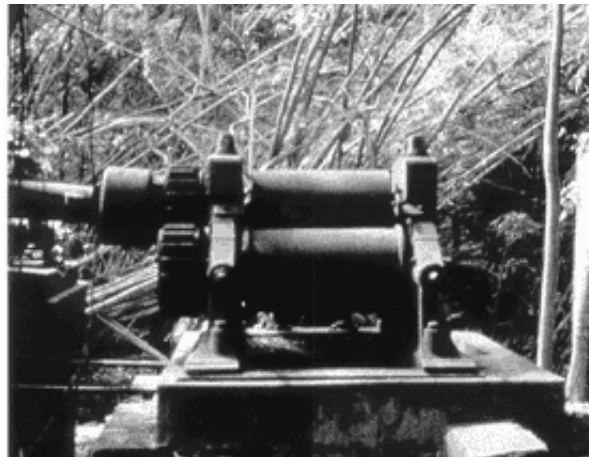
These facilities were built to Spalding's own specifications and became the prototypes for similar mill establishments in coastal Georgia. Spalding shared his sugar and tabby expertise with his tidewater contemporaries, and like facilities were constructed by Dr. Robert Grant at Elizafield, and James Hamilton Couper at Hopeton, the latter two sites being rice and sugar plantations on the Glynn County side of the Altamaha River delta. Spalding had begun experimenting with the cultivation of sugarcane in 1805, soon after his acquisition of the south end of Sapelo. His considerable architectural skills are clearly demonstrated by his own description, published in 1816, of his sugar works.





*Elizafield sugar mill Tabby ruins (circa 1934) - Octagonal mill room*

"The mill house I have erected," Spalding wrote, "is forty-one feet in diameter, of tabby, and octagonal in its form. . . . the danger of fire, the superior durability, and the better appearance of the buildings, should make us prefer either tabby or brick. . . . The outer walls of this building are sixteen feet. Within about seven feet distance from the outer wall, is a circular inner wall, which rises ten feet; and from this wall to the outer one is a strong joint work, which is covered with two-inch Planks for a Tread for the Mules, Horses, or Oxen, that work the Mill."



*Mill (age unknown)*

Large, animal-powered mills frequently employed as many as eight oxen to turn the rollers. The central vertical drive shaft would be affixed with a set of crossed, wooden beams. Each end of the beams would then hold a double yoke. In this way, the oxen would walk around the mill as their energy was transferred to the rollers. This type of arrangement required that the canes be fed between the oxen to reach the mill and that the crushed canes, or bagasse, along with the extracted juice, be taken out the other side, again being carried between the oxen. With the construction of the octagonal mill buildings, the feed paths for the canes, bagasse, and juice could be offset vertically from the tread followed by the oxen. This reduced the problem of getting the canes to and from the mill.

This accounting gives us an insight into Grant's Sugar mill operation which began about 1815-1817.



*Elizafield sugar mill Tabby ruins (circa 1934)*

Initially Sugar cane was grown. Later, the land was specially prepared to produce Rice. For many years the Grants prospered as Rice, Cotton, and Sugar Cane growers. Grant's ingenious system of canals for the transportation of the grain to the mill was almost as famous in agricultural journals as his sugar operations. He built a Sugar mill of Tabby construction like Spaldings. A steam powered rice mill was constructed in 1834.

Tabby was the building material for walls, floors, and roofs widely used throughout coastal Georgia during the Military and Plantation Eras. It was composed of equal parts of sand, lime, oyster shell and water mixed into a mortar and poured into forms. The lime used in tabby was made by burning oyster shell taken from Indian Shell Mounds, the trash piles of the Indians. The word tabby is African in origin, with an Arabic background, and means "a wall made of earth or masonry". This method of building was brought to America by the Spaniards.

The Mill, in ruin by the 1930's, was mistaken for a Spanish fort. It is clear that the ruin was used as a mill for threshing rice and grinding cane during the plantation era as pieces of nineteenth century machinery have been found among the ruins. Although, some still believe the land to have been the location of the Spanish mission. Because Elizafield was situated here two centuries after the founding of Santo Domingo it is possible that the mill was simply built upon the ruins of the mission.

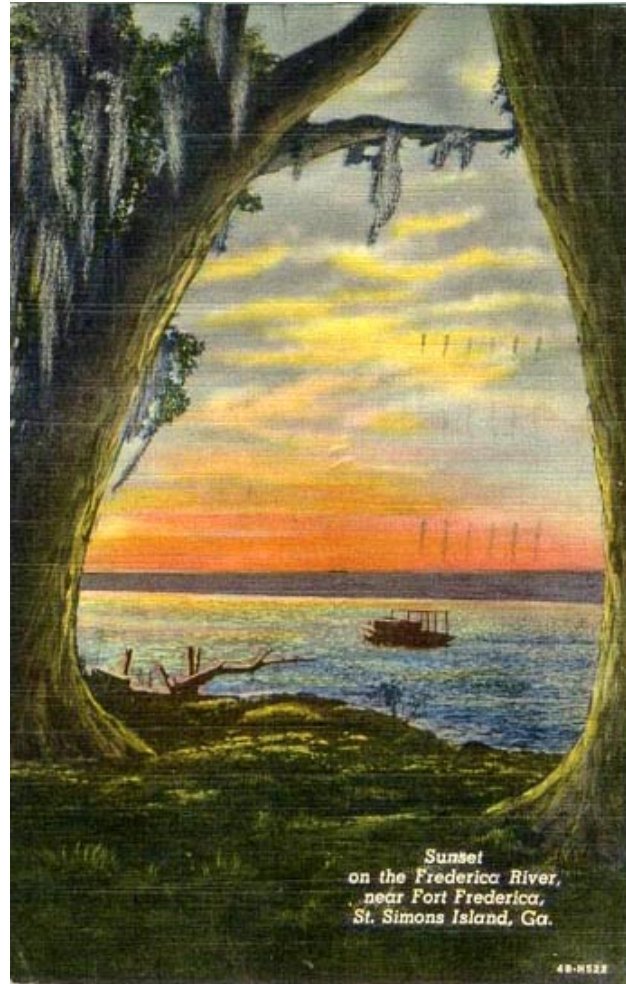


In 1830, Dr. Grant had 203 slaves working on his plantations and was the 4<sup>th</sup> largest slaveholder in Glynn Co. GA at that time. Prior to the Civil war the slaves were valued at \$75,000 (equals \$1,650,480 in FY2003 dollars). They used hoe, pick and shovel to clear the swamp lowlands to grow Rice. By the time he retired in 1834, Grant had 218 slaves. By 1859, Elizafield alone had 150 slaves, Evelyn had 125 plus an unknown amount at Grantly.



*Glynn Co. Academy (1840 building)*

Dr. Grant was Commissioner of the Glynn Co. Academy in 1812 (the 2<sup>nd</sup> oldest public school in Georgia, it was started in 1788), and was Justice of the Peace from 1799-1812.



In June of 1821, Dr. Grant was sued by Eunice Hall in a 7 day court trial held in Newark, NJ. The 137 page court transcript shows the accusation of Dr. Grant for slander was over the treatment of Miss Selina Hueston, aged fifteen, by Ms. Eunice Hall while Miss Hueston boarded at Ms Hall's private school at Elizabethtown, NJ. While a student at the school, Miss. Hueston witnessed an incident where Ms. Hall was seen secretly drinking liquor. Ms Hall found this out and animosity developed between them. Miss Hueston's father, a sailor, fell overboard and was lost at sea. Soon thereafter, his daughter Miss Hueston developed a fever while at the school and soon died. During her illness, Dr. Grant (who knew the girl's father) alleged that Ms. Hall did not provide sufficient treatment that could have saved the girl's life. Miss. Hall sued Dr. Grant over this accusation and won in court. Dr. Grant was ordered to pay a penalty of \$200. Upon his return to Georgia, he received a letter in the mail from the citizens of Elizabethtown, NJ. They agreed with Dr. Grant so strongly that they took a collection up and mailed him the \$200 thanking him for his efforts on behalf of the girl. Dr. Grant thanked them for their kindness but returned the \$200.

Dr. Grant's plantations were across the river from Darien GA. During the first few years of the 1830s, Darien reached the peak of her commercial greatness. Exports of baled cotton from Darien were exceeded only by the ports of Charleston and Savannah. Darien's

waterfront was fully developed at this time, and ships crowded the Darien River and Doboy Sound harbours, awaiting cargoes of cotton, rice and lumber.

But the prosperity did not last. The downfall of Darien as a great cotton port was brought about by two factors: The national Panic of 1837 and the development of railroads in Georgia, all of which bypassed Darien. By the early 1840s, most of the cotton from Georgia's interior was being shipped by rail to Savannah for export. In 1847, Reuben King, in correspondence with a friend, wrote: "The City of Darien has become a very poor place. Lots improved or unimproved are valueless . . . No prospects for the future can be seen. The panic of 1837 caused timber and cotton prices to tumble and undermined the progress of the canal and railroad projects. The Cotton Crash of 1839 put them in further jeopardy.

Following a period of depression, the Altamaha-Brunswick Canal opened in 1854, followed by the railroad in 1856.

Few Georgia counties - even those in Sherman's path in late 1864 - suffered the hardship and deprivation of Civil War as much as McIntosh County. The fortunes of the planters were irretrievably lost, the plantations were destroyed, the lumber industry devastated, and even the once-thriving seaport town of Darien was destroyed as the result of the "total war" tactics of a renegade Union field officer.

But by far the greatest single act of destruction by the Federals in McIntosh County during the war was the wanton devastation of the undefended little town of Darien in June 1863. Darien was largely deserted when the Yankee ships arrived at the bluff and landed their troops on the waterfront in the area of the present-day Darien bridge. The troops ransacked many of the town's houses and shops, destroyed the sawmills which were the lifeblood of the community, hauled off tons of sawn lumber and baled cotton, and removed many family possessions.

Just before they departed, Montgomery gave orders for the entire town to be burned. The waterfront was ablaze from one end to the other as the fire, spurred on by the wind and large supplies of turpentine and rosin in the warehouses, quickly swept through the town. All that was left standing were the thick walls of the two-story warehouse building on the upper bluff, a portion of the Methodist Church and two or three smaller buildings, including the frame residence which still stands at the corner of Highway 99 and Rittenhouse Street.

Until 1845 Darien was a world leader in cotton exports. The city was looted and burned—not by Sherman, as often told—but by Federal troops based on St. Simons Island in 1863.

Robert Grant's 2<sup>nd</sup> child was Elizabeth. She married Dr. Robert Hogan in 1827 and moved to New York City, NY. Elizabeth had a daughter named Sarah Hogan who had a daughter named Mabel. Mabel Hatch Banks (Robert's great grand-daughter) wrote,

*"I have the beautiful little old Psalm book with the name of Margaret Drummond in it. It is bound by what was originally white velvet. A bird of Paradise is embroidered in gold bouillon on each cover and tiny gold sequins and other embroidery complete this work of art. The book is about 2 1/2" wide and 4 1/2" long. It contains all the music of the Psalms and had a faded scotch taffeta ribbon for the marker which my mother, Sarah C.*

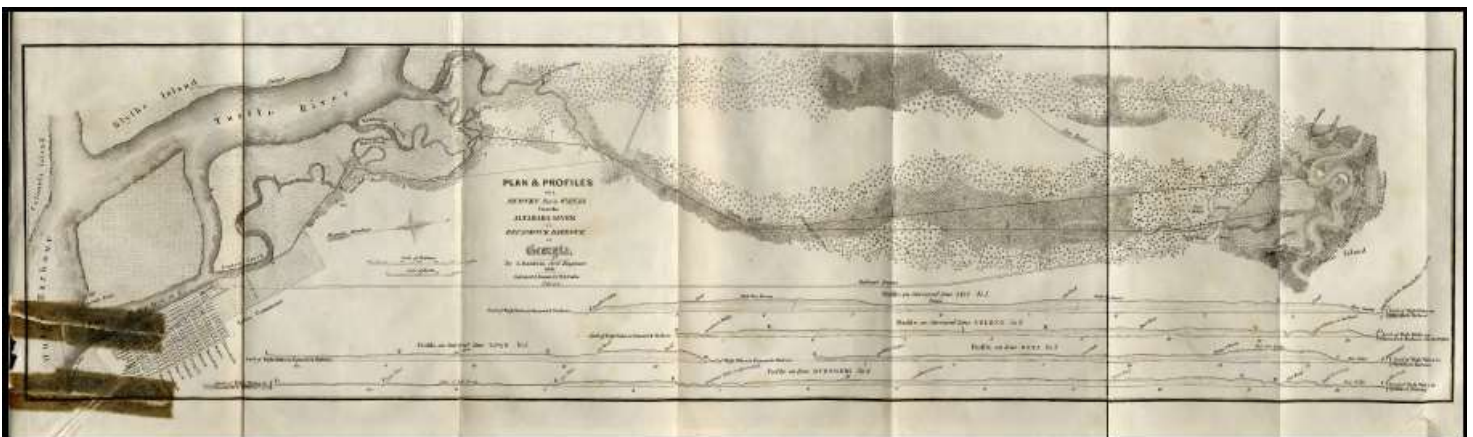
Hatch, told me her grandfather, Robert Grant, had said was the plaid of the Drummond Clan. That has gone, as the date printed in the book is 1634. My mother also told me it was a wedding present to Margaret Drummond (Lord Harry Allen married Margaret Drummond in 1714) from her father. The Bible which went with it was a very beautiful one, being covered in white satin, embroidered most exquisitely in seed pearls, and in it were always kept the original Grant records of births, marriages, and deaths. In the old Scotch Kirk, it was always carried in a red velvet bag by a small page who preceded the family up the aisle. Our family records are taken from that old Bible, which escaped destruction in a most miraculous way.

When my mother was visiting her grandfather, Dr. Robert Grant (when he was in his late seventies), on his plantation on St. Simon's Island, Ga., he decided to have his sons draw for the Bible and Psalm Book, and Charles Grant, being the oldest son felt he should have it without question, however Great grandfather thought it would be fairer if each one had an opportunity to possess it. My mother said, "Uncle Charlie, if you should draw them, would you give me the Psalm Book for Ma-ma? (his sister who had made her home in N.Y., after her marriage to my grandfather, Dr. Robert Hogan). He said he would gladly do so. Fortunately, he drew them, so the Psalm Book (and he also gave her the original records) came North and passed with the family possessions to N.Y. I being the 8<sup>th</sup> generation to whom the Psalm Book has passed. My children will be the 9<sup>th</sup> and my grandchildren, of whom I now have two, will be the 10<sup>th</sup>. My mother told me the Bible was burned by General Sherman's men, who cut the family portraits out of their frames, took such silver as was not hidden, made a pile with the Bible on top, and applied a torch to the whole, as well as to the house, slaves quarters, storehouses for the cotton, --everything was destroyed in this our Civil War 1861-65. How fortunate the Psalm Book and records were safely cared for in the North.

I have a very beautiful sampler, in perfect condition, made by Elizabeth Allen, daughter of Lord Harry Allen and Margaret Drummond, at the age of nine, dated March 9<sup>th</sup>, 1739".

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Robert Grant decided to retire from the life of an active planter in 1833 after the Brunswick-Altamaha Canal was dug through Grant's property in that year. The water for the creek leading to the Sugar works and sugar Mill was severely depleted, so they abandoned them. Hugh and Charles later entered a claim of injury to their plantations, for disturbing their use of the creek, and for crossing the rice fields, according the Brunswick Canal and Railroad report of 1837.<sup>19</sup>



1836 survey map of proposed canal path showing the homes of C. Grant and H. Grant, note just to the left of C. Grant's house was the Ferry House for Grant's Ferry. Surveyed by L. Baldwin.



*Enlarged view of 1836 Survey map*

Later his son built a Rice Mill at the new outlet to the river. In the 1930's the ruins of this sugar mill was erroneously thought to be a Spanish mission ruins and photographed as such in National Geographic Magazine, Feb. 1934.

Dr. Grant retired to Oatlands leaving his son Hugh to run Elizafield, and his son Charles to run Evelyn. Hugh Frazer Grant (1811-1873) became master of Elizafield when his father retired in 1834. Elizafield had 105 slaves at that time and by 1859 had 150. Hugh and his wife, Mary Frazer Grant (Mary was the daughter of Reverend Hugh Fraser – friend of Robert Grant who immigrated with him from Scotland) lived at Elizafield for a quarter-century and had five children, Frances, Marian (Jinnie), Sarah, Hugh (jr), and Mary.



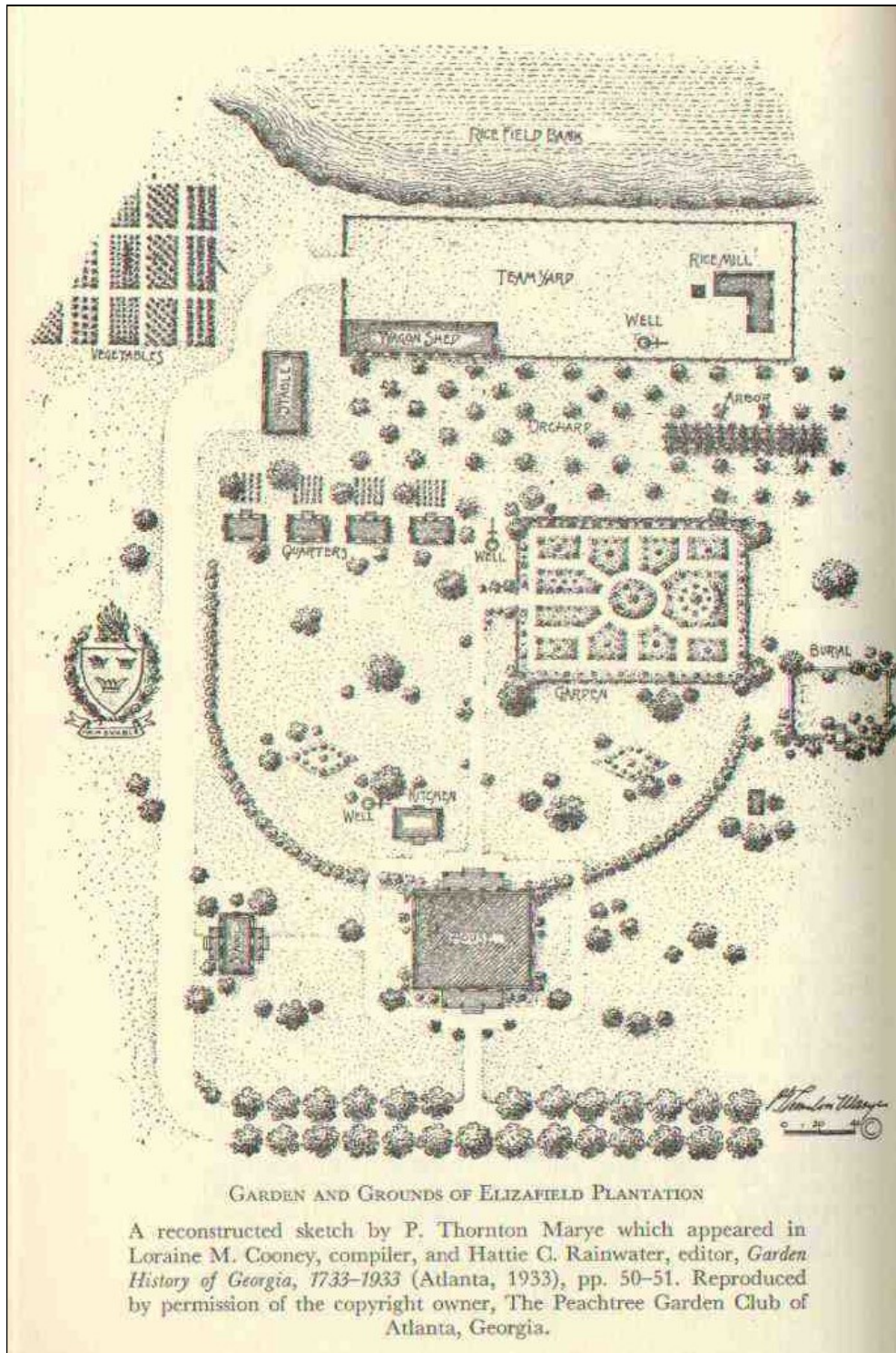
*Elizafield Plantation home*

The original house that Dr. Grant built was destroyed by fire, but the family rebuilt immediately upon the same foundations. Elizafield is a dead-ringer for the house depicted on bottles of Southern Comfort. The house was designed in the typical Southern Colonial style with a double flight of buttressed steps leading to an open portico with large square columns two stories high. The house, nestled at the end of a traditional tree-bordered avenue, was surrounded by fenced lawns and gardens. There was a grape arbour, an orange grove, and an orchard famous for the flavour of its nectarines and peaches. Facing the east, the house was set back from the river on the bank of the Six Mile Creek. The children's schoolhouse, a miniature replica of the big house, was located to one side of the house, and the quarters for the house servants were at the rear. The Grants and their children (five daughters and one son) spent summer months at their home, The Parsonage, near Brunswick and at their Sand Hills cottage near Tebeauville (Sand Hills is due west NW of Elizafield near the western border of Glynn Co.).

The Grant family fled the plantation at the onset of the Civil War and never returned to Elizafield. The family moved to live permanently in Savannah. But young Captain Mallory King and Marian Eugenia (Jinny) Grant King (Hugh and Mary's daughter) lived at the old home place with their children, the fourth generation to live at Elizafield.

When the Kings eventually moved to St. Simons Island, the Elizafield house was left empty and the fields of Grantly, Evelyn and Elizafield were no longer cultivated. The home fell into ruin and eventually burned. The marsh grass covered the lowlands and dense undergrowth covered the lawns, gardens, and orchard. Hugh and Mary are buried at Christ Church, Frederica as well as Capt. Mallory King and Eugenia.





Sketch of Elizafield<sup>27</sup>



*Elizafield Grant family Cemetery*

*(photo shows the graves of Robert and Sarah Grant and some of his children before re-interment to St. Simons Island)*



*Present day condition of Elizafield's Grant family cemetery*

Dr. Grant died in 1843. Robert Grant & Sarah Foxworth were buried in the Grant family cemetery at Elizafield. The family cemetery was originally constructed in 1813 when Dr. Grant's son Hary (sic) died in June of that year. The graves were moved in the 1950's to St. Simon's Island at Christ Episcopal Church Cemetery. The plot has a wrought iron fence around it, with Grant and King adjacent to the gate.

*EPITAPH - "Sacred to the memory of Dr. Robert Grant, who was born 15 July 1762 at Leith, Scotland, and died at St. Simon's Island, Georgia 17 September 1843, aged 81 years, 2 months, 2 days. This monumental marble is erected by his widow as a last tribute to an affectionate husband and friend.*

*Of the deceased it may be truly said that benevolence was a grand characteristic of his life and it was stamped upon all his intercourse with his fellows. The distresses of the destitute widow and orphan never failed to unlock the fountains of his sympathies and his liberal and generous hand was ever open freely to distribute sources for their relief and happiness. His works have gone before him to Judgment."*



Graves of Dr. Robert Grant and Sarah Grant  
 (Mark Grant, Robert Grant attending SAR ceremony 2005, Christ Church, St. Simons Island)



Georgia Coastline

The following narrative is an excerpt from a letter dated Jan. 11th, 1912 written by Leslie Carson Nanney who at age 25, visited the ruins of Elizafield.

*"We went out on the train (from Brunswick, GA) for about twelve miles and then went with the owner of the old plantation about six miles. It was time for lunch when we got there so we took part in getting away with some real southern biscuits and razor-back. Then we strolled over the place. We saw vast flocks of birds that nest thru out the North in the summer, but are wintering here. The ruins of the old plantation mansion are left with the four tall columns in front of it. It was an enormous big house. There was a large smoke-stack which was in a \$15,000.00 barn. Then there was the house of the foreman or slave-driver. Then about two hundred yards from the house were the remains of the negro quarters. Long rows of chimneys made from cement and sea-shells showed where they stood. There was a big fish pond of about three acres, all grown up in trees now, which was used for the amusement of the house-parties that flourished in those days.*

*On the place were several Indian mounds and a big flat topped mound which was used for pow-wows by the Crete [Creek] Indians. Back in a densely wooded nook, there was standing what seemed to be the walls of an*

ancient chapel, and just behind it an old fort, both made of sea-shells and cement. There seems to be no one able to tell who put them there, but they were there long before the plantations were cleared. There was an interesting little graveyard with a sea-shell wall about it. In it were stone slabs marking the graves of Doctor Robert Grant of Scotland, his wife and several children.

He was born in 1762 and died in 1843. The man that owns the place now said that in those days the families of the plantation owners had a great time giving house parties back and forth. They had everything they wanted at the expense of the slave labor, which they had in abundance. Rice was the principal crop there at that time. He said it cost \$400,000.00 to clear that plantation, and without slave-labor it would have been an impossible thing financially. You can readily see why the South resented strongly the freeing of the negroes. These families who were happily located and prosperous in their beautiful country homes could not possibly maintain them after the negroes were freed, and the whole thing was abandoned. Now the plantation is a desolate looking place, poorly kept and poorly cultivated. But these changes have to come in the working out of any great reform. It's pretty hard to get many of the Southern people to see it that way, for it was a personal matter with them, and when Sherman came thru and destroyed everything they had it struck home".

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### **Robert Grant *Revolutionary War Doctor***

Robert Grant was born at Leith, Scotland on July 15, 1762. He received his medical training in Scotland, and in 1781, emigrated to Charleston, South Carolina. There he joined those fighting the King of England and served as a surgeon on the staff of Francis Marion, the "Swamp Fox." In 1799 he married Sarah Foxworth. Robert Grant came to Georgia about 1808 and purchased land on the northern part of St. Simons Island, which he called "Oatlands." He accumulated almost two thousand acres at Elizafield on the south bank of the Altamaha River in Glynn County. The plantation's products were rice and sugar cane. Robert Grant and William Page became the first wardens of Christ Church, Frederica when it was incorporated in 1808. Doctor Robert Grant died on September 17, 1843, at age 81.



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*Bio written by Sons of American Revolution (GASSAR)*

## Chapter 3

## Antebellum Georgia

After his father's retirement in 1834, Charles Grant married Cornelia Venables Bond in 1835. His first born child was born at Evelyn in April 1836, so the house must have been built and completed just prior to that time frame. Charles bought one half of his father's 1500 acre plantation lands, the portion was named Evelyn (pronounced with a long E as in Eve), the other half (Elizafield) went to his brother Hugh Frazer Grant. When purchased, Evelyn came with 113 slaves. By 1859, Evelyn had 125 slaves. (See Appendix A - deed records at end of document).

Of Cornelia it was said "Mrs. Grant was a lady of cultivated tastes and fine conversational powers. She wrote with great ease and facility, and at times contributed to the periodical literature of the day, articles of great literary worth and beauty. She was also unaffectedly pious, sincerely a Christian, and illustrated both by precept and example, that which she believed" (from her obit.). Cornelia's family home was in nearby MacIntosh County, GA. Charles and Cornelia had 10 children, Robert, Anna, Miller, Charles, James, William, Claude, Ernest, Sarah and Cornelia.

When marriages were celebrated on these river plantations the guests came from as much as twenty miles away in boats rowed by stalwart negroes. They remained for the night and continued the festivities the next day. On the return voyage the negro oarsmen kept time to their oars with improvised songs in honour of the bride and groom. When recalling a plantation wedding, one Santee River resident wrote, I let myself loose to the enjoyment of the hour; danced all night, spent the next day in walking, riding and other sports to which the party gave themselves up before dinner and reappeared in the evening ready to dance with the most determined. At that time the wedding festivities always continued two nights, nor were the guests expected to leave the house until the third day.

By the 1840s, the rice planters in the Georgetown District were gentlemen of leisure. The construction of the rice plantation system was complete, overseers, and to a less extent drivers managed fields and slaves. Planters employed factors to market and sell their crops and bankers to handle their money. With their finances managed for them and discipline administered by resident overseers, the job of the planter was to provide for their families and slaves. Therefore, the final generation of antebellum rice planters lived their lives travelling and merrymaking.

Each year, at the end of May, out of fear of contracting malaria, commonly referred to as "country fever" by the planting families, the rice planters moved away from their plantations and did not return until the first week in November. During the summer and fall months most planters spent time with relatives or friends in other parts of South Carolina or in other states; some spent time abroad in Europe.

The Evelyn plantation home was built between 1834-1836. Evelyn was supposed to have been a close copy of Elizafield, with six 'round' columns, rather than Elizafield's four square ones. These impressive Doric style columns were 30 inches in diameter at the base and were made of brick. The house was made of Tabby (stucco) and wood and seems to have

been a rather pretentious building. It was not a large structure. It had a cellar or basement and Palm Trees, cedars and large oaks grew around the building. In 1836 five slave quarters were located near the plantation house.



Photographs of Evelyn Ruins (provided courtesy of Mary Ellen and Joe Vasquez, Brunswick, GA.)

Evelyn lands had 300 acres diked and banked for Rice. By 1859, 125 slaves lived there. In 1837, there was a national economic panic which affected the cotton market. Also at this time Railroads first became established throughout the state of Georgia, but they did not run thru Darien where Elizafield was located. This also affected the cotton market. By 1847 the once thriving port of Darien had become a poor place with valueless property. By December 1844, Evelyn along with forty or fifty slaves were advertised for sale. Charles and his family eventually moved to Savannah.

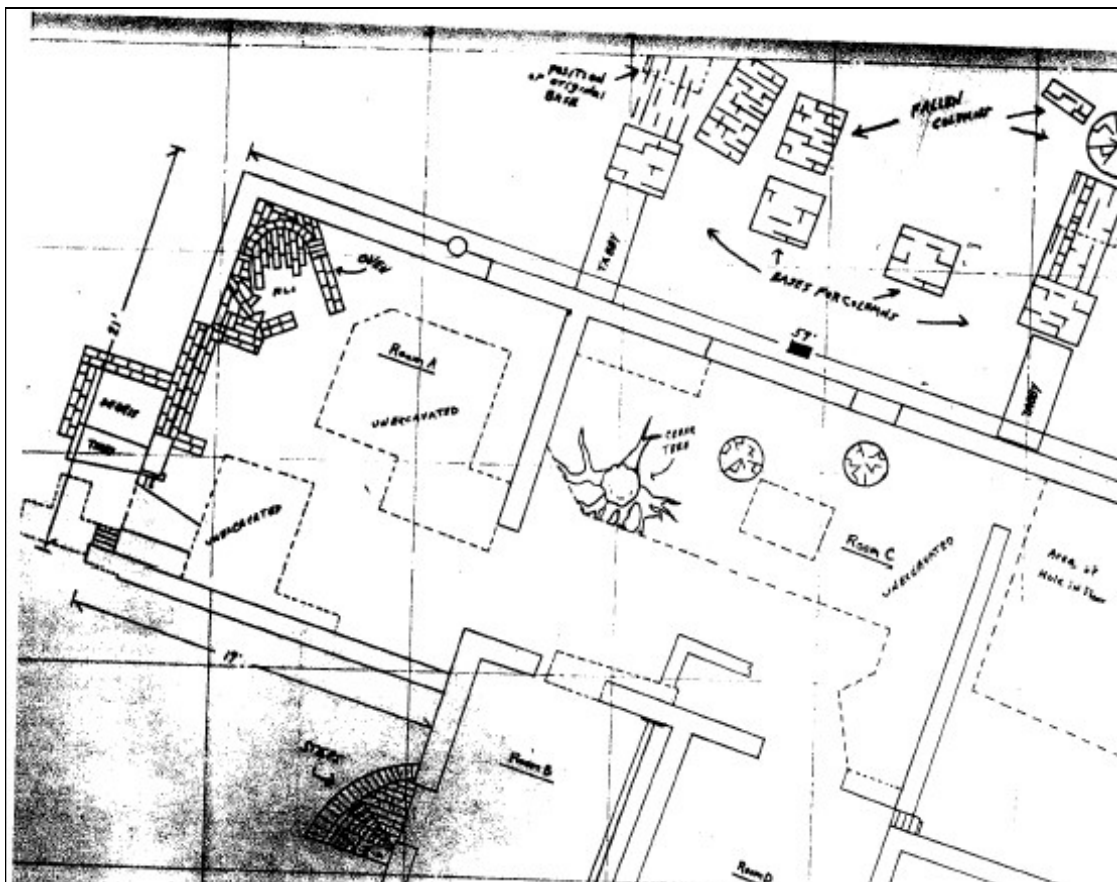
Edward G. Sawyer was overseer of Evelyn Plantation. In a letter to his son on June 16, 1860, he provided the following insight about Evelyn.

*"My business keeps me very much confined. It requires my whole attention. I have 92 negroes on the plantation & my direction is always necessary. I visit my fields twice a day during the working of the crop. I have a small pony horse that I ride in the fields & two horses to ride from the plantation. I live in the summer about five miles from the plantation on the sea shore. In the winter time I have to thrash out the crop to ship to Charleston market. I thrash out the crop with a steam mill & I am obliged to be present. A negro engineer & I have to watch the water gauge in the boilers to prevent an explosion. I only leave the mill long enough to get my meals when the mill is in operation. The owner of this plantation is T. Pinckney Huger of Charleston, S.C. He is now in France. He is seldom on the plantation. He is very rich & always at traveling. Last summer he was at Newport & Nahant. He has nothing to do with the plantation, it is under my direction. My salary is eight hundred dollars a year & whatever the plantation produces, horses & everything found. Buggies to ride in. Mr. Huger has another plantation on the Ogechee River near Savannah. He expects to move the ??? onto this plantation. When he does my salary will be raised. There is one plantation on this river that pays the overseer (25.00) twenty five hundred dollars a year. They work seven hundred negroes. It belongs to Pierce Butler of Philadelphia. I have been on this plantation so long and do as I please I should not like to leave this business & Mr. Huger would not consent to my leaving".<sup>20</sup>*

In a second letter from Edward G. Sawyer just before the outbreak of war, here is another excerpt about Evelyn. Evelyn Plantation January 7, 1861, Darien GA.

"I am very busy now running my Steam Mill thrashing out my Rice Crop. I have only shipped two cargoes of rice to Charleston as yet. It will be soon time to prepare for planting again. We commence planting the first of March and finish the middle of April. I made about five thousand bushels of sweet potatoes last year. We have a grand military parade at Brunswick tomorrow. That is about 12 miles from here. Our horse company turns out and has a parade & military band at night. Our company is to be presented with a new flag of the state of Georgia by a young lady made with her own hands. She is to make a speech to the cavalry. She is the daughter of General Chas. Floyd. Her father used to put a apple or orange on her mothers head at one hundred yards & put a rifle ball through the apple or orange. Her mother could do the same to her father. I never described the situation to you where I live. My post office is in Darien but I live on the other side of the Altamaha River five miles from Darien by water. I live in Glynn County & my post office is in McIntosh County because it is the nearest point. Brunswick in Glynn County is 12 miles from my house by land. When I go to Brunswick to go to Savannah or Charleston there is a regular line of Steamboats running to Florida or Savannah or Charleston. There is but one steamboat that touches at Darien & a regular line of stages to Savannah but we always sail from Darien as it is our post office".<sup>20</sup>

Charles' plantation home Evelyn was destroyed by fire sometime between 1887 and 1913. In 1936 the Indian burial mounds were excavated by Archaeologist Preston Holder who investigated five mounds at Evelyn. Evelyn's cellar was excavated in 1968-1969 by students of Brunswick Junior College. The floors were brick, some of them covered with stucco. One room had a brick oven, waffle iron, stove and a number of utensils and dish fragments. This was probably the kitchen.



Evelyn Plantation house excavation site plan 1969<sup>3</sup>

Charles was a second Lieutenant in the Glynn County Militia from 1834 to 1836 and Judge of the Inferior Court at Brunswick from 1833 to 1837 and in the 1840's. Later as Charles struggled to run the plantation profitably, Charles sold Evelyn to his brother, Hugh, because the rice market died in the 1840s, and Hugh consolidated all the plantations. Charles moved to Chatham County in April 1837 and settled at Woodhome, a farm near Savannah until the outbreak of the Civil war. After the war, Charles and his wife settled in Thomasville GA where two of his sons lived (Miller B. Grant, a civil engineer, and Charles Grant, an Episcopal clergyman). While in Thomasville, his wife Cornelia published a book titled "Our boys and their Woodhome Training: A mother's tribute of love to her departed ones". She was also active in the Ladies Mount Vernon Association of the Union.<sup>26</sup>

Glynn County court house records show that Charles was in Glynn county as late as 1849 and the August 1850 census for Glynn County shows Charles and his family listing him as a farmer worth \$6,000 vs Hugh who in the same census was a farmer worth \$40,000. Charles owned Oatlands plantation while his parents lived there in retirement, so this farming reference probably refers to Oatlands.

The frock-coat dominated the wardrobe of an 1840s gentleman. Meant to be worn with knickers and full shirts, it featured a deep collar and wide lapels and was often edged with braid. Another popular style, more formal in design, was the patterned or embroidered waistcoat worn with tight fitting trousers which fastened under the instep. Men's accessories of the period were the cravat and gutta perch. During this decade ladies wore hooped dresses with sloping shoulders and tight sleeves. Women's accessories included ermine muffs, tasselled hand bags and parasols for outdoor events. Their tightly flower-trimmed bonnets had deep crowns and large brims which framed and complemented their faces. During the evening, ladies wore dresses with provocatively low cut bodices, minimal headwear and feathers or pearls in their hair.

During the 1850s, although fashions did not change, the number of garments required for gentlemanly attire proliferated. Besides the morning frock, dress and overcoats, men wore paletot cloaks with contrasting collars and slit armholes. The popularity of cravats declined and proper neckwear became a bow or shoe-string. By 1856 the introduction of the caged crinoline relieved the weight of women's petticoats. Layered flounced skirts became popular. Ladies still preferred dresses with sloped shoulders and hats that tied firmly under their chins. However, bonnets no longer had deep crowns and brims. Women adorned their "round" hats with long, wide ribbons and wore their creations further back on their heads. Very small, beautifully decorated parasols were the rage. Hand-bags were also minuscule and neither served much purpose. One prevailing purse design was the "miser" which had fringe at one end and tassels at the other, while another was made of netting and beads. During the evenings, ladies wore snake-like jewelry and headwear made of pearls and flowers set far back on their heads.

When Charles moved to Savannah he became involved in railroad building. Charles and family are listed in the 1866 city directory on South Broad street, 3<sup>rd</sup> house east of Abercorn st. North side. Son's Claude and Ernest are listed as Clerks (also known to be bookkeepers at C.A. Withers & Co.) , living at home. His wife is listed in the same city directory as



running a boarding house out of their home<sup>28</sup>. Charles Grant sold life insurance in 1870, probably as an Agent for the Louisiana Equitable Life Insurance Co. Prior to that he was the Secretary/Treasurer of the Savannah, Albany & Western Railroad and a Savannah Businessman. In Savannah, the Grants lived in a house directly across the street from the Colonial Cemetery, on Oglethorpe Avenue. Spring and Fall are the best times to go there. The Grant Lot at Laurel Grove Cemetery in Savannah is Lot 1528-1529; aisle 14. You can't miss it if you look for the right aisle, and pay attention to the lot markers. Charles died in 1872 in Savannah. His address when he died was Tattnall and Wayne Streets, Savannah, GA.



*Cemetery Lot 1528 and 1529 as shown has only two head stones, for Robert Grant and WD Grant. However, it is understood that son Charles V. Grant, Ernest Grant, and parents Charles Grant and Cornelia Grant are also buried there.*

Charles' wife Mrs. Cornelia Grant was the daughter of Dr. Venables Bond a Clerk of the Superior Court, Justice of the Inferior Court, and Commissioner of Bryan Academy. His father was the famous Dr. Thomas Bond - he was a Quaker, family doctor of Benjamin Franklin and co-founder of University of PA. He had 2 slaves, was founder of the first humane society, Co-Founder, Pennsylvania Hospital, and was Co-Founder of the American Philosophical Society.

In the antebellum plantation days of McIntosh County (nearby), many of the local plantations had fleets of small boats with which communication was made between each other. Prior to the Civil War, crew racing became the most popular sporting event of the region. The plantation owners entered their boats in annual regattas for prizes running as high as \$10,000 (equals \$220,000 in FY2003 dollars).

The racing boats were usually constructed of seasoned cypress logs, hulled out in the form of shells. They were from 25-to-50 feet long with 12-foot oars mounted in outboard riggers. As the Negro oarsmen pulled with a quick motion, they chanted songs which enabled them to keep together; the chanteys were as much a part of the races as the rowing itself. The master of the plantation usually served as coxswain.



CREW RACING WAS A FAVORITE SPORT OF SLAVERY DAYS

Recently these races have been revived and have become an annual event at Sea Island Beach, where duplicates of the original hulls have been constructed. Descendants of the old plantation workers man the boats and sing the crew songs as they row. The St. Simon causeway, marked by palms, can be seen in the background.

There was a mosquito born malaria problem in the summer on the plantations, which caused the Grant's to build summer homes on the mainland "far enough away so you could not smell the salt air". The plantation owners used to ride back and forth between the summer home and the plantation each day always ensuring their return before sundown to avoid the mosquito. The mosquito problem started in May and ran thru July. There were two summer homes used by the Grants in the 1840's, Carteret Point farm (due west of Oatlands - on the mainland by the shore) - about 6 miles downstream of the Altamaha River, was a sea island cotton farm and Sedgmoor - which was mortgaged in 1865 by Hugh Frazer Grant after the war due to hard times for the sum of \$1,426.87.

### **Hugh Frazer Grant and Elizafield's Antebellum style**

In the spacious rooms there were Brussels carpets and crystal chandeliers, imported silver and china, and hangings of brocade and damask. Approached by the traditional tree bordered avenue, the house was surrounded by fenced lawns and gardens. There was a grape arbor and an orange grove, and an orchard famous for the flavour of its nectarines and peaches. To one side stood the children's schoolhouse, a replica of the big house, with miniature columns and portico. At the rear were the quarters for the house servants. Here lived Maum' Rebecca, Mrs. Grant's personal Maid and head seamstress for the family. Here too, lived the coachman Frederick Proudfoot, and his wife Maum' Ann, and the children's nurse; and Sukey, cook superlative, and her assistant, Martha, whose preserves and jellies reached an enviable point of perfection. And here lived Caesar, that important member of the household, butler and major-domo of Elizafield - Caesar, whose manner achieved that perfect balance between deference and dictatorship, that unshakable poise and dignity which characterized the well trained plantation butler.<sup>4</sup>

The Grants and their six children, five daughters and one son spent the summer months at their place, The Parsonage, on the "salts" near Brunswick, and at their Sands Hill Cottage near Tebeauville, with frequent visits to Grandma and Grandpa Grant on St. Simons Island. Dr. Grant died at the age of eighty-one "revered and beloved by his family, respected and esteemed by all who knew him;" and Grandma Grant came to Elizafield where she spent the remaining years of her life. In a quiet wing of the house she had her own rooms where the children loved to visit; and the youngest ones liked to ride with her in the phaeton as the

gentle old horse jogged along the shady winding roads of the plantation. She was indeed a favorite with the children for sometimes she allowed them to hold the reins, and besides Grandma always carried peppermints in her reticule. <sup>4</sup>

As the older daughters grew up there were trips to New York and Europe; there were houseparties at Elizafield and visiting back and forth with the young people at Hopeton and Altama on the one side and at Broadfield and Hofwyl on the other, with friends in Darien and Savannah and on the island plantations. On fine afternoons the young ladies were content to play a quiet game of lawn croquet or, in dainty hoop skirts and ruffles and carrying diminutive parasols, to promenade along the wide banks of the canal. But in the evenings there were gatherings for music and dancing; and among visiting boats at the Elizafield landing there was usually one from Retreat Plantation on St. Simons – the boat of young Mallery King who had his own pet name "Jenty", for pretty Eugenia (Jinny) Grant. <sup>4</sup>

In September 1841 Elizafield's banks sustained breaks by Gale and tide. The harvest was a month late and many barrels of rice lost. Another strong hurricane hit Georgia in 1854 devastating Grant's plantation. A dreadful Gale Hugh wrote in his Journal. Every stack in the field was blown and washed away. Loss - entire 110 acres, 6000 bushels.

As the sixties drew near, and life on the plantations began to lose its lighthearted gaiety, parties and dances gave way to serious and troubled gatherings. Although Hugh Fraser Grant's health had begun to fail, he was enrolled in the Glynn County reserve. When the war did come and young Hugh Fraser Jr. left to join the army, much of the responsibility for the safety of the household fell into the hands of Caesar, the Butler. When the approach of Gunboats down the coast made it no longer wise for the family to remain at Elizafield, Caesar was a "tower of strength". Under his supervision boxes and barrels of china, glass, and silverware were carefully packed in rice straw and Spanish moss and buried in the garden. Clothes and a few personal belongings and household necessities were packed. Trunks and boxes, coops of poultry, and provisions from the smokehouse were loaded on to wagons. Then Caesar shepherded family and house-servants into carriages and carryalls, and the cavalcade set out on the long journey to Tebeauville where they and many of their friends found sanctuary during the war years. <sup>4</sup>

News of the men in the army came from time to time. Young Captain Mallery King had Jinny's promise to wait until his return, and he wrote hopefully of an expected leave. When word came that he was at Kennesaw Mountain near Atlanta and that he would be able to come to Tebeauville long enough for a wedding, there were hurried preparations. Firm in the traditions of the Grants, Caesar hitched up a wagon and set out on the long drive to Elizafield to dig up the china that was always used at family festivities. The clouds of war were pushed back for a while as old friends gathered to celebrate the wedding and to drink the young couple's health and happiness with the toast that is still remembered in the family – "A Grant to a King." And refreshments were served on the dainty flower-wreathed English china which has been used at the wedding receptions of daughters of the family from that day to this – the china that Caesar dug up from the garden at Elizafield in 1862. <sup>4</sup>

Finally, the war was over but the Grants never returned to Elizafield. The family went to Savannah to live and management of the plantations was put in charge of and overseer. For a few years Mallery and Jinny stayed at the old home place, and their children were the fourth generation to live on the Grant plantation; but when the young Kings moved to St. Simons Island, the Elizafield house was left unoccupied. The plantations were proving unprofitable and soon the fields of Elizafield, Evelyn, and Grantly were no longer cultivated. The sluice-gates fell into disrepair; the tides overflowed the ditches and canals; the marshes reclaimed the rice fields. Marsh grass covered the lowlands and dense undergrowth covered lawns and crowded out the gardens and orchards. The plantation buildings fell into ruins. The big empty house went up in flames, and finally as the years passed, nothing remained of Elizafield but a few tabby foundations and ruins and myriad beautiful memories.<sup>4</sup>

Hugh wrote "Journal of Elizafield" a detailed account of Rice growing and life on a antebellum plantation, was a Major in the Glynn Co. Rangers 1834-1836. He was in the reserves in 1863-1865. From 1838-1843 he was Judge of Inferior court in Glynn County whose duties also included marriage licenses. Hugh retired in 1861 leaving the combined plantations to his son Hugh to run. During the Civil War he was a Glynn County member of the Georgia House of Representatives (1863-1865). Hugh Sr. died in 1873 while visiting a daughter in Winchester, VA.

The following paragraph is an excerpt which provides an account of Hugh as a Glynn county ranger.

*"It proved to be a false alarm, as it was in Georgia in 1848 when the Glynn County Rangers were given a similar order. Learning of a possible plot, Ranger Captain Hugh F. Grant quickly mobilized a cavalry company and went out to "protect the Community and County from insurrections."<sup>21</sup>*

In the autumn of 1861 when Union forces were descending the Atlantic Coastline in an attempt to blockade it and establish Federal footholds, Hugh and his family migrated inland. Hugh wrote in his Journal: "Waresboro, Ware County GA 1861 Oct. 26<sup>th</sup>, Moved my family and part of the Negroes here out of the way of the Vandal Yankeys." And so the majority of the Grants passed the Civil War years at Waresboro, GA (Ware Co.) in the interior of GA. The common lore indicated the plantations were destroyed during the Civil War, but actually they burned about 1885.

After losing their slaves, the planters knew that their only chance to rebuild their fortunes rested with continued ownership of their lands. On March 3, 1865, the Freedmen's Bureau Act enacted Sherman's field order which gave each freed slave 40 acres and a mule. The Union Army distributed confiscated land south of Charleston to the freedmen. This action led Georgetown's planters to fear that the same fate might befall their property. Many of the planters who had earlier moved inland to escape the war, moved back to their plantations to claim their holdings.

On April 25 1865, under orders, the planters of Georgetown and Charleston districts took oaths of allegiance to the United States. Afterwards, the Union Army instructed the planters to assemble the freedmen and draw up formal labor contracts and to provide for the freedmen as they had before emancipation and divide the harvest with them. The

occupation forces warned the planters that if they decided not to grow crops on their land, they would still be held responsible for providing for their own and possibly other ex-slaves on their land.

Rice was planted shortly thereafter, but because the fields had lain fallow for four years and because of the shortage of laborers, the yield was very small. The Freedmen's Bureau planted and managed several plantations. The ex-slaves worked hard until after the crop was harvested. Afterwards, they refused to repair broken trunks and work at ditching. After deliberating over the crisis, the United States Army used force to make the freedmen perform the tasks that they usually performed during the "lay by time."

The 1866 City directory of Savannah lists Hugh F. Grant (Senior) as living at the corner of Taylor and Bull Streets opposite Monterrey Square<sup>28</sup>. He was later known to be a Special Agent for the Louisiana Equitable Life Insurance Co. with an office at 94 Bryan and 90½ Jones. In 1867 Hugh Frazer Grant Jr. moved to Savannah and attempted to make a living as a bookkeeper, a commission merchant and eventually was elected president of the Savannah Board of trade. The 1880 Federal census lists Hugh as living in Savannah in his mother in-law's (Caroline W. Rogers) house working as a Corn Merchant (and lists his wife Georgia and their son Rogers F. Grant and daughter Carrie Grant). The story of the effect of the Civil war on the combined plantation and on the Grant Family is not known precisely, except that with the emancipation of the slaves and the dwindling rice market, Hugh Jr. struggled to keep the plantation running as an absentee manager until 1885, moving to Ashville, NC. In 1889 the combined plantation was sold at auction for a mere \$7,644 (equals \$151,546 in FY2003 dollars).



*Brunswick, 1890s. Family gathered for a photograph. Note the dog is included, too. Standing, left to right: Mary King Nightingale, P.M., Retta McCullough, Louisa Greene Nightingale, Frances Grant, Clifford D. Wayne, Malcolm McCullough. Seated: Elise Wayne, Ethel Wayne, P. Alstone Hazelhurst, Josephine de Bignon, and Rock, the dog.*

Eventually the land was sold to Cator Woolford. He later presented three hundred and fifty wooded acres of the old Elizafield home plantation to The State of Georgia in 1935 as the Santo Domingo State Park. The Park was never developed though and in 1945, the land was made available by the legislature for the establishment of a Boys Estate.

The boys set up their city government and have done a superb job of running their community. Like the famous Boys Town, the Estate elects its own city officials and has its own chamber of commerce. Each boy does his share of the work and they live in congenial groups with house-mothers in charge of the cottages. With a deep understanding of boys, the men responsible for the Boys Estate know that many a youngster would prefer insecurity for himself rather than be parted from his dog. So, an integral part of the town is Dogs Estate where rags can share the life of his young master.

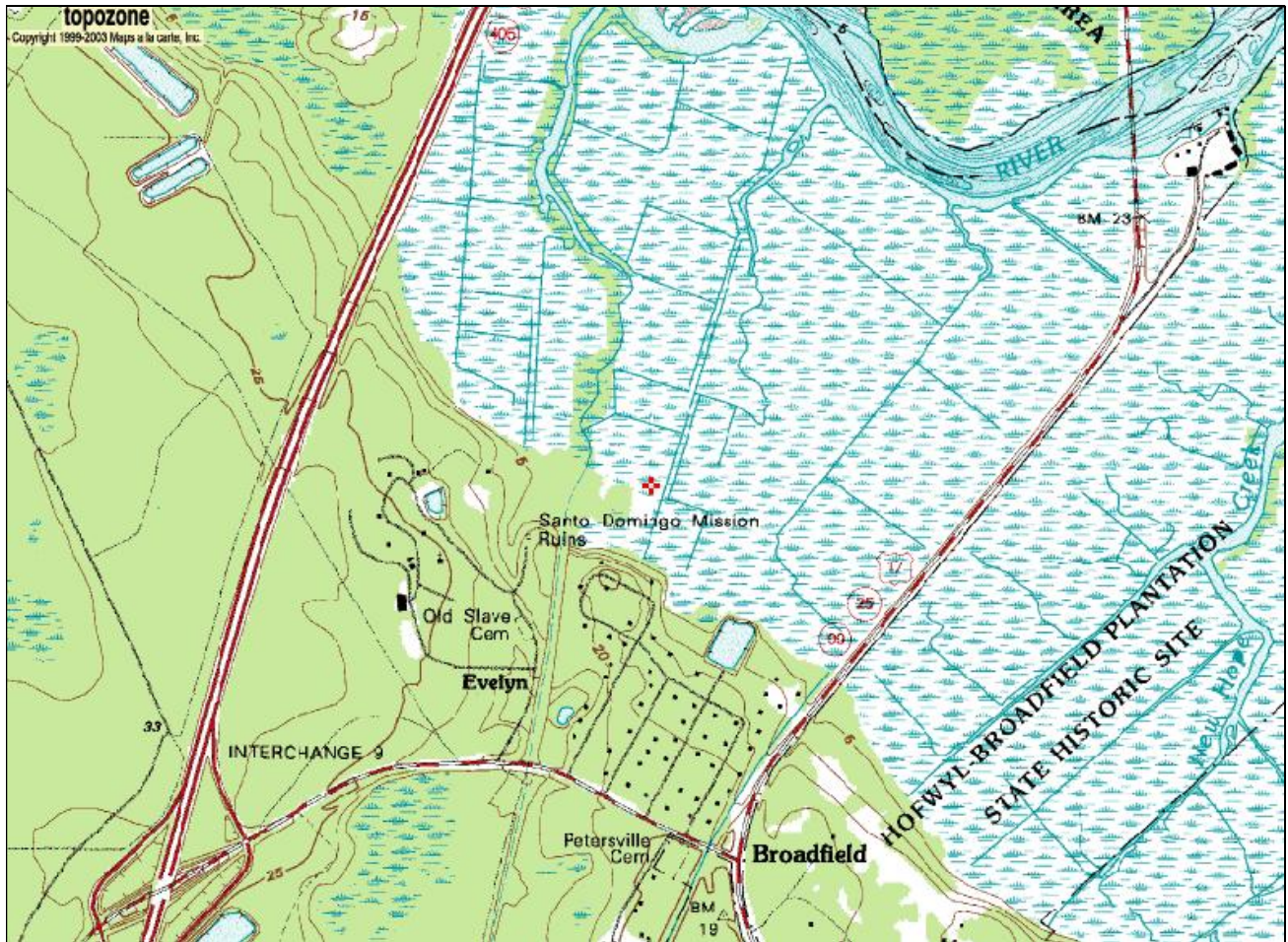


Photo: Ed Jackson

It was used for many years as a home and school for underprivileged boys and eventually was turned over to Morningstar (Baptist association) for the establishment of a unique children's treatment center.



The Boys Estate tract of land containing 350 1/2 acres, more or less, beginning at a point on the north side of local county road, leading from the Coastal Highway to Altama plantation at the center of the abandoned Brunswick-Altamaha Canal, meandering along the bank of the South Altamaha River to the north and east, to a point in the center of the Brunswick-Altamaha Canal, where it flows into the South Altamaha River.



*Modern day Topographical map of Elizafield, Evelyn and Grantly located at I95N interchange near Darien GA – collectively labelled as Evelyn on map.<sup>18</sup>*

The Elizafield ruins still existing at the time of this writing are an old slave cemetery and a Grant Family Cemetery which has a tabby wall around it. The Boys estate now a treatment facility for troubled youth is still located on the property. The canal can still be clearly seen though very little water runs through it. The ruins of the sugar mill are right near the canal and are pictured elsewhere herein. Evelyn and Grantly are now dotted with houses however, the foundation walls of the main house may still be seen. The Oatlands property located on St. Simons Island is still called Oatlands on the gate of the property but is now in private ownership and was not readily accessible to determine what ruins may still exist.



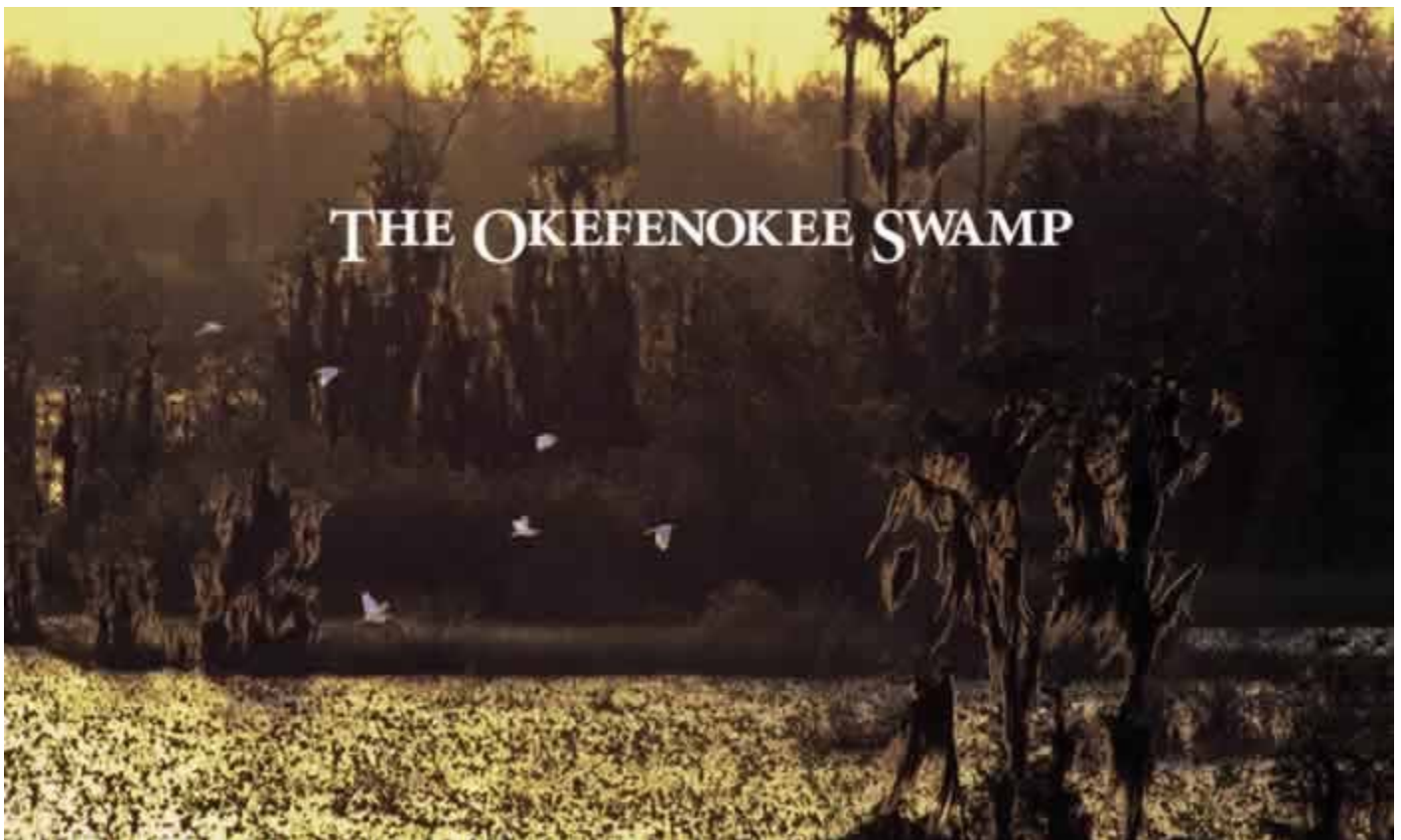
## Chapter 4

## Civil war years

Miller Bond Grant was the son of Charles and Cornelia Grant. He was named after Nancy Ann Miller and Venables Bond, his maternal Grandparents or perhaps going back to his famous ancestors - Samuel Miller who signed the Georgia Declaration of Independence and likely died in the British prison ship *The Forbay* in 1782, and Dr. Thomas Bond, family doctor to Benjamin Franklin and founder of the first hospital in America.

Born in 1838, his family lived at Woodhome, a farm near Savannah until the outbreak of the Civil war. The Georgia Legislature authorized an exploration of the Okefenokee in 1856. Richard Hunter, in charge of the survey, prepared a report in 1857. An assistant, Miller B. Grant, wrote an illustrated article on the explorers' experiences for Frank Leslie's *New Family Magazine* in 1858. Grant's observations of the people are especially useful.

Following Richard Hunter's survey of the Okefenokee from 1856 to 1857, Miller B. Grant, his 17 year old surveyor, described a typical Okefenokee frontier homestead and its inhabitants as follows<sup>22</sup>:



A mere hut, log or otherwise, with one similar near by in most instances, ordinarily used as a cooking and eating room - these suffice for their simple views of comfort. I once saw a man and his wife with seventeen children herded together, without thought of change, in one of these shanties. Many of them depend for subsistence, several months of the year, on the spoils of hunting, wild fruits and berries in a great measure, so few acres of land do

they choose to plant. If they have cattle (and many of them own and pride themselves in the fact of large herds of cattle), to milk or make butter from them would be as wild a theory to them as to bid us to get cheese from the moon, so entirely out of their calculations is such a mode of proceeding. They assign, when questioned, as a reason for inhabiting that section of the country, that there are lots of lightwood knots, and water "is powerful handy."

Grant also added: "[Yet] there does not exist - for their means and style of life - a more open-hearted or hospitable set of people in the world."

Hunter's surveyors entered Cowhouse Island and camped at the homestead of a "Mr. Short," apparently a composite character constructed by M.B. Grant. Grant wrote:

This gentleman was of the genus Cracker, and a rare specimen of a man not to be outwitted, standing six feet in his wide brogans, stockingless; and the homespun pants might seem to have clung to his lower limbs since boyhood.... All of the [Crackers] ordinarily wear cloth of their own weaving; in some parts of the country a brownish yellow is the prevailing color, as I was told they liked it "to favor the soil." When the young surveyors arrived, Mr. Short's three daughters, in their late 20s and 30s, changed into their "store clothes," yellow calico. Mr. Short's daughters were not impressed by the visitors or their saxehorn. The women stated that they preferred their neighbour, Stag Morris's, fiddle. One of the daughters reported: "I reckon he kills more bars, makes more bitters and drinks more whiskey, nor ere a man round here, unless it's the old man."

The surveyors attended a Christmas dance or "hop" at the log cabin home of a "Mr. Brown" on the edge of the swamp northwest of Trader's Hill. The dance was managed by a "first fiddle of the company." According to Grant, he was: "the arbiter of good manners, as well as wit and jester. He kept up a sort of ding-dong tune, a ring-dong-diddle, a ring-dang-do, a ring-dong-diddle, a ring-dang-do." Grant noted that the tune "apparently inspired those in whose ears...it was sweet music." Grant was impressed again by the independence and power of the womenfolk. one mother, forcing Grant to dance with her daughter, bragged that her daughters could "roll as many logs, dig as many taters, and dance as long as ere a man in this country."

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Miller Bond Grant was a graduate of West Point and was commissioned as a first lieutenant, later promoted to Captain during the Civil War. He was involved in many civil engineering assignments in the War. He drew the Battlefield map and made the official report for the Battle of Ocean Ponds (or Olustee, FL). BRIG. GEN. Finegan said of him, "The brigadier general commanding thanks the officers and men of this command for their bravery and admirable conduct in the engagement with the enemy at Ocean pond on the 20th inst. The signal victory which their valor achieved, will be of great service to their country. To the courage of the men of ----- *For the accompanying excellent sketch of the battle field of Ocean pond, I am indebted to Lieut. Miller B. Grant, of the Confederate States Engineer Corps, whose name, and skill, and indefatigable labors will always be honourably associated with the proud memories of the Florida campaign.* Georgia and Florida is this victory due, and to their states will its results more especially endure."<sup>17</sup>

## **Timeline for Miller Bond Grant**

1838 Born Ceylow McIntosh Co. GA

1856-1857 Helped survey the Okefenokee Swamp

1858-1860 (Presumed) attended college (Westpoint Military Academy)

1859 November 16<sup>th</sup>, married Susan E. White

1860 Miller B. Grant was listed in the 1860 city directory for Savannah as an Assistant Engineer for the Atlanta & Gulf Railroad, Stoddards Building

1861-1862 Enlisted CSA - Miller did engineering and drafting on the Powder Works in Augusta, GA.

1862 – 1864 Assistant Engineer, District of Georgia. Served in that capacity through 1864

1864 The Battle of Olustee Florida

1864 Defense of Savannah and Macon, GA.

1865 Lived in Milledgeville, GA

1868 - 1870 Lived in Thomasville, GA. Civil Engineer, where he lived in close proximity to his parents.

1871 By 1871 he had moved back to Savannah, GA

Date unknown. The Savannah Morning News Index indicates that Miller Bond Grant was a city engineer for their street cars, and an architect and building contractor. The Abram's Savannah Directory (year unknown) lists Miller Bond Grant's office on the 4th story of a commercial building located on the SW corner of Henry and Lincoln streets.

1873 Assisted in the gas lighting system of Savannah

1876 Grant was elected to the board of the Georgia Historical Society in 1876.

1877 Listed as an Savannah Architect. He planned renovations for the Savannah Hospital.

1879 Superintendent and Secretary of the Barnard and Anderson Street Railroad - off Barnard and Anderson Street Railroad, Savannah.

1880 A series of personal and financial misfortunes led to Grant's 1880 indictment charges of forgery and embezzlement. James Johnson said that Miller Grant was adjudicated "insane" in 1881. Speaking with people who know about those times, Johnson was told that 'insanity' was a catch-all category for a variety of events, and did not necessarily imply that someone was incapacitated from a mental illness. The precipitating event was a building that collapsed in Savannah about 1880. It's easy to imagine that Miller was overcome with shock at what happened".

1880-1882 lived in St. Louis MO to help in the new construction on the Eads Bridge over the Mississippi River.

1882 moved to Mississippi where he supervised railroad and bridge construction and provided architectural services. Miller was a long time resident of Laurel, MS. He may have chose to move to Mississippi because a War officer he served with was involved in setting up a new rail line from Meridian to Gulfport and Miller worked on that line.

1883 Wife Susan E. White Died, Enterprise, MS

1883 Remarried. 2<sup>nd</sup> wife - name unknown. One daughter born 1884 (Louise Ormi Grant). 2<sup>nd</sup> wife died.

1891 M.B. Grant listed as an Agent of the Berlin Iron Bridge company, Enterprise, MS

1891 Remarried 3<sup>rd</sup> wife. Virginia (Jennie) Beverly Wrenn Coffman, in MS, 17 Oct 1891. No children from the marriage. Marriage ended in divorce.

1902 Died Laurel, MS. Buried Enterprise, MS.

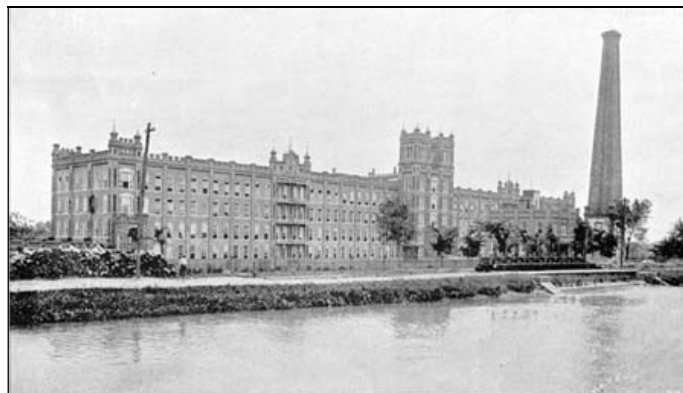
The book "Yearsyears, stepping stones to tomorrow" (100 years Laurel, MS history), says Miller Bond Grant named all the streets in the town (Laurel MS) using the trees he saw there as street names.

The following text is a draft chapter from a still to be published new book about the Confederate Powder Works in Augusta, GA. written by Dr. Chip Bragg, which details Miller Bond Grants life. The pictures shown with it are said to have been drafted personally by Miller B. Grant under direction by C.S. Smith.



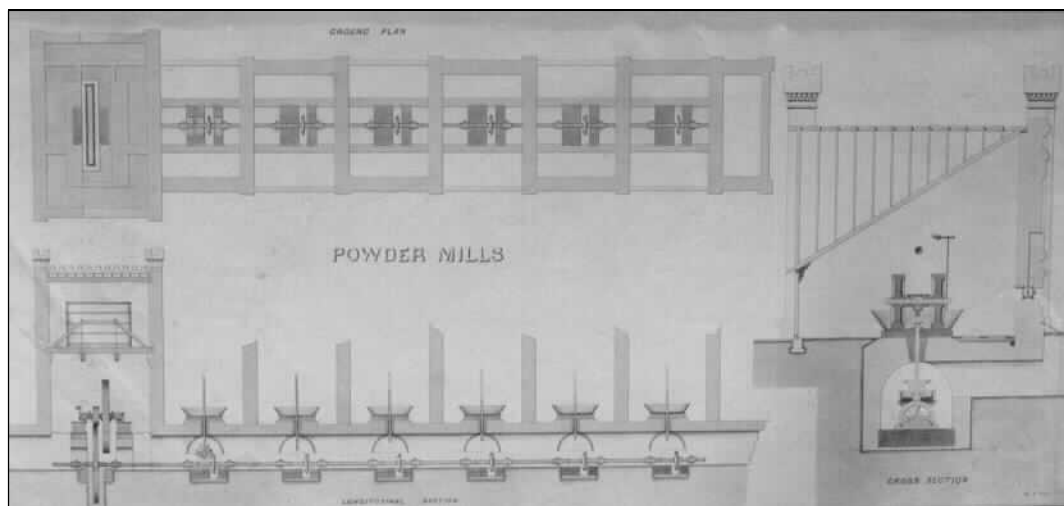
*Augusta Georgia – Confederate Powder works*

C. Shaler Smith is regarded as the engineering and architectural genius of the Powder Works, but the size and complexity of the project was too large for one man to bear alone. In fact, the daily report of Superintendent Pendleton generally indicates that other engineers were on hand. Two of the civil engineers known to have worked at the Powder Works were Miller B. Grant and Albert L. West.

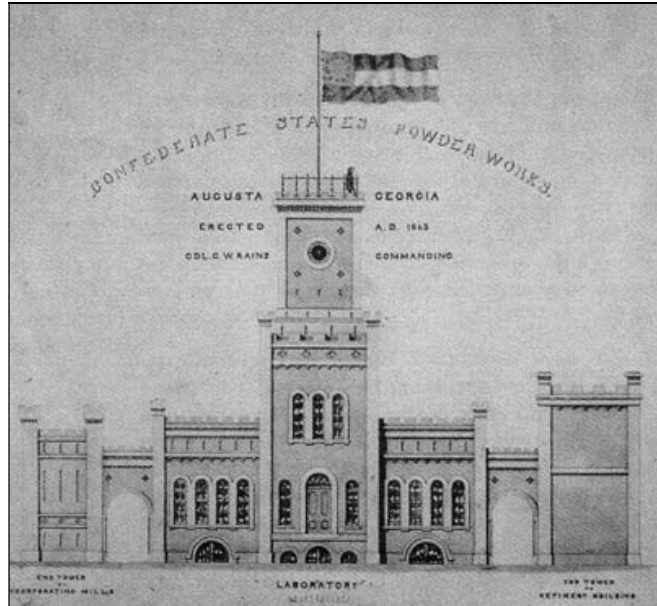


Miller B. Grant, was born in 1838 in McIntosh County, Georgia. After spending his youth on his father's rice plantation near Savannah, he entered the field of civil engineering. His earliest recorded employment was as an assistant to Richard L. Hunter who surveyed the Okefenokee Swamp in 1856 and 1857. According to his obituary, Grant attended the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, New York during the 1850s, but academy records fail to substantiate this as fact. While working in the Georgia capitol of Milledgeville in 1859, Grant courted and married Susan E. White. By 1860, he had returned to Savannah, employed as assistant engineer for the Atlantic and Gulf Railroad.

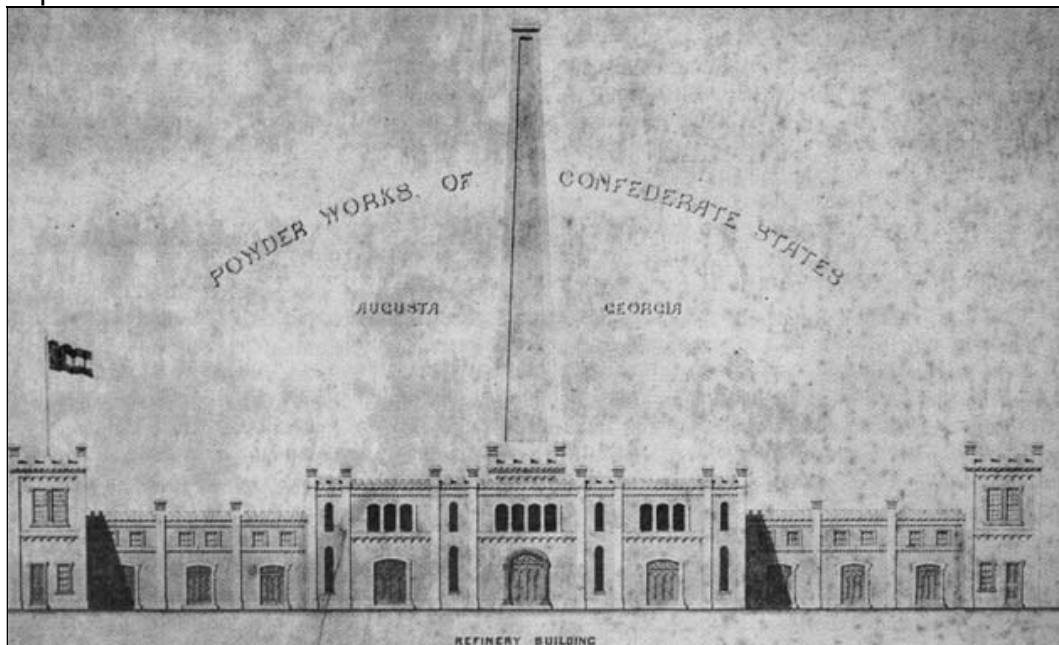
With the coming of the war, Grant joined a local company of sappers and miners in June 1861 and was elected first lieutenant. Instead of actually mustering into the Confederate army, he worked on the fortification of the Georgia coast for a short time as a civilian before relocating to Augusta to assist Rains and Shaler Smith at the Powder Works.



Smith's records reveal that Grant served the Powder Works as assistant engineer. Although Rains credited Grant with the immediate supervision of the construction of the main buildings of the Powder Works which began on September 13, 1861, it is clear that Grant took a subordinate role to Smith who closely followed Grant's progress during Rains's absence.



Grant's name appears at the bottom of a few of the architectural drawings of the Works, seemingly drafted under Smith's supervision as Smith's name also appears on most of Grant's drawings. It may be that Grant spent more time in the field at the construction sites than at the drafting table. He remained at work in Augusta until August 1862. Acting on Rains's behalf on one occasion, Grant revealed a glimpse of patriotism while writing to a nitre supplier: "It is important that no time should be lost in making or delivering Saltpetre, at this time so necessary to our successful carrying on of the War and to the maintenance of our independence."

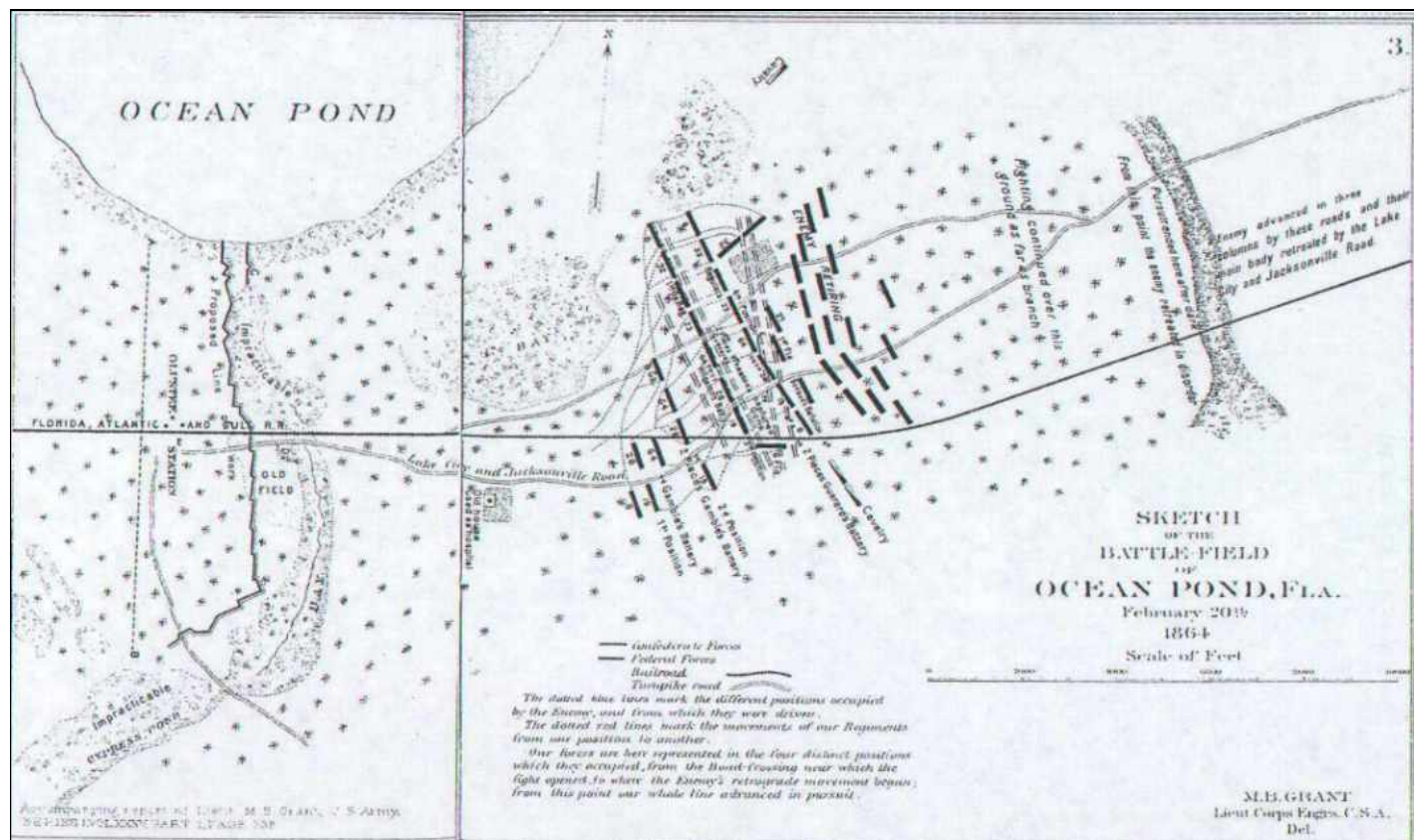


In February 1862, Rains corresponded with General Robert E. Lee who at the time commanded the Department of South Carolina, Georgia, and Florida. Concerned about Augusta's vulnerability to attack by Federal gunboats traveling up the Savannah River,

Rains proposed placing obstructions in the river and sent Grant to Savannah to secure a small steamboat for the job. While en route, Grant delivered Rains's letter to Lee who fully concurred with Rains's plan to fortify and obstruct Shell Bluff, some forty-five miles down river from Augusta.

On October 13, 1862, Grant was commissioned second lieutenant and ordered to report to the C. S. Engineer's office in Savannah. He became assistant engineer of the District of Georgia and served in that capacity through 1864. In September 1863, Grant sought promotion to captain, a rank more consistent with his duties and expertise. His efforts were heartily endorsed by his superiors, including General Beauregard in Charleston, but he did not receive an increase in rank.\*

On February 15, 1864, Lieutenant Grant departed Savannah under orders to report to Brigadier General Joseph Finegan near Olustee, Florida to serve as Finegan's engineering officer. Using 35 impressed Negroes, tools collected from nearby plantations, and detailed soldiers, Grant strengthened Finegan's defensive lines. The Battle of Olustee (Ocean Pond) was fought just over two miles in front of these lines on February 22, and though Grant was on the field for only the last hour of the fight, he submitted a detailed report and map of the battle. Commenting on the contest Grant noted, "This victory, like many others, was mainly due to the superior fighting qualities of our troops, their determination and unflinching valor."



Battlemap of Ocean Ponds (Olustee, FL)

Following the Battle of Olustee, Grant finally received a well-deserved promotion to first lieutenant as he continued to work on the Savannah defenses. In July 1864, he was sent to central Georgia to construct field works and fortifications for the protection of Macon. On his return to Savannah, Grant assisted in the establishment of the Confederate lines in anticipation of Sherman's arrival at the conclusion of the Federal march through Georgia to the sea. He played an important role in the construction of a pontoon bridge across the Savannah River which served as the all-important escape route from the city to the South Carolina side of the river during the Confederate evacuation of Savannah on December 19–20.

Grant's whereabouts from the fall of Savannah until the end of the war are uncertain. It is doubtful that he ever received his desired promotion to captain<sup>1</sup>. Confusion exists because of references in the Official Records which refer to a Captain L. P. Grant of the C.S. Engineer's Bureau who was posted in Atlanta and later in Augusta. In any event, Miller Grant may have attended to the defense of Charleston prior to that city's fall to Federal forces, or perhaps he engaged in one of the principle duties of many of the Confederate engineers at that point of the war—the repair of damaged railroads in north Georgia and the Carolinas. Grant must have possessed enormous natural talent and engineering ability considering the varied task that he performed as a Confederate engineer—coastal defense and field fortification, drafting and construction, and railroad repair<sup>1</sup>.

After the war, Grant resided in Milledgeville before moving to Thomasville, Georgia in 1868, then back to Savannah prior to 1871. Over the years he practiced civil engineering, working for a number of Southern railroads, and serving for a time as the city engineer of Savannah. Grant's interests were diverse. He encouraged the gas lighting of Savannah in 1873 using an innovative system (not of his design) which implemented electricity to light the gas lanterns. He planned renovations for the Savannah Hospital in 1877. Grant was elected to the board of the Georgia Historical Society in 1876.

A series of personal and financial misfortunes led to Grant's 1880 indictment on charges of forgery and embezzlement. He subsequently was declared insane and apparently committed to the state hospital in Milledgeville, but whether or not he was admitted to the overcrowded institution is unclear. According to family sources, Grant travelled to St. Louis, Missouri to take part in the ongoing Mississippi River projects that followed the construction of James Buchanan Eads's triple-arch bridge. If true, he surely renewed acquaintance with Shaler Smith who resided in St. Louis at the time.



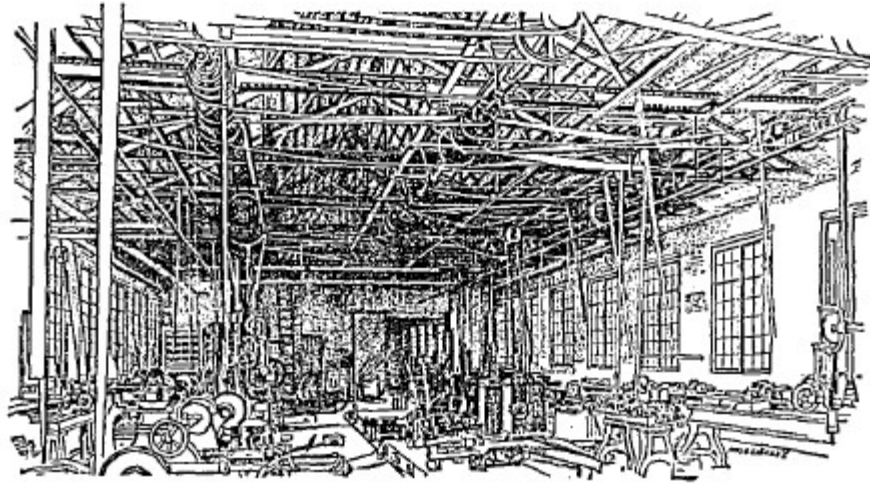


*Eads Bridge over the Mississippi River, St.Louis, MO*

He eventually moved to Mississippi approximately 1882 where he supervised railroad and bridge construction and provided architectural services.

# THE BERLIN IRON BRIDGE COMPANY,

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Send for Illustrated Catalogue.

This illustration is taken direct from a photograph of an iron truss roof built by us for the C. W. Hunt Co., at West New Brighton, Staten Island, for a Machine Shop. The building is 42 feet in width by 202 feet long. The trusses being placed 10 feet apart, connected by iron purlins and covered with slate. Notice that the roof is arranged to carry shafting at any point in the lower chord which is considerable of a novelty in an iron roof.

## THE FOLLOWING ARE OUR AGENCIES:

Wm. Payson, San Antonio, Texas; W. E. Stearns, Omaha, Neb.; M. B. Grant, Enterprise, Miss.; A. M. Rawn, Dayton, Ohio.

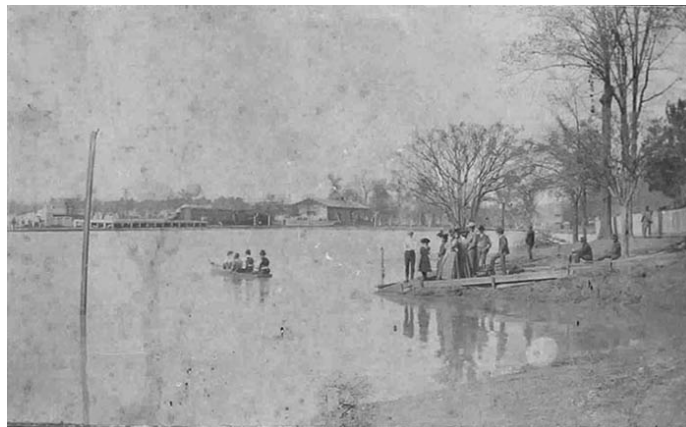
**OFFICE AND WORKS, EAST BERLIN, CONN.**

*Advertisement listing M.B. Grant as an Agent of the company, dated February 21<sup>st</sup>, 1891<sup>23</sup>*

Grant is credited with the naming of many newly-opened streets in Laurel Mississippi, a logging town which impressed him with its variety of trees whose names he assigned as street names—oak, magnolia, pine, ash, maple, cherry, dogwood, elm, hickory, holly, and plum. He ultimately survived two wives, married a third at the age of fifty-three, and in all, fathered nine children. He died in Enterprise, Mississippi in 1902. <sup>14</sup>

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*\*Note: Regarding Miller Bond Grant's promotion to Captain, there is some historical record documenting his Captaincy found on pages 23 and 50 of the book: The Siege of Savannah in December, 1864, and the Confederate Operations in Georgia and the Third Military District of South Carolina during General Sherman's March from Atlanta to the Sea: Charles Colcock Jones, 1831-1893, copyright 1874. He is twice mentioned by that title.*



*Enterprise, MS. Flood of 1902*

## The Civil War/Slavery and Georgia

In 1789 Georgians, as did much of the rest of the country, saw slavery as a dying institution. Eli Whitney's stolen modification of the cotton gin (1793) created a greater demand for slaves, so rather than "wither on the vine" the institution prospered. The Northwest Ordinance, adopted in 1787 banned the practice in the Northwest Territories. In 1798 Georgia forbid further importation of slaves and the Constitution allowed Congress to outlaw importation of slaves in 1808, which they did. Over the next 40 years lesser skirmishes were fought over slavery including the Compromise of 1820. In North Georgia slavery was not widespread and a majority of the slaves were of Native American, Scottish or Irish descent.

Slaves often spoke of "our cotton" or "our cattle". The only item they would concede was the master's carriage. Trusted slaves were permitted to go to town unescorted. Others suffered horribly. Conditions in northern factories were as bad or worse than those for a majority of the slaves, but it would be 40 years after the war when they were properly addressed.

Beginning in the late 1840's the conflict over slavery began to boil over. The Compromise of 1850 contributed heavily to the split in Georgia's Democratic Party. On a national scale David Wilmot, Lloyd Garrison, and Harriet Beecher Stowe enflamed the abolitionists. James G. Birney and Theodore Weld were more effective against slavery. The Dred Scot decision, Kansas-Nebraska Act, and harsher Fugitive Slave Laws gave the South some redress.

The new Republican Party became a home to the alienated abolitionists. Although they totalled less than 3% of the population at large, they formulated the Republican platform to include the abolition of slavery as a plank. The party then nominated Abraham Lincoln for president. Few gave him any chance of success, but 3 other candidates split the popular vote and Lincoln won. Convinced that Lincoln would ruin the South economically, possibly by freeing the slaves, the heartland of the South withdrew from the Union. Shortly thereafter the upper south joined them. The attack on Fort Sumter launched America's bloodiest conflict.

Many misconceptions exist about the institution of slavery in North Georgia. One is that a significant number of North Georgians owned slaves. The most accurate figure is about 7% of North Georgians owned slaves at the time of the Civil War. That percentage was significantly lower (3%) in the mountains of North Georgia, and higher in the eastern piedmont area (almost 10% in some places). Only in the larger cities of Rome, Athens, and Lawrenceville did ownership exceed 10%. Slaves were a sign of wealth. Most slaves were owned by planters and, to a much less extent, professionals.

Another misconception is that all slaves were black. While slaves throughout the state were overwhelmingly black, in North Georgia only 20-40% were black slaves. Many were Cherokee who were left behind during the Trail of Tears. Others were Scot and Irish.

## Mississippi, the Civil war and "The Free State of Jones legend"

Jones County MS (where Miller Bond Grant lived, and home to the Nobles family) at the time of the civil war was one of the poorest counties in the state. According to the 1860 census, among Jones County's total population of 3,323 were only 407 slaves and free blacks. The resulting figure of 12% black was, by far, the lowest of any county in the state. As in other poor locations, such as East Tennessee, this lack of slaves created a strong anti-secessionist feeling in Jones County before the war. When electing a delegate to the state's Secession Convention, 400 Jones County voters elected the anti-secessionist candidate, J.D. Powell, by an overwhelming margin of 376-24 over his secessionist rival, J.M. Baylis.

During the War Between the States, the counties of southeast Mississippi, which tended to be very sparsely populated and filled with swamps and thick forests, became the homes of hundreds of Confederate deserters--both local men who had come home from the war as well as deserters from other areas who just needed a good place to hide. A letter dated January 28, 1864, by a group of Smith and Jasper County citizens claimed that Jones County now contained 300 deserters. A letter written from Mobile Alabama by Major General Dabney Maury to Confederate Secretary of War James A. Seddon and dated March 3 placed the number of "armed traitors" in Jones County at "more than 500 strong, with artillery.

Companies of 40 or 50 men go together to each other's fields, stack arms, place out a picket guard, and then cut and roll logs, repair fences, &c., and in this way they swear they intend to raise crops and defend themselves from cavalry this season. Throughout his work, while mentioning Unionism here and there, T.J. Knight consistently maintained that the Knight Company was formed mainly by men wishing to protect their families from the various depredations of Confederate cavalry. He gave report after report of depredations against the people's property, that the cavalry "would kill their cows and hogs and chickens and eat them...they would take their corn that they raised and feed their horses and waste it, leaving the women and children without bread to eat...and that was not all they would do". Another thing they would do, according to T.J. Knight, was to "cut the cloth out of the hand looms" where the women had wove the cloth to make clothes for their children to wear. Consider the following passage by Thomas Jefferson Knight:

You who have said hard things about Newt Knight and his company, take this home to yourself. Just suppose you were a poor man and had a dear wife and some little children at home you loved above everything else in this world. How would you like to have been snatched up and carried off from them, who needed your companionship and protection at all times: having to leave them at the mercy of what ever happened to them. Think of this before you say hard things about Newt Knight and his company, and ask yourself if any red-blooded man could stand for such conduct and not resent it. I am persuaded that you would do as Captain Knight and his company did and furthermore, you would repent of the hard words you have said about Newt Knight and his company.

Although the legend of Jones County's "secession" from the Confederacy and the state of Mississippi is incorrect, the stories surrounding Newt Knight and the deserters of Jones County are not without substance. Though his band was only one of several throughout southeast Mississippi, Newt Knight's organization was sizable and, unlike other bands, managed to survive in some fashion until the end of the war. It did so because Knight's men, mostly Jones Countians, inevitably returned to their homes and families when dispersed by the Confederates. Most of these men, it would seem, were likely neither criminals nor Unionists but merely products of the 1840s (a time when no governing officials existed in Jones Co. due to low pay) and the "Free State of Jones" - simple farmers who deserted because they wished to return to their families and who banded together to fight off people who wanted to force them to do things they didn't want to do. In this sense they were, perhaps, the truest rebels of all. After the civil war, 99 confederate loyalist of Jones co. wanting to distance themselves from the Free State image appealed to the Mississippi state legislature to change the name of Jones county to Davis county (in honor of confederate president Jefferson Davis, and to change the name of Ellisville to Leesburg in honor of Robert E. Lee. The vote was passed in Dec. 1865 and the new names were used for 5 years. Then it was repealed when the new MS State constitution was ratified, and so the former names were restored.

**Miller Bond Grant's Birth** 11/22/1838, Ceylow, McIntosh Co., moved to MS in 1882, death - 02/07/1902, Laurel, MS, buried in Enterprise, MS, Miller was stricken with paralysis at 2PM and died without regaining consciousness.

#### **Marriages -**

**1<sup>st</sup> wife** - Susan E. Grant, Born 1839, Milledgeville, GA, married in Milledgeville, GA on 11/16/1859, Died 02/17/1883, Enterprise, MS. In an exchange published in Enterprise, Mississippi, is announced the death of Mrs. Susan E. Grant, formerly of this city, and wife of Captain Miller B. Grant.

Eight of Miller's nine children were born by Susan. Susan was the daughter of Dr. Benjamin Aspinwall White - Occupation - Surgeon General of GA. Elected Mayor of Milledgeville, GA in 1843. His father was also a doctor and was a revolutionary war patriot.

**2nd wife** - name unknown - It is not clear when she married Miller Bond Grant, but Miller's first wife died Feb. 1883, and a child (Louise Ormi Grant) was born by him in May 1884 in St. Louis, MO. so apparently he remarried right away. According to Dr. Chip Millers "Powder Works" book, Miller's second wife died.

**3rd wife** - Mrs. Jennie Beverly Wrenn Coffman, she was widowed in 1875 with 2 children. She married Miller on Oct 17, 1891, divorced 11/13/1894 in Meridian, MS, grounds were desertion.

**9 Children** - Elizabeth Evelyn Grant, Charles Venables Grant, Benjamin S. Grant, Miller Bond Grant jr., Cornelia Grant, Mary Rogers Grant, Lilla White Grant, William Hopkins Grant, Louise Ormi Grant

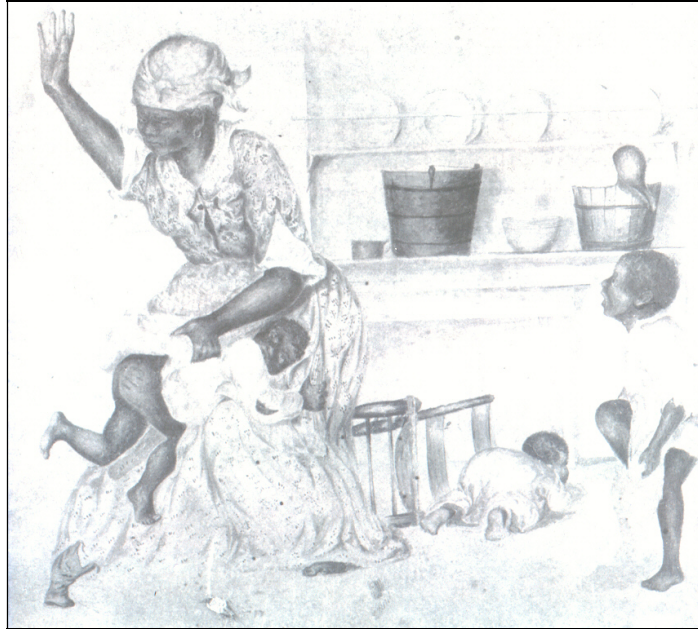
#### **Miller's brother's info -**

**William Drummond (or Durham) Grant** - Born Shell Bank on 08/20/1844, Killed at the Battle of Sailors Creek, Virginia 1865 (last fight of Lee's Army), Died: 11 April 1865, Appomattox Court House, Virginia, buried at Laurel Grove Cemetery in Savannah...Lots

1528 & 1529, aisle 14. 2nd GA calvary regiment, the Savannah Volunteer Guards Battalion (18th GA Battalion company B) saw very little fighting until 1864 when he went to reinforce General Lee's troops in VA. Major-General G.W.C. Lee commanding Lees div. Ewells Corps., endured the hard winter of 1864-1865 with 1 pound corn meal and 1/3 pound bacon per day. Ragged tents, starving, part of Crutchfields Brigade, Lieutenant W.D. Grant was mortally wounded after carrying the regimental flag and handing it to Major (commanding the 18th Battalion) Wm. S. Basinger. Later, as Grant lay dying, the Major surrendered by holding out his handkerchief. As he did so, the enemy rushed out from behind trees and shot the wounded who lay in the gully by the road. Lt. W.D. Grant died 5 days later. The enemy troops were Hamblins Brigade of the 6th Corp, all 3 regiments. Battle had 3 names - Sayers creek, Sailors Creek, Battle of Hillmans Farm 4/6/1865. 61% of the 18th Battalion died that day.

**Robert Grant** - Born at Evelyn, Glynn County 04/12/1836, Died August 15, 1865, Thomasville, GA, before the war he was a Lawyer in Savannah. For a time he was clerk of the state Senate and was the Milledgville correspondent for the Savannah Morning news. He never married. Was in the Georgia Army Civil War, began as a Private in Company B, 8th Georgia Infantry, started as a private May 21, 1861. Appointed Color Bearer in 1861; Acting Assistant Adjutant General in 1861; 2d Lieutenant of Infantry, C. S. A., September 18, 1861, and assigned to duty with Read's Battery Ga. Light Artillery July 25, 1862. Appointed Captain and Assistant Adjutant General August 15, 1863. Surrendered, Greensboro, N. C. April 26, 1865. (Grant died on the night of August 14/15, 1865 at his home in Savannah. The Savannah Morning News of 15 August indicated that he died of apoplexy sometime during the night. He is buried at Laurel Grove Cemetery, Savannah.) Buried at Laurel Grove Cemetery in Savannah...Lots 1528 & 1529, aisle 14. He died in his sleep from a stroke. His mother found him dead in his bed. Two years later she wrote, "I have lived over with fresh anguish and remorse all my soul's unfathomed miseries at the death of my firstborn and dearest."<sup>26</sup>

**James Bond Grant** - Born: Circa 1843, Glynn County, Georgia, Married: 29 November 1864; Tallahassee FLORIDA, resident of Leon County, Died: 8 March 1867, Leon County. James was an artist, (see 3 sketches done by him in Savannah in 1860). He saw battle in the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> battle of Manassas. The details are noted in the book "A Scythe of Fire". In the book are specific narratives related to James or Jim Grant and his heroism under fire. These accounts were preserved when James wrote letters home to his mother about the war. His mother later sent them to a magazine where they were published.



*Artwork of James Bond Grant - probably done at Evelyn Plantation*



*Artwork of James Bond Grant - probably done at Evelyn Plantation*



*Artwork of James Bond Grant - probably done at Evelyn Plantation*

He was a Private, Company B, 8th Georgia Infantry, C.S.A., 1st Lieutenant, Aide de Camp, General William Gardner, C.S.A. Started as a private May 21, 1861. Appointed 1st Lieutenant and A. D. C. and ordered to report to General Gardner June 16, 1863.

Serving as A. D. C. til January 19, 1864. James was placed on temporary duty away from his Company, the whole company (except James) was captured at Fort Pulaski when it fell, and sent to prison in the North. James produced the drawings for the book "The monumental remains of Georgia, (By Charles Colcock Jones, Jr. 1861)".<sup>26</sup> His death resulted from the rupture of his neck while exercising too violently in 1867.

**Charles Allen Grant** - Born Carteret Point, 12/22/1840, Died November 1870. His health was not very good, nearly dying twice of illnesses in his youth. He was assistant librarian for the Savannah Historical Society one year. In 1860, he began studies for the Episcopal priesthood becoming a priest in 1865. He was assistant rector in Athens GA 1863-1865. He served various positions such as Missionary to Northwest GA, and rector for various churches. He married Jane L. Glover in 1866. He had one son. He developed a lung disease in 1868 and had to resign from his church position in 1869. He was a church Vicar in Thomasville GA at the time. He founded the first Episcopal church in Thomasville. This may explain his not showing up in civil war records. (Other sources say his birth date was 1841, and death was 10/16/1870)<sup>26</sup>

**Ernest Grant** – Born 1848-1849, died 26 March 1886, 37-38 years old. The 1880 Federal Census has a Earnest Grant, single, age 32, living in the household of Fred Myers, Savannah GA (it appears that several clerks roomed at this household), and Earnest worked as a clerk in the Rr office.

**Claude Grant** – Born \_\_\_\_\_, was listed as a clerk in 1866, living with his parents.



### **Postscript:**

In the ongoing effort to discover prior generations of Grants the line has snagged at Robert Grant Sr. b. 1720. If approximately two more generations can be determined, it will ultimately lead us into the Grant Clan Chief's bloodline which is well documented back to the 13<sup>th</sup> century. I have recently found a probable next generation ancestor named Robert Grant who was married in 1708 in Leith Scotland, however, I have not yet confirmed this is our ancestor.

### **Research and Credits:**

I started my research with the Grant Family Bible (Ben Ray Grant's bible) and family pictures, then most of the genealogy details pictures and history came from numerous sources found on the internet, genealogy message boards, Civil War records, Obits, census data, cemetery records, Nobles family Bible, and the family history research of other genealogist such as that of James B. Johnson, Monroe Houston, and Ted Nobles, distant cousins of mine and to Edwin R. MacKethan III for Deed records. Gleaning valuable help and information from their prior research has greatly improved this Grant family history. Special recognition goes to James Johnson who has thoroughly researched the Grants and offered much help.

Here is a partial list of some of the internet sites used to create this Grant family history.

1. <http://www.familysearch.org/>
2. <http://boards.ancestry.com/mbexec?htx=board&r=an&p=Surnames.Grant>
3. <http://worldconnect.rootsweb.com/cgi-bin/igm.cgi>
4. <http://worldconnect.rootsweb.com/cgi-bin/igm.cgi?op=GET&db=:2676007&id=I544980252>
5. <http://www.census-online.com/links/index.html>
6. <http://www.rootsweb.com/~usgenweb/>
7. <http://www.rootsweb.com/~msjones/>
8. <http://www.electricscotland.com/webclans/dtog/grant2.html>
9. <http://www.petersnn.org/petersnn/glynnco.html>
10. <http://www.sciway.net/hist/periods/antebellum.html>
11. <http://www.tc.umn.edu/~mboucher/mikebouchweb/choctaw/chocpage.htm>
12. <http://www.glynngen.com/>
13. <http://www.glynngen.com/cemetery/grant.htm>
14. [http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Edmond\\_Nobles/](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Edmond_Nobles/)
15. [http://groups.yahoo.com/group/james\\_gems/](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/james_gems/)
16. <http://sailor.gutenberg.org/etext97/jjmar10.txt>
17. <http://www.libs.uga.edu/hargrett/rarebooksonline.html>
18. <http://www.topozone.com/map.asp?lon=-81.4542&lat=31.3236>

## Books and other resources:

1. Plantation management and Capitalism in Antebellum Georgia - The Journal of Hugh Fraser Grant, Rice grower, Columbia University Press, 1954
2. Patriarchal Plantations of St. Simons Island, by Bessie Lewis, 1974
3. Historical Report on Evelyn Plantation, by Norman J. Cobb and Don McWaters. Georgia Historical Society.
4. Georgia's Land of the Golden Isles, by Burnette Vanstory, Univ. of GA Press, copyright 1956
5. The Golden Isles of Georgia, Copyright 1933, By Caroline Couper Lovell
6. A Scythe of Fire, copyright 2002, by Steven E. Woodworth, Warren Wilkinson
7. Grant Family Bible, from Ben Ray Grant
8. Grant Family history, by Mabel Hatch Banks (great-granddaughter of Dr. Robert Grant)
9. Grant family history, by James B. Johnson – James is a descendant of James Bond Grant, brother of Miller Bond Grant.
10. Nobles Family Bible, from William Bartie Nobles
11. Welborn Family records by W. Monroe Houston Jr. Jones Co., MS
12. Bell and Whittington Family history – Doris E. Dyer, Covington, LA
13. Timmer Family records by Dick Keijser (dkeij@ns.sympatico.ca)
14. Confederate Powder Works (Augusta, GA) unpublished research by Dr. Chip Bragg.
15. Scottish National Archives – Sassine records
16. Buford K. Aiken Letter to Robert Grant Descendants, dated 19 February 1936, [http://www.glynngen.com/history/letters/1936\\_aiken.htm](http://www.glynngen.com/history/letters/1936_aiken.htm)
17. Headquarters, District E, Florida, February 22, 1864, letter of Brig. General Finegan
18. The Project Gutenberg E-text of Life of Francis Marion, by James 1997
19. Report on the Brunswick Canal and Railroad, 1837, by L. Baldwin
20. Letter - Gorham Sawyer to son Edward Gorham Sawyer, 16 June 1860 and 7 January 1861, Written from Evelyn Plantation on the Altamaha River. Letter was donated for use on the Glynn County History & Genealogy website by Edward Stickney 2nd great-grandson of Gorham Sawyer.
21. Records of the Inferior - Court, Glynn County, George, Petition of Hugh F. Grant, June 1848, Minutes of the Glynn Court of Ordinary [1812-1870], 119-20, 149-51, County Courthouse, Brunswick, Georgia. <http://www.yale.edu/glc/maroon/schweninger.pdf>
22. Frank Leslie's New Family Magazine. 1858, "The Okefenokee – within and without", by Miller B. Grant.
23. Three Rivers Historical Society – South Carolina marriage records.
24. The Medical Repository of Original Essays and Intelligence, Relative to; May-Jul 1806; 4, APS Online APPENDIX. pg. 105, list of patents 1790-1800.
25. The American Architect and Building News (1876-1908); Feb 21, 1891; 31, 791; APS Online Advertisement 87 -- No Title pg. XXIX
26. The Children of Pride, by Robert Manson Myers 1972. (selected letters by Charles Colcock Jones Jr. and family 1860-1868).
27. Cooney, L. M., Rainwater, H. C., Marye, F. N., & Marye, P. T. (1933). Garden history of Georgia, 1733-1933. Atlanta, Ga: Peachtree Garden Club.
28. Purse's Directory of the City of Savannah, GA. 1866. Published by Purse & Son 1866

## Appendix A – Deeds and Wills

### Robert Grant Land Deeds (Glynn County Deed Records)

The following research was graciously provided by and is the work of Edwin R. MacKethan III.

Note: This record of the documents below was made to determine how to describe Robert Grant's ownership of Elizafield plantation and is not presented as definitive transcriptions of the terms and conditions of the various deeds, mortgages and bonds.

#### Purchase of first part of "Oatlands"

Deed Book ABEF, pages 524-527 (525 blank)

4 May 1808. Purchase by Robert Grant of St. Simons Island at Sheriff's auction of 50 acres on St. Simons Island, for \$800. Bounded east by marsh and west by the main road. Recorded 18 Jun 1808.

Book ABEF, pages 527-528

6 May 1808. Note from Robert Grant to John Bolton for \$1,000. Recorded 18 Jun 1808.

Book ABEF, pages 528-530

6 May 1808. Mortgage by Robert Grant of the above 50 acres for the above note. Recorded 18 Jun 1808.

[Per Book H, page 344 below, Oatlands grew to 240 acres.]

#### Memo: Part of "Retreat"

Book G, pages 62-63

17 Feb 1810. Purchase by Robert Grant from Henry Myrover of 250 acres granted to Jacob Whitter on the south side of St. Simons Island, for \$1,165. Recorded 5 Jul 1810.

Book G, pages 63-65

7 Jun 1810. Sale by Robert Grant to William Page of the 250 acres [originally] granted to Jacob Whitter on the south side of St. Simons Island, for \$3,000. Recorded 5 Jul 1810. [Became part of Retreat Plantation]

#### Purchase of land for "Elizafield"

Book H, page 495

Oct 1817. State of Georgia grant to Robert Grant of 500 acres in Glynn County. Recorded March 1837. [Location unstated, but per 1833 deeds became part of "Elizafield"]

Book H, pages 152-155

29 Jan 1825. Purchase by Robert Grant from the descendants of Daniel DeGaussure of approximately 1,600 acres on the south side of the Altamaha River originally owned by John Deas, for \$7,000. Recorded 20 Aug 1828.

Book H, page 155-158

20 May 1828. Sale by Robert Grant to James Hamilton and James Hamilton Couper of two tracts of "Elizafield" land consisting of 995 acres of the former Deas land on the Altamaha River and 4 acres or land purchased from Mien and MaKay [no record in Glynn County], for \$4,800. Recorded 20 Aug 1828.

Book H, pages 340-341

1 Mar 1832. Mortgage from John Couper, Jr. to Robert Grant of 8 slaves and two parcels of land in Glynn County for \$4,947 -- 300 acres being half of tract purchased from Daniel Gibson and 400 acres purchased from Alexander Stupleton [?], both parts of the plantation occupied by him (Couper). The sale to be void if John Couper, Jr. repays the \$4,947 plus interest by 1 Mar 1839 [?]. Recorded 19 Apr 1834. [No record of repayment entered, but this land is not mentioned in subsequent documents on Elizafield.]

**Transfer of Property by Robert and Sarah Grant to their sons, Charles Grant and Hugh Fraser Grant -- documents dated 21 Dec 1833 and recorded 19/21 Apr 1834**

Book H, page 341-344

Sale by Robert Grant and his wife Sarah Grant to **Charles Grant** of a parcel of land on the south branch of the Altamaha River being that **part of Elizafield Plantation** which lies **east of six mile branch or creek and two tide swamp fields known as eleven and seventeen acre fields on the west side of six mile creek**, with the right to use six mile creek in common with the proprietor of that part of Elizafield west of six mile creek. **And an undivided \_\_\_ of all the highland pine land of Elizafield which lies back of the said six mile creek ..... belonging to a tract of land purchased by Robert of William Mien and Robert MacKay 5 Jun 18\_\_ [1809] ...land originally granted John Deas and sold to Robert Grant by DeGaussure, et al 29th day 1825. Also of 500 acres originally granted Robert Grant 9 Oct 1817 and bounded on the east by the Mien/MacKay tract and on the north by the Deas tract. Also of a tract of 300 acres granted to John Harris, Jr. 23 Nov 1818, described in the grant as bounded on the east by six mile branch and west by Robert Grant..... reference to deed of even date to Hugh F. Grant. Also 113 slaves. -- For the sum of \$12,500 plus a lifetime annuity to Robert Grant of \$500 per year, a lifetime annuity to Sarah Grant of \$500 per year, and a lifetime annuity of £35 to Helen Grant, sister of Robert Grant.**

Book H, page 344-346

Sale by Robert Grant and his wife Sarah Grant to **Charles Grant and Hugh F. Grant** as joint tenants of "**Oatlands**" plantation on St. Simons Island, composed of several smaller tracts and containing **240 acres** and bounded north by land of John Couper and all other sides by the estate of P. Butler, provided Robert and Sarah Grant shall have exclusive use during their lives, for \$5,000.

Book H, page 346-353 -- Mortgages and bonds on the above from Charles Grant to Robert Grant.

Book H, pages 346-348 -- Mortgage of Elizafield share for \$12,500 payment owed.

Book H, pages 348-349 -- Bond on same.

--Mortgage and bond "Satisfied in full by Sarah Grant and Hugh Fraser Grant, Executors of Robert Grant," recorded 12 Mar 1844. [Robert Grant died in 1843. Also see H 537 below.]

Book H, pages 349-350 -- Mortgage of part of slaves for annuity to Robert Grant.

Book H, pages 350-351 -- Bond on same.

Book H, pages 351-352 -- Mortgage of other slaves for annuity to Sarah Grant.

--"Satisfied Sarah Grant" [probably on recorded 12 Mar 1844].

[Bond for this mortgage apparently missed in recording.]

Book H, page 353-356

Sale by Robert Grant and his wife Sarah Grant to **Hugh F. Grant** of a parcel of swamp land on the south branch of the Altamaha River being that **part of Elizafield Plantation** which

lies north of the highland and west of six mile creek, except two fields known as eleven & seventeen acre fields, which includes all the swamp land purchased by Robert Grant from William Mien and Robert MacKay 5 Jun 1809 and the tide swamp originally granted to John Deas and conveyed by Henry DeGaussure & others 29 Jan 1825 and the highland which lies west of six mile creek and is enclosed by a fence with the dwelling house and other buildings, with the right to use six mile creek in common the proprietor of that part of Elizafield which lies east of six mile creek. Also the undivided \_\_\_\_\_ of all the other highland and pine land belonging to Elizafield and conveyed by William Mien and Robert MacKay which lies west of six mile creek, except the tide swamp land, and the highland enclosed by a fence. Also an undivided \_\_\_\_ of the tract granted John Deas except the tide swamp land. Also an undivided \_\_\_\_ of a tract granted Robert Grant for 500 acres 9 Oct 1817 which is bounded east by the tract purchased from William Mien and Robert MacKay and north by the land originally granted to John Deas. Also the undivided \_\_\_\_ of a tract granted to one John Harris, Jr. 23 Nov 1818 for 300 acres described in the grant as bounded east by six mile swamp west by Robert Grants land north by J Deas land..... Also 105 slaves. -- For the sum of \$12,500 plus a lifetime annuity to Robert Grant of \$500 per year, a lifetime annuity to Sarah Grant of \$500 per year, and a lifetime annuity of £35 to Helen Grant of Scotland.

Book H, page 356-362 -- Mortgages and bonds on the above from Hugh F. Grant to Robert Grant.

Book H, pages 356-358 -- Mortgage of Elizafield share for \$12,500 payment.

--Mortgage "Satisfied 1 Mar 1841 Robert Grant," recorded 25 Aug 1843.

Book H, pages 358-359 -- Bond on same.

--Bond apparently sold by Robert Grant to Dr. Harry Allen Grant (a son) 1 Jan 1841, who received on 1 Mar 1841 \$5,000 in full payment. Recorded 25 Aug 1843. [not understood]

Book H, pages 359-360 -- Mortgage of part of slaves for annuity to Robert Grant.

Book H, pages 360-361 -- Bond on same.

-- Mortgage and bond "Satisfied 1 Mar 1841 Robert Grant," recorded 25 Aug 1843.

Book H, pages 394-395 -- Mortgage of other slaves for annuity to Sarah Grant. [Recorded 16 Jul 1834 -- apparently missed in 21 Apr recordings.]

Book H, pages 361-362 -- Bond on same.

From the above, total acreage of Robert Grant's Elizafield appears to have been somewhat more than 1,400 acres (see further below):

--unknown acreage purchased from Mien & MacKay in 1809

--500 acres granted Robert Grant in 1817

--300 acres originally granted John Harris in 1818

--1,600 of land originally granted John Deas and purchased in 1825

--less 994 acres sold to James Hamilton and James Hamilton Couper in 1828

Book H, pages 488-489

1 Dec 1836. Transfer from Hugh Fraser Grant to Doctor Robert Grant of burying ground at Elizafield of 1,225 square yards (1/4 acre), part of which is enclosed by a tabby wall 35' x 33' x 34' x 33'. Recorded 20 Feb 1837.

### **Settlements with Charles Grant**

Book H, pages 515-516

12 Jul 1834. Sale by Charles Grant to Hugh F. Grant of 27 acres bounded east by six mile creek [must be the "eleven and seventeen acre fields on the west side of six mile creek" conveyed by deed in Book H, page 341 above], for \$2,500. Recorded 17 Apr 1837.

Book H, pages 537-544

24 Apr 1837. Agreement between Charles Grant and Robert Grant.

States that Hugh Fraser Grant had sold his interest in Oatlands to Charles Grant 12 Jul 1834 for \$2,500. [Not recorded in Glynn County] [Apparently a swap with brother Hugh for Charles' 27 acres of Elizafield on Hugh's side of six mile creek (see H 515 above).]

By this agreement:

--Charles conveys his rights to his share of Elizafield and to Oatlands to Robert Grant.

--Charles is permitted to sell 60 slaves to William Bowen; Robert Grant retains the others.

--Robert Grant pays \$10,000 to Charles Grant.

--Charles is released from the various bonds and mortgages to Robert Grant for purchase of his part of Elizafield, slaves, and Oatlands.

--Robert Grant assumes the annuities to Sarah Grant and Helen Grant.

Recorded 30 Apr 1837.

[No record was found of any subsequent deed transactions, e. g. to Hugh Fraser Grant.

Robert Grant died in 1843; and his wife, Sarah, in March 1859. Note: Glynn County deed records from Dec 1837 to Feb 1859 are lost.]

### **Subsequent records of Hugh Fraser Grant and Elizafield, etc.**

[Note: Hugh Fraser Grant died in 1873; and his wife Mary, in 1881.]

Sale of Evelyn (Charles Grant's part of Robert Grant's Elizafield)

Advertisement in *The Georgian* 23 Dec 1844 for sale of Evelyn Plantation on the Altamaha River, consisting of 600 acres of prime tide swamp and 400 acres of pine land. Posted by Hugh Fraser Grant at Elizafield. [Note: no Glynn County deed records for this period.]

Book X, pages 388-389

5 Nov 1884. Sale by H. Fraser Grant [HFG, Jr.] to James R. Sheldon of his undivided fifth part interest in that rice plantation known as Grantly (subject to the claim of George J. Mills, creditor) and his individual one-fourth interest in that rice plantation known as Elizafield (subject to the claim of George J. Mills, creditor) and his interests under the wills of his father, Hugh F. Grant, and his mother, Mrs. Mary E. Grant, for \$400. Recorded 24 Jul 1885.

Book EE, pages 64-66 (sale of Hugh Fraser Grant's part of Robert Grant's Elizafield)

18 Mar 1889. Sale -- at public auction on 5 Mar 1889 as required by the Court of Ordinary of Chatham County -- by Mallory P. King, administrator of the estate of Hugh F. Grant, to George J. Mills the rice plantation known as Elizafield, consisting of 700 acres of upland and 250 acres of swamp or rice land, for \$100. Text of notice apparently used in newspapers included. Recorded 31 May 1889. [Apparently the claims of George J. Mills as creditor made the auction value minimal. Also see book on HFG's journal by A. V. House.]

Transactions on adjacent Grantly Plantation

Book N, pages 265-268 (deed, bond, and mortgage)

28 Mar 1861. Sale by Hugh Fraser Grant to Hugh Frazer Grant, Jr. of 337-acre Grantly

Plantation and 41 slaves, for \$30,000. Formerly known as Grubby Neck, originally known as the middle third of the Broadface tract, and bounded north by the Altamaha River, east by lands of Robert Troup known as Broadfield, south by the Brunswick Canal, and west by lands of T. P Hager known as Evelyn. Recorded 8 Apr 1861.

Book N, pages 503-506

26 Aug 1867. Transfer from Hugh Frazer Grant, Jr. of 337-acre Grantly Plantation to a trust for his mother, Mary E. Grant. Formerly known as Grubby Neck, originally known as the middle third of the Broadface tract, and bounded north by the Altamaha River, east by lands of Robert Troup known as Broadfield, west by the Brunswick Canal, etc. Recorded 4 Oct 1867.

**Total acreage of Robert Grant's Elizafield** appears to have been about 2,000 acres (consistent with 1,400 of known acres plus unknown acreage purchased from Mien & MacKay -- see above):

--1,000 acres of Evelyn, Charles Grant's share of Robert Grant's Elizafield, per advertisement for sale in 1844.

--950 acres of Hugh Fraser Grant's Elizafield, per estate sale in 1889.

[Note: The separate 337 acres of Grantly appear to have been purchased by Hugh F. Grant after Robert Grant died in 1843, but Glynn County deed records for that period are lost.]

Edwin R. MacKethan III  
April 1, 2005+

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**Text from an email by Edwin R. MacKethan [erm@mackethan.com] dated 04/06/2005**

Thanks for the Historical Report on Evelyn.

It looks as if it is from The Georgia Historical Quarterly. True? and when?

It has a lot of interesting information, but holes as well. Cobb & McWaters seem to have accepted House's work wholesale, and expanded on it. Even though they went to the Glynn County Courthouse for some information (Cobb was a Brunswick College instructor), they too did not do the easy 1833 deed research that I did.

How do they know that <sup>3</sup>he saw fit to sell to Hugh the apparently more prosperous of the two plantations<sup>2</sup>? Hugh got the Robert Grant house, but Evelyn (in 1844) had 600 acres of <sup>3</sup>prime rice swamp<sup>2</sup> (150 <sup>3</sup>under fine banks<sup>2</sup> and 450 uncleared) versus 250 acres of <sup>3</sup>swamp or rice land<sup>2</sup> for Hugh's Elizafield (in 1889). And they both got 100 slaves. I think this history is muddy. The only thing that appears to be fact is that Hugh stayed on the land and in Glynn County and prospered and Charles got into financial troubles or had other financial needs and didn't last at Evelyn. Charles<sup>1</sup> capability, or interest, in planting rice seems to be an unresolved question.

I note that Cobb and McWaters say that Charles<sup>1</sup> <sup>3</sup>whereabouts from 1849 to 1872 is unknown,<sup>2</sup> but you report that he went to Savannah, etc. Is he buried there? (They might have looked harder.)

Incidentally, from the deed records, the combined tract was called Elizafield under Robert Grant, and the name Evelyn appears to have been used only after he split the plantation between the sons in 1833.

It is not entirely clear from the deed records what happened to the ownership of Evelyn among the Grants.

Robert Grant apparently took/bought it back in 1837-- minus 60 slaves, minus any obligation for a \$12,500 payment and annuities, and for a payout to Charles of \$10,000. Nice deal, and I suppose it was a form of inheritance for Charles. I should also guess that some deal was struck for Hugh too, but it is not apparent in the documents I found. (I think that the original 1833 deals with Charles and Hugh were effectively partly gifts too, the terms<sup>1</sup> being much below market value for 1,000 acres and 100 slaves.)

I don't know what Robert Grant's will and estate inventory were. We do know that in 1844 (after Robert Grant's death in 1843), Hugh Fraser Grant advertised Evelyn for sale -- for himself, or for his father's estate, or whatever. We also know that in the same year, Charles<sup>1</sup> 1833 mortgages and bonds were marked <sup>3</sup>satisfied<sup>2</sup> (perhaps to clear the record after his father's death). Hugh's 1833 mortgages and bonds had been satisfied in 1841 -- by payment? or by a deal to balance the one given to Charles?

Also, I am attaching a copy of my notes on land deed research. (You will note that it contradicts A. V. House's statement in his book on Hugh Fraser Grant's Journal that Robert Grant did not require mortgage and bond documents of Hugh as he did of Charles. The deeds, mortgages, and bonds for both sons are all together in the Glynn County deed book. I don't see how he could miss it.)

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# Robert Grant

22 January 1842

Inventories & Appraisements Vol. E pg. 18

State of Georgia }  
County of Glynn }

I **Robert Grant** of St. Simons Island County and State first named Do hereby make and declare this to be my last Will and Testament hereby also revoking all my other and former Wills. Imprimus I give and bequeath to my Daughter **Elizabeth Helen Hogan** at present the wife of **Robert Hogan** The sum of Three Thousand Dollars for her sole use and benefit and at her disposal without being subject to the control of her present or any future husband or husbands she may have.

Item. I give and bequeath unto my Wife **Sarah Grant** all my remaining Estate Real and Personal of every description whether consisting of Lands, Negroes House furniture plate jewels Trinkets Bedding Table Linen, Horses Cattle & Stock of every kind carriages Pictures[?] Bonds, debts or money for the sole use and benefit of my Wife and to be at entirely her disposal. Lastly I do hereby nominate and appoint my wife **Sarah Grant** and **H.F. Grant** Executrix with every power required to carry my foregoing will into due effect.

In witness whereof I have hereunto set my Hand and seal this

**Robt. Grant** {LS}

The amount of three thousand dollars left to my daughter **Eliza Helen Hogan** has been paid therefore she has no claim upon the Estate for the amount named in the Coda of the Will.

**Robert Grant**

Witness **Hugh Fraser Grant**

Signed sealed and acknowledged before us by **Robert Grant** as his last will and testament. This 22d January 1842.

**Robert Hogan**  
**Charles Grant**  
**Thos. S. Bond**  
**Hugh Fraser Grant**

Probated 15 April 1844

<http://www.glynngen.com/court/will/abstracts1.htm>

# Hary Grant

10 March 1812

Inventories & Appraisements Vol. D pgs. 18 & 19

Charleston 10 March 1812

Charleston State of South Carolina. In the name of God Amen. I **Hary Grant** of said state planter being of sound mind & memory do make this my last will and Testament revoking all others also all promises made verbally [sic] all letters of bequeathments of whatever nature or kind prior to this date as my circumstances has changed not for the better with humility I offer up my soul to almighty God most humbly beseeching pardon and forgiveness of my sins and that I may meet in the mansions of Bliss my dear Daughter with regard to my property I leave it to those I hereinafter mention provided none of them go to Law about should either he, she, or they do it they loose their part or parts and to go amongst the heirs that are satisfied with my distribution. 1st all my just debts to be paid. Secondly I leave & bequeath to my wife **Elizabeth Grant** and her heirs Five thousand Dollars in lieu of all claims against my Estate to be paid her from the first asits[?] from my Estate by my Executors hereafter mentioned. Thirdly I leave in trust with my Executors the sum of seven thousand dollars to be disposed of agreeable to my letter of the 10th March 1813[?] addressed to them and have [illegible] also all my [illegible] furniture, Plate, Linen in Town & Country agreeable to Contents of said Letter. Fourthly I leave and bequeath all the remainder of my property real & personal to my dear Brother **Robert Grant** to be divided as he pleases amongst his children except my gold watch & chain to his son **Hary** and the sum of one thousand dollars to **Miss Eliza Tappier**[?] daughter of my friend Capt. **Paul Tappier** of New York. I nominate & appoint my respected friends **William Drayton & Thomas W. Price** Esquire and my Dear Brother **Robert Grant** to be my Executors and to dispose and do whatever they may think best with my property for the advantage of my heirs.

Given under my hand and seal this tenth day of March one thousand eight hundred and twelve.

**Hary Grant** {LS}

Twenty pound Str. to my sister during her life.

Witness **Saml. E. Axson, Alexr. Thompson, Lenord Elmes.**

**Wm. Drayton, H.S.H.[?] Price & Robert Grant** Esq. } Charleston 10th March 1813

My Dear Friends,

On the 10th March last I made my will wherein you will find I have nominated you my Executors and also trustees for my female friend **Euphina Garvin**[Euphemia Gurrin?] her children and two other boys of [illegible, other sources say "mine"] **Robert & Henry** you will find by the third clause in my will I bequeath the sum of seven thousand dollars which you will lay out as follows. viz. the sum of two thousand dollars in the purchase of a house and lot for **Euphina** and her children the House & Lot for her during her life and at her death to go to her children by her with all my plate, linen & house furniture in Town also the sum of one thousand dollars at her own disposal

and the further sum of two thousand dollars to be invested as you see best in [illegible] the interest to go towards the maintenance of her children until he or she may attain the age of 20 years and to be divided the principal share and share amongst them the children to. To **Robert** I bequeath him the sum of one thousand dollars and the like sum to his brother **Henry** with all my wearing apparel house furniture bed & bedding in the country or the value [illegible words].

Ever my Dear Friends yours  
(signed) **Hary Grant**

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New York 17 December 1814

My Dear Brother

I am sorry to inform you that I am rendered by my illness to such a degree of weakness that I am apprehensive I shall not have sufficient strength to overcome it. I have therefore thought it right to settle my account to this period with Capt. **Tappier** for which I have this day given him my Bond for the sum of one thousand dollars. The friendship attention and kindness I have experienced from Capt. **Tappier** and his whole family during my long illness merits my warmest gratitude and therefore it is my wish and desire of any monies on [illegible] or account of Georgia Lands from the United States commonly termed[?] the Yazoo license that the said Capt. **Paul Tappier** may be paid the further sum of one thousand dollars which you will please to communicate to the other Executors of my last will in your hands or wherever it may be left and I beg this request may be considered as a codicil to my said last will.

**Hary Grant**

Probated 16 August 1815

<http://www.glynngen.com/court/will/abstracts1.htm#Grant%20Hary>