

Fall Tour

Prince William Parish



Cotton Hall Plantation

The South Carolina Historical Society has chosen Prince William Parish as the site of its annual Fall Tour. This parish boasts many beautiful and historic plantations and churches, and on October 31, 2004, Society members have been invited to visit some of these magnificent sites. This year's tour will include:

- Brewton Plantation
- Frampton House Museum
- Mackay's Point Plantation
- Stony Creek Presbyterian Chapel
- Cotton Hall Plantation
- Gillisonville Baptist Church
- McPhersonville Episcopal Chapel
- Tomotley Plantation
- Dean Hall Plantation
- Ingleside Plantation
- Sheldon Church Ruins

Also included on this tour will be sites from the October 22, 1862, battles of Pocotaligo and Coosawhatchie.

Prince William Parish, formed out of St. Helena Parish in 1745, was established to serve the political needs of the inhabitants of the plantations therein. As designated in Volume III, *The Statues at Large of South Carolina*, the parish included:

...the lands which are situated to the north and westward of Coosaw River, as far up Coosaw River until it meets that branch of Port Royal River which runs by Colonel Barnwell's plantation and Cochran's Point, down the mouth of that branch, and from thence up Port Royal River to the head of that branch of it which is called Coosawhatchee, and a northwest line ran from thence and to the south and westward of Combeehee River.

The settlement of the parish was primarily Episcopalian and Presbyterian. Family names in the area include: Gregorie, Heyward, Hutson, Colcock, McPherson, Elliott, Mackay, Jenkins, and Barnwell, to name a few.

The South Carolina Historical Society's 2004 Fall Tour on October 31 will visit the plantations of this rich land. The plantations have largely been held intact through conservation efforts during the last century. Although the original houses were burned during Sherman's March in 1865, these beautiful homes date from 1870.