

Benjamin

1698 - post 1776

12-18K acres at H41. ~~Benjamin~~

More shows 47 tracts of
15K acres

1707

Benjamin is appointed Trustee
as agent to sell land. Give part of
→ income
more

left - all the proceeds to
Son, Benjamin

1723 Benjamin's property partially retained
to Benjamin B. (date of 9 B)

Holograph notes refer to records at Quaker
SC Hist. Soc. + SC Archives in Columbia

Clark the Executor named in the will to whom admⁿ was granted of all and singular the Goods Chattels and Credits of the said deceased having been first shown by Commission duly to admⁿ

Ed.

Frederick Trench

Frederick Trench

of Woodlawn in the County of Salway Esq^r in the Kingdom of Ireland being (Thanks to Almighty God) in good health of body and of sound and disposing mind do make and publish this as my last will & Testament concerning my Estate in South Carolina in America & otherwise that part of my personal and property which is in the English Funds in manner and also for the following give & bequeath all my property which I either have or am entitled unto in the Province of South Carolina in America being one of the thirteen united States particularly Hilton Head or Parris Island in the Harbour of Charleston as to my eldest son Frederick Trench Esq^r & his Administrators & assigns and as to the remaining part of my property which is in the English Funds in South Carolina I do hereby dispose of it in the manner following I give and bequeath all my stock in the East India Company of Great Britain consolidated by several Acts of Parliament & all other stock in the English Funds which my friend Alex^r Stott Esq^r of James Street Bedford Row Son and my friend John Armstrong of Percy Street Esq^r London may have purchased for my use or that the said Alex^r Armstrong may purchase for my use or any of the English Funds and all dividends that in any way be due to me from my English Stock call dividends on said stock particularly on the duty stock which I now have in the English or Dutch stock of the said East India Company consolidated to my Executors Executors Executors of the County of Dublin in the Kingdom of Ireland and to my Son Thomas Trench of Woodlawn in the County of Salway in the Kingdom of Ireland in Trust to be by them applied as I have particularly mentioned in my last will & Testament of equal parts & parts pursuing the wishes of my personal property in the Kingdom of Ireland to have in my last bequeathed & do hereby nominate constitute & appoint the said Francis Jackson and the said Sir Francis Lubbock Bart^t & my Son the said Thomas Trench to be my Executors I do hereby revoke all former & other wills by me at any time made or

four
will
of
list
said

Origⁿ

spoken except my last will of equal date with this, were
 concerning my property in Ireland and I do hereby want
 declare and publish this as my last will & Testament
 concerning my property in the English shires and in the
 South Carolina. In witness whereof I have hereunto in
 subscribed my name & affixed my seal in the presence
 of those subscribing witnesses who have in my presence
 in the presence of each other attested the same this
 tenth day of March in the year of our Lord One thousand
 thousand seven hundred & ninety two. *Chas. French*
 Signed sealed & published by the Testator *Chas. French*
 for his last will & Testament in the presence of us
 who have in his presence and in the presence of each
 other attested the same the words (all my property) in
 being first inserted between the above fourth & fifth
 lines. *Tho. Staly, Matthew Snaggs, Chris. Hall*

Intailed between the fourth and 5th lines viz: all
 my property and between the 12th and 13th lines in Article
 or Item *Placito* & *Bourbridge* or any other person
 may persuade. *Se: 5th 1797* *Camanton*

This Will was proved and was the 8th
 of Decem: 1797 at Clifton in the presence
 of *Chas. French* & *Thos. French* & *Thos. French*

This Will was proved at London the twenty
 third day of December in the year of our Lord One thousand
 thousand seven hundred and ninety seven before *Thos. French*
 Esq: or Commissary of the Prerogative Court of Laws & Justice
 lawfully constituted by the date of the above Thomas
 French Esq: the son of the deceased and one of the executors
 Executors named in his will to whom administration
 was granted of all and singular the goods chattels and
 credits of the said deceased having been first sworn by
 the said Esq: to stand and hold true and in full
 Substantion Baronyt the other Executors named in the
 said will upon they or either of them shall apply for
 the same.

Mary
 Vernon

This is the last Will
 and Testament of me *Mary Vernon* of Little Clifton
 Street in the Parish of Saint Martin in the County
 of Middlesex Spinster first done all my last date to

Man sought Lowcountry fortune

BY DAVE HENDRICKS
Packet staff writer

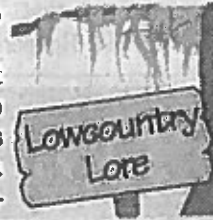
More than two centuries before Sea Pines was a glimmer in founder Charles Fraser's pocketbook, an intrepid young lawyer-merchant from Dublin was the first in what's become a long line of profiteers seeking to find a fortune from selling Hilton Head Island property.

Alexander Trench, arguably the island's original real estate broker, arrived in the Carolinas around 1717 with his wife Hester. The area, then called Granville County, was unstable, torn by the horrific massacres and backwoods battles of the Yemassee War that

raged from 1715 to 1728.

"He was a perfect Irish gentlemen who was referred to as Colonel," said the Rev. Robert Peeples, president of the Hilton Head Island Historical Society. "He was a responsible man, but his main interest was making money."

Appointed agent for John Bayley in 1722, Trench sold several-hundred acres of what was recorded on period maps as Trench's



An occasional series on Lowcountry history

Island. Bayley had inherited 48,000 acres in the Lowcountry from his father, John Bayley of Ireland's Tipperary County. The elder Bayley was a nobleman who was granted the land from the English Crown in 1698.

Living in Beaufort, which was incorporated in 1711, Trench used his island land for grazing cattle.

The island portion of Bayley's Barony stretched along Skull Creek, reaching from Myrtle Park to Broad Creek. Legend has it the creek, then spelled Scull, was first called Skulk Creek because American Indians

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"skulked" its banks before ambushing early settlers.

According to old deed books, Trench sold 200 acres of waterfront property to Richard Dawson in 1725 and another 200 acres to William Blakeway in 1726.

Dawson's son Chris, likely taking advantage of skyrocketing real estate values stimulated by the relative peace and prosperity of post-war times, sold his land to Philip Martinangel in 1753 for 350 lbs. of local currency.

Blakeley's widow, Sarah, also sold out to Martinangel (who Peeples said was forced to bribe his way out of Rome before being turned over to the Inquisition by his own parents for turning away from Catholicism).

The widow Blakeley may have been duped by the crafty Italian speculator. It seems Martinangel only paid 200 lbs. of currency in 1752 for her 200 acres.

Trench's last recorded deal was

with John Gascoigne, who bought a chunk of island land that he first called John's Island, but is known better as Windmill Harbour.

Trench's trailblazing stint as the island's primary real estate agent lasted until his death in 1733. He was buried with his wife in Charleston and requested in his will that his pew at St. Helena Church in Beaufort be reserved forever "for the use of any strangers that are not inhabitants, but transient persons."

For a man so ahead of his time, Trench left little behind. Although international maps labeled the island Trench's Island up through the Revolutionary War, there stands no Trench Street on modern Hilton Head Island; no Trench's Beach, no Trench's Restaurant, not even a Trench's tract that the town can buy and turn into Trench's Park.

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