

THE  
SOUTH CAROLINA  
HISTORICAL MAGAZINE

JANUARY 1962

VOLUME 63

NUMBER 1



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THE SOUTH CAROLINA HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
CHARLESTON, S. C.

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ELEANOR PARKE LEWIS TO MRS. C. C. PINCKNEY \*

Edited by ALSTON DEAS

Mount Vernon May 9th, 1801

My Beloved and respected Mrs. Pinckney,

I can scarcely believe it possible that four months have elapsed since the date of your affectionate and much valued letter, and that I am still in your debt; how this happens I will endeavour to explain, and trust to the goodness and affection you honor me with, for my pardon. When I first received your letter, my Beloved Parent<sup>1</sup> and myself were very unwell with violent coughs which lasted six weeks, indeed my Grandmama<sup>1</sup> is not free from cold at this time 'though I hope when the weather is warm and settled it will disappear entirely. My Brother<sup>2</sup> was a long time ill with a bilious fever and something of a Pleurisy—he is now perfectly recover'd. I have been very thin and weak ever since January and a very severe cough until ten days past. I have had serious apprehensions of a decline in which opinion my friends and Physician concurred, but the timely and constant use of milk punch and conserve of roses, with air and exercise have removed those fears and I now begin to fatten a little. . . .

My Frances runs about every where, sings, dances and is much delighted with a doll I bought for her in Alexandria, she is extremely fond of her Father and myself—he is as much attach'd to her as I am, as soon as he returns from his Farm he plays on the violin for her to dance and attends a great deal to her. My husband is much gratified by your kind remembrance of him, and I assure you allways thinks and speaks of you and General Pinckney with the sincerest esteem and affection. These his sentiments and mine are unalterable, and will be renewed in our children. The regard of Genl Pinckney and yourself is allways remember'd and mention'd with pride and pleasure, and I assure you with sincerity that you have not more zealous admirers in the world than are to be met with at this time at Mount Vernon. Sincerely have we deplored the infatuation of our Countrymen and the triumph

\* These letters are among a group of Pinckney papers presented to the South Carolina Historical Society by Mrs. Francis B. Stewart.

<sup>1</sup> Mrs. George Washington, *grandparent* of the writer.

<sup>2</sup> George Washington Parke Custis.

Tell W. Merchant that I will write to him as soon as I can get some paper and stamps I shall frank this as there is no stamps in the company. I hope Pa and Mother is mistaken about never seeing me again. I still hope to see them I think if no sooner I will get a furlough next winter.

Lewis the prospect for peace is very bad but I still hope that it will not be long before peace and plenty will again smile on our country. I was with James Douglass a whole day this week he belongs to capt. Harts battery Hampton Legion he sends his love and best respects to you all. Lewis write as soon as you receive this tell me all about your crop stock and everything write me a long letter No more at this time but remain your true brother

J. B. Suddath

*(To be continued)*

of democracy;<sup>3</sup> we are compleatly degraded in my opinion, my only consolation is, that it is probably for the *best*; Americans have hitherto been so happy they did not properly appreciate the blessings they enjoyed, not experiencing calamity they were unmindful of felicity, and ungratefully repined without having a grievance to complain of. now the scene is changed, adversity will teach them repentance and submission, they will regret the blessings they have lost by their own folly—their eyes will be opened reformation be effected, and we may then hope for the *Millenium* so long predicted. what think you of my prophecy.—For Genl Pinckney's *own* comfort I should never wish him to be a President, happiness I am sure is not an attendant on that situation. I am persuaded he is far happier in his present employments, but for his Country I think the loss is irreparable for the present four years,—after that term expires, I trust America will retrieve her character by electing him unan- imously and for life. The much valued Plume was worn to an assembly the 3rd of March, I was very much indisposed but as it was the only assembly during my stay in the City I went for the pleasure of wearing my badge of Federalism, my Sisters wore theirs during the Winter, it was a very dull party, and I was very glad to return early to my Frances with a resolution of not attending another dance for three years at least. Col. Burr, his Daughter and her husband were there. Mrs. Alston is a very sweet little woman very engaging and pretty—but her husband is the most intolerable mortal I ever beheld—I can not enough congratulate my Dear Eliza<sup>4</sup> on escaping an union with him, I think he is more calculated to break a Wife's heart than any person I ever have seen. He has rice and cotton they say in abundance, and good sense, the latter he is too partial to, to make his associates the better for it—it is securely lock'd up in the inmost recesses of his brain—the former, although agreeable apendages, will not compensate for the want of domestic comfort—affectionate attentions, all those virtues so necessary to the happiness of the conjugal state. I suppose you have them in Carolina before this. Mr. Alston appears to look up with reverence to his Father the Vice President—but is the most inattentive *Husband* I ever saw in my life. he eyed my Plume very attentively at the ball, and I assure you I was so elated with my badge, that I look'd down upon *him* with the

<sup>3</sup> The defeat by Jefferson of Gen. C. C. Pinckney, the Federalist nominee for President.

<sup>4</sup> Presumably Eliza Lucas Pinckney, daughter of Gen. and Mrs. C. C. Pinckney. Later on, she married, as his second wife, Ralph Izard, Jr. *This Magazine*, II, 226.



most perfect contempt, and never was more sensible of the superiority of Federalism over democracy.<sup>5</sup>

I had the pleasure of seeing Major Pinckney<sup>6</sup> several times in the City, and conversing with him about you and all those Friends in Carolina I so much wish to see. I often wish I could accomplish a journey to Charleston, I will not despair of doing it although the prospect is very distant and uncertain. I hope indeed nothing will prevent you from visiting Mount Vernon—Grandmama will rejoice to see you and all her friends whom you may persuade to attend you. Mr. Lewis has just receiv'd from England those books on Chemistry recommended by Gen'l Pinckney—we have not yet met with the books you recommend, when I can find them it will afford me pleasure to peruse them. Your handsome shawl was very much admired in the City, I am very precious of it and it is only on particular occasions that I adorn myself so much.

I remain'd seven weeks in the City with my Sisters, was sick all the time and never felt more pleased than when I arrived safe at home with my child, and to my Beloved Parent who was equally pleased with our return—our little dwelling will be finished this week, and the remainder of the walls run up this summer, so that by the next season I hope to be well and comfortably fixed—then shall I expect my good friends will have some curiosity to see me a housekeeper, and if pos-

<sup>5</sup> While this diatribe doubtless stems, to a certain extent, from party feeling, it is obvious that if Alston had previously been a suitor, successful or otherwise, in a match with one of Mrs. Pinckney's daughters—a match which was never consummated—the writer may well have indulged in this vigorous denunciation in the hope of pleasing her friend. We see how in this same paragraph she has already gone to some lengths in depicting Pinckney's defeat as a boon to the General. It seems only fair to Alston's memory to quote a few passages, among many of the sort, from letters written to him by his wife Theodosia. These appear in Matthew L. Davis, "Memoirs of Aaron Burr . . .", *Harper's*, 1857, pp. 200-202 and 441:

Theodosia to her husband, N. Y., June 24, 1802: "Ah, my husband, why are we separated? I had rather been ill on Sullivan's Island with you, than separated from you . . ." and again, while on this same trip, June 26, ". . . what can be pleasure to your Theo, unassisted by the charm of your presence and participation? Nothing. It is an idea which has no place in my mind unconnected with you . . ." In a letter written to Joseph on Aug. 6, 1805, when she thought that she was on the point of death, appears the following: "Adieu, then, thou kind, thou tender husband. Adieu, friend of my heart . . . I, on whom so many blessings have been showered . . . who has had such a husband, such a child, and such a father . . ." In a postscript to her son, she adds: "Adieu, my sweet boy . . . love your father . . . for he made your mother happy. . ."

<sup>6</sup> Thomas Pinckney, brother of C. C. Pinckney.

sible, allow me the delight of entertaining them as amongst my most wellcome Guests.

You say my Dear Mrs Pinckney, that you shall be pleased to hear I have another little darling to divide my affection with my precious Frances—in August or September I expect to inform you of such an event if no accident intervenes. I often think what I shall do with more, when one engrosses me so much. If I have a son I am sure he will be much honoured by your wish of making him a pair of trowsers. I am very happy to hear my amiable friends Mrs F Rutledge, and the Miss Pinckneys are well. Mr. John Rutledge told me of Harriets sweet little Boys, I should be much gratified with seeing them. I will trouble you with a letter for my friend Mrs. Deas.<sup>7</sup> It has long been my wish to thank her for her kind remembrance, but circumstances have allways intervned to prevent it. I sincerely hope she is now a happy Mother and that her amiable Parents enjoy better health.

Be so good as to present the most affectionate regards of Grandmama and myself to Mrs. Horry, Mrs T Pinckney, Mrs Rutledge and Miss Pinckneys—accept for yourself and General Pinckney, my Husband's and Brother's united to Grandmama's and mine

And beleive me Dear and respected Mrs Pinckney, your affectionate Grateful and obliged

Eleanor Parke Lewis

[Addressed] Mrs. Mary Pinckney, Charleston

Mount Vernon January 3rd, 1802

I can scarcely think it possible, my Beloved Mrs Pinckney, that so long a time has elapsed since the receipt of your highly valued letter of Sepr. 22nd. Since hearing from you, I have several times had the pleasure of seeing some of your Carolina Friends who have informed me that yourself, Genl Pinckney and family enjoy fine health, and every happiness you so justly merit. My respected Friend, I cannot express how highly gratifying your affectionate letters are to me, and your regard is most sincerely and cordially reciprocated. I have the happiness to inform you that my revered Parent, with your other friends here, are quite well. I am myself in better health and fatter than I have been for two years last past. my children are fat and rosy—My precious Frances is her Grandmama's darling, and my little smiling Martha is one of the most quiet children I ever saw. I love them equally, I do not feel the least

<sup>7</sup> Anne, daughter of Ralph and Alice (de Lancey) Izard, wife of William Allen Deas, State Senator of S. C. This *Magazine*, II, 217.

difference in my affection for them. My Dear Mother<sup>8</sup> has just recover'd from her confinement with her twentieth child, it is a very fine Girl, large and healthy.<sup>9</sup> Mama has suffer'd extremely, and is still weak. I passed a fortnight with her, and my two eldest single Sisters have been here with us since Christmas. My sister Law<sup>10</sup> also dined with us Christmas day, and staid a few days after. Sister Peter<sup>11</sup> could not come, she has just recover'd from her confinement with another charming Boy who is to be called Daniel Parke after our revered Parents first Husband. She has put her little John in Boys cloaths, and has a suit of uniform made for him, which I am told he looks very sweet in. I have not yet paid my annual visit to Washington, indeed, there are too great a number of Democrats there, for my person to be comfortable, who has a natural antipathy to those animals. You have no doubt heard of the famous *Mammoth* Cheese, which the kind ladies of Cheshire thought proper to present our *ruler* with. It has arrived without accident at the Presidents House, who has appropria[torn] a room to it, which he dignifies with the appellation of Mammoth room and invites the members of Congress to visit it. A number of Federalists were here Yesterday who had seen it. They say the crust is painted red,—and think that the new representative room looks like an *oven* intended for the *apple pye*, which it was supposed would be offer'd with the Cheese.

Mr. Lowndes a member from Carolina, with his agreeable wife,<sup>12</sup> staid a day and night here last week. they are very pleasing indeed. Mr. States Rutledge a very handsome young man, and a Brother to my friend Harriott, paid us a visit, he only staid a few hours, we regretted that he could not stay longer.<sup>13</sup>

<sup>8</sup> Eleanor, 2nd daughter of Benedict Calvert, of "Mt. Airy," Prince George's County, Maryland. Her first husband, father of the writer, was John Parke Custis, only son of Mrs. George Washington by the first marriage of the latter. Mrs. Custis' second husband was Dr. David Stuart. *Dictionary of American Biography*; Edmund Jennings Lee M. D., *Lee of Virginia, 1642-1892* (Philadelphia, 1895).

<sup>9</sup> Dr. Lee mentions a total of only eleven children. The additional nine may have died young, or, in any case, without issue.

<sup>10</sup> Elizabeth Parke, married "a Mr. Law". *Ibid.*, p. 460.

<sup>11</sup> Martha Parke, married Thomas Peter. *Ibid.*

<sup>12</sup> Thomas Lowndes, Federalist member of the House of Representatives from Charleston District. G. B. Chase, *Lowndes of South Carolina* (Boston, 1876).

<sup>13</sup> Son of John and Elizabeth (Grimké) Rutledge. He was not brother but brother-in-law to the writer's friend, Harriott Pinckney Horry, who was the wife of Frederick Rutledge. This *Magazine*, XXXI, 19.



In the Summer, Mr Osborne with his Daughter Mrs Lowndes, her Husband <sup>14</sup> and several others, called here to see the place. Mrs. Lowndes is a beautiful and very pleasing woman I think. We have had the most charming mild weather I ever knew at this season—yesterday, my Husband Sisters and self went on a visit by water, we passed a charming day, and returned without experiencing any inconvenience from our trip. It is a very remarkable thing with us, to go on a water party in January.

On Thursday I dined, in company with my Sisters and Mr. Lewis, at Woodlawn our new House, it was so novel to me to preside in a House, that I spent a very happy day, and my little Frances, who was with me, was delighted with every thing. It is nearly ready for us, and I hope next Summer we shall be favored with the company of yourself and Genl Pinckney, there.

My Beloved Parent, Mr. Lewis, my Brother and Cousin, unite with me in most sincere and affectionate regards to you, Genl Pinckney, and our amiable friends in your family.

May every happiness be yours My Beloved and highly respected friend—Prays yr attached.

EP Lewis

<sup>14</sup> Mr. and Mrs. James Lowndes. She was Catherine Osborn. G. B. Chase, *Lowndes of South Carolina*.

## THE MYSTERY OF THE LOST YAMASSEE PRINCE

By FRANK J. KLINGBERG  
*University of California*

The history of a maritime people is full of unsolved mysteries. In the days of sail many vessels left port never to return. A colony might be planted and lost. What became of the lost colonists settled by Sir Walter Raleigh in North Carolina? How true were the tales told by returning travellers, such as those of Captain John Smith's journeys on the continent of Europe? The list of unsolved problems is endless.

In the special case herein related, what happened to the Yamassee Indian Prince, educated to be a native missionary and teacher in England? He returned to South Carolina with Commissary Gideon Johnston in 1715 with the insurrection of his people still not fully crushed. Did he return to his tribe? Was he murdered as an agent of the English colonists? In any event, the story of his sojourn in England and his return to be a representative of the white man's civilization is a fascinating episode in the relationship between the colonists and the native inhabitants of the Southern settlements.

The Society for the Propagation of the Gospel never intended to stock the American colonies with native English born men indefinitely. Instead white colonists, Indians, and Negroes were to be trained to carry out the Society's program by being sent abroad for their training. Or, as soon as colleges in America could assume this task the dangerous transatlantic trip was to be avoided. All of the colleges founded in the colonies before the American Revolution had the training of native Americans as one of their objectives. This included not only the continental colleges but Codrington College in Barbados as well. Therefore, the sojourn of the Yamassee Prince is a pioneer adventure, to be followed by hundreds of others.

Commissary Johnston and the Indian youth first appeared in London before the Society in 1713. A committee examined the organization's charter and decided that its rules would permit the support and education of the Indian at the expense of the Society.<sup>1</sup> He was to be instructed by Mr. Noblet, the tutor to Mr. Johnston's son, at £20 per annum.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Report on Yamassee Indian Youth in Journal of S.P.G. (L.C. Trans.), II, June 19 and July 17, 1713.

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*, October 30, 1713.