



The History of Dawn of Hope

4285 CLOVER HILL ROAD | COLLETON COUNTY | SOUTH CAROLINA

WILLIAM COTESWORTH PINCKNEY (1768-1833) PURCHASED DAWN OF HOPE IN 1791. THE PROPERTY HAD BEEN PART OF THE 48,000 ACRE BELLINGER BARONY GRANTED TO THE FIRST LANDGRAVE EDMUND BELLINGER IN 1702, AND WHICH REMAINED IN THE BELLINGER FAMILY FOR SOME TIME. THE PICKNEY AND BELLINGER FAMILIES HAD MANY CLOSE TIES, AND WILLIAM COTESWORTH PINCKNEY LIVED AT THE BELLINGER'S NEARBY WHITE HOUSE PLANTATION UNTIL MOVING TO DAWN OF HOPE. MR. PINCKNEY SERVED IN THE SOUTH CAROLINA LEGISLATURE AND AS LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR. IN 1815, HE WAS APPOINTED TO A BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS AND AUTHORIZED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO OVERSEE THE "BUILDING OF A NEW COURTHOUSE AT WALTERBOROUGH IN COLLETON DISTRICT."

THE ORIGINAL HOUSE ERECTED AT DAWN BY THE BELLINGER FAMILY WAS DESTROYED BY FIRE BETWEEN 1863 AND 1864, AND THE ESTATE WAS SOLD OUT OF THE FAMILY HOLDINGS FOLLOWING THE CIVIL WAR. HISTORIC REMNANTS AT DAWN OF HOPE INCLUDE AN ANCIENT CEMETERY CONTAINING GRAVES OF THE BELLINGER, PINCKNEY, GODFREY AND WEBB FAMILIES. THE EARLIEST TOMBSTONE DATES TO 1816. THERE IS AN ORIGINAL SLAVE CABIN ON THE GROUNDS STANDING AS A REMINDER OF TIMES PAST.

