

Lining Island Cemetery SHPO Survey Form December 10, 2019-
Historical Significance
Continuation Sheet

Mr. John Godfrey of Florence, SC, a direct lineal descendant of Proprietary Deputy John Godfrey to whom this property was granted by the Lords Proprietors in 1699, states that his aunt, Ruth Godfrey Dry (1914-2007) visited the Lining Island Cemetery on a regular basis during her long lifetime and instructed her children and grandchildren that it had been the burial place of their Godfrey ancestors since the early 1700's.

The most recent documentation available regarding the presence of human remains on the island that clearly states that there are at least twenty four sets of known human remains still buried in the Lining Island Cemetery comes from a January 10, 1938 News and Courier article which reported in great detail on the gathering of the Lining family and other dignitaries when Dr. John Lining, their ancestor, was honored as the "...father of the United States Weather Bureau, who conducted the first systematic weather observations in the New World in Charleston between 1738 and 1753." This article directly refutes what the present owner of the island and his attorney, Mr. Walker, stated at the OCRM hearing about their "belief" that all the bodies had been removed to Camden. There were twenty bodies in the mausoleum alone, plus those that were in the two chambered underground vault that were transferred to the "large excavation" mentioned in the 1938 article (the article references multiple sets of remains in each chamber), plus those of the Godfrey family that were likely already buried in the soil before those vaults were built. The extremely detailed 1938 article concludes with the following statement referencing reburial of the remains on the island following a family visit there reported in the same newspaper in 1903... "...John Dent Lining, Henry Massenburg Tucker, Henry Middleton Manigault and William Shannon Lining arranged to have the mausoleum razed and a large excavation made into which all the coffins were placed."

[Thomas Bartholomew Bowen](#) and Capt. [Charles Lining](#) were buried on Lining Island in 1805 and 1813 respectively. Upton and Cutler's [History of the Western Reserve, Vol. 3](#) states that "[Thomas B. Bowen] was an active participant in the Battles of Long Island, Harlem Heights, Fort Mercer, Brandywine, Germantown and others, and he was with Washington's patriotic soldiers in the winter camp at Valley Forge, where hardships of the severest order were endured, as the pages of history amply testify."

Both Thomas B. Bowen and Charles Lining were members of the [Society of the Cincinnati](#) the organization founded as an hereditary society of officers who had served in the American Revolution. George Washington was the society's first President.

[Thomas Bartholomew Bowen](#) was also a founding member of the Supreme Council of Scottish Rite Masonry.

[Dr. John Lining](#), is likely also buried on Lining Island, which was a part of his wife's inheritance from her mother. He is known to have moved from the city and lived at what

became known as Hillsborough from 1756 until his death in 1760. The records of St. Andrews Parish Church state that Dr. Lining's funeral service was conducted by the rector of St. Andrews. Those records do not reflect the location of the burial, but the Cemetery at Hillsborough Plantation is the likely location, as it has been referenced in deeds that show that the cemetery was already in existence in 1788. The cemetery could easily have been the family burial ground dating back to the ownership of Capt. John Godfrey who is said to have died about 1717. Both H. A. M. Smith in his 1915 article in the SC Historical and Genealogical Magazine and Michael Trinkley in his Reconnaissance of the Brown Cemetery 1996, state that it is possible and even likely that the Godfreys and Hills were also buried here long before the 1805 Mausoleum was built. Godfrey Family descendants visited the cemetery on a regular basis well into the 1950s. Their ancestors would have been buried in the ground before 1805. Burial at ones home was a common practice for those who lived outside the City of Charleston. Capt. John Godfrey's father, known as Col. John Godfrey, was a Proprietary Deputy who was sent to Charleston to assist Governor West at the Proprietor's Plantation. This plantation became known as Hillsborough during the ownership of Godfrey's daughter, Elizabeth Godfey, and her husband Charles Hill. Today's Maryville and Ashleyville Communities comprise a large portion of that tract. With the exception of a small parcel, the island cemetery has never left the ownership of the descendants of Capt. John Godfrey, from the time that it was granted to him in 1699 by the Lords Proprietors. It became known as Lining Island Cemetery when Dr. John Lining married Sarah Hill, daughter of Charles Hill and Elizabeth Godfrey.

A 40' X 40" parcel of the cemetery was conveyed to Thomas Horry for the use of his family in 1801. That parcel seems to never have been conveyed back to the Linings and may not be accounted for in the current chain of title.

The current owner is the seventh great grandson of Proprietary Deputy John Godfrey, The fourth great grandson of John Lining and the third great grandson of Charles Lining. He bought the cemetery from his second cousin, Courtenay Lining Daniels in 2016 for \$130,000. Ms. Daniels claimed title to it by virtue of a 1968 warranty deed.

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Sources

Continuation Sheet

Telephone conversation between John Godfrey and Charles W. Smith, December 8, 2019

Plat of Two Plantations in St. Andrews Parish, Charleston, SC known as Old Town and Orange Grove, The property of Edward T. Legare, Esq., Simons and Mayrant 1907

Reconnaissance of the Brown Cemetery, 38CH1619, Maryville Area, City of Charleston, Chicora Foundation Inc. 1996

Old Charles Town and Its Vicinity, Accabee and Wappoo Where Indig was First Cultivated, With Some Adjoining Places in Old St. Andrews parish, Henry A.M. Smith, SC Historical and Genealogical Magazine, January 1915

"Lining House Plaque Defended", Charleston Evening Post, January 11, 1969, p. 9

"Dead of Long Ago" The Sunday News (Charleston, SC) April 19.1903, p. 19

"Lining Descendants Bid to Observance Here", News and Courier, Charleston, SC January 10, 1938, p. 3

"A Desecrated Grave", Evening Post, Charleston, SC, December 15, 1896, p. 8

"Scores Visit Ghost Island" Evening Post, Charleston, SC 1905