

#African-American

EXPERIENCE

AT FORT HILL



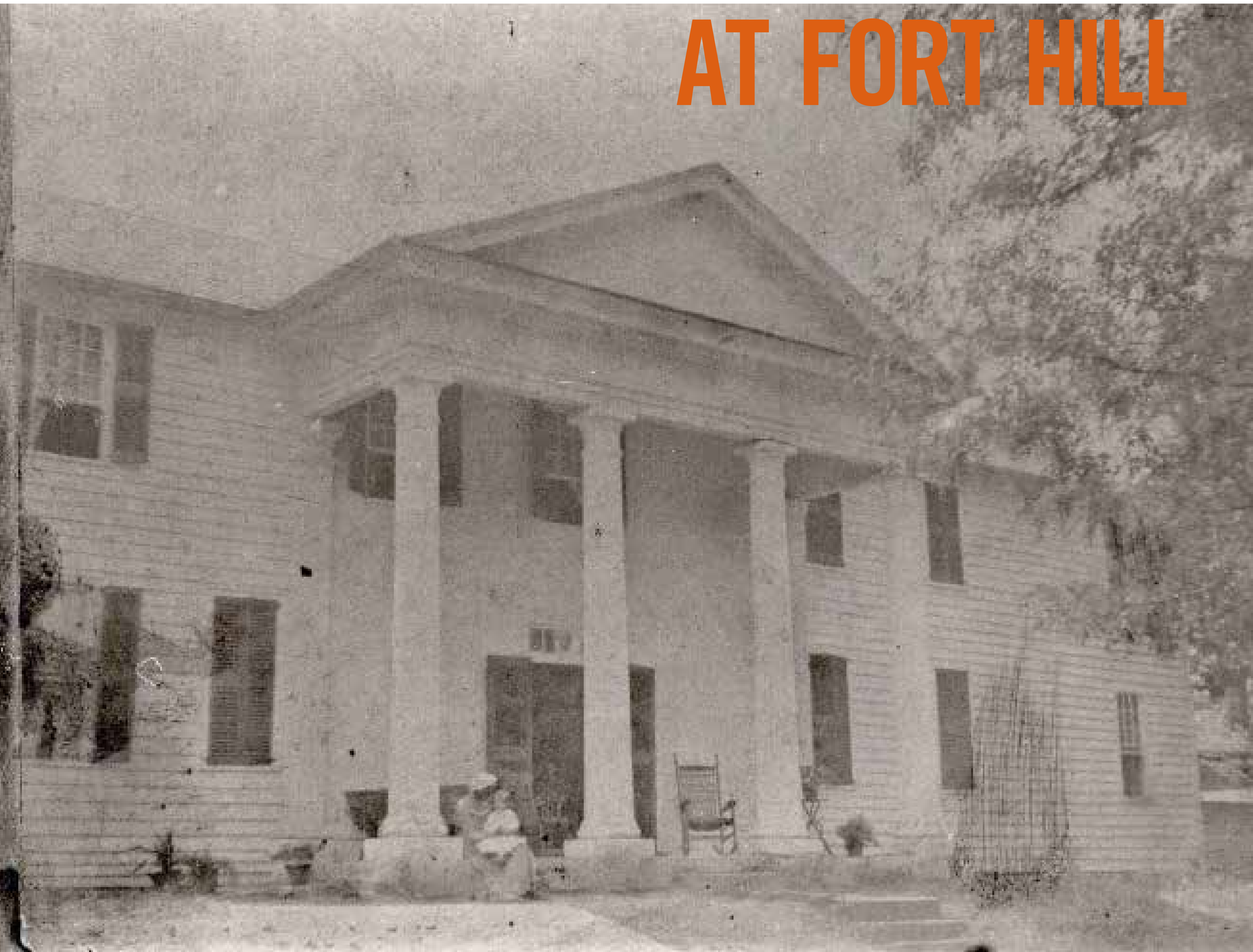
CALHOUN'S OFFICE AND HOME, FORT HILL.

This is believed to be the earliest published engraving of Fort Hill and the grounds, c. 1881. In the foreground, the artist portrayed two African-Americans with a small horse cart. The article was published in *Scribner's Monthly* magazine and included another sketch of the interior of Calhoun's office. The landscape was open; the main drive came to the north entrance and turned around past the kitchen building. Formerly, the building beyond the kitchen was once a spin house, weave room and a laundry building. A spring house in front, which provided fresh water and food storage, remains today.

African-American

E X P E R I E N C E

AT FORT HILL



This is perhaps the earliest photograph of Fort Hill, circa 1871, and it shows an African-American woman holding a child. That child is believed to be Floride Isabella Lee, and she is being held by Marie Calhoun. Floride was the daughter of Floride Elizabeth Clemson and Gideon Lee.

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Thomas Fruster and his wife, Frances, are pictured here on the lawn of Fort Hill, c. 1883. The Frusters were mentioned in Clemson's biography by Alester Holmes in 1937. Numerous descendants of the Fruster family still live in the greater Clemson-Central area. This photograph is part of a series of stereopticon slides of Fort Hill, which includes the images of Thomas Clemson on the porch and lawn. On the porch is Jane Prince, housekeeper of Thomas Clemson.

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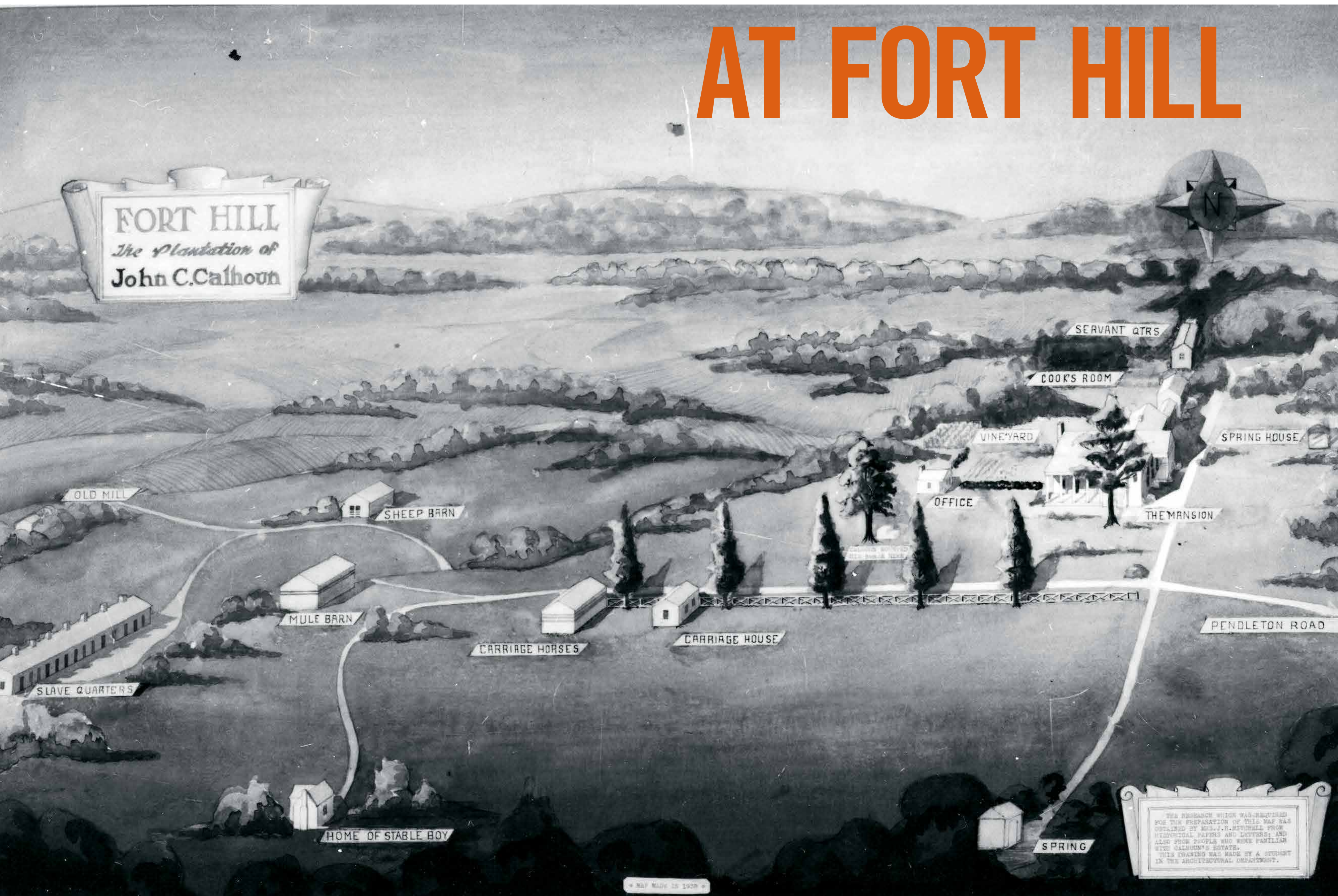


Thomas Clemson is pictured in this photograph sitting on the south lawn of Fort Hill. Near the back porch is standing an African-American woman who is believed to be Nancy Calhoun Legree. Nancy was one of many former slaves who were employed by Thomas Clemson, either as household staff or as sharecroppers and tenant farmers. This view shows Cornelia's garden. She had a childhood African-American companion, Issey Calhoun.

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The Fort Hill Plantation was approximately 1,100 acres and covered most of the immediate campus. In addition to the block where the main house, kitchen, spring house and office are located, remnants of the plantation extended to the Woodland Cemetery where eldest son, Andrew Pickens Calhoun, is buried and to the Calhoun bottoms agricultural area where a grist mill stood along Sawney's branch, later called Hunnicutt Creek. Field slave quarters were attached stone structures approximately two blocks behind the house. Sawney Calhoun was a childhood companion of John C. Calhoun, and his family held a prominent place in the slave community. His father Adam was a slave of John C. Calhoun's father, Patrick Calhoun.

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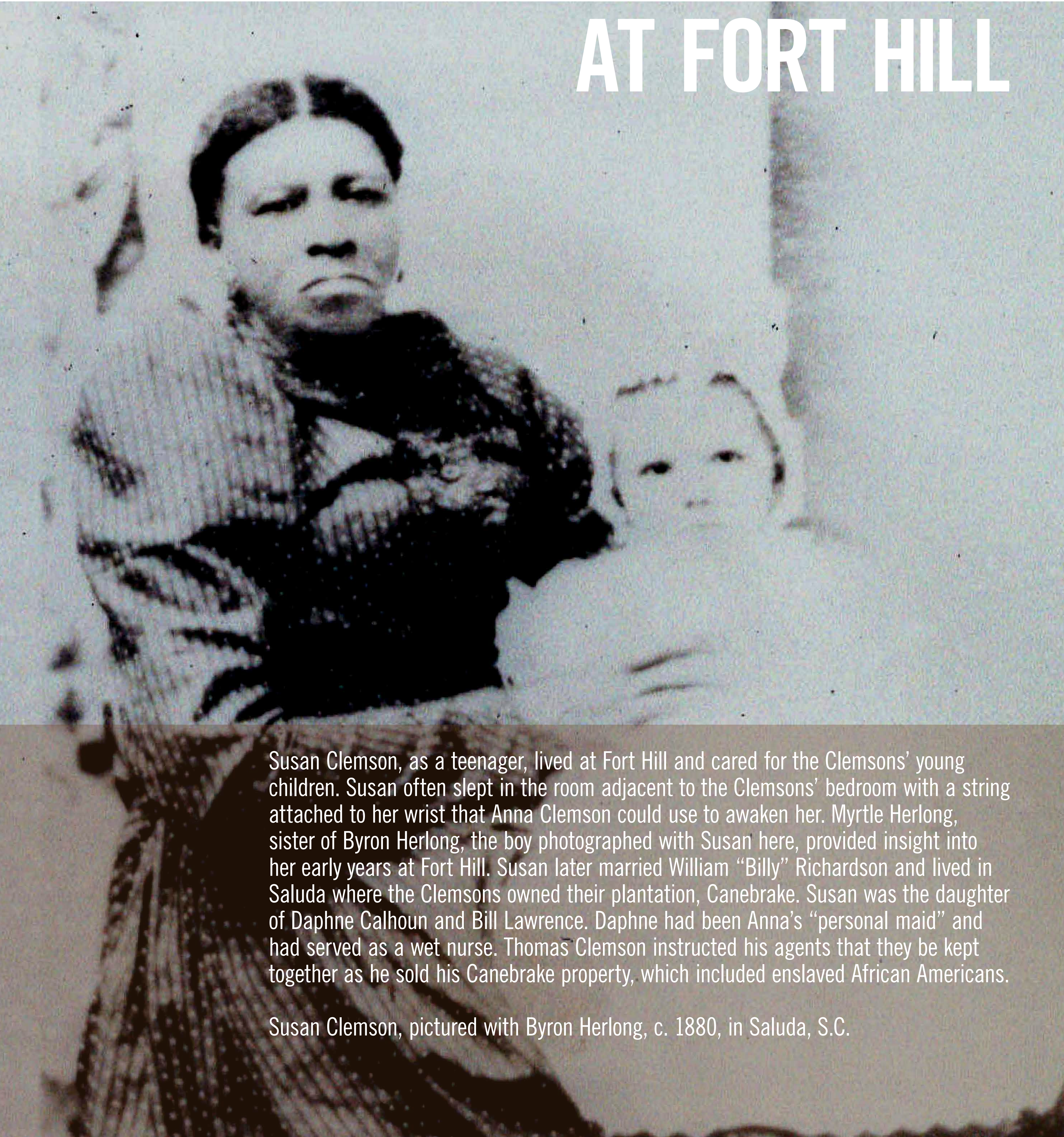
Marie Calhoun was born into slavery at Fort Hill and was the same age as the Clemsons' daughter, Floride Elizabeth Clemson. They were categorized as childhood companions and remained close after emancipation. Marie learned French and was a seamstress and educated to be a "lady's maid." Following Floride Lee's death, Marie cared for her infant daughter, Floride Isabella. She is pictured here with the girl in her christening dress. Following the remarriage of Gideon Lee to Pendletonian, Ella Lorton, a girlhood friend of Floride Elizabeth, Lee discharged Marie at the urging of his new wife and aided getting her a job with the Rhett family in New Orleans.

Marie Calhoun, c. 1871, pictured with Floride Isabella Lee

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Susan Clemson, as a teenager, lived at Fort Hill and cared for the Clemsons' young children. Susan often slept in the room adjacent to the Clemsons' bedroom with a string attached to her wrist that Anna Clemson could use to awaken her. Myrtle Herlong, sister of Byron Herlong, the boy photographed with Susan here, provided insight into her early years at Fort Hill. Susan later married William "Billy" Richardson and lived in Saluda where the Clemsons owned their plantation, Canebrake. Susan was the daughter of Daphne Calhoun and Bill Lawrence. Daphne had been Anna's "personal maid" and had served as a wet nurse. Thomas Clemson instructed his agents that they be kept together as he sold his Canebrake property, which included enslaved African Americans.

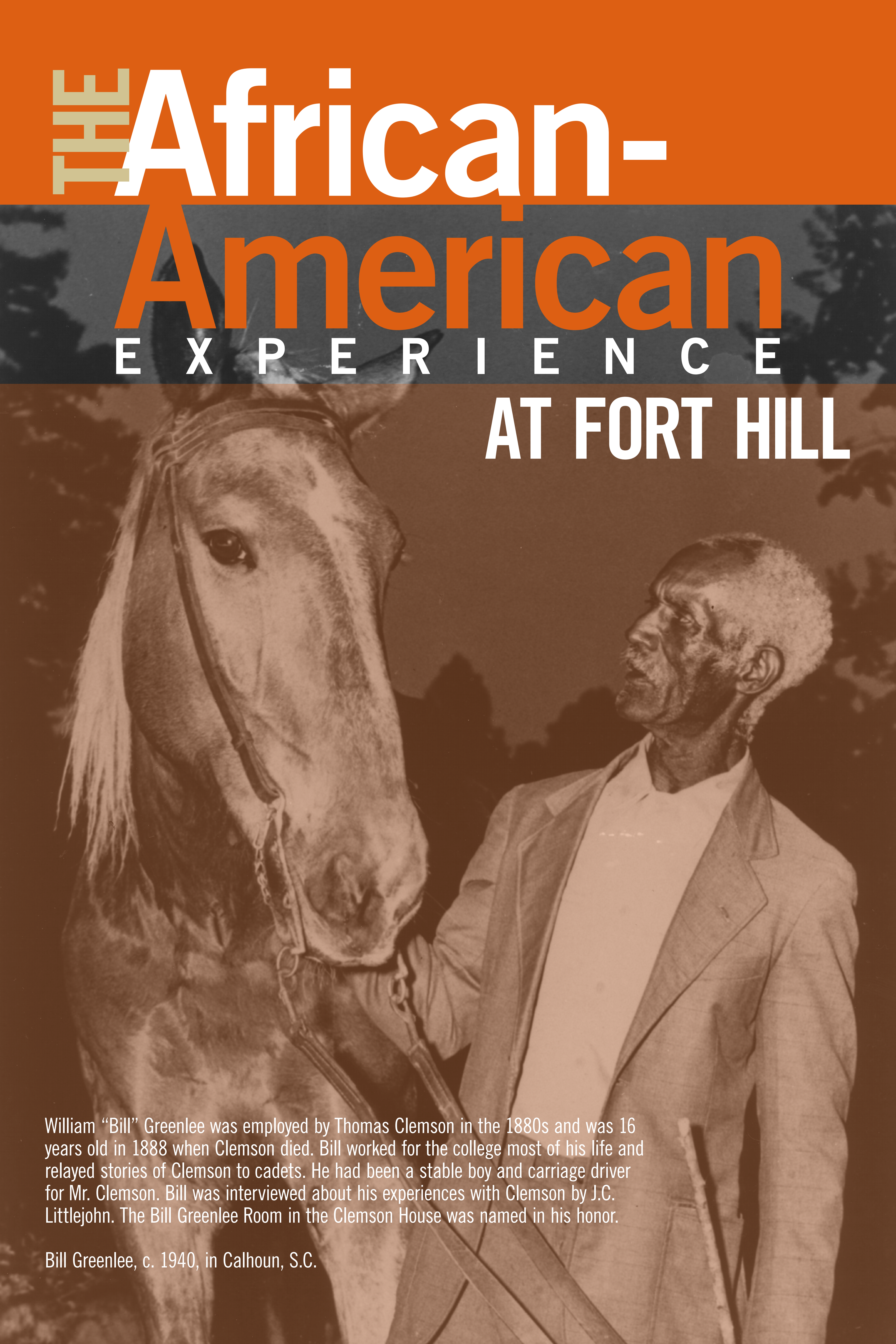
Susan Clemson, pictured with Byron Herlong, c. 1880, in Saluda, S.C.

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AT FORT HILL



William "Bill" Greenlee was employed by Thomas Clemson in the 1880s and was 16 years old in 1888 when Clemson died. Bill worked for the college most of his life and relayed stories of Clemson to cadets. He had been a stable boy and carriage driver for Mr. Clemson. Bill was interviewed about his experiences with Clemson by J.C. Littlejohn. The Bill Greenlee Room in the Clemson House was named in his honor.

Bill Greenlee, c. 1940, in Calhoun, S.C.

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E X P E R I E N C E

AT FORT HILL

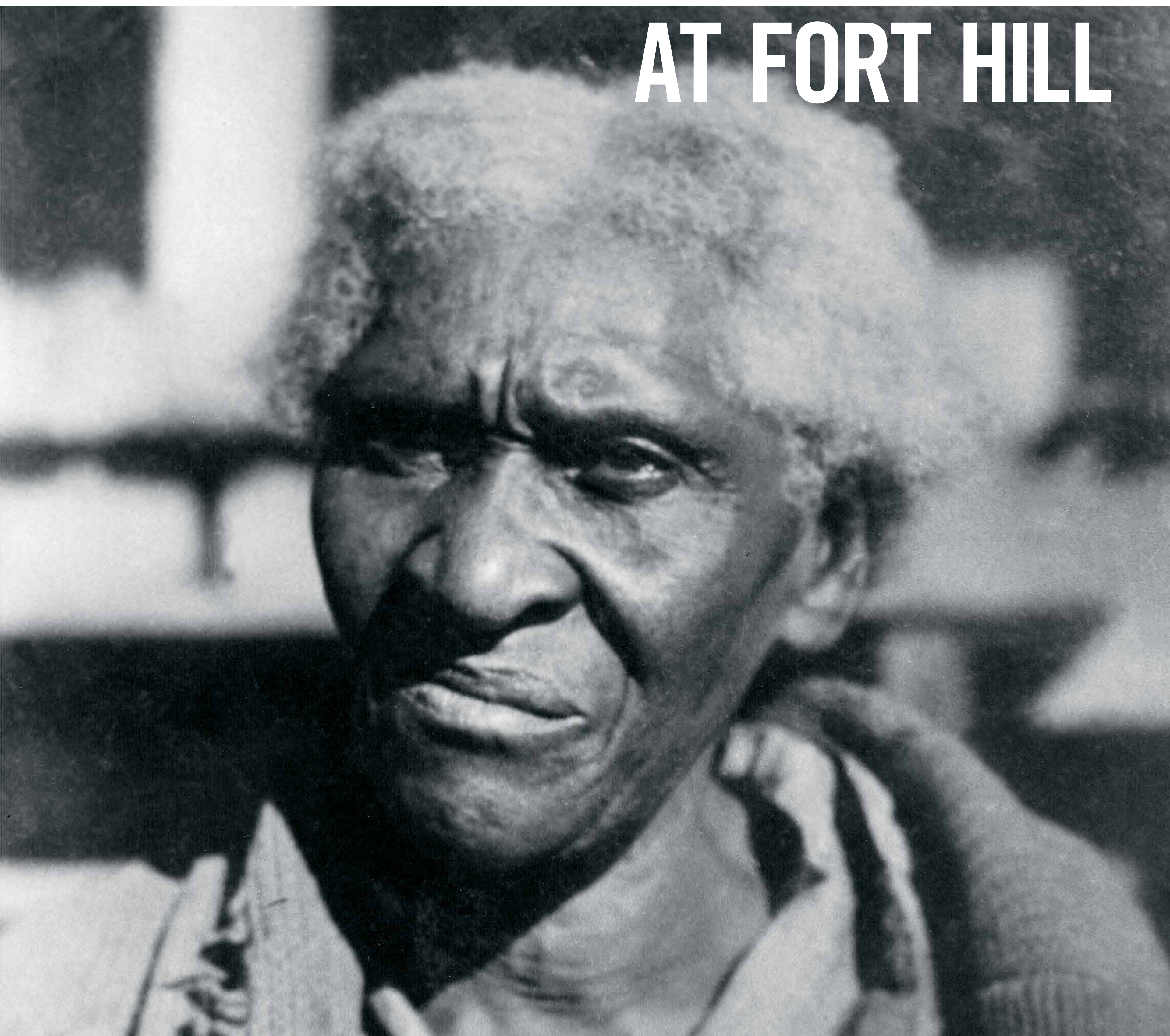
Matilda “Tiller” Calhoun was born into slavery at Fort Hill. Her father was Sharper, and they were listed on the 1865 appraisal of the estate of Andrew Pickens Calhoun. Another Andrew “Andy” Calhoun was a young slave boy who lived with the Clemsons in Maryland and was the son of Nelly Calhoun, Floride Calhoun’s cook. The Clemsons also traveled to Belgium with an African-American male named Basil.



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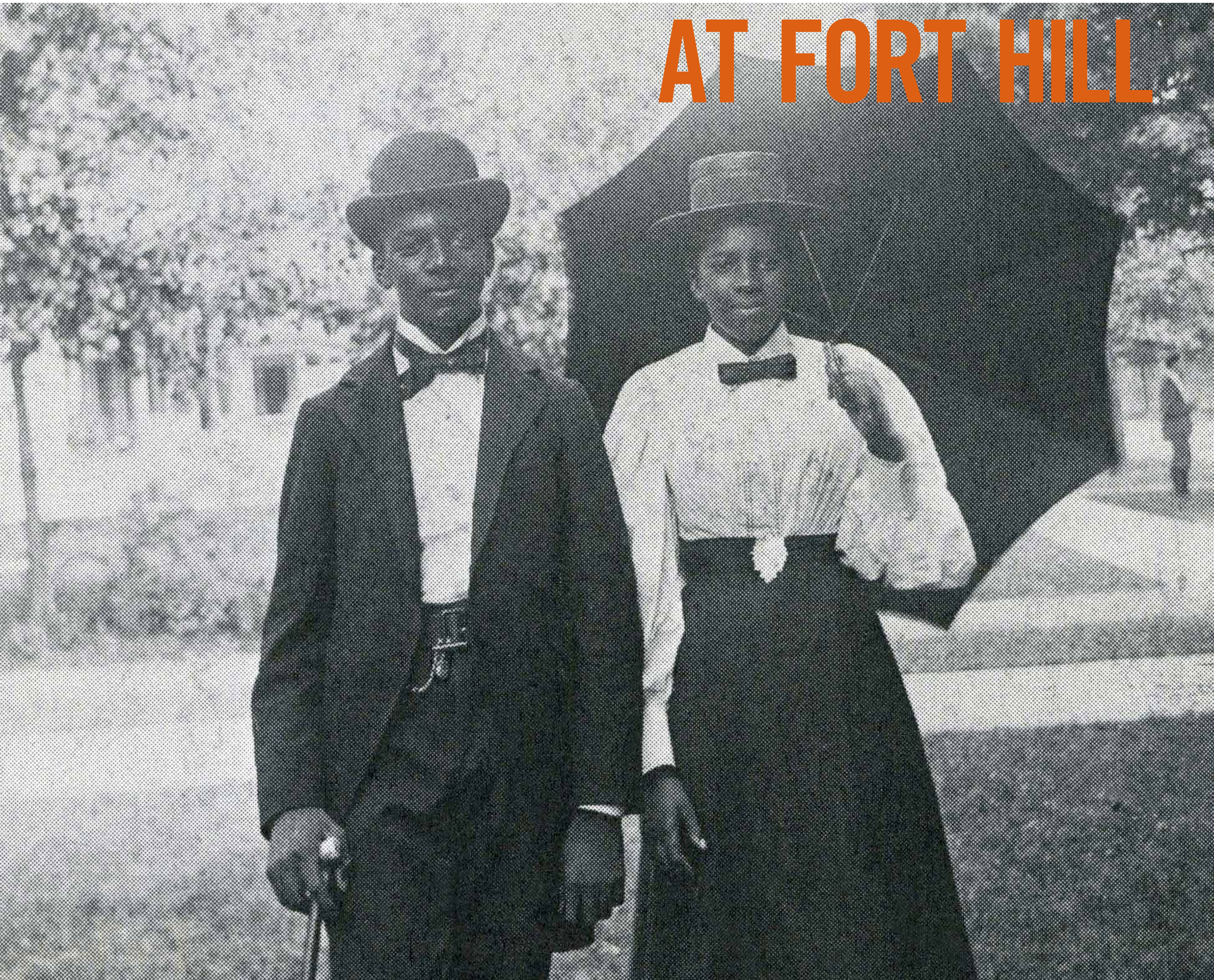
AT FORT HILL



Nancy Calhoun Legree was said to have been 106 years old in this early 20th-century photograph. She was born into slavery at Fort Hill. The oldest recorded enslaved person during the antebellum era was Menemin Calhoun who was reported to have been 112 in 1849. She and her husband, Polydore, were first-generation slaves from Africa and held a respected place in the slave community.

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AT FORT HILL



Priest Robinson was employed as a butler, and his sister, Mary Robinson, was employed as a maid by Patrick Calhoun, son of Andrew Pickens Calhoun and grandson of John C. Calhoun in Cleveland, Ohio, in the early 20th century. Their parents and grandparents were African-American slaves at Fort Hill. Their grandmother Jane Calhoun was a maid to Floride Calhoun. Jane's daughter was a laundress and married Alex Robinson who was a coachman. They had eight children who were employed by the family of Patrick Calhoun in Cleveland.

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AT FORT HILL

XXXX
Fort Hill
27th Sept 1831

Dear James, The heavy rains & great rise in the water courses must of course make you desirous to hear about your planting interest in this quarter. The river has been very full, all over the low grounds, and covering completely the crops, except on a few most elevated spots. It has subsided partially, but is not yet in the banks. The cotton & the corn are both covered over with mud, the latter is now full a rain, which I hope may

Alick Calhoun, sometimes written as Aleck or Alec, was often the only male household slave at Fort Hill. Fearing punishment when he "offended" Mrs. Calhoun in 1831 he ran away. Once apprehended, John C. Calhoun wrote this letter to his brother-in-law, James Edward Calhoun, saying Alick was to be jailed and given lashes "to prevent repetition." In another letter to Armistead Burt, Calhoun asked that, once apprehended, he be jailed and be given lashes as punishment, "to prevent a repetition." This account was the most severe recorded treatment of any of the Calhoun slaves and occurred a month after the Nat Turner rebellion.

was dropped, and at least give a more cheerful appearance. I had 50 acres of cotton completely covered and all my corn, in the same condition, except about 3 acres. The cotton and the corn had both suffered much from the wet. It has shed profusely.

My communication has, as far as I have yet heard, been well received, with great approbation on our side, and with interest on the opposite, with my few observations. I have yet seen but two Virginia papers; both of favorable tenor. The R. Eugene I have not yet received.

Aleck, our house servant, gave us the slip yesterday and is now in the woods. I suspect he has made for my place, and may probably take mid-

way on his course. I must ask you the favour to keep a look out for him, and to give Mrs. Gibson my overseer immediate notice in order that he may be able to keep a look out. I will thank you to inform ^{him} if he should be taken to be sent back immediately. I give this trouble, which I am sure you will excuse, as I had no private opportunity of writing to you. Thus I closed by mail to my plantation. He had offended your sister & she threatened him with a severe whipping. He ran away to avoid it, and has left us without a house servant, except females.

We are all well except your sister, who has not yet entirely recovered, but is much better. I will be glad to hear from you. Should you hear, I would be glad to hear from you, but I had feared on the River below, and whether Aleck has been seen or heard of.

Wm. C. Calhoun 25th Sept 1831 J. E. Calhoun

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An appraisal of the estate of A.P. Calhoun, this 1865 document itemizes 127 field slaves and 12 household and skilled trades. The larger number of slaves was attributed to the property of A.P. Calhoun from his Alabama plantation, Canebreak, also called Cuba Plantation.

Inventories & Valuation of property belonging to the Estate of the late Col A. P. Calhoun made this 26th day of April 1865 by Col J. W. Livingston Carter Florida, F. A. Gorin & J. A. Gorin

Names & ages of one hundred & twenty seven Negroes Valued at an average of Four hundred & Twenty five dollars apiece making in all Fifty three thousand three hundred & seventy four dollars

127 Negroes = \$425 apiece = \$53975

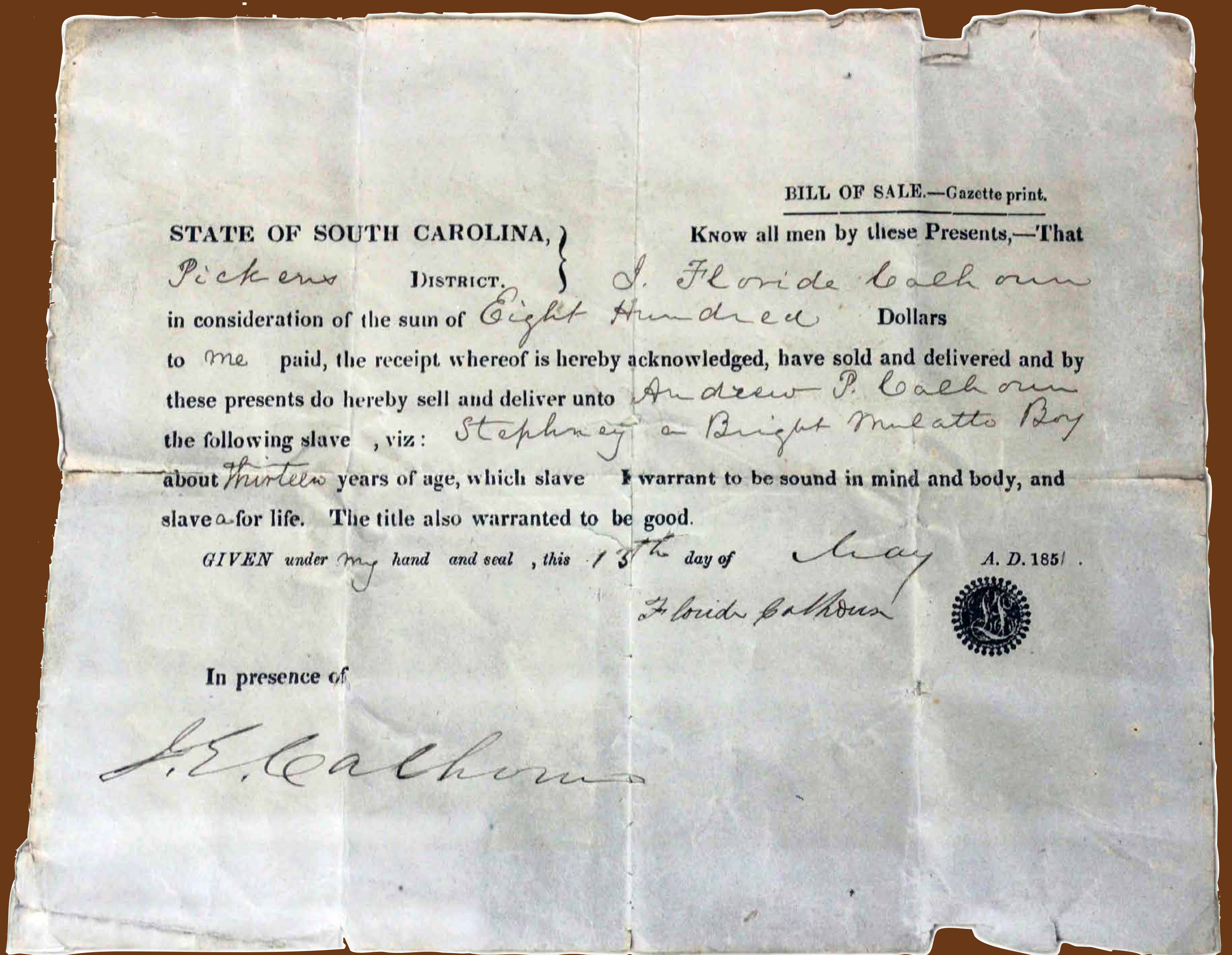
Name	Age	Name	Age
Sammy	71	Amos	14
Teller	62	James	11
David	26	Fidelis	4
Michael	23	Thomas	1
Della	3	Jimmy	23
Mary Jane	1	Pelphay	20
John	25	Tommy	3
Phoebe	25	Barrett	23
Laura	2	Francis	17
Emeline	3 months	Christy	2
Susan	22	Richard	13
Binal	19	Paaz	11
Dale	6 months	Margaret	21

Harri	4	Gov	33	Shelton	33
Edward	32	Wash	39	Richard	33
Fanny	27	Blanner	37	Caroline	20
Allen	6	Deborah	18	Solomon	11
William	4	Sam	30	Teller	8
Robert	2	Jucey	19	Simon	6
Nancy	18	Allison	15	George	32
Thomas	6 months	Jack	12	Martha	32
John	22	James	29	Blanner	16
Dick	18	Chapman	25	John	51
John	6 months	Blanner	41	Donch	48
Richard	10	Delia	40	Jack	9
Amos	35	Henry	25	Frank	26
Jacobson	35	Margaret	20	Amey	24
Donch	17	Saraham	12	Daniel	9
Tom	16	Elizabeth	14	Alick	7
John	14	Jack	16	Delly	6
Amos	9	Dilly	45	John	26
John	5	James	38	Bucky	22
Paaz	4	Amos	17	John	3
Peggy	38	Sue	15	John	26
Paaz	53	Peggy	13	Susan	26
Edward	16	Hath	11	Jack	4
Alick	12	Alick	7	Jack	23
Hath	64	Mary	9	Ellen	22
Ch	58	Delia	64	Am	18

Phoebe	34
Hath	34
Robert	18
William	11
Stepney	8
Mary	3
Martha	6 months
Tommy	51
Amos	42
John	26
Darcus	24
Hath	15
Abb	32
Joe	8
Amos	5
Tom	32
John	28
Amos	12
Tom	4
John	50
Ephraim	29
Maria	25
Nancy	3

Name	Amount	Valuation
Nipsey	one hour service	\$125.00
Alick	" " "	\$1050.00
John	" " "	\$775.00
Louisa Billy wife	" " "	\$875.00
Ella - 11 years old	" " "	\$975.00
Louisa Edwards wife	" " "	\$975.00
Christy	" " Cook	\$800.00
Paaz	" " Gardener	\$500.00
Phoebe	" " Coashman	\$600.00
Dilly	" " Miller	\$900.00
Richard	" " Blacksmith	\$600.00
John	" " Carpenter	\$1500.00
Michael	" " Station	\$1200.00
Amos	" " Carriage horse	\$500.00
Scipion	" " "	\$200.00
Mary	" " Buggy team	200.00
Hath	" " Pony	\$300.00
Delia	" " "	\$25.00
Paaz	" " young stallion	\$50.00
Bigon	" " Man unbroken	\$25.00
Tom Coll	" " Col	\$200.00
Esther - Bovine	Sixteen & three calves	\$50.00
Sheep	Eleven & four lambs	\$190.00
Goat	nine	\$16.00
Hine	Eleven new, shent 29, Pig 26.	\$2.50

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A bill of sale, from Floride Calhoun to A.P. Calhoun, is for Stephen, described as a “bright mulatto boy,” age 13, sold within the family for \$800. Floride Calhoun, widow of John C. Calhoun, agreed to sell the Fort Hill plantation and property to her eldest son, Andrew Pickens Calhoun three years later. The sale in 1854 enumerated some 50 enslaved African Americans at Fort Hill in a schedule of slaves.

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Following the death of John C. Calhoun, Mrs. Calhoun sold the property to their son Andrew Pickens Calhoun and moved to Pendleton to MiCasa with a handful of household slaves including her cook, Nelly. Following A.P. Calhoun's death in the spring of 1865, his widow, Margaret met the Union forces at Fort Hill during the Civil War.

One account from her son, Patrick, then 9, was that he was told to hide with Rasmus (Erasmus), a slave boy of the same age, while the troops took horses and supplies from the plantation. The sale of property and African-American slaves was a debt that A.P. Calhoun never fully paid resulting in later foreclosure on his widow, Margaret, by executor of her estate in 1866, son-in-law, Thomas Clemson.

A Schedule of Slaves with their names and ages -

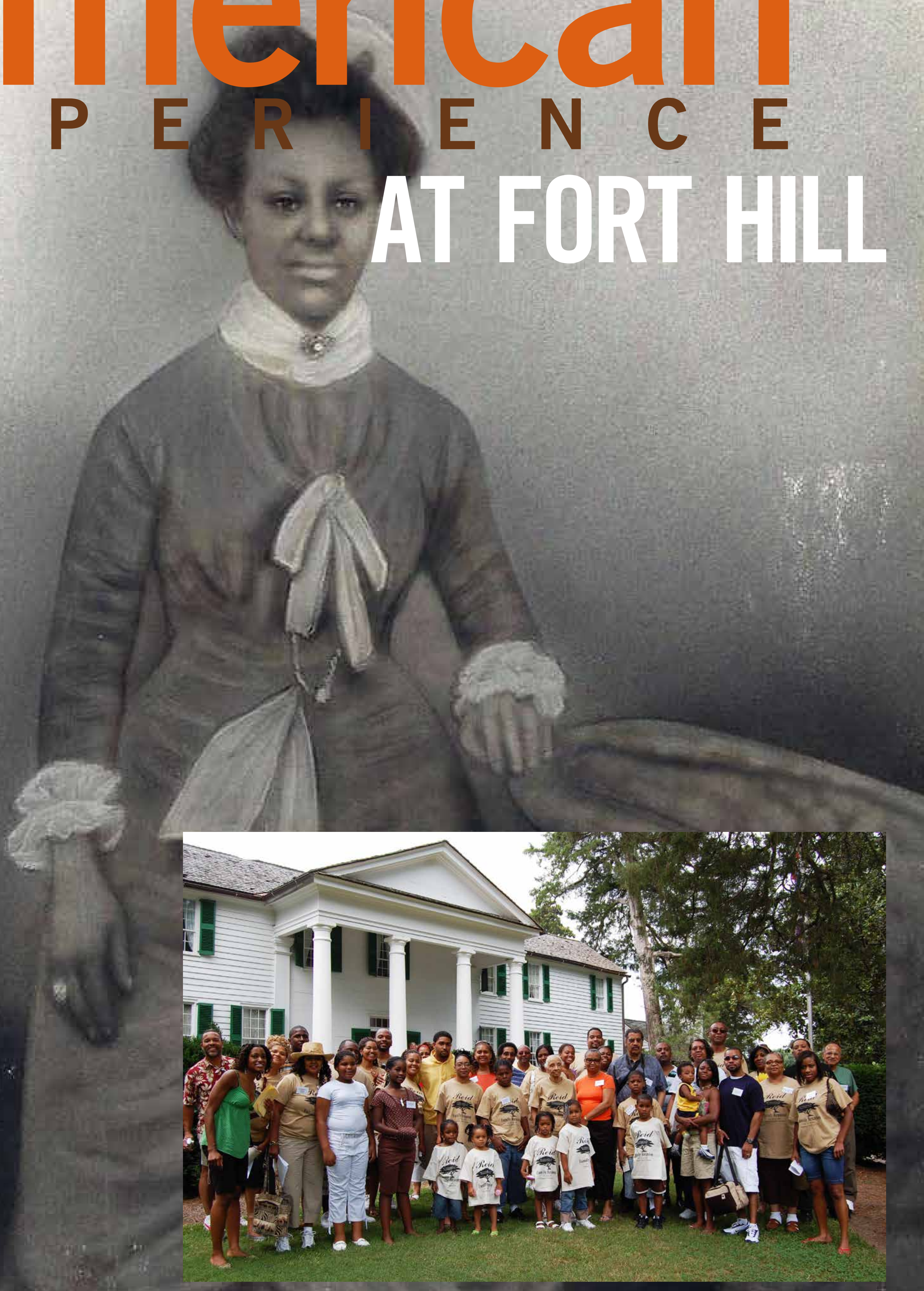
No	Name	Age	No	Name	Age
1	Sawney	59	34	May	23
2	Filla	50	35	Delphi	8
3	Ned	25	36	Sally	2
4	Nicholas	18	37	Edward	4
5	Jonas	16	38	Peggy	5
6	Jim	12	39	Isaac	23
7	Matilda	10	40	Oliver	37
8	Chapman	8	41	Ann	20
9	Moses	22	42	Katy	60
10	Garner	23	43	Kitty	21
11	Lucinda	5	44	Child	2
12	Armstead	3	45	Nancy	9
13	Binah	3	46	Richmond	23
14	Tom	1	47	Phoebe	100
15	Cato	2	48	Lucy	5
16	Baby	1	49	Grandison	4
17	Daniel	37	50	Jackson	2
18	Rosanna	32			
19	Willis	21			
20	Peter	12			
21	Leice	8			
22	Fanny	19			
23	Hannah	3			
24	Daniel	1			
25	Billy	35			
26	Janet	30			
27	Mark	10			
28	Sawney	8			
29	Moses	6			
30	Suckey	4			
31	Peggy	2			
32	John	1			
33	Caty	0			

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Top: Easter Reid and the Reid family worked during the reconstruction era at Fort Hill.

Bottom: In 2007, the Reid family held a reunion at Fort Hill.