

“HOME SWEET HOME”

Today, Causton Bluff is our “Home Sweet Home” but in its earliest history of habitation about the only thing that was sweet was the tea made from sassafras tree roots, but much later in history it was discovered that the roots contained cancer-causing carcinogens and should no longer be ingested. Today root beer flavorings are artificial but safe,

The history of our area is multi-storied –Indians thriving here as early as 4,000 BC; the building of huge plantations by adventurous Englishmen in the early 1700’s; and the construction of a Civil War earthen fort named Fort Bartow in honor of the Confederate General who was killed in the battle of Manassas.

THE INDIANS: An archaeological dig has produced Indian relics that are common to their culture. Tribes located here were friendly, but even from their earliest beginnings here they were forced to fight their environment. The jungle-like surroundings proved too much for them and being migratory by nature the surviving few would always seek better hunting grounds.

THE PLANTATIONS: Three rice plantations were built on our little peninsula – Brewton Hill, Deptford, and Causton Bluff, all were complete with slaves and wealthy owners who built beautiful mansions in the late 1800’s to 1910. But all of this would come to end with a simple quirk of nature. Salt water from the nearby Savannah River began to intrude the fresh water of the plantations making it impossible to grow rice here ever again.

THE FORT: Remnants or “berms” of the Confederate earthen fort (1861 – 1865) still dot our present day landscape. Most are gone, but some were saved and are protected by a Georgia law that prevents their destruction. The cannons at the fort were capable of shelling enemy ships coming up the Savannah River more than a mile away.

The worst fate Causton Bluff faced through the years was its “abandoned wilderness” period. It became an illegal garbage dumping ground and a raceway for modern ATVs. “NO TRESPASSING” signs were posted but ignored. It also became a popular swimming hole for nearby residents from the Gordonston and Pennsylvania Ave. areas.

Finally in 1994, a developer, Canal Investment Society LP of South Carolina obtained the property still beautiful with its rolling hills, giant oaks, pond and waterfront, and proceeded with builders Bouy Brothers to conceive the idea of the Community of Causton Bluff.

Originally, it was to be an exclusive guard gate community built on the waterfront road with homes and lots priced in the highest price brackets the markets would allow. Later, due to a sliding economy and a lack of sufficient buyers construction on Bartow Point Drive slowed almost to a stop. This is when the concept of the Cottages became a reality. Piper’s Pond was constructed first, around 1995, St. Augustine Bend followed and Sassafras Trail was completed last around 2003. Welcome home!

BARBARA HOFER